

Korea picks SK Telecom, KT and Kakao consortia to build free 'AI for all' services

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Science Minister Bae Kyung-hoon (C) is seen posing for a photo at an event for the government's "AI for all" project in the city of Gwangju, 268 kilometers south of Seoul, in this file photo taken Aug. 3. (Yonhap)

South Korea's science ministry said Friday it has selected three teams to build an artificial intelligence service accessible to everyone, under the government's "AI for all" initiative.

The three consortia are each led by SK Telecom Co., KT Corp. and Kakao Corp. They will receive a total of 512 B200 graphics processing units from Nvidia, while expenses needed to roll out the service next year will be covered by government budgets, the ministry of science and ICT said.

The science ministry plans to sign an agreement with each consortium next month, with the official launch of each service to take place by year's end.

In July, the government initiated the "AI for all" project, as part of its effort to create what it calls an "AI-basic society" where people can use AI services regardless of income, age or digital literacy.

Developers are required to use domestic AI models that meet the ministry's independent foundation-model standards for at least 50 percent of the system.

A total of six consortia applied for the project, of which applications closed in mid-August. (Yonhap)

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