



[www.pipelinepub.com](http://www.pipelinepub.com)

Volume 17, Issue 1

## Telecom Industry News

By: [Scott St. John](#)

Industry news surrounding innovation, network evolution and 5G advancements flooded in from around the globe this month. In the US, the Federal Communications Commission had a busy month as it worked to free more mid-band spectrum for 5G deployment, modernized toll-free calling billing, and announced qualified applicants for spectrum in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Deployments, strategic alliances, and breakthroughs on 5G technology, networks, and use cases made news headlines worldwide. Amid the 5G hype, talk of 6G is percolating as the Next Generation Mobile Networks Board releases its vision for the technology, and NASA has tapped Nokia to build and deploy the first mobile network on the moon.



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.

### 5G and Mobile News

5G-enabled industries have the potential to deliver \$8 trillion in value to the global economy by 2030, according to new research from [Nokia and Nokia Bell Labs](#). The *5G Business Readiness Report* surveyed 5G adoption among businesses around the world, providing a cross-sector view of the path to full 5G deployment.

In 5G news, deployments came in from around the world. [Juniper Networks](#) was picked by Telefonica Spain to secure the mobile backhaul of its growing 5G network. In Finland, Elisa selected [Ericsson](#) for a comprehensive 5G technology deployment spanning 5G Core and 5G Radio Access Network (RAN). Elsewhere in Europe, [Telia and Ericsson](#) have added Lithuania to their Nordics and Baltics alliance to

deploy next-generation 5G in the region. [Ericsson and China Telecom](#) (Sichuan) have successfully completed China's first 5G Standalone (SA 5G) Ericsson Spectrum Sharing data call on a commercial network.

To build its 5G network, [Proximus selected Ericsson to](#) implement a new 5G Core network on the Belgian operator's cloud infrastructure. [BT also chose Ericsson](#) as its partner for 5G RAN in UK cities including London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast and more. [Samsung and KT](#) announced they have successfully deployed Korea's first 5G Standalone (SA) and Non-Standalone (NSA) common core in KT's commercial network. KT will commercially launch its SA network when 5G SA-capable devices become available in the market.

And, [Nokia](#) announced it is the first vendor to offer extreme automation of 4G and 5G network slicing across all network domains, including RAN, transport and core. [Nokia](#) also announced that it has extended its long-term strategic relationship with BT into the 5G arena, following its selection as a 5G RAN vendor for the UK operator. In addition, Nokia announced that it will provide Taiwanese mobile operator [Chunghwa Telecom \(CHT\)](#) with products from its small cell 5G portfolio. [Nokia and New Zealand operator Spark](#) launched 5G services in the Auckland Viaduct area to bring high-speed wireless connectivity to a major international sailing event. The 5G network will leverage Nokia's AirScale radio portfolio to deliver ultra-fast data speeds with low latency.

In related news, [Microsoft](#) revealed a new strategy to deploy a carrier-grade cloud to partner with the telecommunications industry on rolling out 5G and more. [Nokia](#) announced that its cloud-native Subscriber Data Management (SDM) software was picked by Telefónica UK to enhance the security and reliability of the operator's networks and to drive 5G services innovation. And, [AT&T](#) added Nokia's end-to-end industrial-grade capabilities to its AT&T Private Cellular Networks solutions. Now businesses across the United States can build private networks through AT&T using Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) spectrum and Nokia infrastructure.

And in satellite news, [Gilat Satellite Networks](#) has been tapped to provide managed services for high-speed 4G (5G Ready) cellular backhaul over satellite for Southern Linc's fixed and mobile network assets. And, [ORBCOMM](#) announced the launch of a new device to enable satellite connectivity for IoT devices when cellular coverage is limited.

News also rolled in from industry groups this month. The [Next Generation Mobile Networks \(NGMN\) Board](#) has launched a project focused on the Vision and Drivers for 6G. The [Open RF Association](#) announced its formation as an industry consortium dedicated to expanding the functional interoperability of hardware and software across multi-mode RF front end and chipset platforms into the 5G era, responding to customer demand for open architectures. Its founding members include Broadcom, Intel, MediaTek, Murata Manufacturing, Qorvo, and Samsung.

