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Pipeline: Telecom Industry News

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As the first half of the year draws to a close, an interesting array of industry news arrived in our inbox. Market insights and analysis from Dell’Oro Group, Omdia, and Juniper Research attempted to capture the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors of the telecom and IT industries—and on our communications behavior in general. The FCC turned up the burners to accelerate 5G deployment and service providers announced new partnerships, alliances, collaborations, and other pushes to continue to change the way we work, live and connect.



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

This month, [Federal Communications Commission](#) Chairman Ajit Pai announced that the repurposing of C-band spectrum for 5G services will move forward on an accelerated timeline as the FCC’s Wireline Bureau has secured commitments from all eligible satellite operators to meet an accelerated clearing timeline that will make way for faster 5G deployment in the 3.7 GHz band, also called the C-band.

The [FCC](#) also made headlines when it levied a \$225 million fine against Texas-based health insurance telemarketers for apparently making approximately one billion illegally spoofed robocalls. This is the largest proposed fine in the FCC's 86-year history.

Market growth and industry insights made headlines this month. According to a recently published report from [Dell'Oro Group](#), the Mobile Core Network market grew 10 percent year over year to nearly \$8 billion for the trailing four quarters ending in 1Q20. [Ericsson](#) expects the global number of 5G subscriptions to top 190 million by the end of 2020 and 2.8 billion by the end of 2025. These forecasts are included in the June 2020 edition of the Ericsson Mobility Report, along with projections for data traffic growth and regional subscriptions. And a new study from [Juniper Research](#) has found that the number of instant messaging users will reach 4.3 billion in 2020, rising from 3.9 billion in 2019. This is a growth of nine percent year-on-year, largely driven by an increased need for remote communication during the COVID-19 crisis.

[ETSI](#) has unveiled a new white paper written by the officials of the ETSI EP eHealth group, highlighting the role of standards developing organizations (SDOs) in developing standards for ICT to mitigate the impact of a pandemic.

Network Evolution News

Network evolution news rolled in from around the globe. [Nokia and Vodafone Idea](#) announced the successful completion of the first phase of a large-scale Dynamic Spectrum Refarming (DSR) in India. Nokia's dynamic spectrum refarming solution (DSR), which has been deployed across key cities in India, will enable Vodafone Idea to enhance user experience with optimal use of its spectrum assets. Nokia also announced that [Openreach](#) will deploy its fiber solutions to help meet its target of bringing ultra-fast and reliable broadband access to 20 million homes across the UK by the mid-to-late 2020s.

[Infinera and Windstream](#) announced the completion of a live network trial that successfully achieved 800 gigabits per second (800G) single-wavelength transmission over 730 kilometers across Windstream's long-haul network between San Diego and Phoenix. [Infinera](#) also announced that Asia-Africa-Europe-1

Consortium (AAE-1), one of the largest consortium cable systems in the world today, has recently completed a significant upgrade with Infinera to boost capacity on its subsea network connecting East Asia to Europe via Egypt.

As demand for fiber networks continues to grow, [Broadband Forum](#) has expanded its BBF.247 Optical Network Unit (ONU) Certification Program to include XGS-PON. This latest update extends the program to a variety of key features needed by operators deploying XGS-PON networks.

Stateside, [DASAN Zhone Solutions \(DZS\)](#) is teaming up with American Fiber to bring 10-gigabit-ready hyper-scale broadband services to residential and commercial customers in central Illinois. It also announced a new three-year, \$66 million contract to supply [LG U+](#) with Fiber-to-the-Home solutions and switches, including co-development of ultra-low latency 100 Gbps mobile backhaul switches for 5G mobile services. As part of the ongoing Connect America Fund effort, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) authorized over \$7.4 million in funding over ten years to expand rural broadband in Oklahoma and Oregon. Together these investments will connect 11,852 unserved rural homes and businesses.

[SOLiD](#) announced commercial availability of the edgeROU, a fiber-to-the-edge remote unit to improve in-building mobile service. SOLiD designed edgeROU specifically to resolve the challenges experienced by mobile users within a building.

