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Telecom Industry News - February 2018

By: Scott St. John

A few notable acquisitions made the headlines this month, as did advancements in 5G, IoT, and network technologies including cloud, virtualization and wireless announcements. The top stories from the month are summarized below. To view all this month's news, visit *Pipeline*'s News Center.

Movers and Shakers

Oracle announced that it signed an agreement to acquire Zenedge, adding leading cloud-based network and infrastructure security capabilities to protect enterprises from today's complex digital threats. The combination of Oracle and Zenedge equips Oracle's enterprise-grade Cloud Infrastructure as a Service (Oracle Cloud Infrastructure) with integrated, next-generation Web Application Firewall (WAF) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) capabilities.

Amdocs announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Vubiquity ths month, and stated the acquisition provides them with the increased capacity to now deliver enhanced digital content capabilities for network operators, video distributors, OTT companies, content owners and content producers.

Vodafone confirmed that it is in early stage discussions with Liberty Global regarding the potential acquisition of certain overlapping continental European assets owned by Liberty Global.

And last but not least, Orange Business Services announced that it has signed an agreement for the acquisition of Enovacom to help strengthen their e-health portfolio.

5G Update

Nokia dominated the 5G news this month. Nokia and Qualcomm Technologies successfully completed interoperability testing in the 3.5Ghz and 28Ghz spectrum compliant with the global 3GPP 5G NR Release 15 standard, which was formally confirmed in December, and using the commercially available Nokia AirScale base station and device prototypes from Qualcomm Technologies.

Nokia also unveiled its new ReefShark chipsets this month which leverage in-house silicon expertise to dramatically reduce the size, cost and power consumption of operators' networks and meet the massive compute and radio requirements of 5G. On the same day Nokia announced its ReefShark chipsets, the company has outlined the scope of its Future X architecture for 5G, the basis for its new reference silicon design and the foundation of its 5G technology and services portfolio.

Nokia also announced plans to conduct testing of 5G in an industrial environment in the Port of Hamburg, with the Hamburg Port Authority, Deutsche Telekom and Nokia commissioning an 8000-hectare area with which to carry out key tests of various aspects of 5G functionality, including network slicing.

In other 5G news, Ericsson announced the launch of a 5G Radio Access Network (RAN) commercial software, based on the recently approved first 3GPP 5G New Radio (NR) standard and

finalizes 5G-readiness for operators by enhancing its 5G Platform with new solutions for the radio and core network. And, Blue Danube Systems introduced its second-generation 5G-ready Massive MIMO system, the BeamCraft 600 series.

Network News

In network news, **Verizon has achieved another industry first** with the completion of a successful field trial delivering live 400 Gbps Ethernet traffic on a single wavelength between MPLS Core routers over its Packet-Optical network. **Verizon also announced** that it has been awarded $70.7 million in funding that will support their deployment of high-speed broadband to more than 15,500 rural locations in upstate New York.

Verizon Enterprise Solutions launched its Software Defined Wireless Local Area Network (SD WLAN), a user-centric wireless LAN managed solution which is part of Verizon's Virtual Network Services portfolio. The SD WLAN solution leverages patented artificial intelligence and machine learning technology from Mist Systems, and can monitor and manage the wireless LAN automatically. User and network data is analyzed in real time and used to identify network choke points, unauthorized user access attempts and can scale network resources up or down to meet demand.

AT&T announced that it is continuing to invest in expanding their fiber footprint to provide businesses of all sizes with advanced technology and communications services. AT&T also announced the launch of a project to provide the industry with a more open, flexible and cost-effective alternative to traditional integrated networking equipment. AT&T intends to open source a project called the Disaggregated Network Operating System, or dNOS, hosted by The Linux Foundation. Also this month, AT&T and Accenture stated that they are collaborating on a multi-year project to improve business by transforming older business applications into faster, more flexible microservices.

Windstream annoucned that it has been awarded $2.7 million in Phase 3 of the New NY Broadband Program. The fund will support Windstream's deployment of high-speed broadband to 751 rural locations in Western New York. Windstream also revealed its plans for Avaya ENGAGE 2018, which will be held Jan. 28-31 at the New Orleans Convention Center. In addition to serving as an ENGAGE sponsor, Windstream is orchestrating multiple activities to assist attendees planning to migrate their premises-based systems to the cloud

Shenandoah Telecommunications Company (Shentel) announced that they have teamed up with Hitron Technologies to launch Wall to Wall Wi-Fi to enhance and extend their Wi-Fi service within customers' homes throughout the southeastern United States.

In Europe, Juniper Networks and TIM have initiated a joint agreement to collaborate on the research and development of an innovative cloud-oriented network infrastructure. Also this month, ADVA announced that Telehouse America/NYIIX has deployed its FSP 3000 CloudConnect to tackle soaring data demand in its metro network.

