

Telecom Industry News - July 2017

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It may be the lazy, hazy days of summer for some, but not the telecom industry. Improved connectivity is driving the IoT market while combating fraud is fueling activity on the security front and ways to improve signal performance in increasingly dense metro areas is pushing equipment innovation.



Improving How Machines Talk to Each Other

A new wireless connectivity solution from **Cyprus Semiconductor Corporation** combines three technologies for [improved IoT communications](#). The company has introduced a new WICED-powered Wi-Fi and Bluetooth combo solution with integrated USB that streamlines robust wireless IoT connectivity with a common WLAN and Bluetooth interface. The combo solution is ideal for smart home products and network peripherals such as home appliances and printers.

Bell Canada announced it will [launch an LTE-M \(Long Term Evolution, category M1\) network](#) to support the rapidly increasing use of Internet of Things (IoT) devices on low-power, wide-area networks (LPWANs) in Canada. LTE-M improves the operating efficiency of IoT devices by enabling very low power consumption and better coverage in underground and other hard to reach locations. Bell has successfully completed LTE-M trials and deployments with pilot customers, and will launch its LTE-M network in 2018. **MetTel** has introduced a cloud-connected chip that it claims securely tracks products, connects devices, and solves real-time supply issues using a 650-plus global carrier network. The company claims its IoT SIM ensures the best possible connectivity no matter the device or location, changing the game for supply chain complexity, retail issues, home health care and other industry challenges.



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MediaTek has unveiled its new [narrow-band-Internet-of-Things \(NB-IoT\)](#) system-on-chip (SoC) to support a full range of global network connectivity standards and further the advancement of NB-IoT commercial applications connecting over low-power wide-area (LPWA) networks. The company is collaborating with China Mobile to build the world's smallest NB-IoT module (16mm X 18mm) around the chipset. MediaTek's new ultra-low-power MT2625 SoC supports a full frequency band (from 450MHz to 2.1GHz) of 3GPP R13 (NB1) and R14 (NB2) standards for a wide range of

IoT applications including smart home control, logistics tracking, and smart meters.

Protecting Carriers and Consumers

The full frontal assault continues on network operators and consumers alike as network hacking, robocalling, and fraud continue to dominate industry news.

A new report released by **Corero Network Security** warns of [Trojan horse DDoS attacks](#) that are intended to disrupt and distract network operators from more destructive malware security threats. The greatest DDoS risk for organizations is the barrage of short, low volume attacks which mask more serious network intrusions, according to the latest *DDoS Trends and Analysis* report from Corero, a leading provider of real-time DDoS defense solutions.

Affle, a Singapore HQ mobile audience intelligence and analytics platforms company has announced the launch of its [Fraud Analytics As a Service Platform](#), mTraction FaaS, to help marketers around the world fight mobile ad fraud. According to industry data sources, close to \$16.4 billion (USD) is lost worldwide due to ad fraud. mTraction FaaS, or mFaaS, aims to help marketers detect fraud, not at a post mortem level but during run time, minimizing marketing budget waste.

KeyLemon and **SoftKinetic** jointly demonstrated a 3D front-facing camera in [Mobile and 3D face recognition technology](#) at Mobile World Congress Shanghai (MWC). SoftKinetic's front-facing 3D time-of-flight (ToF) camera enables KeyLemon's 3D face recognition technology to authenticate users as easily as taking a selfie. This was the first ever demonstration of face recognition that efficiently combines depth, near-infrared and color information, breaking new grounds for mobile authentication.

IDology, a leader in [multi-layered identity verification and fraud prevention](#), introduced this month ExpectID Call Verification, a new addition to its fully integrated platform, designed to protect contact centers against growing fraud threats. ExpectID Call Verification increases contact center productivity and reduces call wait times by leveraging real-time mobile carrier data to verify inbound call traffic into a contact center.

DNS security and services solutions provider **Nominum** announced this month the availability of N2 Secure Business, a new [cloud-based DNS security solution](#) offered as a network-based service by internet service providers (ISPs) to protect their enterprise and small and mid-sized business (SMB) customers against the damage caused by cyberthreats like ransomware, phishing attacks, and other malware. The carrier-class solution also secures retail locations, stadiums, transit centers, and other venues where public Wi-Fi networks enable guests and their devices to stay connected.

Improving Network Performance

High performance analog semiconductor manufacturer **Skyworks Solutions, Inc.** has expanded its portfolio of small cell solutions with the addition of new, [high efficiency power amplifiers](#) targeting License Assisted Access (LAA) and LTE unlicensed (LTE-U) spectrum for LTE-Advanced base stations. With leading wireless carriers and telecommunications manufacturers transitioning from 4G to 5G networks and deploying new equipment, there is an increasing demand for efficient, highly integrated system architectures to support emerging requirements. Skyworks claims its devices offer four times higher efficiency than competing products available in the market today and enable small cells to easily meet Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) standards.

Data center networking solutions provider **MRV Communications** introduced new [200G coherent digital muxponders](#) to its OptiDriver WDM optical transport portfolio that are optimized for Data Center Interconnect (DCI) and telecom applications. With the addition of these new muxponders, OptiDriver is now one of the only platforms that covers the full range of applications, from smaller access locations to large metro and regional WDM networks, all with one set of modules and chassis. This simplifies network design, reduces stranded chassis space, limits sparing requirements, minimizes learning curves, and ensures interoperability for data center operators,

communication service providers, and enterprises.

