# Telecom Tech & Industry News

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As the month when high summer arrives, July is often hot. This month also heated up with key telecom industry news. Businesses and consumers in the US and UK experienced 5G when it was switched on for the first time in recent weeks. A new report from the FCC showed significant progress in closing the digital divide, and new fiber builds and network transformation touched key areas of the country, from Iowa to Missouri to Alaska. And, as ever, telecom industry news surrounding new product launches, alliances, partnerships, research, reports, and standards came in fast and furious, indicative of the fast pulse of our ever-changing industry.

The top telecom industry news 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 telecom industry news summary each week.

# Telecom Innovation News

Telecom innovation news this month featured the announcements of partnerships and product launches specific to the data center market. The Independent Data Center Alliance, a global network of independent data center and carrier hotel operators, officially launched at ITW 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. The association is intended to bring together owner-operated data center providers to amplify market presence.

Kaloom, an emerging leader in the automated data center networking software market, announced the launch of flowEye™, an AI-driven real-time in-band network telemetry (INT) and analytics solution. flowEye™ enables data center managers to achieve higher performance and lower OPEX via more powerful monitoring, analytics and troubleshooting capabilities.

In other partnership news, DataGryd and maincubes, respectively headquartered in New York and in Frankfurt am Main, announced a collaboration enabling cross-Atlantic data center capabilities. Together they offer customers of both data center operations a broadened geographic coverage featuring flexibility, low-cost connectivity options, 100 percent SLAs and more.

Netcracker Technology also announced this month that it has expanded its partnership with Shaw Communications to support BSS/OSS systems and streamline product order and inventory tracking services to improve overall operational efficiencies and customer experience.

# Telecom Network News

This month's telecom network evolution news included progress in closing the digital divide, in consumer protection from unwanted robocalls, and in global network evolution.

The FCC released its 2019 Broadband Deployment Report, which shows that more Americans than ever have access to high-speed broadband, noting the agency has made progress in closing the digital divide. To continue the effort, the FCC has also authorized $166.8 million in additional funding for continued broadband expansion,

including funding from the successful 2018 Connect America Fund Phase II auction. The expansion will allow providers to offer broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and businesses over the next decade. One winner, Windstream, announced that it plans to use the 5G spectrum blocks it won in the 24 GHz and 28 GHz 5G airwaves auctions to expand availability of high-speed broadband to rural residential and business customers in a number of states. In related FCC news, the agency also affirmed that voice service providers may block unwanted robocalls before they ever reach consumers, a move it had introduced in May.

Bluebird Network has completed a new fiber build in Wentzville, Missouri as part of its previously announced St. Louis expansion. The fiber expansion gives local businesses access to carrier-class network speeds and bandwidth, helping to further narrow the digital divide. Microsoft and Watch Communications announced a partnership to bring broadband Internet to 800,000 people who lack access in areas of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio as part of the Microsoft Airband Initiative.

Network evolution also continued through advancements and innovations. This month, Promptlink Communications launched Network Noise Hawk, its new patent-pending solution that accurately pinpoints elusive network noise in cable networks and easily displays it for cable operators and technicians so that they can correct issues.

Infinera and SIAE MICROELETTRONICA announced the successful completion of end-to-end, software-defined networking (SDN)-enabled service orchestration across integrated IP/Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) transport and microwave/millimeter-wave transport domains, conducted in collaboration with a leading Tier 1 mobile operator.

Ericsson featured in key network evolution news, too. Indonesia's largest mobile service provider, Telkomsel Indonesia, has chosen Ericsson's NFV infrastructure core network technology for a major core network upgrade as it moves toward 5G development. Stateside, GCI, Alaska's largest telecommunications company, has selected Ericsson to build the United States' northernmost 5G network in Anchorage, Alaska—scheduled to launch in 2020.

The US Marine Corps (USMC) selected MetTel for broadband Internet services deployment to 1,500 Recruiting Command Centers around the world. MetTel will help USMC strategically prepare for IoT, video conference, and the broadband requirements of the future. In India, Sterlite Technologies's STL Academy has created an ecosystem for deploying complex fiber programs and has become the country's first fiber program to be endorsed by FTTH Council APAC. It's on track to train 15,000 highly skilled engineers to address skills shortages and advance Indian network evolution.

# 5G Telecom News

It was a landmark month for 5G telecom news, which was switched on in locations in the US and abroad. Sprint launched mobile 5G in Houston, Atlanta, Dallas-Ft. Worth and Kansas City, with service expected to launch in areas of Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Phoenix, and Washington, DC in the coming weeks. Once all nine markets go live, Sprint mobile 5G will cover nearly 2,200 square miles and serve 11.5 million people total, giving it the largest initial 5G coverage footprint in the US.