Nokia announced that it is strengthening its cloud and data center services by opening three, new Nokia Cloud Collaboration Hubs in Singapore; Irving, Texas; and in Reading, UK. The hubs are execution centers where multi-vendor cloud services from strategy and design to execution and delivery are provided. Nokia also announced the launch the world's first MulteFire small cell that will enable industries, enterprises, smart cities and mobile service providers to leverage global unlicensed spectrum for secure, high-capacity and high-coverage private LTE networks.

Telstra, Ericsson, NETGEAR and Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. announced they have achieved record-breaking 4G speeds of up to 2 Gigabits per second (Gbps) in lab testing using a new commercially announced chipset. In other 4G news, EE unveiled a new 4G home broadband solution which could connect 580,000 homes across the UK, especially those in rural areas that are currently only able to access broadband slower than 10Mbps.

Columbia Sportswear Co. and Microsoft Corp. have announced plans to collaborate on enhancing

Columbia Sportswear's global consumer experience and drive its digital transformation using intelligent cloud technology.

Digpro was chosen by Vansbro Municipality in Sweden to provide the geographic information system dpCom for their fiber networks and better cooperate with other municipal network owners in the immediate area.

Harmonic announced that Com Hem is using Harmonic's CableOS virtualized CCAP solution to deliver the Nordic region's fastest broadband speeds.

Calix, Inc. announced SKY Cable Corporation (SKY Cable), the largest cable operator in the Philippines, will leverage end-to-end solutions from Calix to drive an expansive network transformation to fiber with plans to serve the greater metropolitan areas of Manila and Rizal.

Telefonica International Wholesale Services extends virtualization adoption with the deployment of 7 new Network Functions Hubs. This will mean the ability to offer the best connectivity and the virtualization of several services and network functions, such as vRAS, vRouter and vFirewall.

Gilat Satellite Networks Ltd. announces that Hispasat selected Gilat's innovative platform for a multi-million dollar project to provide broadband commercial services in Mexico using Hispasat's Ka HTS capacity of the Amazonas-5 Satellite.

Orange Business Services showcased the next push of its global SD-WAN portfolio with the first onboarding of a Cisco SD-WAN virtual network function (VNF) on the Cisco Enterprise Network Compute System (ENCS).

NEC Corporation and Netcracker Technology Corporation announced its leading role in the creation of the first report on NFV license management by the European Telecom Standards Institute (ETSI).

And, Iskratel announced two new universal next-generation PON solutions, the 8-port multi-PON blade and the 16-port GPON blade, both designed to enable a lucrative and controlled upgrade to next-generation networks, such as NG-PON2 and XGS-PON.

Mobile and Wireless

In the UK, Vodafone UK has achieved an industry first with the **successful trial of a new 4G mini mobile mast** in the small village of Porthcurno on the southern Cornish coast. Meanwhile in Singapore, Singtel has achieved the **world's first 1Gbps mobile peak speed** on Ericsson's quad-band FDD/TDD Carrier Aggregation (CA) technology.

State side, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules to improve the geographic targeting of **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**, a system that delivers critical warnings and information to the public on their wireless phones throughout the US.

Tango Networks **unveiled Kinetic Cloud** this month, a cloud-powered enterprise mobility enablement solution delivering communications control, compliance and productivity to the workforce natively on any mobile phone. Kinetic Cloud is a communications control service based in the cloud, offering enterprises, including multi-nationals, a single point of management that integrates their users' mobile communications with their office Unified Communications (UC) systems, fixed telephony, call recording systems, and business applications.

Connected Devices and the Internet of Things

HKT has established an Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystem with multiple connectivity technologies in Hong Kong. In both fixed and mobile arenas, HKT is positioned to ride on multiple IoT

technologies such as NB-IoT, LoRa, 3G, 4G, LTE-M and Wi-Fi to assist enterprises to transform their business and capture growth potential.

Vodafone announced that it is working with Mango on a new program to rollout digital fitting rooms to the company's top stores worldwide. Vodafone also announced the commencement of trials air traffic control drone tracking and safety technology this month. The Vodafone IoT drone tracking and safety technology trials support the objectives of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), with whom Vodafone has collaborated.

Nokia announced that it has been selected by French power utility EDF's R&D unit to test the performance of LPWA wireless networking technologies and key emerging standards for Internet of Things (IoT) device connectivity to support critical operations for industries. Also this month, Nokia and Tele2 IoT inked a five-year agreement to enable the delivery of IoT services to Tele2 enterprise customers based on Nokia's worldwide IoT networkgrid (WING), and Nokia announced the launch of its IoT for Smart Cities framework.

Coriant and Prodea announced this month that they have joined forces to accelerate global adoption of IoT services by simplifying go-to-market deployment across multiple vertical markets. Through Coriant's Multi-Sided Platform Partnership Program, the two companies offer a unique and innovative approach to solving the challenge of IoT service deployment and monetization by employing a value-driven business model to deliver end-to-end IoT solutions — meeting the needs of many markets including healthcare, consumer products, governments, SMEs, and others.
