

Detecon, Fujitsu tie up for Punjab project

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DEUTSCHE Telecom (DETECON), a subsidiary of the DM 38 billion German government company, TELEKOM, plans to enter the Indian telecom sector in a joint venture with Fujitsu, the Japanese telecom giant and two Indian partners — the Punjab government and the Virgo Group.

This firm will invest Rs 1,000 crore in expanding Punjab's telecom network. A MoU to this effect was signed in Bonn, last week, between DETECON and Virgo which also represented Fujitsu and the Punjab government. The other shareholders of DETECON are the

two largest banks of Germany, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank.

Fujitsu already has a joint venture company, Fujitsu India Telecom Ltd in which the Punjab state Electronics Board and Virgo are partners. Fujitsu India is setting up the first private digital electronic switching systems factory at Mohali, Punjab, with a Rs 100-crore investment.

Sources say that within two years of launch of operations, the joint venture will be able to provide a phone connection to a subscriber within four weeks of applying. The traditional wireless and cable route will be used.