

# Beyon Group selected as Winning Investor for KAPP

Kuwait's National Fixed Telecommunications Network Development Project

- **Total investment exceeds \$2.8 billion over the lifetime of the agreement**

- **APP will hold a 60 percent stake in the project company**

- **The network will support 10Gbps symmetrical connectivity in accordance with the PPP requirements**

## Manama

Beyon announced its selection by the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) as the Winning Investor for the Fixed Telecommunications Network Development Project in Kuwait.

The announcement, made in Kuwait by KAPP, marks the next phase in preparations to establish a project company under a 50-year Public Private Partnership agreement whereby, Beyon will design, finance, build, operate, and maintain Kuwait's nationwide, high-speed fiber broadband network with

a total investment exceeding \$2.8 billion over the lifetime of the agreement. KAPP will hold a 60 percent stake in the project company to be established for the project while Beyon will retain a 40 percent stake. Once the project is fully operational, KAPP will IPO a portion of the shares to be subscribed by Kuwaiti citizens.

The project represents one of the most significant national infrastructure programs in Kuwait and marks a major regional milestone for the Beyon Group. The partnership aims to deliver a nationwide high-speed fiber network reaching 90% of Kuwait's available plots.

The network will support 10Gbps symmetrical connectivity in accordance with the PPP requirements, ensuring resilient, future-ready digital capacity for households, enterprises, and government entities. This initiative will form the backbone of Kuwait's digital transformation strategy and will contribute to a key pillar of Kuwait Vision 2035.

## In-house

The award of the project follows a rigorous qualification and tender process, in which Beyon was selected ahead of several leading international competitors, having met the project's technical and compliance requirements. Notably, the proposal was developed entirely in-house by Beyon's teams, demonstrating the Group's technical capability and leadership in fiber network transformation.

Beyon's submission was strengthened by its proven experience in large-scale fiber deployment across multiple markets, including Bahrain, Jordan, the Maldives, and the Channel Islands. Across its operations,

the Group has delivered more than 2.2 million home-passed connections, with fiber coverage in the Kingdom of Bahrain reaching 95.4 percent. A key component of the bid was Beyon's experience in structural separation of Batelco by Beyon and the establishment of Bahrain Network (BNET) as a standalone wholesale entity in the Kingdom of Bahrain. That transformation demonstrated the Group's ability to execute complex brownfield transitions, system migrations, and regulatory compliance programs while maintaining uninterrupted service continuity.

Speaking on the occasion,

Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa,

Chairman of Beyon Group, said: "We are honoured to be selected as the Winning Investor for a project of such national significance to the State of Kuwait. We extend our appreciation to KAPP and the Ministry of Communications for the confidence placed in Beyon. This achievement reinforces our commitment to enabling advanced digital infrastructure across the region and demonstrates the strength of regional capabilities in delivering projects of strategic national importance."

"This milestone also builds on the progressive transformation of Bahrain's telecommunications sector under the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Their leadership has supported the Kingdom's comprehensive development and infrastructure modernization, laying the foundations that have ultimately positioned our Group to contribute meaningfully to national digital infrastructure initiatives beyond our home market."

Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Chairman of Beyon Group

Andrew Kvalseth, CEO of Beyon Group, commented: "This achievement is the result of two years of dedicated effort by our teams. Our selection as Winning Investor demonstrates our engineering strength and operational capability and executional readiness. Our digital-first operating model, strong go-to-market readiness, and proven retail and wholesale track record were key differentiators in the tender process. In addition, our experience from the structural separation of BNET as a standalone entity has provided us with practical insight into managing large-scale fiber infrastructure under a national regulatory framework. We are fully prepared to move forward with implementation and to establish the new Project Company in line with the concession requirements."

## Next phase

With the agreement announcement, Beyon will now prepare for the next phase of the process, ensuring that all requirements are in place to support the project's timely progression. The Group will continue to work in close coordination with KAPP and Kuwait Ministry of Communications to align with the programme's objectives and readiness for implementation.



