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IT & Telecom Technology News

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Simply put, technology news had real *momentum* this month. While innovation is always a theme in our industry news column, the flavor of innovation this month appeared to be new and fresh. From research that captures present perspectives on how the pandemic revved up innovation, to real-time VR teamwork to the increasing use of facial recognition, the industry seems poised to take a leap into a new chapter in our “next normal.” We also heard from the FCC on efforts to counteract robocalls, from operators on new 5G deployments, and from industry movers and shakers on new partnerships, alliances, and acquisition.



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.

Unified Communications News

Several notable announcements were made this month related to UC, UCaaS and other transformative technologies that help telecoms and enterprises better run their businesses. [Windstream](#) announced new enhancements to its industry-leading OfficeSuite UC Contact Center Services to help businesses with intelligent outbound calling and their customer interactions. [Oracle](#) shared news on advancements in helping global utilities manage the full spectrum of their operations, from engaging customers to managing environmental impact. Eclipse Technology Solutions announced a new partnership with [RingCentral](#) to deliver UCaaS to Canadian customers to enable remote work from anywhere.

Cyber Security News

New research on cyber threats dominated cyber security news this month. HP released findings from its new study, [Nation States, Cyberconflict and the Web of Profit](#), which noted that nation state cyberattacks became more frequent, varied and open between 2017 and 2020, moving us closer to a point of 'advanced cyberconflict' than at any time since the inception of the Internet.

[Positive Technologies](#) revealed an increase in the number of attacks aimed at the trade industry and medical institutions around the world. The [Verizon Business Mobile Security Index MSI 2021](#) reveals that many businesses may have left themselves vulnerable and open to cybercriminals in the rush to ensure their workforce could operate remotely. In fact, nearly half of respondents noted that a fast shift to remote work adversely affected their cybersecurity. In another report, [SAP and Onapsis](#) jointly released a cyber threat intelligence report providing actionable information on how malicious threat actors are targeting and potentially exploiting unprotected mission-critical SAP applications.

Amid these headlines, the [European Union](#) is set to boost the security of the Internet and other critical network and information systems by establishing a Cybersecurity Competence Centre to pool investment in cybersecurity research, technology and industrial development.

Cloud News

Cloud news featured new solutions to advance performance and digital transformation. [Cisco](#) announced new server solutions supported by 3rd Gen Intel Xeon Scalable processors to bring new performance and security capabilities to customers' hybrid cloud infrastructure to help them solve the challenges of major technology shifts like 5G, Wi-Fi6, IoT, AI and more.

[AWS and Nokia](#) have released a new cloud charging solution on Amazon Web Services to accelerate the migration of business-critical, high frequency charging applications to the public cloud.

[T-Systems and AWS](#) are combining their expertise to enable companies and public institutions to extend the AWS cloud to mobile edge computing environments. [T-Systems](#) has also launched a new research project in Germany to develop measures for more sustainability in the operation of data centers.

Transformation and Innovation News

[New research](#) sponsored by Oracle, Deloitte, Intel and others has underscored the vital role that technology, data, cybersecurity, and public-private partnerships play in ushering in a new future after the pandemic. The new study, called "Smart City Solutions for a Riskier World," shows

COVID-19 accelerating public sector innovation. The report found that 88 percent of city leaders surveyed call for investment in cloud platforms.

In other new research that shows how much the world is changing, [Juniper Research](#) has found that the total spend over conversational commerce channels will reach \$290 billion by 2025, rising from \$41 billion in 2021. Juniper Research has also found in a [new study](#) that the number of users of software-based facial recognition to secure payments will exceed 1.4 billion globally by 2025, from just 671 million in 2020.

News of advancements in virtual reality (VR) technology also rolled in. [Ericsson](#) announced that trials are set to establish Hyperbat, a joint venture between Williams Advanced Engineering and Unipart, as a pioneer in the UK's drive to make manufacturing for a fourth industrial revolution a reality. [Verizon and Dreamscape Immersive](#) announced a partnership aimed at innovating virtual reality applications using 5G and mobile edge computing. The partnership's first priorities will focus on 5G immersive-learning and training innovations for use in enterprise, public sector, and educational environments.

In the United States, [T-Mobile](#) kicked off its 2021 T-Mobile Accelerator Spring Immersive Technology Program. For the next three months, the handpicked startups will work directly with technologists and business leaders at T-Mobile to build the next big thing in immersive 5G technology from AR wearables to holographic communications, 3D data storytelling, volumetric video streaming, immersive virtual learning and more. In other news, [T-Mobile will be working with Lumen](#) to expand their existing relationship to allow access to Lumen's Edge Computing platform over T-Mobile's industry leading 5G network, enabling enterprises to build, manage and scale applications across distributed environments.