Communications solutions provider **MetTel** announced it is launching a [new research and development organization](#) to help technology and carrier partners with digital transformation and creating new customer service solutions. The MetTel Customer Innovation Labs, based in New York City, New Jersey, and Utah, is a new research and development organization chartered with engaging customers, technology providers, and carrier partners to develop unique and useful customer solutions. As part of the launch, the labs are announcing a solution designed to enable businesses to quickly recover from extended network disruptions or catastrophic events and rapidly deploy connectivity for local branches or pop-up businesses in need of high speed, quality and reliable service to support business continuity.

Much of the news this month was centered around technological advancements in improving signal performance for transmissions affected by densification and cluttered metro environments.

IEEE announced [new revisions for 802.11ai wireless standards](#) to boost signal performance. The amendments provide for "Fast Initial Link Set-up" (FILS) methods to enhance end user experience in high-density WLAN environments and enables multi-gigabit throughput in 5GHz and 60GHz spectrum bands.

Antenna technology developer **MTI Wireless Edge Ltd.** introduced a new series of [omni-directional antennas](#) it says offers superior performance and coverage due to their high gain, small size, low ripple, high port to port isolation and IP67 ingress protection. The company said the new products are designed to address the growing trend of wireless networking operators moving from single polarization antennas to MIMO (multiple in and multiple out) systems. The latest addition to this trend is the introduction of MTI's MT-382002/NVH, 3.5-3.8 GHz, 10 dBi Dual Polarization OMNI-Directional antenna. MTI will introduce similar OMNI antennas in the 5.8 and 2.5 GHz frequency domains shortly.

ADVA Optical Networking launched a major expansion of its FSP 3000 [platform designed specifically for metro networks](#). The expansion features three new technologies that will enable network operators to meet the rapidly changing needs of the metro environment with unprecedented levels of flexibility, scale and synchronization. Until now, it was too costly to introduce such capabilities in metro infrastructures, but the expanded ADVA FSP 3000 removes this barrier. It delivers a flexible and automated optical layer without the cost of traditional ROADM technology. It also features an entirely new cross-connect that enables customers to scale their optical transport networks (OTNs) without any capacity lock-in. And it supports the precise synchronization of 5G technologies without any of the current OTN stumbling blocks.

Baylin Technologies this month unveiled its [new small cell canister antenna](#) designed to better address the challenges of carrier network densification with excellent patterns across all bands and uniform gain for consistent data speed. The EXTENT P6480i is a small cell canister antenna that provides excellent patterns across all bands as well as uniform gain for consistent data speed. The antenna is available in a variety of colors and with semi-reflective film coating to blend into most environments.

Global News

International mobile industry organization **GSMA** has announced that the world's mobile industry has signed up its [5 billionth unique mobile subscriber](#), making two-thirds of the world's population now connected. The world's mobile industry has signed up its 5 billionth unique mobile subscriber, according to real-time data from GSMA Intelligence, the research arm of the GSMA. The 5 billion milestone means that more than two-thirds of the global population is now connected to a mobile service. It has taken four years to add the latest 1 billion subscribers.

As of June 15 [roaming charges](#) in the **European Union** will no longer apply. According to EU officials President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani, Prime Minister of Malta Joseph Muscat, on behalf of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, "The European Union is about

bringing people together and making their lives easier. The end of roaming charges is a true European success story. From now on, citizens who travel within the EU will be able to call, text and connect on their mobile devices at the same price as they pay at home. Eliminating roaming charges is one of the greatest and most tangible successes of the EU.”

Intelsat S.A. announced that **Dalkom Somalia** signed an [agreement for satellite services](#) that will expand its broadband enterprise and direct-to-home (DTH) services in East and Central Africa and the Middle East. Under a multi-year agreement, Dalkom, a privately owned operator based in Somalia, will incorporate Ku-band satellite services provided by Intelsat 17 to extend services currently delivered by its fiber network. This includes expanding broadband enterprise networks into countries such as South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the Middle East. Dalkom will also add DTH services to its portfolio in Somalia.

On the streets of Suwon, South Korea, **Sprint** and **Samsung Electronics America, Inc.** tested [Massive MIMO](#) (multiple input, multiple output) on 2.5 GHz spectrum. The Massive MIMO test represented a real-world application of the new technology, slated to help Sprint dramatically boost LTE Plus wireless capacity and coverage, and offer Gigabit LTE service to its customers.

Converged telecommunication and technology services provider **Turkcell** is testing the Massive [MIMO technique](#) on a live network for the first time in Europe and Central Asia to make it ready for 5G. With the cooperation of Huawei, Turkcell completed the first live FDD Massive MIMO product set-up using the 1800 MHz frequency band in Antalya, Turkey.

SES Networks and **Orange** Central African Republic, a leading provider of corporate telecommunications and one of the largest mobile and internet services operators, this month announced an agreement to provide [connectivity services in the Central African Republic](#). Orange will be using SES Network’s IP Transit solution to deliver faster 3G services and better-quality internet connections for enterprises.

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