Monthly News Digest - November 2015

By Scott St. John

Mobile Innovations

In mobile innovation news, **LG announced the LG Watch Urbane 2nd Edition LTE**, the first Android Wear smartwatch to feature cellular connectivity, will begin rolling out to customers worldwide starting this month in the United States and Korea. The watch is available in the U.S. online via AT&T and Verizon for pre-orders; and key markets in Europe, Asia, and the Commonwealth of Independent States is planned in the months ahead.

In related news, a new study from Juniper finds shows that tech brands dominate the coolest wearable brands, according to a recent survey with 75% preferring Apple or Samsung. Apple was voted the coolest brand, coming in at #1, followed by Samsung at #2 and Google at #3.

Juniper also released research on the rise of eSports this month, and the apparent transition from game counsels to mobile devices. The study, titled Digital Games: eSports 2015-2020, predicts that eSports will see viewership levels of 313 million by 2020, up from 133 million this year. By comparison, 2020 will see eSports surpass the viewership levels of the NFL tournament, which had 220 million unique viewers in 2014, to move closer to the viewership figures of Formula 1 racing, which has over 400 million global viewers.

According to the study, smartphones and tablets present the greatest potential user base for eSports the games market. Juniper has found that a combined 3.1 billion smartphones and tablets will be operational by the end of 2015; mobile games are forecast to be an ever growing proportion of the total games market in terms of revenue.

In related news, the Media Rating Council (MRC) issued an industry update this month related to the mobile viewable impression measurements. Since issuing the Interim Guidance on Mobile Viewable Impression Measurement in May 2015, the MRC has led several significant efforts to further the development of the final guidelines.

In Germany, Continental, Deutsche Telekom, Fraunhofer, and Nokia Networks successfully demonstrated real-time Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication on the

Autobahn. The exercise demonstrated how vehicles on the motorway can share hazard information using the LTE network, in this case that of Deutsche Telekom. The test shows transmit speeds between vehicles of less than 20 milliseconds which can be used to communicate accident and road hazard information, prevent traffic jams, and give rise to many other new V2V innovations.

This month TracFone announced that it has partnered with the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT) to support President Obama's "Advancing Health Equity through Precision Medicine Tools" Challenge (www.PMIChallenge.org) in the U.S. The Challenge is an undertaking of the National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved (NHIT Collaborative) to:

· Address the precision medicine needs of people in underserved and medically underserved communities;

· Facilitate participation of people from underserved and medically underserved communities to the precision medicine cohort; and

· Promote the use of open health platforms to expand the breadth, depth and interoperability of digital health tools and associated data to support the Precision Medicine Initiative.

TracFone, the largest provider of wireless Lifeline services in the United States, provides Safelink wireless service to 4.5 million U.S. households. Additionally, nearly two million Medicaid recipients in 26 national Medicaid health plans since inception have benefited from free cell phone service and mobile health information through TracFone's Safelink Health Solutions, a groundbreaking initiative of the federal wireless Lifeline program.

In France, [Alcatel-Lucent announced commercial deployment of a multi-standard, residential small cell for 3G and 4G LTE connectivity](). The Alcatel-Lucent 9961 Multi-Standard Home Cell (MSHC) introduces high-performance 4G LTE coverage for voice (VoLTE) and data services into the home while also providing support for the still-large embedded base of 3G-based devices. At the same time, it provides users seamless mobility with the macro network as they move outside the home. The MSHC help mobile operators extend coverage and enhance quality of service by extending their 3G/4G LTE networks inside homes due to the growing demand from rich voice, data, and video services.

The device is a security-hardened 'plug-and-play' unit, and is supported by a rapid provisioning management system from Alcatel-Lucent that allow users to set up the devices quickly and easily. The rapid development of the MSHC home cell was a continuation of a long-standing collaboration between Alcatel-Lucent and Qualcomm Technologies on the 9962 Multi-Standard Enterprise Small Cell, launched in 2014 and which has met commercial success in providing cellular 3G/4G and Wi-Fi coverage and capacity for medium and large indoor venues.

Also hailing from France, tech developer [FIME recently announced]() it has launched a solution this month to help mobile operators test and validate mobile Near Field Communication (NFC) application security. The new product called TrustApp, is a secure online testing portal for NFC applications embedded in secure elements. Mobile network operators (MNOs) and NFC service providers can use TrustApp to quickly and cost effectively validate the security of their sensitive and basic NFC applications.