Over in the UK, Vodafone launched 5G for consumer and business customers on July 3 in London and seven other cities, enabled by Ericsson technology.

Momentum for 5G is visible via key trials, benchmarks, and new research and analysis. Nokia and TIM have broken the European record for long-distance data transmission over a high-speed network, laying the groundwork for 5G with their successful 550 Gbps trial between Rome and Florence. This month, Nokia also announced that it has confirmed 42 commercial 5G deals across the globe. With its trials and demos, it has over 100 total 5G customer engagements to date—more than any other operator currently. The newly released Ericsson Mobility Report notes that worldwide 5G uptake is even faster than expected, with 5G subscriptions now expected to reach 1.9 billion by 2024, and with coverage forecast to reach 45 percent of the world's population within five years.

Of course, the push toward 5G requires increases in workforce and capacity. As US mobile operators deploy 5G technology, Nokia and its subsidiary SAC Wireless are teaming up to recruit and train military veterans for tower climber jobs to augment their workforce.

# Telecom IoT News

The month was as hot for IoT news as it was for 5G developments. Juniper Research has released a new report tracking the growth in annual spending on Mobile Edge Computing, predicting it will reach $11.2 billion globally by 2024, fueled by IoT, start-ups, and AI and Machine Learning innovation. Additional Juniper research reveals that smart home automation revenues will climb past $57 million by 2024, driven by smart security solutions. The report found that top and trusted vendors will extend their offerings to include smart home services.

The realization of IoT's potential continued apace. Autotalks, a world leader in V2X (vehicle-to-everything) communication solutions, announced it will collaborate with NoTraffic on its autonomous traffic management platform. Together the companies will contribute to greater safety and mobility in the advancement of connected car technology and use. Puloli and Select Spectrum have launched the world's first private standalone LTE NB-IoT network purpose-built for critical infrastructure industries. The turn-key service using Upper 700 MHz A Block spectrum went live in early June.

Ericsson announced plans to build its first fully automated smart factory in the US. The state-of-the-art factory will produce Advanced Antenna System radios to boost network capacity and coverage, including rural coverage, as well as 5G radios for urban areas, both necessary for rapid 5G deployments in North America.

Trusted Computing Group (TCG) has launched an initiative to develop the "world's tiniest" Trusted Platform Module (TPM) to assure cybersecurity in the IoT era. The TCG Measurement and Attestation framework includes Roots of Trust for Measurement (RTM), Storage (RTS) and Reporting (RTR), and the TPM chips are used to implement the RTS and RTR in a highly secure manner in even the smallest of IoT-connected devices.

# Telecom Security News

Telecom security news encompassed a diverse array of topics this month. The United States Marine Corps announced the selection of Ultra Electronics, 3eTI for centralized monitoring and control of utilities at Camp Pendleton. As part of the contract, 3eTI will upgrade and expand the secure wireless network and endpoints security and enable connectivity and centralized infrastructure monitoring and management.

To increase the security and reliability of financial trading systems and other critical networks that rely on extremely accurate timing, Orolia and NexGen have announced a strategic partnership to deliver time-as-a-service solutions (TaaS).

Signaling its commitment to network security for the 5G world, Nokia has launched new security initiatives: DFSEC 2.0, its enhanced security program to address the critical security needs of wide area networks and its "Future X Security" laboratory in New Jersey.

Windstream Enterprises has expanded its SD-WAN portfolio solution to include solutions based on technology vendor and security leader Fortinet. The addition of Fortinet's SD-WAN technology to the Windstream portfolio gives customers more choices and offers highly secure, cloud-ready and rich networking capabilities combined with a next-generation firewall offering—regardless of connection type or carrier.

In standards news, ETSI has released a new specification for energy-efficient IP video surveillance, enabling further IoT interoperability. ETSI OSM Release SIX also debuted this month, enhancing edge support and bringing a new set of capabilities to provide end-to-end orchestration across heterogeneous networks and cloud technologies.

# Telecom Cloud News

In cloud news, Microsoft and Oracle have announced a cloud interoperability partnership that will enable customers to migrate and run mission-critical enterprise workloads across Microsoft Azure and Oracle Cloud.

Cloud transformation news came in from around the globe, including from Africa. Vodacom Tanzania, which serves 12.4 million Tanzanians as the country's largest CSP, has extended its partnership with Optiva. The multiyear extension will enable the CSP to upgrade its current platform and support and advance its progress toward leveraging Optiva's innovative cloud-native BSS architecture.

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