Technology Industry News

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We're moving forward into a new normal, some of our pandemic shifts and habits are here to stay. This is the thread emerging from research released this month from a variety of sources, including from the Ericsson ConsumerLab on consumer behavior, Juniper Research on smartphones, and several specialist cybersecurity firms. These headlines make our focus on this month's issue theme—IoT and the Device Revolution—that much more relevant, as it is through our connected devices that some of the next great leaps forward are coming.

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 weekly.

IoT News

With this month's theme in mind, we were especially focused on IoT news from around the globe as it relates to smart everything, growth in IoT data, product developments and launches, partnerships and more.

As billions of IoT devices become connected, intelligent security in turn becomes more important. In response, [Ericsson and Orange](#) have launched a new IoT security offering, Threat Monitoring and Mitigation (TMM), enabling service providers to extend IoT connectivity offerings with security services.

The number of connected devices worldwide is growing exponentially—and analyst firm Juniper Research is tracking this growth. In a [new report](#), Juniper has found that iPhone sales are driving nearly 40 percent of the total smartphone hardware market, despite representing less than 20 percent of devices sold in 2021-22. The report highlights vulnerabilities in a features-based marketing approach, with the market tipping favorably toward a curated hardware-software system.

This growth isn't only in smartphones; it's also evident in the proliferation of smart devices of all kinds in our homes. Seeing this, Radisys has unveiled the [Radisys Reach Smart Home solution](#), enabling service providers to offer their customers a safe and secure home by connecting all smart appliances, sensors and controllers—and, in so doing, monetize the smart home.

In other global IoT news, Nokia announced that [HMD Global](#) will use Nokia's WING network (Worldwide IoT Network Grid) to enable seamless global IoT connectivity at an enterprise scale with its Connect Pro solution, with visibility into thousands of mobile assets over a single platform. In IoT connectivity news, [Cisco](#) has rolled out a new portfolio of industrial routers to extend the enterprise network to the edge with the flexibility, security and scalability needed for IoT success.

[TOMIA](#) has introduced a new blockchain-enabled solution to enable mobile operators to better capture monetization opportunities resulting from industry changes driven by the rapid increase in IoT traffic and the accelerating rollout of 5G networks.

Finally, to advance IoT connectivity, [Senet is collaborating with SenRa](#) to integrate its network with SenRa's Ginjer IoT Analytics platform, which will open access to global carrier-grade LoRaWAN connectivity and real-time application performance data. It will also allow users to securely manage IoT data at scale.

Innovation News

In innovation news, new research from the [Ericsson ConsumerLab](#) provided key insights about post-pandemic life. Called "The Future Urban Reality," this consumer study revealed that digital habits adopted over the last 16 months are to be the "new normal" as we handle an increasing number of elements of our daily lives online. On average, consumers will spend as much as 10 hours per week or more online by 2025.

[Atos](#) has been awarded a contract by the University of Edinburgh to deliver the energy-efficient supercomputing system BullSequana XH2000 to the UK's DiRAC HPC Facility. The platform will help scientists unlock secrets of the universe, including driving forward world-leading research in particle physics and other areas.

Innovation is making advancements in connected vehicles and travel a reality—but new problems are arising. In recognition, [Vodafone, Nokia and Chordant](#) are developing a new mobility cloud platform to improve the safety of road users, and it is being tested for the first time on the open

road in the UK. This "vehicle to everything" road system will provide digitally connected road users with live, highly localized traffic updates. Continental and Deutsche Telekom are also focusing on safety by developing a system that warns of accidents between connected vehicles and cyclists or other vulnerable road users such as scooter riders and pedestrians.

As work in innovation prepares humanity for a return to the Moon with NASA's Artemis I mission, Northrup Grumman is getting ready to provide the propulsion. The firm announced the shipment of 10 rocket motor segments to the Kennedy Space Center, assembled with 3D printing and computer modeling to modify heritage component designs from NASA's defunct shuttle program. But it's not just the sky Northrup Grumman is focusing on; it's been awarded a newly expanded role as systems integrator for C5ISR and control systems on the US Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) to make navigating the sea safer and more secure.

Technical innovation news also included announcements of partnerships designed to push the boundaries of new ideas and developments. AT&T and Texas A&M University will open private 5G testbeds this fall to public and private sector organizations to develop and innovate with 5G powered applications and solutions. Morgan Stanley and Microsoft announced a strategic cloud partnership designed to help shape the future of innovation in the financial services industry. And Alteryx and KPMG announced a strategic alliance to help organizations accelerate data-driven business transformations, combining Alteryx's data science, analytics and process automation platform with KPMG strategy, technology and professional services experience.

5G News

In global 5G news, a new Ericsson Mobility Report projects that 5G mobile subscriptions will exceed 580 million by the end of 2021, driven by an estimated one million new 5G mobile subscriptions every day. According to the research, 5G remains on track to become the fastest adopted mobile generation in history.

The pace of 5G rollouts, adoption, and innovation is hot, and challenges of 5G complexity are real. To help mobile operators overcome them, Guavus introduced a new 5G network data analytics product, called Guavus 5G-IQ NWDAF, to tackle 5G complexity and deliver new 5G services.

