

Newswatch

By: Scott St. John

As autumn falls upon us, September and early October have brought a bevy of headlines on 5G, mergers and acquisitions, efforts to close the digital divide, and advancements in smart manufacturing and connected car technology. The FCC announced new funding topping \$121 billion to expand broadband connectivity for homes and businesses in rural areas. 5G arrived at Gatwick Airport in London thanks to Vodafone, and in Phoenix, Los Angeles, Washington DC, and New York thanks to Sprint. Among many other headlines, new research by Dell'Oro Group and TMT Finance capture the pace of growth and change in the telecom market.



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.

Innovation and Leaderboard News

According to a recent report published by [Dell'Oro Group](#), the worldwide telecom equipment market grew 6 percent year-over-year in the past twelve months. In related industry leaderboard news, [TMT Finance](#) has released a market report on global telecom M&A activity through the end of 2019, indicating there is another \$60 billion in deals expected to close by the end of the year.

New data from [Juniper Research](#) has shown that the total transaction value of remote payments for digital and physical goods will exceed \$6 trillion by 2024; representing a growth of 53 percent from 2019.

Security News

[Consolidated Communications](#) has joined 51 attorneys general and 11 industry voice service provider peers to fight illegal robocalls. The coalition has agreed to eight Anti-Robocall Principles to protect customers from unwanted calls and make investigation and prosecution easier.

In a new report, [Juniper Research](#) predicts the cost of data breaches will rise from \$3 trillion each year to over \$5 trillion in 2024, an average annual growth of 11 percent. This rate will primarily be driven by an increase in fines for data breaches as regulation tightens, as well as a greater proportion of business lost as enterprises become more dependent on the digital realm.

5G News

5G industry news continued at a furious pace this month. 5G network rollouts have accelerated nationally and internationally in 2019. Nearly a quarter billion new LTE connections were added around the world in the second quarter of 2019, according to [5G Americas](#), the wireless industry trade association and voice of 5G and LTE for the Americas and based on data from Ovum.

This increase was apparent stateside as well as over in Europe. [Sprint launched mobile](#)

[5G](#) to customers in Phoenix as well as commercial 5G service in LA, New York, and Washington to bring total 5G coverage to approximately 11 million people across nine US markets. In the UK, [Vodafone](#) launched 5G at Gatwick Airport via a high-speed, high-capacity fiber optic network. The South Terminal went live in mid-September, with 5G for the North Terminal set to follow in early 2020. In Asia, Japanese service provider [KDDI has selected Ericsson](#) as its primary 5G vendor for next-generation network deployment in Japan. The first commercial 5G services are expected to be available by March 2020.

5G innovation continued, too. Completion of the first Location Based Services (LBS) session over 5G NR took place in London. [Rohde & Schwarz](#) completed the session using the Qualcomm Snapdragon X55 5G Modem. The session paves the way for the companies to enable handset manufacturers and mobile operators worldwide to test and verify LBS operation in 5G NR devices.

Network Evolution News

Network evolution news included new rulings and authorizations by the FCC as well as new product developments, new contracts, and expansion in an array of services.

The [FCC](#) has authorized an additional \$121 billion in funding to bring or expand rural broadband to areas of 16 states. The funding is from the fourth round of the Connect America Fund and providers will begin receiving funds within weeks. Taking further steps to close the digital divide, the [FCC](#) has also authorized support over the next decade for maintaining, improving, and expanding affordable broadband in 44,243 homes and businesses on Tribal lands nationwide. [The agency](#) has announced plans for the creation of two new innovation zones, located in New York City and Salt Lake City, which will serve as city-scale test beds for advanced wireless communications and network research, including 5G networks. It has also [approved \\$950 million in funding](#) to improve, expand, and harden communications networks in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, especially critical in the wake of devastation from hurricanes two years ago.

In fiber news, Pennsylvania's [Tri-Co Connections](#), the newly formed broadband arm of the Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, is deploying a complete set of Calix solutions to build its first fiber network. Tri-Co is the state's first electric cooperative to build out a state-of-the-art fiber to the home (FTTH) broadband network, which will serve northern Pennsylvania and bring high-speed broadband to previous unserved areas.