In 5G news, [Ericsson announced the launch of the 5G Exchange project (5GEx)](), As a Phase 1 5G Infrastructure Public Private Partnership (5G PPP) research and innovation project, 5GEx aims to enable a unified European 5G infrastructure service market that integrates multiple operators and technologies. The project will focus on supporting cross-domain service orchestration over multiple administrations or multi-domain single administrations. Orchestration will be compatible with Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) and software-defined networking technologies. End-to-end network and service elements will be able to mix in multi-vendor, heterogeneous technology and resource environments.

The 5GEx program partners are Ericsson, Atos, Athens University of Economics and Business, Berlin Institute for Software Defined Networks, Budapest University

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of Technology and Economics, Carlos III University of Madrid, Deutsche Telekom, European Center for Information and Communication Technologies, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, Huawei, Orange, RedZinc, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Telecom Italia, Telefónica I+D, Telenor and University College London.

5G PPP has been initiated by the EU Commission and industry manufacturers, operators, service providers, SMEs and researchers. The partnership aims to deliver solutions, architectures, technologies and standards for the ubiquitous next-generation communication infrastructures of the coming decade.

Network News

Netherlands-based software company, [BroadForward announced]() its BFX Interface Gateway has gone in full operation to support the world's first Private Virtual Network Operator (PVNO). System integrator CGI in The Netherlands has implemented BFX to offer a game-changing service for PVNOs, which creates an open market situation for mobile M2M communications. The first PVNO using this service is a Dutch utility company, serving millions of M2M devices (smart meters, gateways and remote telemetry units).

From sunny Sunnyvale, California, [Spirent announced]() a new data analytics solution call InTouch Customer and Network Analytics (CNA) to resolve quality of experience issues for 2/3/4G technologies, including VoLTE and IoT service instances. Spirent also announced the launch of Landslide™ EDGE and Spirent Landslide ™ CORE test solutions this month to provide mobile operators with network performance visibility and fault detection while enabling automated real-time validation of configuration changes and upgrades for improved network performance and customer service. Network congestion and overload is one of the leading causes of network outages and the solution is aimed at efficiently and proactively identifying and addressing issues before they impact customers.

Alcatel-Lucent also announced the launch of its Distributed Antenna System Radio Frequency Module, a wideband low-power LTE interface card which removes the need for bulky radio technology in a public installation. The solution addresses space, energy, and heat concerns for network operators. Working together with Alcatel-Lucent's LTE radio access portfolio, the DAS RFM connects to Alcatel-Lucent's 9926 digital baseband unit, working directly with the analog DAS through RF signals that consume just one-eighth of the power and heat dissipation of an average remote radio head, reducing space requirements and optimizing costs.

According to a recent report released by 4G Americas and Ovum this month, LTE connections increased 141 percent in 2Q15 over the same period last year making LTE the fastest growing mobile broadband technology on record. According to the report North America remained dominant with a 47.5 percent of the LTE market share. The regions with the next highest market share rankings are Western Europe at 19 percent and Oceania, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia at 16.25 percent.

Fujitsu announced an integrated network solution simplifying the deployment of 100G services on access, metro, and core networks. Enabling this push of 100G to the network edge are new, high-density 100G units in the FLASHWAVE 9500 platform and new demarcation and aggregator units in the FLASHWAVE CDS. These new devices can be combined with FLASHWAVE 9500 OTN switching, if desired, to provide a comprehensive solution that will make it more simple and efficient to deploy 100G services throughout customer networks.

The Fujitsu FLASHWAVE 9500 features new, slim 100G muxponder and transponder units, establishing an industry-best 7.2 Tbps density for a standard rack. With reduced size, lower power consumption and higher performance, the new units support an all-coherent network architecture and are backward compatible with existing 100G units. Enhanced 100G service delivery and assurance are enabled by combining the next-generation CDC-F ROADM capabilities of the FLASHWAVE 9500 with the automated network management of an SDN controller.

In extraterrestrial news, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) announced it is adopting a primary allocation of the 1090 MHz frequency band for the reception by satellite of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) signals from aircraft. The decision, made during the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) in Geneva, Switzerland, protects this essential frequency for real-time flight tracking and global surveillance of aircraft

The Software-Defined Networking (SDN)-based architecture enables satellite operators and service providers to support mobility, enterprise, cellular and consumer broadband applications and business models from a single platform.

through ADS-B over satellite. This important step will extend air traffic surveillance coverage of equipped aircraft to 100 percent of the earth's surface – from the 30 percent coverage available today.

