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Telecom Industry News

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Early this month we officially passed the midpoint of this unprecedented year. Industry news continued to come in at a brisk pace in the first part of the summer, bringing news of partnerships that push digital transformation, supply chain transformation and the future of the connected car. 5G deployments across the world are progressing despite the ongoing pandemic, according to new industry research released this month. And solutions, developments, trials and more continue to advance the Internet of Things, the focus for this month's issue of *Pipeline*.



Innovation and Leaderboard News

The Federal Communication Commission's [Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau](#) formally designated two companies—Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) and ZTE Corporation (ZTE), as well as their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries—as covered companies for purposes of the agency's November 2019 ban on the use of universal service support to purchase equipment or services from companies posing a national security threat. In addition, the [FCC](#) adopted rules to establish 988 as the new, nationwide, three-digit phone number for Americans in crisis to connect with suicide prevention and mental health crisis counselors. The rules require all phone service providers to direct all 988 calls to the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16, 2022. The [FCC](#) also adopted rules to further encourage phone companies to block illegal and unwanted robocalls before they reach consumers. The new rules offer companies two safe harbors from liability for the unintended or inadvertent blocking of wanted calls, thus eliminating

a concern that kept some companies from implementing robust robocall blocking efforts.

Partnerships focused on innovation and transformation made headlines this month. [Samsung and Microsoft](#) announced a new global partnership to combine smart appliances and cloud technology for digital transformation in the real estate and property management industries. [Cerence Inc.](#) announced that it has partnered with e.solutions GmbH, a joint venture between Audi Electronics Venture GmbH and Elektrobit Automotive GmbH, to develop game-changing innovations for the automotive cockpit of the future.

Research insights showed us where the pandemic and innovation are taking us. A new study from [Juniper Research](#) has found that memberships in loyalty programs with a digital element will increase by 30 percent globally by 2023—highlighting that economic challenges remain for consumers and retailers and digital loyalty will serve as a key differentiator. [MarketStudyReport Worldwide](#) released new research on the global video streaming market, which is estimated to garner substantial revenues over 2020-2025. The growth is primarily attributed to increasing utilization of Internet services and rising adoption of smartphones.

In Belgium, Telenet, the country's largest cable broadband service provider, has gone live with [Netcracker Technology's](#) Digital BSS, enabling the company to streamline, simplify and standardize billing processes, deliver new digital services faster and provide a better customer experience across business lines.

Mergers and acquisitions also made news. [Vodafone Group](#) announced that Vodafone Hutchison Australia Pty Limited (VHA) and TPG Telecom Limited (TPG) have completed their merger to establish a fully integrated telecommunications operator in Australia. In other M&A news, [Mobileum Inc.](#) has acquired SIGOS. With this acquisition, Mobileum will be able to provide end-to-end testing and analytics for 5G and IoT.

5G News

5G progress in connections and deployments continues despite the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, according to [5G Americas](#), the wireless industry trade association and voice of 5G and LTE for the Americas. According to data from Omdia, there are now over 63.6 million 5G connections globally as of Q1 2020, which represents 308.66 percent growth over Q4 2019.

[Nokia](#) announced that its next-generation 5G AirScale Cloud RAN solution based on vRAN2.0 will be commercially available this year with general availability expected in 2021, following a series of successful trials. [Nokia](#) also announced that its CloudBand-based software products are powering Bharti Airtel's ("Airtel") Voice over LTE (VoLTE) network in India. The network supports over 110 million customers, making it the largest cloud-based VoLTE network in India and the largest Nokia-run VoLTE in the world.

And, [Nokia and Windstream](#) announced they have completed the initial sites for a nationwide core IP network enhancement to significantly expand capacity for next-generation broadband and 5G services. Nokia also released a [software-based upgrade](#) that will enable its 4G/LTE radios to be migrated seamlessly to 5G/NR, which will help to streamline the process of refarming 4G/LTE spectrum into 5G/NR. The move will also support existing customers and the installed base by offering a seamless and cost-effective upgrade path to 5G/NR.

[Telco Systems](#) announced that the company has completed new deployments of its 1.2 Tb T-Metro 8104 service aggregation platform and cloud gateway for multiple service providers across North America.

In Europe, Ericsson's Croatian associated company [Ericsson Nikola Tesla](#) has been selected by Croatian communications service provider Hrvatski Telekom as its sole supplier of 5G Radio Access Network (RAN) products and services until 2024.

IoT News

Sunrise Communications AG, the largest private telecommunications provider in Switzerland, has selected the [Comarch IoT Connect Platform](#) to support the expansion of its IoT services.

McConnell Dowell has selected [Orange Business Services](#) to design a customized, smart and scalable IoT solution. It will enable construction sites to collect and report on real-time information, such as heavy machinery utilization and asset tracking, to enable smarter decision making for operational efficiency, time saving and cost reductions.

In Canada, [BehrTech](#), which enables wireless IoT connectivity, announced the launch of MYTHINGS Central 3.0, the latest version of its network and device management software for LP-WAN. This update includes backend integration with

major cloud solutions like Microsoft Azure, AWS and Cumulocity, as well as other third-party applications and IoT platforms such as Ericsson IoT Accelerator.

[ADVA](#) has unveiled a new partnership with OTN Systems to address key connectivity challenges for industrial applications. The companies are teaming up to offer joint end-to-end networking solutions built with best-in-class technology and specifically designed for the industry sector, including for customers in transportation, oil and gas, mining and electrical power utilities.

Security News

[ADVA](#) also announced security news, revealing that the Central Bank of Austria deploying its FSP 3000 technology in a new, highly reliable, ultra-secure data center interconnect (DCI) network.

[Nokia](#) announced that it is enhancing its industry leadership in open solutions by rapidly ramping up the adoption of Open RAN (O-RAN) interfaces in its AirScale portfolio. This enhancement to its radio access network (RAN) portfolio aims to enable an open ecosystem of innovation and a robust telecom supply chain, while ensuring world-class network performance and security.

[Sumo Logic](#) released findings from a global survey that highlights the barriers security professionals are facing on the path to modernizing the security operations center (SOC). The struggle to effectively manage high volumes of security alerts and the complexities associated with traditional SIEMs are driving the demand for a new approach to effectively address challenges in the SOC through cloud-native SIEMs combined with security automation capabilities.

Cloud News

[Nokia](#) introduced its cloud-native Digital Operations Center software solution to give communication service providers new revenue-enhancing opportunities with an automated platform that manages 5G slice-based services securely and cost effectively throughout the entire lifecycle of services.

[Aryaka](#) and cloud communications platform company 8x8, Inc. announced a global technology partnership that will extend the 8x8 Open Communications Platform performance across Aryaka's managed SD-WAN service. The expanded joint agreement will enable organizations to enhance cloud communications performance across the WAN.

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