

# How CHIPS Act Fuels 5G Innovation: JMA's Rishi Bhaskar Explains

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The Department of Defense is undergoing myriad efforts to modernize its systems, information technology infrastructure and communications capabilities. [Rishi Bhaskar](#), senior vice president and general manager at JMA Wireless, asserted that 5G and Open Radio Access Networks known as O-RAN will be a critical component of the Pentagon's modernization push.

One monumental step toward modernization came with the passage of the [CHIPS and Science Act of 2022](#), which allocated \$54.2 billion in total funding to boost U.S. semiconductor research and development, manufacturing and workforce development. A portion of this funding is going directly toward "promoting and deploying wireless technologies that use open and interoperable radio access networks," according to a White House [statement](#).

"Part of the CHIPS Act was an allocation of funding for the Wireless Innovation Fund, and that's headed up by the [National Telecommunications and Information Administration]," Bhaskar told Executive Mosaic's Summer Myatt in a recent [video interview](#). "The government has allocated \$1.5 billion into the Wireless Innovation Fund to spur O-RAN R&D here at home in the United States."

Beyond the CHIPS Act, the NTIA and the DOD have teamed up in the latest [5G challenge](#), which Bhaskar described as "an initiative that the Department put out in partnership with the NTIA to actually challenge the industry on innovating and driving O-RAN solutions here in the United States."

The 2023 installment of the 5G challenge awarded a total of \$7 million to high-performing 5G subsystems with multi-vendor interoperability.

“There’s been some pretty significant investment by the government, both from a policy perspective and a funding perspective to continue to spur O-RAN R&D here in the U.S.,” Bhaskar added.

Find out how else government agencies are driving 5G and O-RAN innovation — watch Rishi Bhaskar’s [full video interview here](#).