

Telecom Industry News

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This month, the FCC approved the transfer of control applications filed by T-Mobile and Sprint, citing the strength of the transaction in closing the US's digital divide. November and early December also brought a bounty of partnership news, including several new or newly expanded strategic transformation partnerships between Microsoft and other industry leaders. The US Postal Service will be adopting AI to help boost package processing efficiency—just in time for the holidays—and Hitachi Vantara introduced AI technology to reduce airport traffic congestion—also in time for the holidays, we hope. And for the first time, satellite connectivity became available in the Arctic.



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

The FCC issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order, Declaratory Ruling, and Order of Proposed Modification approving—with conditions—the transfer of control applications filed by [T-Mobile and Sprint](#). The Commission found that the transaction will help close the digital divide and advance United States leadership in 5G. Specifically, T-Mobile and Sprint have committed within three years to deploy 5G service to cover 97 percent of the American people, and within six years to reach 99 percent of all Americans. This commitment includes deploying 5G service to cover 85 percent of rural Americans within three years and 90 percent of rural Americans within six years.

An advertisement for the Pipeline Innovation Awards. It features a collage of images: a red carpet, an award ceremony, and people receiving awards. The text reads: "Pipeline INNOVATION AWARDS", "Be Recognized as a Top Industry Innovator", "ENTER THE AWARDS TODAY", and "CLICK HERE". At the bottom, it says "Click this ad for more information".

[Microsoft and Nokia](#) announced a strategic collaboration to accelerate transformation and innovation across industries with cloud, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT). By bringing together Microsoft cloud solutions and Nokia's expertise in mission-critical networking, the companies are uniquely positioned to help enterprises and communications service providers (CSPs) transform their businesses. [Microsoft](#) also announced an expansion of its strategic partnership with Salesforce to help customers meet the evolving needs of their businesses and boost team productivity. Salesforce has named Microsoft Azure as its public cloud provider for Salesforce

Marketing Cloud. Salesforce will also build a new integration that connects Salesforce's Sales Cloud and Service Cloud with Microsoft Teams. Another Microsoft announcement brought news of a [new strategic alliance](#) with Baker Hughes and C3.ai to bring enterprise artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to the energy industry on Microsoft Azure, an industry-leading cloud computing platform. This alliance will enable customers to streamline the adoption of scalable AI solutions for the energy industry that help promote safety, reliability, and sustainability.

[Evolving Systems](#) and its client, Orange Belgium, won the Customer Experience prize at the 21st Annual World Communication Awards, held in London in early November. And, *Pipeline* announced it opened nominations this month for its annual [Innovation Awards](#) program to invite both service providers and technology providers to showcase their latest technical advancements. Companies can [enter the awards](#) by nominating themselves, their partners, suppliers, and customers in any of 10 categories of innovation. *Pipeline's* Innovation Awards are the hallmark of industry innovation, and are globally recognized as the most credible validation of innovation in the industry.

In data center news, [DE-CIX](#), one of the world's leading Internet Exchange (IX) operators with the largest IX in the New York market, announces that it has enhanced its partnership with NYI, a leading global provider of managed hybrid IT solutions, with the deployment of a new Point of Presence (PoP) within NYI's data center facility.

In other industry news, the [Wireless Broadband Alliance \(WBA\)](#), the body leading development of next generation Wi-Fi services, confirmed the successful completion of its phase one trial of Wi-Fi 6 infrastructure and services at the Mettis Aerospace factory in the UK. The trial was the first of its kind in the world and an important part of the WBA's Wi-Fi 6 test and development program. Tests included applications of 4K video streaming, large scale file transfers, messaging and voice/video communications as well as the first stage of IoT sensor and mixed reality testing.

5G News

This month, a couple of UK partnerships made headlines in 5G news. [Virgin Media](#) has agreed a five-year deal with Vodafone UK to bring innovative new services, including 5G, to more than three million mobile customers and provide further flexibility to grow its mobile operation. The new Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) agreement, which runs until 2026, will see Vodafone supply wholesale mobile network services, including both voice and data, to Virgin Mobile and Virgin Media Business. After striking a new deal with Openreach, the UK's largest network infrastructure provider, [Vodafone](#) is expanding its Gigafast Broadband roll-out to bring full fiber services to many more businesses and residences in the UK. This complements Vodafone 5G, which is now available in 58 cities across the UK and Europe.

