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## Technology Industry News

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It's been an interesting month for IT and telecom technology industry news. In a nod to this issue's theme of digital transformation, we've rounded up some of the most interesting worldwide transformation news, ranging from predictions about our imminent 6G future to the advancements in smart city infrastructure and service delivery worldwide. We also share news of some of the obstacles facing a true acceleration of digital transformation, from legacy systems to a lack of digital transformation roadmaps in key regions of the world. News of additional 5G deployments and expansions always makes our industry news summary, and we've shared some of the top news on IoT, connectivity, security and cloud advancements in the article below.



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.

## Transformation and Innovation News

Digital transformation and innovation news was fascinatingly varied this month. According to new predictions from IDTechEx, smart cities and smart surfaces will be the keys to a transformative future. Smart surfaces will enable [6G communications](#) like holographs, instant downloads and more by 2030. IDTechEx also released a new report on the advancement in [smart city development](#) from 2021 to 2041. In other smart city news, Nokia announced a new agreement to sell [ClearWorld's smart poles](#) to US cities and military bases.

Globally, digital transformation strategic planning must accelerate amid serious barriers. According to a new report from the Technology Innovation Council commissioned by mobile technology specialists [Upstream](#), fewer than three in 10 telecommunications operators in Africa and the Middle East have established a digital transformation roadmap, putting the region far behind the rest of the world when it comes to monetizing digital sales channels. [Upstream](#) also reported that seven in 10 telco operators say that integration with legacy technology is the number one barrier to digital transformation, with concerns of privacy and data not far behind.

Transformation is coming to Europe. This month, the European Union unveiled its new [Digital Europe Programme](#) to provide funding for rolling out cutting-edge technology in crucial areas such as artificial intelligence, supercomputing and cybersecurity. [Deutsche Telekom and Ericsson](#) are pioneering the use of solar energy for mobile broadband sites. The use of renewable energy is increasing in sectors across Germany, but solar modules have not yet been used to power commercial mobile broadband sites. In addition, [Vodafone Germany](#) is partnering with Nreal and celebrity TV chef Steffen Henssler to launch Giga AR, a virtual reality cooking experience—an example of the role and possibilities of mixed reality in our everyday lives.

## Network Evolution News

In network evolution and transformation news, [ETSI](#) has successfully completed its international emergency communications interoperability testing event. It included 285 test pairings, with 87 percent demonstrating interoperability, both in Europe and across the Atlantic to assess the compatibility of products for mission-critical public safety services.

Across the pond, [Nokia](#) has inked a deal with United Group to deploy a fiber network and in-home mesh Wi-Fi solution to millions of homes and businesses across southeast Europe. Nokia has also been selected by [Andean Telecom Partners Peru](#) to support its rollout of neutral host digital infrastructure projects for both fixed fiber-to-the-home and mobile access in Peru. In Japan, [Colt Technology Services](#) has completed 600G wavelength testing, making it the first and only provider with a capability to transport 600G wavelengths in a long-haul live network in Japan.

In the US, [DE-CIX](#) has extended its next-generation, low-latency multi-service interconnection platform in QTS' mega-scale data centers in Chicago, Dallas/Irving, TX, Piscataway, NJ and Richmond, VA.

Finally, Aryaka published its fifth annual [2021 State of the WAN](#) report, the industry's survey into global SD-WAN and SASE planning.

## 5G News

In 5G news, [AT&T](#) shared long-term goals to bring 5G to more consumers, businesses and first responders across such key areas as sports and venues, entertainment, travel and transportation, business transformation, and security and public safety. [AT&T and Nokia](#) have also signed a five-

year deal to deploy Nokia's C-Band network in parts of the United States. New 5G deployments, expansions, and enhancements made headlines around the world. [Nokia](#) is powering East Africa's first 5G commercial services with Safaricom, the leading telecoms operator in Kenya. In the Middle East, [Nokia and du](#) signed a four-year 5G expansion deal. As part of the agreement, Nokia will deploy the new 5G sites with its Single Radio Access Network (SRAN) technology. Nokia also announced that it has achieved a 5G speed record during a trial with [Turk Telekom](#) in the Turkish capital city, Ankara. In Europe, [ADVA](#) announced that Vodafone Romania is using its carrier-grade network operating system in a key trial of disaggregated cell site gateway technology in a live nationwide network.

## IoT and Connectivity News

IoT and connectivity news peppered with innovation poured in from all corners of the world this month. A new report from [Juniper Research](#) has found that the number of eSIMs installed in connected devices will increase from 1.2 billion in 2021 to 3.4 billion in 2025, representing growth of 180 percent over the next four years.

With the proliferation of connected things continuing apace, [Unitas Global](#) has unveiled its Unitas Nexus Marketplace, the world's first automated connectivity platform dedicated to connecting enterprise edge locations to the cloud.

In other IoT news, [Telenor Group](#) announces it is unifying its IoT offering across the Nordics and internationally. The Nordic IoT portfolio and the global Telenor Connexion portfolio will be gathered under the brand Telenor IoT.

[Telefonica and Fibocom Wireless](#), which focuses on the integrated innovation of IoT and blockchain, have signed a collaboration partnership to create joint solutions combining these technologies.

Looking toward growth in the Industrial Internet of Things, [Seeq](#) has announced new packaging of its IIoT advanced analytics software as Seeq Team and Seeq Enterprise.

## Security News

In the UK, [Vodafone](#) called on the government to protect small and medium-sized businesses by providing additional resources for the National Cyber Security Centre. The announcement came as a new report shows almost a quarter of SMEs, the equivalent of 1.3 million businesses, say they could not continue to operate following a cyber-attack.

According to the [Nexusguard Q3 2020 Threat Report](#), the increase in online gaming over the last year has attracted attention from attackers, resulting in nearly 77 percent of cyberattacks targeting online gaming and gambling industries in Q3 2020.

Recognizing growing and changing cybersecurity threats to businesses, [AT&T](#) is expanding its portfolio of managed security services through its alliance with Fortinet to make Secure Access Service Edge SASE a reality for enterprises. [Telefonica](#) has globally launched a next-generation cybersecurity services brand, called 'NextDefense,' to provide large enterprises with a modern, effective, and intelligent detection and response capability against cyber-attacks.

With spam calls and texts cluttering up users' devices, carriers and companies are stepping up their security. This month, [T-Mobile](#) announced the next milestone in its leading Scam Shield Un-carrier move to protect customers from invasive scams and unwanted robocalls. [Mobileum and Global Message Services](#) announced their partnership to provide MNOs an integrated solution that protects networks against smishing and SMS spam, while allowing them to monetize A2P and other SMS traffic.

## Cloud News

In cloud news, Nokia has announced a partnership with [Google Cloud](#) to develop new, cloud-based 5G radio solutions. The collaboration will lead to the development of solutions and use cases to solve key 5G scenarios for businesses worldwide.

IBM announced that its hybrid cloud services are now available across multiple environments on any cloud, on premises or at the edge via [IBM Cloud Satellite](#). Lumen Technologies and IBM have integrated IBM Cloud Satellite with the Lumen edge platform to enable customers to harness hybrid cloud services in near real-time and build innovative solutions at the edge.

[Orange Business Services](#) has been selected by GEANT as one of its preferred partners in its Open Clouds for Research Environments project OCRE.

To provide cloud security, [EdgeConneX and Cloudflare](#) will deploy Cloudflare's solution in 16 EdgeConneX data centers worldwide, with additional facility deployments planned for 2021.

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