

Telecom Industry News

By: Scott St. John

The industry was a flurry of activity this month, with innovation, IoT, network expansion, security, and regulation filling the news. The top stories from the month are summarized below. To view all the news, check out *Pipeline's* [News Center](#).



Steps in Security

In security news, [a report by Corero](#) indicates that DDoS attacks are on the rise due to vulnerabilities of IoT Devices. This news should come at no surprise, as 90% of consumers lack confidence in IoT device security, according to a [survey conducted by Gemalto](#). To address the growing threat, [Windstream announced](#) it has launched a DDoS Mitigation Service to help its customers identify and address attacks in real-time. [Senet and G+D Mobile Security also announced a partnership](#) to improve LoRaWAN connectivity across the IoT ecosystem.

Nokia made news this month by [announcing its cloud-native Session Border Controller \(SBC\)](#) has reached new benchmarks in the battle to combat threats to fixed, mobile, and cable networks. The Nokia SBC solution allows service provider to securely provide voice and video service while protecting against DDoS, cyber security, and other risks; without impacting the Quality of Experience (QoE). Nokia also [announced the latest version of its NetGuard solution](#) has been upgraded to include automation and analytics to help its customers protect against ransomware threats, which are on the rise according to the company's Threat Intelligence Report.

[Radisys and Rohde & Schwarz announced that they are teaming up](#) to provide a network and security solution for European operators. The combined cyber security solution combines monitoring and analytics to provider operators with a scalable solution to analyze traffic as they continue to evolve with virtual network and 5G technologies. [Safe-T also announced a new cyber security solution](#), focused on software-defined access. The solution masks mission-critical information at the perimeter, restricting access to only authorized users, both on premise and in the cloud.

Fostering Innovation

[Microsoft Ventures Announced Innovate.AI](#), a global search for startups that are shaping the future of artificial intelligence. The initiative is a partnership with Microsoft Ventures, Madrona Venture Group, Notion Capital and Vertex Ventures Israel. The program will reward one start-up in each region - within the US, Europe, and Israel - with prizes ranging between \$500K and \$1M dollars, plus Azure credits; totaling \$3.5M in venture funding and \$2M in Azure credits.

The Vodafone Americas Foundation celebrated the [10th anniversary of its Wireless Innovation Project](#). The competition puts \$600,000 up for grabs for wireless innovations that further social good.

[Ericsson also announced](#) the launch of its Innovation Award program as a global competition for student to compete to find innovative solutions on how we find validate and share truth in the age of ICT. The theme is "The Future of Truth" and offers EUR 500,000 in cash and prizes for college students who enter the competition.

Network News

[Vodafone and CityFibre announced](#) that they have partnered to deploy Fiber to the Premise (FTTH) to 5 million homes and business in the UK by 2025. KEYMILE and Gigaclear announced collaboration to bring ultrafast, one-gigabit-per-second speeds to rural England. The venture aims to provide Gigabit broadband services to tens of thousands of homes and businesses in under-served, rural areas. In Sweden, [Munkfors Metro Network's fiber network got a boost](#) with Digipro's network operating system to provide better visibility, information sharing, and collaboration as they continue to expand their network.

Ericsson made headlines with a rash of 5G-related announcements. In Chile, [Telefónica is evolving its network](#) to roll out its 5G-ready core by Q2 2018. Telefónica Chile selected Ericsson to help them with the transformation, leveraging its Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) solution, including virtual EPC, virtual IMS, virtual AAA and NFVi. This month Ericsson also announced that it has been also been selected to help with the evolution to 5G by [Entel in Chile](#) in addition to [VodafoneZiggo](#) in the Netherlands, [MTS in Russia](#), [Smartone in Hong Kong](#), and [Swisscom in Switzerland](#).

[Orange and BlueTide join forces](#) to deliver maritime communications leveraging Ku band VSAT capacity, with the ability to switch to alternative satellite beams for seamless global coverage. The collaboration provide connectivity for voice, video, and data, and provides real-time connectivity for navigation, security, weather, and corporate applications. It also opens the door to future maritime applications and innovations. Under the sea, [NJFX announced](#) it now provides connection between the United States, Europe, and Latin America, bypassing the Atlantic hurricane zones, and traditional choke points.

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Overhead, [AT&T deployed its "flying COW"](#), or "Cell on Wings", which is a drone-based connectivity solution to restore service in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria. While state-side, [AT&T announced](#) that it will help modernize communications for the US Army, connecting nearly 1 million users. [AT&T, Verizon, and Tillman also announced](#) they have joined forces to build hundreds of additional cell towers to add to coverage in the US and under-served areas.

Regulatory News

[ETSI released a report](#) this month, providing advice on implementing the NIS Directive for standard security measures for networks and information systems in the European Union.

[The CWA provided a report the FCC](#) indicating the mobile is not an adequate substitute for robust, wireline broadband services. The report was provided as part of a response to the commission's annual inquiry on the timeliness of broadband deployments. The report infers 5G is "hypothetical" and should not be considered as part of the near or mid-term broadband discussion.

[The FCC announced it will adopt rules](#) that allow phone companies to block robocalls from numbers that are likely to be fraudulent. These new rules allow voice providers to side step call

completion regulation to thwart the estimated 2.4 billion robocalls in the US.

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