

Telecom Industry News

By: Scott St. John

June brought a bumper crop of mergers and acquisition headlines as well as news of a variety of deployments, launches, announcements, and expansions. By midmonth, a federal judge had approved the \$85 billion merger between AT&T and Time Warner, citing no evidence of anti-trust law violation. Renovo and EdgeConnex announced a partnership to handle the enormous anticipated data flow from autonomous vehicles and mobility networks. And, Telefónica International Wholesale Services announced the expected total transition of voice traffic to its new Full IP International Network by June 30.



The top stories from the month are summarized below. To view all the news as it breaks, check out *Pipeline's* [News Center](#) or [subscribe](#) to receive our news summary each week.

Mergers and Acquisitions

Mergers and acquisitions shaped and reshaped the industry landscape this month. On June 12, Federal Judge Richard Leon ruled to approve the [\\$85 billion merger between AT&T and Time Warner](#). In his decision, Judge Leon cited the US government's failure to prove that the enormous merger violates anti-trust laws. The merger is slated to close by June 20 and will combine Time Warner's extensive content collection with AT&T's vast network reach.

In another contest between giants, Comcast has outbid The Walt Disney Company with an all-cash \$65 billion bid to [acquire 21st Century Fox](#) and its "New Fox" businesses. Comcast proffered the superior proposal and set forth its terms via a letter delivered to 21st Century Fox's Board of Directors on June 13.

In other acquisition news, [Synchronoss acquired honeybee](#), which provides a digital experience platform that enables companies to design and launch optimized omni-channel customer journeys for their end users. The acquisition is intended to help Synchronoss customers across all sectors become digital-first. In additional news, [Ciena has acquired Packet Design, LLC](#), which will help it accelerate its Blue Planet software strategy by extending intelligent automation capabilities beyond Layers 0-2 and into IP to help end customers optimize service delivery and maximize network utilization. The acquisition is expected to close later this year.

In Europe, [GTT expanded its global IP network](#) with the acquisition of Interoute, operator of one of Europe's largest independent fiber networks. The expansion will help GTT advance its comprehensive and competitive global cloud networking platform.

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Innovation News

The development of autonomous vehicle services took a leap forward this month. [Renovo and EdgeConnex](#) announced a partnership to advance the commercial deployment and operation of highly automated vehicles as a service at scale. Their collaboration will combine EdgeConneX's edge data infrastructure with Renovo's AWARE's vehicle-edge-cloud data orchestration and the AWARE edge application environment. Ultimately, the goal is to leverage both companies' current and future expertise to handle the unprecedented data flow that such mobility systems will generate.

Innovation in Africa got a boost on two fronts. Earlier this year, [Orange Money Botswana and EcoCash](#) launched a new partnership to enable better and more affordable access to digital money transfers between Zimbabwe and Botswana. The service, powered by TransferTo's global mobile payments network, is now available. It allows Zimbabwean diaspora living in Botswana to use Orange Money digital wallets to send money back home to family and friends, in real-time, directly into an EcoCash mobile wallet. In other news from Africa, [Vodafone and Sanku's Project Healthy Children](#) have teamed up to equip small flour mills across Africa with Internet of Things (IoT) services. The upgrade will help Sanku provide nutritious, fortified flour to millions of people.

[Tata Communications](#) has announced its collaboration with Hong Kong-based startup Doki Technologies on the recently unveiled dokiWatch S for children. Each smartwatch will come with a Tata Communications MOVE SIM built in. When a parent or child switches on the smartwatch for the first time, the device will be instantly connected to the Internet, anywhere in the world. Tata's partnership will support Doki's expansion into the US and Canada, Europe, and Southeast Asia.

Stateside, [Air Force technology](#) received a lift this month with the announcement of a five-year deal with AT&T. AT&T will work closely with Air Force Academy trainers and technologists to help them become facile with a variety of modern and forthcoming technologies, including 5G, Smart Base solutions (think Smart Cities applied to a military base), Internet of Things, and cybersecurity.

IoT News

This month, new data from [Juniper Research](#) shone a light onto the ever-expanding Internet of Things (IoT) landscape. New data predicts that the total number of connected IoT sensors and devices is set to exceed 50 billion by 2022—in just four years' time—up from a current estimated 21 billion. That's a rate of expansion that's more than double.

Recognizing the rapid pace of predicted IoT expansion, [AT&T and Nokia](#) are teaming up to provide virtually seamless IoT connectivity globally. Nokia's Worldwide IoT Network Grid (WING) will offer AT&T's enterprise customers the benefits of Nokia's global IoT ecosystem, opening new use cases and expanded capabilities to a wide range of industries and applications, including transportation, health, manufacturing, retail, agriculture, utilities, consumer electronics and smart cities. WING's

capabilities are expected to be available in more than 20 countries around the world by early 2020.

