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Volume 17, Issue 2

Telecom Industry News

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What a year 2020 has been, challenging us in many ways while advancing us in others. In this final issue of Telecom Industry News for the calendar year, we offer some of the top headlines of the month and the top trends of 2020. Worldwide, 5G deployments, advancements and milestones made news. Studies captured the increasing shift of our lives online, as we work, learn, spend and purchase in new ways and demand (and expect) more from our digital connections with and to each other.

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.



Top Trends News

Some of the year's top trends were evident in the research and report headlines that rolled in during this month.

The November 2020 [Ericsson Mobility Report](#) estimates that by the end of this year, more than 1 billion people—15 percent of the world's population—will live in an area where 5G coverage has rolled out. Another study focused on a benefit of this network evolution: [Nokia and Telefonica](#) released the results of a study that finds 5G 90 percent more energy efficient than 4G.

Juniper Research offered insights from several new reports this month. The [analysis firm](#) has found that the number of digital identity apps in use will exceed 6.2 billion in 2025, from just over 1 billion in 2020. The research found that civic identity apps, where government-issued identities

are held in an app, will account for almost 90 percent of digital identity apps installed globally in 2025; driven by the increasing use of civic identity in emerging markets and the lasting impact of the pandemic. Another new [Juniper Research](#) report predicted that the total number of mobile money users in emerging markets will exceed 1.2 billion in 2025, up from 980 million in 2020; equating to just under 30 percent of all mobile phone users across emerging markets.

According to a new report from [Dell'Oro Group](#), the market for microwave transmission equipment grew six percent year-over-year in 3Q 2020 following a steep decline in the first half of the year. [Dell'Oro Group](#) also revealed that revenues for the 5G Core market are accelerating the rate of growth for the mobile core network market that began in 2018.

Network Evolution News

Network evolution news included updates on advancements in fiber network usage as well as network expansion worldwide. [Nokia](#) has launched the world's first 25 Gbps symmetrical PON fiber broadband solution to enable communications service providers to supercharge their networks and enhance fiber network usage. [MYCOM OSI](#) was selected by Magenta Telekom in Austria to support the assurance of network performance across fixed and mobile domains, for both consumer and enterprise services. SSE Enterprise Telecoms, one of the UK's leading connectivity providers, has selected [Infinera](#)'s XTM Series for the second phase of its UK-wide network expansion to bring 5G across the UK.

[SITA and Orange Business Services](#) have implemented a multi-tenant edge SD-WAN platform at more than 60 airports globally through SITA's shared connectivity platform AirportHub.

Stateside, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) has adopted new rules for the 5.9 GHz band (5.850-5.925 GHz) to make new spectrum available for unlicensed uses, such as Wi-Fi, and improve automotive safety. The [agency](#) has also selected SomosGov, Inc. as the next administrator responsible for various telephone number management responsibilities. [Cambridge Broadband Networks Group \(CBNG\)](#) has launched an A2/A3 variant of its VectaStar Flex solution to unlock the potential of high capacity, low latency, long range backhaul and fixed wireless access (FWA). This new variant will allow the current 39 license holders in the US to operate in a band that has been underutilized until now.

5G News

In 5G news, [CommAgility and Wireless Telecom Group](#) achieved full end-to-end data transfer over a wireless link, a milestone that advances 5G RAN development.

[Broadband Forum](#) published three new standards, marking a major step forward to unlock a new wave of 5G innovation and prepare telcos for the mass adoption of 5G. The three new specifications will allow telcos to build their 5G networks with open, cloud-native platforms that utilize software and hardware components from different vendors and deploy new 5G services faster, more securely and in a more flexible way.

5G also arrived or expanded in several countries worldwide. Among these headlines, [Ericsson](#) and wholesale telecom infrastructure company CETIN have signed a five-year contract to bring 5G to the Czech Republic. The deal makes Ericsson the supplier behind CETIN's network modernization, which will see their existing legacy network transformed to establish fast, ultra-high capacity 5G. Ericsson has also been selected by [WIND Hellas](#) as its mobile core network vendor for standalone and non-standalone 5G, as well as its BSS partner. And [TELUS has tapped Nokia](#) as an infrastructure partner to strengthen and expand 5G service in Canada.

Innovation and Digital Transformation News

Several industry alliances and partnerships were announced this month. [Alaska Airlines and Microsoft](#) have signed a partnership to reduce carbon emissions with flights powered by sustainable aviation fuel in key routes, especially those in heavy use for business travel. [Orange Business Services and AWS](#) will work together to deliver new solutions in the areas of modernization and migration, data analytics, innovation and security, resulting in new products and services to fast-track customers' journeys to the cloud. [Vodafone Group and Sumitomo Corporation](#) have forged a strategic alliance to collaborate on international technology infrastructure and digital services projects, sharing knowledge and working together on new business opportunities in the 5G era. [Nokia and A1](#) have joined forces to provide a private wireless network for Siemens' microgrid, which is deployed at its Austrian headquarters in Vienna. Additionally, [ADVA](#) announced that it has joined the O-RAN ALLIANCE, a global ecosystem of mobile network operators and technology suppliers driving intelligent, virtualized and fully interoperable mobile networks. Together, [Vodafone and Ericsson](#) have successfully tested safe sky corridors for drones using intelligent aspects of the mobile network.

In standards news, the [ETSI group](#) on Network Functions Virtualization (ETSI ISG NFV) unveiled its first specification enabling containerized VNFs to be managed in an NFV framework. The Broadband Forum's [Open Broadband – USP Agent project](#) is bringing the reality of the connected home one step closer with support for MQTT and architectural improvements to better support open source software-based deployments.

[Infinera](#) landed a contract award with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s Energy Sciences Network (ESnet) to build the optical substrate for its next-generation science network, ESnet6, interconnecting the DOE's national laboratory system and experimental facilities with research and commercial networks around the globe.

[Colt Technology Services](#) has debuted its SD WAN 2.0, a move to create a more seamless user experience and enable enterprises' digital transformation.

IoT News

IoT devices and smart home connections are continuing furious growth worldwide—a top trend of 2020 and beyond. A new study from [Juniper Research](#) has found that the global number of Industrial IoT connections will increase from 17.7 billion in 2020 to 36.8 billion in 2025, representing an overall growth rate of 107 percent. The research identified smart manufacturing

as a key growth sector of the Industrial IoT market over the next five years, accounting for 22 billion connections by 2025.

Another report from [Juniper Research](#) predicted there will be almost 13.5 billion smart home devices in active use by 2025, compared to an expected 7.4 billion at year-end 2020. Smart entertainment devices take the bulk of revenue attributable to smart home devices, as over \$230 billion in 2025.

News of innovation in IoT came in this month. [Senet](#) is partnering with GeoLinks to support low-cost LoRaWAN IoT sensor connectivity on a large scale in California. Cavli Wireless, a cellular IoT module manufacturer, is bundling IoT modules with LTE-M connectivity from [Orange Business Services](#) to provide the building blocks of the IoT value chain to its enterprise customers worldwide.

With the automotive, semiconductor and mobile communication sectors increasingly developing applications that require the E-band spectrum range, [HUBER+SUHNER](#) has announced its MXPM90 test solution for frequencies up to 90 GHz.

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