

## Telecom Industry News

By: Scott St. John

The final weeks of 2018 have ticked down with a round of 5G updates, including the completion of the world's first millimeter wave mobile 5G browsing session this month by AT&T. Huawei outlined its vision on 5G, predicting it will start a technology revolution and detailing five fundamental changes that will ensue. Ericsson landed its largest Connected Vehicle Cloud contract yet—with Volvo—which will bring expansion of digital vehicle services into 120 markets worldwide over the next five years. Drones made news in IoT, with successful demonstrations of use enabled by mobile networks and a new drone-based response for disaster relief and recovery in the Philippines.



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.

## Network Evolution

Network evolution news this month included updates on simplification, increased capacity, improved signal quality, and higher speeds. [Calix debuted its AXOS Intelligent Access Edge](#) solution, which gives service providers the flexibility to bring Layer 3 functionality, including MPLS-routed technology to new or existing Layer 2 access networks. This advancement drastically simplifies service providers' networks and reduces total cost of ownership. Calix featured in other news, too. Using NGPON2 technology on Calix's AXOS platform, [Verizon and Calix](#) achieved speeds of 8 Gbps on Verizon's live network in Tampa, Florida. As a result, Verizon notes that customers nationwide can look forward to greater bandwidth speeds and lower latency when accessing Verizon Internet connections. In Europe, [Netia and Nokia](#) have deployed the continent's first virtualized Distributed Access Architecture cable network. Nokia's Unified Cable Access Solution enables Netia to increase capacity, reduce costs, and improve signal quality—and it will pave the way for Gigabit and IPTV services in Poland.

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An advertisement for Pipeline Membership Packages. The background is dark with a person's hand holding a glowing globe. The text is white and orange. At the bottom, there is a 'Pipeline' logo and a button that says 'BUILD YOUR PACKAGE'. Below the ad, there is a link: 'Click this ad for more information'.

[Microsoft and Ramp](#) have teamed up to deliver live event streaming. Ramp has integrated AltitudeCDN Multicast+ and OmniCache with Microsoft Stream, enabling organizations using Microsoft Stream to conduct live video broadcasts to use Ramp's enterprise content delivery (eCDN) solutions to prevent video traffic from stressing the corporate network.

# Road to 5G

This month brought a bumper crop of news in the evolution of 5G. [AT&T](#) announced the completion of the world's first 5G connection this month. The successful completion of the very first millimeter wave mobile 5G browsing session with a standards-based device on a mobile 5G network took place in Waco, Texas, marking a huge step forward in the development of 5G. The device used was the NETGEAR Nighthawk® 5G Mobile Hotspot.

[Huawei](#) announced a milestone at the ninth Global Mobile Broadband Forum. Rotating chairman Ken Hu announced that the company had shipped its first 10,000 5G base stations. He also outlined Huawei's vision that 5G will start a technology revolution and articulated five fundamental changes that 5G will bring, including that everything will be online, devices will be redefined, and experience will flow seamlessly device to device and channel to channel.

Volvo Car Group (Volvo Cars) has selected Ericsson to provide the industrialized [Ericsson Connected Vehicle Cloud \(CVC\) platform](#) to enable its digital vehicle services in more than 120 markets worldwide for the next five years. The deal—which will enable Volvo Cars to provide car owners and drivers with its latest developments in connected car digital services such as automation, fleet management, telematics, navigation, and infotainment—is the largest to date for Ericsson Connected Vehicle Cloud.

In other 5G news, the [ETSI group on Next Generation Protocol \(ISG NGP\)](#) released a new specification and reports to optimize the performance, efficiency, and scalability of new services proposed for 5G, such as network slicing or ultra-reliable low latency communication (URLLC).

## IoT

In the first trial of its kind in Europe, [Vodafone Group](#) successfully demonstrated how mobile networks could support the European's Commission's vision of safe long-distance drone flights. Drone flights could complete a range of tasks, including delivering medical supplies, monitoring energy pipelines, and undertaking rescue missions in hazardous conditions. The regulated drone services industry could be big business, forecasted to potentially contribute in excess of 100,000 new jobs and €15 billion annually to the European economy by 2050.

Vodafone's news wasn't the only drone news. [Nokia and Smart Communications unveiled a new collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross \(PRC\)](#) to bring innovative technology like LTE-connected drones and a portable network into areas struck by disaster. The companies shared the news at a training center in Subic Bay, Philippines at an event that also served as the inauguration of the nonprofit Nokia Saving Lives (NSL) solution. The Philippine Red Cross will be deploying the NSL solution in its toolkit for demanding search and rescue initiatives.

