

Telecom Industry News

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As the clock ran out on 2019, telecom industry news updates continued to roll in at a rapid pace. They offered a mix of 2020 predictions and 2019 year-in-review news, as well as tantalizing glimpses of powerhouse partnerships intended to advance innovation in the new year. Ericsson and Microsoft, for example, will bring their connected vehicle expertise together for the next generation of connected cars. Orange announced its selection by candy titan Mars, Incorporated to build an Intelligent Automated Network to advance the manufacturer's global connectivity. And the heads of the US and Canadian communications commissions participated in the first cross-border call intended to combat robocalls and spoofing.



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.

Leaderboard and Innovation News

Nokia awarded this year's [Nokia Bell Labs Prize](#) to a student and professor team from the University of California at Berkeley. PhD student Tianshi Wang and Professor Jaijeet Roychowdhury received \$100,000 for winning the competition, and the opportunity to pursue an expanded collaboration with Nokia Bell Labs. The pair won the prize for their work on "A Classic Spin on Quantum Computing." Their innovation is in a new type of processor element that will be significantly more efficient in computing the answers to discrete optimization problems. Their innovation will complement conventional digital processors (CPUs and GPUs) by efficiently tackling a wide range of computationally hard problems of importance in many diverse areas, including 5G communication systems; complex tasks in planning, scheduling and control; and even the discovery of new drugs.

An advertisement for Pipeline Innovation Awards. It features a collage of images: a red carpet, an award ceremony with people in formal attire, and a close-up of an award trophy. The text includes 'Pipeline INNOVATION AWARDS', 'Be Recognized as a Top Industry Innovator', 'ENTER THE AWARDS TODAY', and a 'CLICK HERE' button. At the bottom, there is a link: 'Click this ad for more information'.

It was a busy month for Ericsson in new or newly expanded partnerships. [Ericsson and Microsoft](#) are bringing their connected vehicle expertise together for the next generation of connected cars. The two companies will integrate their platforms into a single solution to allow automakers to deploy and scale global vehicle services such as fleet management, over-the-air software updates and connected safety services.

Together, [Ericsson and Telstra](#) successfully deployed the industry's first live cloud-native container-based Evolved Packet Core for 4G and 5G services. The achievement is a significant milestone in network orchestration and automation.

The FCC's first-ever [auction of toll-free numbers](#) took place on December 17. It included 17,638 numbers in the 833 toll-free code for which there have been competing requests. The FCC had noted that the 833 auction would serve as an experiment in using competitive bidding to assign toll-free numbers and ensure that sought-after numbers are awarded to the parties that value them most.

Tech predictions for 2020 and research on trends made headlines, too. Topping [Juniper Research](#)'s top ten list for 2020 are 5G last-mile solutions, OTT TV advertising and open data for the developing Mobility-as-a-Service ecosystem. A new study from [Juniper Research](#) found that the global domestic money transfer transaction value will exceed \$3.5 trillion by 2024, up from \$1.8 trillion in 2019. The new research, *Digital Domestic Mobile Transfer: Key Trends, Player Innovation & Market Forecasts 2019-2024*, found that mobile transactions will drive growth; accounting for 86 percent of total value in 2024.

[Intraway](#) announced that its Symphonica codeless automated provisioning platform is now on the cloud on Amazon Web Services (AWS). Intraway was announced as one of the AWS OSS/BSS partners in the context of the "Exploring OSS/BSS Options on AWS" presentation at the Telco Lounge during the re:Invent 2019 in Las Vegas.

Network Evolution News

It was a busy month in Europe. [Nokia](#) announced that it has been selected by Fingrid, Finland's national transmission system operator, to build an IP/MPLS network to support the digital transformation of its national electrical grid. Fingrid will use the network to operate 120 high-voltage substations and control 14,600km of power transmission across the country. The new smart grid is needed to manage the growing adoption of variable distributed energy resources, such as wind, solar and micro-generation using bioenergy. [Vodafone Business](#) is collaborating with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to make AWS Wavelength available in Europe. AWS Wavelength provides developers with the ability to build applications that serve end users with single-digit millisecond latencies over the 5G network. AWS Wavelength embeds AWS compute and storage services at the edge of telecommunications providers' 5G networks, enabling developers to serve use cases that require ultra-low latency.