[Juniper Networks](#) launched a new generation of its routing platform this month for IoT and 5G. Its MX Series 5G Universal Routing Platform, along with several software innovations, will provide requisite programmability, performance and flexibility for rapid service deployment in the cloud economy. The platform is the industry's only solution that delivers near-infinite programmability, cost efficiency and versatility with performance at scale.

Network News

The latest edition of [Ericsson's Mobility Report](#), released earlier this month, highlights the acceleration of network innovation. The report predicts 3.5 billion IoT cellular connections by 2023 as well as 5G commercial launches for later in 2018. North America is seen leading the charge on 5G—and the report predicts that 20 percent of global mobile data traffic will be on 5G networks in 2023. In other industry research, [Point Topic](#) has released a report that examines the current and future mix of access technologies in the broadband network. Fiber and cable technologies now dominate the global broadband market, with the technologies accounting for nearly 80 percent of all fixed subscriptions (including 2017). More than 50 percent of people in more than 40 countries, including Singapore (97 percent), China (89 percent), United States (87 percent), and the UK (55 percent), are connected via full-fiber, fiber-fed copper or cable.

Nokia was featured in a variety of updates and announcements this month. The [company announced that Frontier Communications Corporation](#), an integrated, US-based communications provider delivering voice, data, high-speed Internet and video services will deploy Nokia's XGS-PON technology to deliver faster broadband speeds to business and residential customers.

While the rollout of the newly enhanced services will begin in the greater Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX area, expansion in phases will include the rest of Texas as well as deployment to Florida and California. Ultimately all three states will benefit from 10Gbps ultra-broadband. In New York, [Greenlight Networks will deploy Nokia's](#) XGS-PON technology to enhance its fiber network capacity, reliability, flexibility and scale to deliver new high-quality residential and business services. The XGS-PON deployment is a first in New York and, at speeds of up to 10Gbps, will bring the fastest broadband speeds to the region.

Making it one of the first major carriers to transition completely to IP, [Telefonica International Wholesale Services \(TIWS\)](#) has announced that the migration of voice traffic to its new Full IP International Network will be complete by June 30. The Full IP International Network deployed by TIWS is the solution that the Telefónica Group uses for all of customers in order to fulfill current and future international traffic demands.

In another network advancement, [Barefoot Networks](#) has launched real-time, full-packet visibility for global networks with the general availability of Barefoot Deep Insight. Now, network operators will be able to observe networks in real-time and gather intelligence to take smart actions to address or correct problems.

In recognition of the vastness of uncharted territory for AI technology, the [ETSI \(Experiential Networked Intelligence Industry Specification\) Group \(ISG ENI\)](#) announced five specifications for using AI solutions for network performance and quality of service. Specifications address use cases, requirements, Context Aware Policy Management, terminology, and a Proof of Concept Framework.

Mobile News

With the successful completion of the nation's first bidirectional, over-the-air 5G data session on a 3GPP-compliant 5G New Radio (NR) system, [Nokia and T-Mobile](#) have achieved a major milestone in the delivery of true mobile 5G. The test was successfully conducted at T-Mobile's Bellevue, WA lab with a user equipment simulator and Nokia's 3GPP-compliant high-capacity 5G solution in the 28 GHz band. The test was completed on June 7.

[Vodafone India](#) has successfully deployed the Nokia Cloud Packet Core, supported by Nokia CloudBand software, in Bangalore. The deployment will meet the mobile data demands of 7.8 million subscribers in Bangalore—India's third most-populous city, often referred to as the 'Silicon Valley of India.' The news underscores Vodafone's ambition to develop and deploy competitive operations, substantially accelerate time-to-market for differentiated services, and expand business productivity in the developing nation.

In South America, [Movistar Argentina has selected Ericsson](#) to transform its Radio Access Network (RAN). Set to take place over a three-year period, the transformation (based on Ericsson Radio System) will offer Movistar Argentina customers expanded network coverage and enriched mobile broadband experiences.

Cloud and Datacenter News

Cloud and datacenter updates rolled in this month. GlobeNet, which provides wholesale telecom infrastructure in North and South America, launched its new [Cloud Connect Service](#). Through a single, private connection, all GlobeNet customers will have access to a wide variety of global cloud providers as well as any major data center for cloud companies in the US, Europe and Asia. [Consolidated Communications](#), a leading US broadband and business communications provider, announced the launch of its Cloud Peer Connect service this month. Cloud Peer Connect gives businesses direct, private access to major cloud providers, including Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud and Oracle FastConnect. In Canada, [ROOT has announced expansion](#) in order to meet rising demands for data center solutions in Montreal. In response to growing demands by cloud providers and multinationals seeking colocation services, ROOT's expansion will add an additional 6 MW of power capacity to Canada's largest wholesale and hyperscale datacenter.

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