## Customer Experience

In news that bridges CX and IoT, customer experience and smart home evolution took a giant leap forward this month. At ConneXions 2018, [Calix, Inc.](#) launched the world's first powerful, end-to-end smart home solution for communications service providers. The Calix Smart Home and Business solution is the only Wi-Fi 6, Amazon Alexa built-in smart home system powered by EXOS and supported by Calix Cloud. US-based [ALLO](#) will elevate the subscriber experience with the Calix Smart Home and Business solution. It's actively testing the new Calix GigaSpire™.

Pairing proven CRM with powerful marketing automation, the newly available next-gen Act! CRM will help small and mid-sized businesses grow. [Swiftpage, Act! CRM's provider](#), announced the next generation release this month. The software is available in English in North America, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

## Mergers and Acquisitions

Two notable acquisitions this month revolved around the potential for machine learning and automation. [MYCOM OSI](#), the leading independent provider of assurance, automation, and analytics solutions to large CSPs, has been acquired by the leading private equity firm Inflexion. The acquisition will fuel MYCOM OSI's growth and support IoT, 5G, and AI development in a transforming market. [SAP has acquired Contextor SAS](#), a European leader in the design and integration of robotic process automation. The acquisition of Contextor will help accelerate the development and expansion of SAP's Leonardo Machine Learning portfolio.

## WISPAPALOOZA

The Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA), a trade organization dedicated to advancement of entrepreneurs and innovators deploying fixed wireless technologies in their communities, held its annual fall conference located at the Rio All Suites Hotel, October 8-12 2018.

Kicking off this year's record-breaking event was WISPA's new president and CEO Claude Aiken's addressing members on broadband and spectrum challenges and a message from Federal Communication Commission's Chairman Ajit Pai on the Connect America Round II funding's stating "these funds will be a positive impact for operators in underserved areas".

Tuesday's Keynotes from Matt Haven's Hilarious "Stop Acting your Age" had the over 1500 members laughing out loud while Wednesday's Informative Keynote on "Plans for Survival" by Gino Villarini and Mike Melusky from AeroNet and Broadband IV had the audience listening intently on preparation pointers and lessons learned after the disaster.

Master Monday's in-depth three-hour sessions gave members advanced training and sponsored certifications. Subject matter experts, moderators and industry operators took part in more than 97 jam packed business and technical sessions covering subjects relating to the rural ISP's operator challenges, industry innovation, customer support and effectively running or starting a WISP. Discussions on CBRS, G5, drones, VOIP, marketing, customer support and finance filled the three-day agenda. The week ended on a high note with Fiber Friday sessions imparting knowledge from equipment manufacturers, consultants and suppliers providing or deploying fiber to the home (FTTH) in addition to wireless.

### ***The Hot Topics of the Show***

Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS) was the hot topic with the looming October vote surrounding the probable changes to the current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rulings on the CBRS spectrum band (3550-3700). A vote that will overturn the current 2015 decision favoring instead, the larger mobile wireless carriers. Standing room only sessions also attended were on new technology for drones and whole-home security adoption.

### ***The Largest Event Set New Records***

Wisapalooza's 2018 was the largest association event to date. A collaboration of more than 2200 member, 43 Sponsors and 163 exhibitors promoting wireless, cloud, software, VOIP/IPPBX solutions, tower, drone, consulting and mapping solutions from the leading industry suppliers and resources in the fixed and mobile wireless industry.

At WISPA's Annual Awards Ceremony, trophies were presented to:

- **Joink**, for Operator of the Year;
- **Cambium Networks**, for Manufacturer of the Year;
- **IgniteNet**, for Product of the Year;
- **Ubiquiti Networks**, for Service of the Year;
- **Baltic Networks**, for Distributor of the Year;
- **Aeronet**, the Triumph Award for overcoming adversity;
- **Scott Reed**, for Volunteer of the Year; and
- **Tasos Alexiou**, for the Visionary Award.

# ***About WISPA***

WISPA's Membership association, hosts the biannual Wispalooza and Wispalooza America's Events. 2018 events saw an overwhelming 20% increase across the board for attendance, exhibitors and sessions; a credit to show leadership. WISPA's members are key to building, servicing, supplying and offering services in the under-served areas of the USA reaching from the heart of the WISPA organization. Wispalooza America will be located in Ohio this coming March 2019 and Wispalooza will be back in Las Vegas at the Rio next October. Raising funds and industry awareness at these industry specific shows invites the collaboration and cooperation of the over 800 member companies spanning 50 states with the support of WISPA's advocacy, education and collaborative industry initiatives. For more information about WISPA, visit [www.wispa.org](http://www.wispa.org)

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