5G News

It was a busy month in 5G industry news for [Nokia](#), which announced that it is working with Japanese mobile operator, KDDI, in a joint initiative aimed at delivering a fully cloudified RAN solution. [Nokia](#) also announced details of a new 5G deal with Taiwan Star Telecom (TST). The deal will see Nokia supply TST with its end-to-end AirScale Radio Access network portfolio helping the operator to launch 5G non-standalone (NSA) networks that will lay the foundations for 5G standalone (SA) in the future. [Nokia](#) also released new research highlighting 5G plans, expectations and the biggest 5G WAN and LAN drivers for businesses across key industries in the US and UK. The study, which was conducted in partnership with Parks Associates, revealed that 65 percent of participants are familiar with 5G and over one-third report they are already using 5G and are highly satisfied. Finally,

Nokia's existing 4G relationship with [China Unicom](#) is expanding as the service provider has selected Nokia's core networking products for its 5G SA Core Network in China.

In the United Kingdom, [Ericsson](#) has been selected by O2 UK to deploy its 5G radio access network (RAN) more extensively, upgrading the existing 2G/3G/4G sites as part of a substantial network modernization program.

Swedish communications service provider [Telia Company](#) has launched commercial 5G in Stockholm powered by Ericsson Radio Access Network products and solutions. Initial services on the 700Mhz band will cover most of central Stockholm by mid-June.

Market insights related to 5G news percolated as well. [OMDIA](#) released the first version of its 5G Market Progress Assessment (end-2019) report, showing that South Korea is the leading country for 5G deployment in the twenty-two leading 5G countries analyzed for their deployment of 5G technology. [BearingPoint//Beyond, in collaboration with OMDIA](#) released a report outlining how CSPs must change strategies in order to drive revenues from their 5G investments. The study demonstrates alignment between CSPs and enterprises on the importance of 5G but reveals a worrying trend for CSP 5G revenues based on their roles in early 5G enterprise projects.

A new report from [Market Study Report, LLC](#) depicts the growth drivers and ongoing technological trends that are expected to potentially drive the overall 5G infrastructure market over 2019-2026 with a compound annual growth rate of nearly 30 percent.

AI News

[Rocketset](#), the real-time indexing database in the cloud, announced that it is redefining the real-time data stack for AI-powered computer vision, an industry that is advancing what is possible in healthcare, gaming, logistics and retail.

IoT News

New studies on IoT growth and emerging opportunities rolled in from [Juniper Research](#), which found that total global spend on Digital Twins will reach \$12.7 billion by 2021, an increase of 17 percent from 2019. Digital Twins are a digital representation of physical assets that utilize IoT data; enabling use cases such as predictive maintenance when combined with AI. Another [new Juniper study](#) found that the number of businesses using asset tracking solutions will reach 90 million this year and exceed 114 million by 2025. This represents a growth of 27 percent over the next five years. Asset tracking solutions enable enterprises to track cargo from dispatch to final destination, allowing increased transparency and more accurate delivery date estimations.

[HUBER+SUHNER](#) launched the latest off-the-shelf High Voltage Distribution solution for every type of electric vehicle (EV) – the modular High Voltage Distribution Unit (mHVDU). HUBER+SUHNER also launched the [RADOX® HPC500](#), the world's first cooled charging cable system that allows continuous charging at 500 Amperes even in high-temperature environments.

[BehrTech](#), an enabler of wireless connectivity for IoT, announced the rollout across Canada of smart building connectivity to enable multiple IoT solutions in commercial buildings operated by a global real estate investment, operating and development company. Sensors connected to BehrTech's MYTHINGS LPWAN solution will monitor the traffic flow of people through each door and traffic density of common areas in multiple high-rise commercial buildings.

Security News

[GlobalPlatform and RISC-V International](#), a global nonprofit consortium, have signed an agreement to collaborate on accelerating the development of open standards for the hardware design of embedded components in connected devices for the IoT. This includes processors embedded with Trusted Execution Environment (TEEs), which are witnessing significant growth. [Trustonic and Samsung](#) have announced a new strategic partnership for class-leading device security for mobile operators. This multi-year deal will lead to the integration of Trustonic's security platform with Samsung's device-embedded Knox security platform.

Customer Experience News

[Uniphore](#) released survey results that show American consumers overwhelmingly prefer to use voice over every other medium when contacting a company's contact center. The results underscore a growing need for innovative voice-enabled automation software and conversational artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities that can eliminate the need to put customers on hold.

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