In other 5G news, Nokia, Qualcomm Technologies, and UScellular announced that they have achieved a world record extended range over mmWave of more than 10km utilizing Nokia's 5G extended-range millimeter Wave (mmWave) solution on a commercial network. Nokia also announced together with AT&T the acceleration of the US C-Band rollout with the completion of the first call on AT&T's network utilizing C-Band spectrum. In other Nokia 5G news, it has launched a new platform and services to strengthen 5G security for service providers.

Vodafone has had a busy month in 5G news, too. Vodafone has selected key strategic vendors to build Europe's first commercial Open RAN network. Among them are Dell, NEC, Samsung Electronics, Wind River, Capgemini Engineering and Keysight Technologies. In the next step

toward advancing Open RAN, [Vodafone](#) and its partners Cohere Technologies, VMware, Capgemini Engineering, Intel and Telecom Infra Project have successfully demonstrated how the network platform can further boost the capacity of 5G where multiple customers are using the same site. This is Europe's first multivendor RAN Intelligent Controller implementation. And in the UK, [Vodafone](#) has named NEC as its key supplier for 5G massive MIMO radio units for building commercial Open RAN.

Speaking of Open RAN, [Nokia](#) has announced the opening of its Open RAN Collaboration and Testing Center at its offices in Dallas. The center is designed to support the development of partnerships among O-RAN vendors that will help with the verification, introduction, and launch of O-RAN compliant solutions to market.

Network Evolution News

In network evolution news, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) has proposed rules that would prohibit all future authorizations for communications equipment deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to national security. This is the latest action to protect the supply chain of equipment and services within the US and a step to ensure that public funds are not used to undermine or pose a threat to national security. In another public safety move, the [FCC](#) announced breakthrough agreements with the US's three largest mobile phone providers to start delivering vertical location information in connection with 911 calls nationwide.

In Canada, [TELUS](#) has invested $25 million to connect more than 90 percent of homes and businesses in Leduc, Alberta directly to its fiber optic network as part of its commitment to invest $14.5 billion in infrastructure and operations across Alberta through 2024.

In the UK, [BT](#) has initiated trials of a new type of optical fiber—hollow core fiber—at the BT Labs in Ipswich, in a collaborative project with Lumenisity and Mavenir.

In other network evolution news, Lumen has launched [Lumen Media Transformation](#), which takes live and on-demand video from the camera to the edge to enrich content and provide high-quality online viewing experiences with Lumen's global fiber and edge networks.

AI News

New developments in AI news made headlines this month. Cellwize Wireless Technologies announced a collaboration with Intel to propel deployment of [automated AI-driven 5G vRAN](#) networks. Virtualization of RAN is necessary to support the use cases and performance requirements of 5G, as vRAN is more agile and flexible than the hardware-based RAN that most operators are currently using.

Six major corporations—Repsol, Gestamp, Navantia, Técnicas Reunidas, Telefónica, and Microsoft—have joined forces to create [IndesIA](#), the first data economy and artificial intelligence

consortium in the Spanish industrial sector. Focused on Spain with a European outlook, the consortium aims to take on more companies and integrate different business sectors.

NEC has enhanced CropScope, its agricultural ICT platform, with new functions to improve farming, including a service that provides farming advice using artificial intelligence. The AI capitalizes on a wealth of know-how from experienced cultivators, enabling it to provide guidance on the optimum amount of water, fertilizer and the best time to apply them. In other innovative AI news, iCAD's third generation artificial intelligence solution for 3D mammography received CE Mark approval—meaning AI is now being used to fight breast cancer.

As AI moves into ever more areas of our daily lives, Deutsche Telekom and its technology partner Cognigy have unveiled smart voice and verified chatbots with unbiased AI for customer contact management; the solution is one of the first to be verified in accordance with criteria for trustworthy AI.

Security News

Cybersecurity news included insights from new research that reveals the vulnerabilities in our increasingly digital lives. A new global survey from Enea reveals that lockdowns in many of the world's leading economies contributed to children being left unsupervised online for extended periods. The report finds that 50 percent of parents want mobile operators to provide safeguards and are willing to pay for it. Positive Technologies reported that extensive analysis of cyberthreats in 2020 reveals a 91 percent jump in attacks on industrial companies and a 54 percent rise in malware-related attacks compared to 2019. In addition, the total number of incidents grew by 51 percent compared to 2019. Nexusguard's Annual Threat Report 2020 has found that cyberattacks increased 341 percent during the pandemic, targeting industries providing connectivity, services and entertainment to populations forced to shelter-in-place. In addition, Black Lotus Labs, the threat intelligence arm of Lumen Technologies, recently uncovered a hacktivist campaign that leveraged misconfigured routers and switches to distribute an anti-government manifesto. More than 18,000 devices worldwide are still exposed to potential abuse.

In response to the growing threats, leading companies have introduced new solutions and partnerships in security news this month. AT&T is now offering an advisory team for cybersecurity, the AT&T USM Anywhere Advisers. Stellar Cyber has enhanced its Open XDR security operations platform with centralized management and visibility functionality. Subex and Spire Solutions have embarked on a strategic alliance to address the steep rise in cyberattacks and cyber risk in the Middle East and Africa, starting with a major oil and gas company.

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