[GL Communications](#), a global provider of telecom test and measurement solutions, announced updates to its 5G Core Network Emulator Suite, which is enhanced to support N4 interface simulation.

In the US, [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai announced that he intends to establish the 5G Fund, which would make up to \$9 billion in Universal Service Fund support available to carriers to deploy advanced 5G mobile wireless services in rural America. This major investment in rural America would be allocated through a reverse auction and would target hard-to-serve areas with sparse populations and/or rugged terrain.

Network Evolution News

In California, [Nokia](#) has been selected by the Cal OES Public Safety Communications office to upgrade CAPSNET, which is operated by Cal OES Public Safety Communications and supports the communications needs of many key state and local government public safety agencies. The network upgrade is part of a solution to transform the current time division multiplexing (TDM) technology system to support more advanced Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks. [SiFi Networks](#) is funding, building and operating a citywide fiber optic network throughout the city of Fullerton,

California. Fiber will pass by every home and business, allowing every resident and business the opportunity to sign up for service, including Gigabit internet.

New research from [CentralSquare](#) reveals that citizens increasingly expect the same speed and quality of services from their city that they receive from their favorite retailers. According to the CentralSquare Voice of the Citizen Survey, which collected responses from over 5,000 Americans spanning all states and backgrounds, CentralSquare found that two thirds of respondents identified infrastructure improvements as their top priority if they ran their city.

[Juniper Networks](#), a leader in secure, AI-driven networks, announced the achievement of an industry first with the completion of a successful field trial delivering 400Gbps Ethernet live traffic over 1,300 miles. This field trial marks an important step toward progressing the transition to 400GbE network capacity, which is vital to support bandwidth demands from advanced high-performance computing, next-generation cloud data center architectures, emerging 5G networks, augmented and virtual reality and 4K video production and distribution. The trial was conducted between Denver and Chicago using Juniper's PTX10003, the industry's first fixed-configuration core router to support 400GbE.

[Colt Technology Services](#) announced that its premium business Internet offering, IP Access, is now available via its SDN-enabled On Demand platform for enterprises in Europe. This enables businesses to provision high bandwidth, premium Internet on-demand. Rollout to the US and Asia is expected in early 2020.

In satellite news, one of the world's most remote places got a little less remote this month. [Kepler](#) has announced it is the world's first company to deliver high-bandwidth satellite connectivity in the Arctic. Kepler's satellites are being used to provide file transfer services for the largest expedition to the North Pole, the Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAIC).

AI News

[NVIDIA](#) announced that the United States Postal Service—the world's largest postal service, with 485 million mail pieces processed and delivered daily—is adopting end-to-end AI technology from NVIDIA to improve its package data processing efficiency. Also this month, [NVIDIA](#) posted the fastest results on new benchmarks measuring the performance of AI inference workloads in data centers and at the edge — building on the company's equally strong position in recent benchmarks measuring AI training. The results were achieved with NVIDIA Turing GPUs and NVIDIA Xavier.

[Hitachi Vantara](#) is applying new artificial intelligence technologies to help airlines and airports solve some of their greatest challenges during the busy holiday season. The company's technology aims to eliminate travel delays caused by congestion at check-in, security, retail and aircraft boarding areas. The solution produces a 3D visual model of the airport and the movement of travelers, equipment and luggage in real time.

Security News

November was National Cybersecurity Awareness Month in the US, security news featured prominently. [Fortinet](#) released its quarterly global cybersecurity threat report, which discusses how cybercriminals are redeploying previously successful tactics this holiday season in addition to new malware and zero-day attacks. In other company news, Orange Business Services has chosen [Fortinet Secure SD-WAN](#) to enrich its flagship Flexible SD-WAN offering. This global SD-WAN solution, which provides businesses with an agile, multicloud-ready connectivity solution to ensure superior end-user experience, will integrate Fortinet's Secure SD-WAN solution as a new technology option.

[Mimecast's](#) quarterly Threat Intelligence Report provides analysis from billions of emails on the threats targeting industries so they can better prepare their cyber defenses. The transportation, legal and banking sectors have been hit hardest by cyberattacks, trends that could continue into 2020, according to the report.

[Proofpoint](#), a leading cybersecurity and compliance company, announced it has completed its acquisition of [ObserveIT](#), the leading insider threat management platform. By combining [ObserveIT's](#) lightweight endpoint agent technology and data risk analytics with [Proofpoint's](#) industry-leading information classification, threat detection, and intelligence, enterprises will have unprecedented insight into user activity with their sensitive data.

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