

## ***Is Your Facility 5G Cellular Network Capable?***

You may have heard a lot about 5G, the new cellular network that is 10 times faster than 4G. If you are interested in enabling your facilities to provide 5G technology, you first need to ensure your facility has access to the wireless carrier's 5G antenna. Secondly, to successfully broadcast a reliable 5G connection throughout the building, you must install a distributed antenna system (a dense network of small-scale antennas) in the building. Involve your information technology team in planning the routing of the raceway, distributed antenna system, and cabling to ensure your facility has the requirements to take advantage of the latest 5G technology.



*5G network is planned at the RELLIS Campus*

## ***2020 Outlook***

### ***Labor Shortages Continue***

Despite the national economic and political uncertainty, Texas' construction market remains one of the strongest in the country. But with record low unemployment, labor shortages continue to be a challenge. As the war for craft labor rages on, we expect labor cost escalation to outpace material price escalation. Top-qualified workers, in adequate numbers, will go to the first to reach the market. Construction managers with the best trade contractor relationships and project teams who carefully craft bidding strategies have the advantage in today's hot construction market.



*Concrete trade contractors at the Collin College, Celina Campus*



*Steel structure for the City of College Station, New Police Department*

### ***Anticipate 5% Cost Escalation In 2020***

Tariffs, trade deals, Brexit, and pending elections are causing material price fluctuations which will affect projects. Engineering News-Record's (ENR) December 23, 2019 issue reports upticks in prices for aluminum, stainless steel, and standard structural steel. In addition to material price increases, we expect labor cost increases due to aforementioned labor shortages. We anticipate the Texas market to experience consistent escalation in 2020 and recommend Owners carry five percent year-over-year escalation contingency in their project budgets to account for material and labor cost increases.