

Remarks by H. E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
For the Launch Event of Telehouse New Data Centre
At the Telehouse London Docklands
On 24th March, 2022

Distinguished guests,

I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity to say a few words at today's opening ceremony. I understand that we are joined by many representatives from government and industry, and this is proof of the high level of interest in the activities of Telehouse and KDDI here in the UK.

KDDI is one of Japan's largest telecommunications companies and has long been engaged in telecommunications in countries around the world. Here in the UK, KDDI founded Telehouse in 1990 and established its first data centre here in the historical Docklands area of London.

Since then, Telehouse has grown significantly, hosting the world-leading London internet exchanges, and is now the very backbone of the UK Internet, providing 70% of the UK's connectivity. The total investment in the data centres over the past 30 years exceeds £1 billion, which is testament to KDDI's long-term commitment to the UK. With this in mind, I am delighted to witness the opening of their fifth centre here today, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Telehouse on this achievement and commend its many years of active engagement here in the UK.

Meanwhile, Japan and the UK are both striving for greater innovation and decarbonisation through digitalisation, and the Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into effect in January 2021, includes ambitious and progressive content in the digital sector. Last year, DCMS

hosted a successful G7 Digital Ministerial Meeting, which included discussions on a wide range of digital areas, and a ministerial declaration was adopted in which the G7 countries pledged their further cooperation.

Following on from this declaration, one of the top officials of the Japanese government travelled to the UK earlier this month to meet with Minister Julia Lopez and signed a joint statement on the diversification of telecommunications suppliers. All of this means that we are now enjoying the deepest cooperation between Japan and the UK in the digital field to date. In this context, I am very pleased that Telehouse and KDDI, with their excellent reputation in the UK, are providing us with their secure and resilient services.

Since the pandemic, digital infrastructure has become even more relevant and will play an increasingly important role in our paths to further prosperity. And now, a new era of the internet is underway. Thanks to robust initiatives by government and active investment by industries, gigabit broadband is being deployed at a rapid pace in the UK. In the mobile sector, cutting-edge 5G services are now available in many areas, and are expected to be a part of solid infrastructure for the next decade.

Against this backdrop, I am confident that the connectivity offered by the Dockland's data centre will strongly support the digitalisation of British society, thereby contributing to the growth of economy, job creation, and productivity. The opening of the data centre today is an important milestone on the road to future prosperity here and a stronger relationship between Japan and the UK.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.