[Orange Business Services](#) announced it was selected by Mars, Incorporated to build an Intelligent Automated Network (IAN). The IAN will connect more than 125,000 Mars Associates across more than 80 countries and provide a secure, scalable and swift platform to host business applications, while supporting manufacturing operations, office locations and supplier interactions for the global candy giant.

Stateside, Ajit Pai, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and Ian Scott, Chairperson and CEO of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, completed the first [official cross-border call](#) using a new system aimed at combating illegal caller ID spoofing. The call took place between Comcast and TELUS networks using a caller ID authentication framework known as SHAKEN/STIR. [Bluebird Network LLC](#), a Midwest telecommunications company, is excited to announce the signing of a Purchase Agreement for the acquisition of Illinois Network Alliance (INA). With a continued strategic focus on the Midwest, the acquisition will empower Bluebird to further strengthen its fiber services and high-bandwidth network solutions for cell towers, hospitals, schools, government facilities and other businesses. [Kobiton, Inc.](#) provider of an end-to-end mobile testing platform designed to enhance the mobile experience, announced that it has signed a material deal to provide real mobile device testing software solutions for one of the largest mobile telecommunications operators in America.

[Prysmian Group](#), a leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry, introduced a bend insensitive single-mode optical fiber with 180µm outer diameter. Prysmian's BendBrightXS 180µm will enable an unprecedented level of cable miniaturization and will support the evolution of high-density optical networks.

5G News

Early adopters of 5G technology have begun to take advantage of numerous initial 5G network rollouts in 2019, according to [5G Americas](#). According to data from research firm Ovum, there are now four million 5G connections globally as of the third quarter of 2019, an increase of 166 percent over the second quarter.

As 5G arrives, [Ranplan Wireless](#) predicts that in 2020 mobile operators will focus on taking ownership of the indoor environment to deliver seamless 5G connectivity indoors and out. While some 80 percent of mobile data is consumed indoors, only around two percent of buildings currently have dedicated cellular networks as operators rely on outdoor macro cells for coverage.

[ZTE and China Telecom](#) jointly conducted the world's first commercial 5G magnetic levitation high-speed network test on a magnetic high-speed train traveling in Shanghai, China.

[Ericsson](#) continued its momentum toward Spectrum Sharing by adding a 5G smartphone from Chinese manufacturer OPPO to its 5G ecosystem as well as by successfully tested a transglobal 5G data call in live commercial 5G networks. Ecosystem industry leaders Qualcomm Technologies (a subsidiary of Qualcomm Inc.), Swisscom, and Telstra also played vital roles in the achievement, which underlined the value of dynamic spectrum sharing to the industry.

Security News

[Check Point Research](#) published its latest Global Threat Index. The research team reported that for the first time in over three years, a mobile trojan has entered the overall top malware listing as well as being the most prevalent mobile threat over the past month.

Innovations in security touched several spheres of the industry, including network and manufacturing automation security. [Nozomi Networks](#), the a provider of OT security solutions, announced a collaboration with IBM Security to answer growing demand for effective, integrated IT and OT cybersecurity services and solutions. IBM and Nozomi Networks will jointly offer industrial enterprises worldwide better access to converged network visibility, non-intrusive monitoring, continuous threat detection and intelligent OT threat hunting capabilities.

[Ashton Potter](#), a leading provider of high security printing and advanced technology for the world's governments and manufacturers, has enhanced its ProLinc® solution to capture critical factory floor insights for automated manufacturers. ProLinc®'s newly released sensing module integrates with machinery throughout the automated manufacturing environment to make relevant data accessible and actionable and enable true Industry 4.0 insight.

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