

**Questions for the Record Submitted to  
Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Strayer by  
Senator Chris Coons (No. 1 to No. 3)  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
May 14, 2019**

**Question 1:**

Tomorrow's 5G ecosystem is built upon a foundation of 5G research and development and standards setting that enable the entire wireless environment. The other elements—mobile phones and other wireless devices, 5G infrastructure, and mobile semiconductors—each present their own challenges and opportunities for U.S. leadership in 5G, and therefore U.S. national security. I understand that China and South Korea are outpacing the U.S. in securing patents on 5G technology, and that China is specifically promoting 5G as part of its ambitious "Made in China 2025" plan. What is the administration doing to protect national security and ensure that the U.S. remains the leader in the innovation that underpins wireless technology?

**Answer 1:**

The President took a critical step to safeguard our national security by signing the Executive Order 13873 on "Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain." At the same time, the Administration is acting to ensure that the United States remains a leader in wireless innovation by accelerating the development and deployment of 5G in the United States. A key part of this effort is the FCC's forward-looking, comprehensive strategy to Facilitate America's Superiority in 5G Technology (the 5G FAST Plan) by making more spectrum available to the market and cutting regulatory barriers. America is a global leader in 5G roll out, and U.S. firms are competitive in many parts of the 5G stack.

**Question 2:**

How do standard-setting processes relate to national security, and what steps is the administration taking to ensure U.S. leadership in 5G standard setting? How can Congress help the administration in this effort?

**Answer 2:**

Standards developed through open, transparent, and consensus-based processes ensure that national security, economic competitiveness and technological innovation related considerations are all appropriately considered and taken into account. Congress can ensure continued U.S. leadership in 5G standards development and protect U.S. national security in this area by: (1) Incentivizing participation by U.S. stakeholders, particularly early and mid-career technical experts who will be the future contributors and leaders, and (2) commit strong support for U.S.-led research and development that will serve as the foundation of future contributions by U.S. stakeholders as to 5G technology-related standards development.

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**Question 3:**

A strong patent system is a necessity for U.S. inventors engaged in transformational research and development on 5G and beyond. What steps should Congress take to strengthen our intellectual property protections and incentivize continued U.S. leadership in 5G and other next-generation technologies?

**Answer 3:**

The United States can strengthen intellectual property protections and incentivize U.S. leadership in next-generation technologies by promoting policies that protect all types of intellectual property against misappropriation. By continuing to enforce patentability standards we ensure that U.S. innovators are able to protect their inventions with patents. U.S. innovators should also continue to feel confident that intellectual property enforcement procedures are available in the digital environment. As U.S. companies look internationally, the Administration will continue to advocate for high-standard intellectual property rights regimes and enforcement abroad.