Zain Saudi And Nokia Use 5G Network To Support Remote Viewing Of Hajj Events Via Live, Advanced Virtual Reality

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- Nokia has deployed massive MIMO 5G technology using its AirScale platform in Hajj area for the advanced Virtual Reality (VR) application
- The demonstration is in line with Saudi Vision 2030 and National Transformation Program 2020 for the development of digital infrastructure to improve the quality of life

08 August 2019

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Zain Saudi Arabia and Nokia successfully demonstrated a 5G-enabled VR (Virtual Reality) advanced use case in Mashaer area and the Holy Mosque area in Makkah. This technology allows visitors to experience Hajj* remotely as if they are present on site.

As part of the demonstration, high-resolution 360-degree video feeds are transmitted to room-size displays enabling the viewers to be immersed in the experience. Zain's 5G network is used to send the video feeds from cameras deployed in multiple locations in Makkah to cover the whole Hajj events in real time, utilizing the extreme mobile broadband capability for the content delivery and the low latency for the real-time camera control.

Eng. Sultan Abdulaziz AlDeghaither, CEO of Zain Saudi Arabia, said: "Millions of people from around the world visit Hajj every year. This use case will allow them to have immersive remote view of locations they have to visit such as the holy mosque to choose the best time and avoid crowds. Further, the concerned authorities will be able to provide better security to the pilgrims and the people of Saudi Arabia. We are committed to bringing innovative 5G use cases to the country. 5G collaboration with global technology-leader Nokia will help us provide innovative use cases to transform the way people live and work."

Ali Jitawi, head of the Zain Customer Business Team at Nokia, said: "We are committed to supporting Zain Saudi in realizing the enormous potential of 5G. This virtual reality demo on its 5G live network is an important achievement in shaping the 5G use cases towards further contributing to National Transformation Plan 2020 and Saudi Vision 2030. The successful demo of this 5G-enabled use case is crucial and establishes that Zain's network is now ready to provide innovative use cases which demand extremely low latency and ultra-high-speed."

Photos of the 5G VR dome attached.

Resources:

- Web page: Nokia 5G
- Press release: Zain brings 5G to Saudi Arabia with Nokia
- Press release: Nokia Networks, Zain KSA complete Saudi-first carrier aggregation project
- Press release: Nokia and Zain Saudi Arabia use Multi-access Edge Computing to help Umrah and Hajj pilgrims better navigate their journey during the holy season
- Press release: Nokia and Zain Saudi Arabia trial multiple, advanced 4.5G features to achieve higher throughput on path to 4.5G Pro, 4.9G and 5G
- Press release: Nokia and Zain Saudi Arabia collaborate on 5G and IoT development towards transforming Saudi Arabia

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Through our research teams, including the world-renowned Nokia Bell Labs, we are leading the world to adopt end-to-end 5G networks that are faster, more secure and capable of revolutionizing lives, economies and societies. Nokia adheres to the highest ethical business standards as we create technology with social purpose, quality and integrity. www.nokia.com

Media Inquiries:

Nokia
Kannan K
Nokia Media Relations
Phone: +971 529 823 406
E-mail: kannan.k@nokia.com

Communications
Phone: +358 (0) 10 448 4900
E-mail: press.services@nokia.com

Notes:
* Hajj is annual Islamic pilgrimage to Makkah, the holiest city for Muslims. More than two million pilgrims visited Makkah as part of Hajj in 2018.

Company Contact:

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