Telecom Industry News

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Nothing in 2020 has been business as usual, and that goes for late-summer news. With some distance opening between the onset of the pandemic and the present, news on data insights and the market's reaction to the crises is becoming more clear. New reports from Dell'Oro Group OpenVault, and Juniper Research revealed fresh research findings. Updates on Open RAN, FTTH networks, and 5G deployments rolled in from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. The FCC took new steps toward auction for mid-band 5G spectrum and in combatting robocalls.

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.

Data Agility, Analytics and Research News

Globally, consumers are continuing to increase reliance on upstream bandwidth and are opting for faster speeds to meet dramatically changed usage habits during the ongoing pandemic, according to the [Q2 2020 OVBI](#) (OpenVault Broadband Insights) report issued by OpenVault.

A new study from [Juniper Research](#) has found that total spend over direct carrier billing will reach $100 billion for the first time by 2025, rising from $37 billion in 2020. The study anticipates that the increasing shift to subscription-based monetization models for digital services such as games, video streaming and music is a main driver. Another [new Juniper study](#) found that operator revenue from SMS business traffic will reach $50 billion in 2025, increasing from $39.6 billion in 2020. This represents an overall growth of 26 percent, driven by the reduction in illegitimate traffic due to the implementation of SMS firewalls. And a final new study from [Juniper Research](#) has found that digital ticket transaction volumes will exceed pre-COVID levels by 2022, growing

from 12.7 billion in 2020 to 32 billion in 2022. It anticipates that continued easing of global travel restrictions will drive increased demand for mobile ticketing in the rail, metro and bus sectors, as commuters return to work. Airplane travel will continue to lag into 2024, as this travel industry sector has been hit hardest by the pandemic.

Dell'Oro Group recently published an update to its Service Provider (SP) Router and Carrier Ethernet Switch (CES) five-year market forecast report. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a major reset of forecast assumptions and market growth profile for the next five years. For the short term through 2020, market growth will be suppressed due to supply and human resource constraints, as well as weakened macroeconomic conditions. Over the longer term, from 2021 through 2024, Dell'Oro Group expects the technology and use case drivers of prior forecasts to remain largely intact and drive annual growth.

Mobileum released the findings of an industry survey, which found that 75 percent of operators polled were experiencing new or emerging incidences of fraud and 61 percent said network security threats increased or significantly increased since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

Network Evolution News

Updates on global developments in network evolution news came in from all corners of the world. Vodafone has become the first UK mobile operator to switch on a live Open Radio Access Network (OpenRAN) 4G site, enabling the introduction of more suppliers for mobile networks. The first site connected Vodafone customers around the Royal Welsh Showground in Powys, Wales. Harmonic announced that Vodafone is actively rolling out its Gigabit Internet service across Germany using Harmonic's CableOS® virtualized access solution. Vodafone Germany is the largest cable operator in Europe, with over 25 million homes passed.

In Sri Lanka, Nokia and Sri Lanka Telecom have deployed a FTTH network to bring ultra-fast 10Gpbs broadband service to customers across the country using Nokia's next-generation fiber technology.

In the Middle East, Ericsson will support Omantel in its ongoing 5G deployment in key locations across Oman, providing Advanced Antenna Systems and 5G New Radio as part of a new multiyear contract.

Infinera announced that Orange deployed spectrum capacity with Infinera's submarine solution on its MainOne submarine cable, a new network built to provide large-scale international capacity to support the development of a digital ecosystem in West Africa. Infinera also stated that Vogel Telecom, a leading wholesale carrier in Brazil, deployed Infinera's Groove (GX) Series G30 Compact Modular Platform to double capacity on its network, which includes Brazil's route with the highest bandwidth demand, between São Paulo and Belo Horizonte.

In US network evolution news, ADTRAN announced that TEC, a prominent provider of residential and business services for rural communities in Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, is the first to bring 10G services across the mid-south region, leveraging ADTRAN's 10G XGS-PON portfolio. Everstream and Windstream announced the operational turn-up of long-haul 400 Gigabit

Ethernet (GbE) Wavelength Services, marking one of the industry-first deployments for a business-optimized service provider.

5G News

The FCC began its first auction of licenses for prime, mid-band spectrum suitable for 5G in late July.

It was a busy news month for Nokia in 5G news from around the globe. Nokia and U.S. Cellular announced an agreement to add 5G mmWave capabilities in the 24 GHz and 28 GHz spectrum bands. U.S. Cellular will deploy Nokia's AirScale portfolio, with Cloud RAN capabilities, to provide enhanced Mobile Broadband (eMBB) 5G mmWave.

Nokia also announced that it has successfully completed its first 5G standalone (SA) call on a live network with China Unicom. In Taiwan, Nokia was selected by Asia Pacific Telecom as the single vendor for 5G New Radio (NR) in a deal that also encompasses 5G core (non-standalone and standalone), security and monetization. Nokia also announced that it is working with 3 Indonesia to optimize and expand its LTE network coverage and capacity to meet customer demand via a new Zero Drive Test solution.

In Southeast Asia, Nokia and Singapore-based operator StarHub are conducting the first live 5G non-standalone (NSA) network trial across Singapore, running from August 2020 until February 2021.

IoT News

Deutsche Telekom has selected and qualified G+D Mobile Security's new integrated SIM solution for IoT. This is the first service commercially offered that is able to securely provision SIM data during IoT module and device production.

Satellite News

Speedcast International Limited announced that it has signed a new contract with Intelsat, operator of the world's largest integrated satellite and terrestrial network. The new agreement will enable Speedcast's customer operations across the energy, maritime, cruise, mining, enterprise, media, humanitarian, and government sectors.

Cloud News

Synchronoss announced it has secured a renewal to its agreement to provide Verizon with its White-Label Personal Cloud Platform. The deal will enable Verizon to provide secure, easy-to-use cloud storage for customers and safely protect their valuable personal digital content, including photos, videos and messages.

Regulatory, Innovation, and M&A News

In a step forward, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau designated the official consortium for coordinating industry-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls. The Bureau selected USTelecom, the Broadband Association's Industry Traceback Group, to officially coordinate these activities.

Mastercard and Microsoft Corp. announced a collaboration to shape the future of digital commerce, drive startup innovation and enable financial inclusion.

Telco Systems announced that the company has developed a uCPE proof-of-concept (PoC) together with Vodafone Group and its ecosystem partners Arm and NXP Semiconductors based on its NFVTime solution.

Sunrise Communications, the Swiss operator, has deployed Nokia's cloud-native converged charging software in order to more rapidly package, price and promote a wide range of consumer and business services and to enhance the user experience for the company's 3.5 million customers.

In merger and acquisition news, EQT Infrastructure announced that the EQT Infrastructure IV fund has agreed to acquire data center provider EdgeConneX, Inc. from an investor group led by Providence Equity Partners.

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