## Innovation News

[Nokia Bell Labs](#)' innovations, in partnership with NASA, announced it will build and deploy the first ultra-compact, low-power, space-hardened, end-to-end LTE solution on the lunar surface in late 2022. [Nokia](#) also announced that it has joined forces with Tampere University to establish a 'Center of Excellence' to enhance the development of System-on-Chip (SoC) custom processors for its ReefShark chipset portfolio. And the company announced a five-year strategic collaboration with [Google Cloud](#) that will involve migrating Nokia's on-premise infrastructure, data centers and servers around the world, as well as various software applications, onto Google Cloud infrastructure.

In other innovation news, Bentley Systems expanded its alliance with [Microsoft](#) to accelerate infrastructure digital twin innovations to contribute to the future of smart cities and networks. [Harmonic](#) announced new upstream technology that enables cable operators to provide new two-way gigabit services. Comcast is trialing the new technology.

The demand for digital subscription also made headlines. According to a [new report from Juniper Research](#), the market for consumer subscriptions for physical goods will grow from an expected \$64 billion in 2020 to more than \$263 billion in 2025. These offerings providing physical products on a recurring basis will overtake the market for consumer digital service subscriptions in 2022, despite the significant lead the digital sector has had in this area, as many different consumer businesses seek to boost recurring revenue.

## Security News

Cyberattacks on internet-connected devices continue to rise at an alarming rate due to poor security protections and cybercriminals use of automated tools to exploit these vulnerabilities, according to the latest [Nokia Threat Intelligence Report](#).

In addition, [The IoT Security Foundation](#) launched VulnerableThings.com with the goal of simplifying the reporting and management of vulnerabilities while helping IoT vendors comply with new consumer IoT security standards and regulations. Also this month, [Stellar Cyber](#) announced that DeepTree selected the company to deliver comprehensive cybersecurity services for its next-generation intelligent SOC.

## Network News

[ADVA](#) announced the general availability of its Ensemble Activator, the market's first carrier-grade network operating system (NOS) designed for disaggregated cell site gateways (DCSGs). And, [Uniti Group](#) announced it will begin offering nationwide dark fiber services on 31,000 fiber route miles, spanning 35 states across Tier I, II and III markets.

In US regulatory news, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) proposed to make 100 megahertz of mid-band spectrum in the 3.45-3.55 GHz band available for 5G deployment across the contiguous United States. The [FCC](#) also adopted an order that shifts most access charges for toll free or 8YY calls to a bill-and-keep system to address arbitrage and fraud undermining the intercarrier compensation system supporting toll free calling. This month, the agency also announced 386 qualified applicants for phase one of the [Rural Digital Opportunity Fund](#) auction and adopted rules creating the [5G Fund for Rural America](#), which will distribute up to \$9 billion over the next decade to bring 5G wireless broadband connectivity to rural America.

## IoT News

SHV Energy chose IoT connectivity from [Orange Business Services](#) to deploy smart telemetry and meters on its gas tanks across Europe and the US. Orange also announced that it has been selected by Japan's KDDI to provide a [customized IoT platform](#) for Japanese automotive manufacturers Toyota and Mazda. The platform will allow them to offer connected car capabilities in their vehicles sold across Europe. [Schneider Electric and Orange](#) announced the first deployment of indoor 5G in the industrial sector in France on experimental frequencies as part of a trial.

[Senet](#) announced that it has been issued two US patents for cloud-based IoT network architecture and advanced service delivery. The new patents are intended to protect the work Senet is doing to facilitate the deployment of flexible, cost-efficient, and targeted Low Power Wide Area Network connectivity to instrument the physical world in support of the rapidly growing IoT solutions market.

[Nokia](#) also announced that it has been selected by Philippines-based telecommunications and digital services company Smart, a subsidiary of PLDT, to launch IoT services nationwide.

## Merger and acquisition news

Merger and acquisition activity in the broadband market remains robust in response to surging data traffic and demand, according to a new report from [CoBank's Knowledge Exchange](#) that assesses the broadband investment market, including valuations, target companies, market catalysts, risks and the impact COVID-19 could have on new sources of government funding. And, last but not least, [SAP](#) announced it has entered into an agreement to acquire Emarsys, a leading omnichannel customer engagement platform provider.

---

To read more telecom industry news stories, be sure to visit *Pipeline's* [News Center](#) and [subscribe to Pipeline's weekly and monthly newsletters](#). You can also follow *Pipeline* on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#) to get telecom industry news alerts in real-time. To have your company featured in this column, send your breaking news and press releases to [pressreleases@pipelinepub.com](mailto:pressreleases@pipelinepub.com) for consideration.