Memotec and OneAccess announced this month that they are teaming up to solve satellite latency issues for 4G LTE services. The Memotec WX optimizer virtually eliminates the satellite link latency effect, a major concern with delivering 4G/LTE services over satellite, and provides mobile end-users with a true broadband LTE experience. In addition, the product's intelligent and powerful data optimization processing allows a mobile operator to save up to 50% or more on transmission costs, and to sustain the highest throughput required for backhauling 4G/LTE services.

Memotec's WX product is powered by OneAccess technology, which provides mobile operators with a unique set of combined features for optimizing 4G/LTE cellular backhaul traffic and allowing the full bandwidth capacity potential of LTE. The solution also applies to the data core when backhauling remote RNCs or SGSN 2G-3G trunks over satellite, be it directly or for backup or disaster recovery.

In Israel, satellite tech provider Gilat Satellite Networks announced its distributed X-Architecture for SkyEdge II-c for high-throughput Satellite (HTS). The Software-Defined Networking (SDN)-based architecture enables satellite operators and service providers to support mobility, enterprise, cellular and consumer broadband applications and business models from a single platform.

France's global cellular network provider for IoT applications, SIGFOX further extended the reach of the internet of things (IoT) by announcing it helping San Francisco become the IoT innovation capital of the world. San Francisco is the first of ten US cities in which SIGFOX will be deploying in networks by Q1 2016. The SIGFOX IoT network is currently operating or being deployed in 10 additional European countries.

The company also is adding a multitude of device to the IoT boom by [announcing that it has been selected by SOGEDO](), a leading water-distribution company in France, for automatic and remote water-meter reading and real-time customer data usage analysis.

In other IoT news, [Verizon announced its global strategy for simplifying IoT]() and accelerating its market adoption. With a 495 million dollar investment, 1,000 channel partners, and generating the largest amount of IoT revenue, Verizon appears to be leading the IoT charge in the US. It's newly announced global strategy encompasses: launching ThingSpace, a IoT platform to help foster the development of IoT applications; creating a dedicated IoT network for next-generation IoT use cases; driving IoT innovation in vertical industries such as healthcare and agriculture; integrating with Verizon's Big Data and Analytics engine; and introducing IoT for three, new end-to-end smart city deployments.

Expansion Efforts

In expansion news, international exchange operator [DE-CIX adds UAE-IX to its partner program]() expanding the reach of global network services in to the Middle East.

In the U.S., [Cologix and Neural Path announced]() they are providing new connectivity routes to the Midwest states. The collaboration allows Neural Path to tap the networks of 70 operators, broad range of customers, and the core node of the Midwest Internet Exchange Cooperative (MICE).

In the Baltics, Netherlands-based service provider, [Linxtelecom upgrades its submarine optical network]() with the help of Ekinops to provide 4 terabits per second (Tbps) speeds between Finland, Sweden, and Estonia.

[ER Telecom]() and [RENATER]() announced that they are collaborating to bring 100G speeds to Russia and France respectively. ER-Telecom is one of the three largest providers in Russia of Internet and pay TV, has deployed Ekinops' 100G DWDM channels over a countrywide network stretching over 5,000 kilometers. RENATER network spans approximately 15,000 kilometers of fiber optics and 75 points of presence.

As a new age of diplomacy is ushered in between the U.S. and Cuba, Sprint announces it has signed the first roaming relationship with the Telecommunications Company of Cuba (ETECSA). Sprint CEO Marcelo Claure made the announcement at a signing ceremony in Havana as part of the U.S.-Cuba Business Council (USCBC) delegation to Cuba.

In Bolivia, [Entel tapped Harmonic]() to power its direct

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broadcast satellite (DBS) service. Entel Bolivia can now deliver 124 SD MPEG-4 AVC, 20 HD MPEG-4 AVC, and 30 radio channels with high bandwidth efficiency. The Harmonic solutions allow Entel Bolivia to offer additional services, with improved video quality, while lowering operating expenses and providing a seamless migration path toward IPTV delivery.

In China, [Strategy Analytics released]() a forecast which indicates a jump in 4G LTE coverage throughout the country. The company predicts 4G LTE network reach will jump from 8% of the Chinese population in 2014 to over 50% by 2016.

In Africa, [Neotel has become the first MEF Carrier Ethernet 2.0 certified provider](), with the help of OneAccess. Neotel has worked with OneAccess in collaboration with their local partner Ucomms to develop the ability to offer customers voice, data, internet and cloud services over a single fiber connection.

Ericsson has been making headlines related to its efforts to lay the groundwork for the advancement of communication service globally. This month the company announced it is [laying the foundation for VoLTE services in Brazil; helping Tunisia speed up their digital agenda](), and fueling [4G LTE transformation in Indonesia]().

And much, much more…

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