Additional new alliances and collaborations to bolster innovation also came to fruition in April. [Deutsche Telekom](#) purchased Celo's native asset, an open-source blockchain focused on making decentralized financial systems and tools accessible to anyone with a smartphone. DT will be the first telecom to join the network. [Italtel](#) announced that it is a new partner of AI@EDGE, the Horizon2020 research project, which involves industries, universities and research institutes from eight different countries committed to developing an AI platform for edge computing beyond 5G. [SAP](#) launched its business-to-business accelerator program at SAP.iO Foundry Tokyo with focus on the Intelligent Enterprise. Five early-stage startups working in the areas of digital supply chain and customer experience have been selected to join the program.

Network Evolution News

In network evolution news, [TELUS](#) and the governments of Quebec and Canada are investing nearly \$30 million to deploy a fiber network to more than 20,000 additional families and businesses in nearly 35 communities, a step to closing the digital divide. [TELUS](#) is also investing in additional regions in 2021 to accelerate fiber deployment that will drive innovation.

The [FCC](#) announced its latest efforts to protect customers from unwanted and scam robocalls and spoofed calls. These include notices to operators, cease-and-desist notifications, and new tracking efforts that support TRACED, which went into effect in early 2020.

In other network evolution news, [Telxius and Ciena](#) have announced a collaboration to power two transatlantic submarine cables, Marea and Dunant. [Thales and Ericsson](#) are partnering with EDF to bring mobile broadband connectivity to all of EDF's nuclear energy sites in France—those in production and under deconstruction. [NEC and Cisco](#) announced that they will work together under a new agreement that expands their existing partnership to accelerate the deployment of innovative 5G IP transport network solutions worldwide.

In satellite news, [Northrop Grumman](#) and the company's wholly owned subsidiary SpaceLogistics LLC have successfully completed the docking of the Mission Extension Vehicle-2 to the Intelsat 10-02 commercial communications satellite to deliver life-extension services. This is only the second time the company has docked two satellites in orbit.

Netcracker Technology and global satellite operator [Telesat announced that Netcracker](#) has been selected to implement its cloud-native digital BSS/OSS software suite for Telesat's latest technology offering, Telesat Lightspeed. This will help Telesat advance innovation in its LEO (low-earth orbit) satellite network. In other news, [Gilat Satellite Networks](#) has been tapped for \$20 million in orders for new gateways for LEO satellite constellations.

5G News

5G news this month brimmed with innovation. Working to demonstrate the potential of 5G, [Nokia and Optus](#) announced that they achieved a record-breaking aggregate site throughput of 10 Gbps during a downlink speed demonstration at a live 5G site in Brisbane.

In Singapore, [Singtel](#) launched GENIE, the first portable 5G platform in the world to enable enterprises to bring 5G's capabilities and trial use cases in their own premises without prior installation of equipment or a network. It can be leveraged to create temporary 5G networks.

Pushing to expand US 5G coverage, [Nokia](#) announced an agreement with LG Uplus to install new Nokia AirScale equipment across the country to enable seamless 5G indoor and outdoor connectivity. [Verizon](#) is speeding up deployment of its 5G Ultra Wideband and fixed wireless broadband service on its recently acquired C-band spectrum—secured in the recent FCC auction—with the installation of C-band equipment from Ericsson and Samsung. Verizon also inked deals with Crown Castle and SBA to speed deployment of C-band equipment for this newly acquired spectrum.

Globally, [BT](#) has expanded its 5G network across the United Kingdom as lockdowns start to lift. In Asia, [Nokia](#) announced that it has been chosen by Chunghwa Telecom to expand the operator's 5G network in Taiwan.

IoT and Connectivity News

Developments in Industrial IoT made headlines this month. Enea announced that it has launched the new [Enea 5G MicroCore](#), built for enterprises using private 5G networks to support smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0 initiatives. [T-Systems and GFT](#) are collaborating on the Industrial Internet of Things to offer the manufacturing industry solutions for analyzing big data for machines, production and planning.

To further advance IoT innovation, [Telekom](#) is making preactivated SIM cards available later this year to startups, newcomers, and small companies that want to create their own IoT environment. The program debuts in September with a maximum of 10 preactivated SIM cards per customer.

In Europe, [Atos](#) announced its role in coordinating and actively contributing to the European robotic agriculture project “FlexiGroBots.” This initiative aims to empower robot-makers, engineers and service providers to build and deploy multi-robot systems for the agri-food industry to support farmers in their daily work.

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