The Internet Exchange operator DE-CIX featured in the headlines this month. [The operator](#) has analyzed the trends that are shaping the video gaming industry in terms of Internet traffic. It shares that servers are getting closer, data volume is rapidly increasing, and streaming quality is increasing. In additional company news, [DE-CIX](#) has expanded its GlobePEER Remote Service to DE-CIX Palermo, interconnecting its Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich, Dusseldorf, New York, Marseille, and Istanbul platforms. IP traffic is expected to triple worldwide by 2021, with Africa, the Middle East, and Asia Pacific to see the strongest traffic growth rates.

[Sify](#), the largest ICT service provider in India, is deploying the ADVA FSP 150 as the foundation of its new managed Ethernet service offering. The intelligent, multi-layer demarcation and aggregation technology will enable Sify to deliver secure, highly reliable end-to-end Ethernet services, leveraging its nationwide MPLS core network.

[ProLabs](#), a global leader in optical networking and connectivity solutions, announced the launch of the EON-OMP-2 optical platform to advance fiber infrastructure.

In Russia, MegaFon, one of the country's largest operators, has chosen [Ericsson](#) to develop a new nationwide transport network to prepare for 5G. As part of the 3-year contract, Ericsson will supply mobile transport solutions based on the MINI-LINK platform.

Satellite News

In satellite industry news, [Gilat Satellite Networks](#) announced that it will provide aero antennas with an initial agreement for tens of millions of dollars to a Tier-1 business aviation service provider. This expands Gilat's aero offering into the business aviation market with a leading tail-mount antenna for business jets. [Gilat](#) has also landed an LTE satellite backhaul contract with NTT DOCOMO, Japan's largest mobile carrier, to enhance its LTE footprint and extend rural coverage to islands and other hard-to-reach regions.

IoT News

IoT industry news revolved around advancements in connectivity, smart manufacturing, and breakthroughs in the connected car space.

In the face of increasing demand for wireless communication at manufacturing sites, [Nokia, NTT DOCOMO, and OMRON Corporation](#) have agreed to conduct joint field trials using 5G at their plants and other production sites. As part of the trial, Nokia will provide the enabling 5G technology and OMRON the factory automation equipment while NTT DOCOMO will run the 5G trial.

[Ericsson](#) has opened a smart manufacturing facility in China, created from a transformation of its existing Nanjing location. Ericsson produces 5G and 4G radio technology products at the factory, most of which support communication service providers in the Chinese market to increase network capacity, roll-out 5G, and make Industry 4.0 a reality.

Mobileye, an Intel company and a leader in Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), data collection and autonomous vehicle technology, has selected [Orange Business Services](#) to provide IoT connectivity for its next generation product, Mobileye 8 Connect, marking another step along the road toward autonomous vehicles. [ZTE](#), a major international provider of telecommunications, enterprise and consumer technology solutions for the Mobile Internet, has developed the new smart adapter CarConnect in cooperation with Deutsche Telekom. The device now appears in a completely revised version. In addition to faster access to mobile Internet, drivers are offered new functionalities and more security.

The [Wireless Broadband Alliance and the LoRa Alliance](#) have released joint research into new IoT use cases. Developed with input from mobile carriers, telecom equipment manufacturers and advocates of both connectivity technologies, the joint white paper illustrates new business opportunities that are created when Wi-Fi networks that are traditionally built to support critical IoT are merged with LoRaWAN networks that are traditionally built to support low data rate massive IoT applications.

Merger & Acquisition News

In M&A industry news, the [FCC](#) has approved the sale of Tribune Media Company broadcast stations to Nexstar Media Group, Inc. In connection with this transaction, the Commission also approved the divestiture to Scripps Broadcast Holdings, LLC; TEGNA Broadcast Holdings, LLC; and CCB License, LLC of broadcast stations in certain markets necessary for Nexstar to come into compliance with the Commission's local and national television ownership rules.

[Uniti Group and Macquarie Infrastructure Partners](#) have completed their previously announced sale-leaseback and fiber acquisition of Bluebird Network.

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