# Germany's Merz meets Xi, announces Airbus order

China will buy up to 120 aircraft from Airbus

- **Other contracts were in the pipeline**

- **Xi told Merz he was willing to take their ties to "new levels"**

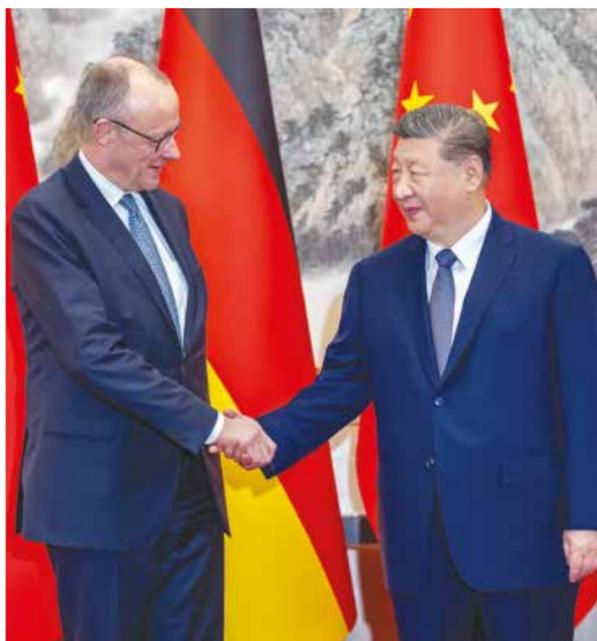
- **Merz is joined by business leaders including executives of auto giants Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes**

AFP | Beijing, China

China will buy up to 120 aircraft from European aviation giant Airbus, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said following talks with President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Wednesday.

Merz's visit comes as Berlin and Beijing seek to build on their decades-old economic ties to weather global uncertainty sparked by US President Donald Trump's tariff blitz and other erratic foreign policy moves.

China, the world's number two economy, overtook the United States last year to become



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) shakes hands with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz prior a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China

Germany's biggest trade partner. At the same time, Berlin regards the Communist Party-run state as a systemic rival to the West.

Following talks with top Chinese leaders, Merz told re-

porters that China had agreed to purchase "up to 120" Airbus aircraft, adding that it "demonstrates how worthwhile such trips can be".

Other contracts were in the

pipeline, Merz added.

Earlier in the day, Merz and Xi stressed their commitment to developing closer strategic relations, with the German leader saying he saw the trip as a "great opportunity" to boost economic ties. Xi, in turn, told Merz he was willing to take their ties to "new levels".

Merz said that in his meetings he also touched on the sensitive topic Taiwan, the self-ruled island China claims as part of its territory and which it has not ruled out the use of force to annex.

Any "reunification" must be done peacefully, Merz said.

He also discussed the Ukraine war with Xi, who according to state news agency Xinhua said diplomacy was "key to the issue".

"Xi noted the necessity of ensuring the equal participation of all parties to lay a solid foundation for peace, (and) addressing the legitimate concerns of all sides to strengthen the will for peace," Xinhua added.

Germany's trade deficit with China hit a record 89 billion euros (\$105 billion) last year.

## Cars, AI and competition

China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, told Merz at the Munich Security Conference this month that Beijing wanted Germany to be a "stabilising anchor for strategic relations" in the European Union.

Merz is joined by business leaders including executives of auto giants Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes.

On Thursday, he is set to visit Beijing's Forbidden City, then a Mercedes plant where autonomous driving vehicles will be presented.

The chancellor will then travel to AI hub Hangzhou to visit the robotics group Unitree and German turbine maker Siemens Energy.

German businesses have given Merz a to-do list on his trip.

"We expect the chancellor to clearly address problems such as overcapacity, distortions of competition, and export controls on critical raw materials," said Wolfgang Niedermark of the Federation of German Industries.

Merz should advocate for "structural reforms to strength-



en domestic demand and fairer competitive conditions" in China, he said, warning that without change there will be "new trade conflicts with the EU".



**Airbus built the world's largest passenger airliner, the A380, which can carry up to 853 passengers in an all-economy configuration – making it the biggest commercial aircraft ever produced.**