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Enterprise IT & Telecom Technology News

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The telecom industry in early 2026 continues its accelerated evolution, driven by deepening 5G Standalone deployments, widespread Open RAN adoption, non-terrestrial network integration, AI-native operations, enhanced security against emerging threats, sovereign and hyperscale cloud expansions, multi-orbit IoT connectivity, agentic AI for customer experiences, and strategic market realignments. This comprehensive editorial roundup synthesizes developments from Pipeline Magazine's recent coverage, grouping announcements by category to highlight how operators, vendors, and ecosystem players are building intelligent, resilient, and monetizable networks for digital transformation.



Mobile & Network News

Operators and equipment providers are aggressively advancing 5G Standalone architectures, Open RAN scalability, satellite backhaul and direct-to-device connectivity, subsea/terrestrial fiber upgrades, and performance breakthroughs to deliver ultra-reliable, high-capacity networks that support enterprise edge applications, industrial use cases, and seamless global coverage.

[Vodafone](http://www.vodafone.com)'s Carrier Services business has strengthened its wholesale internet offerings in Greece via a strategic partnership with global internet exchange [NetIX](http://www.netix.com), enabling third-party ISPs, content providers, and operators to access enhanced interconnectivity and scalable capacity to and from Greece at 100 Gbps or 400 Gbps. This collaboration complements [Vodafone](http://www.vodafone.com)'s self-built infrastructure, including the Thetis Express subsea optical fibre cable linking Crete to the mainland at up to 180 terabits per second, positioning Greece as a key digital corridor in Europe. [Vodafone](http://www.vodafone.com) is establishing four high-speed wholesale routes (including Thetis Express) and three land-based optical fibre transport cables for improved resilience between Greece, Europe, and Southeast Asia, with

future connectivity to the 2Africa cable system spanning 33 countries across Africa, Europe, and Asia. The partnership supports SD-WAN extensions and managed private network services, addressing surging internet demand in Greece where 87% of the population was online by late 2025.

[Anritsu](#) achieved the industry's first European EN 18052:2025 certification for its Hybrid eCall evaluation solution, centered on the eCall Tester MX703330E and built atop the MD8475B Signalling Tester platform. Certification followed rigorous testing by [cetecom advanced](#) and confirms reliable end-to-end validation of Hybrid eCall systems operating across 2G/3G circuit-switched and 4G packet-switched networks. The solution streamlines testing with dedicated software, eliminating multiple applications, and includes NG eCall and Hybrid eCall options plus integrated PSAP simulation for in-vehicle system (IVS) conformance. This supports automotive manufacturers and suppliers in meeting mandatory Next Generation eCall requirements for all new EU vehicle type approvals starting January 1, 2026, ensuring seamless emergency call continuity via SRVCC switching from VoLTE to legacy networks and contributing to safer mobile societies through robust interoperability across IVS, MNOs, and PSAPs.

[Carma Technology Corporation](#), in collaboration with the [North Central Texas Council of Governments](#) and independently evaluated by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, completed the United States' largest road usage charge (RUC) pilot to date. The program enrolled more than 41,000 participants—far exceeding prior U.S. pilots—and captured over 64 million miles of real-world driving using Carma's smartphone-first, hardware-free, cloud-based platform. No manual activation, vehicle pairing, or proprietary devices were required, enabling rapid policy adjustments, corridor pricing, and scalability. Evaluation confirmed policy-grade mileage data accuracy, strong sustained participation, operational flexibility, and sharply declining per-user administrative costs at higher enrollment levels. These results demonstrate viability for statewide or multi-state mileage-based funding alternatives, integration with managed lanes and tolling interoperability, and reduced equity/friction challenges compared to hardware-dependent approaches.

[Rakuten Mobile](#) is deploying [IFinity](#)'s massive MIMO Open RAN radios at scale throughout its fully virtualized, cloud-native network in Japan this year. The 3.7 GHz 32A37 mMIMO O-RU model leverages [Qualcomm](#) Dragonwing QRUI00 platforms and interoperates via O-RAN open fronthaul with Rakuten Symphony centralized and distributed units. This complements existing IFinity 44R21 wide-coverage RUs, delivering substantial network capacity gains through advanced beamforming and spatial multiplexing (surpassing conventional 4T4R solutions), improved coverage, and high energy efficiency with low power consumption for sustainable operations.

[SmarTone](#) has designated [Ericsson](#) as its 5G Advanced technology provider to reinforce its network performance and pursue high-performing programmable network goals. [Ericsson](#) supplies the latest Massive MIMO radios, including the energy-efficient AIR 3255 model (30% lower power consumption and 20% reduced embodied CO2 footprint versus prior generations) and ultralight 24 kg triple-band macro radios.

These enhancements support dynamic resource control via intelligent automation, intent-driven operations, AI, and open architectures for automatic traffic prioritization and service optimization. Network slicing enables on-demand QoS alignment with pricing for consumers and enterprises, while [Ericsson](#)'s Local Packet Gateway facilitates secure, geographically redundant Mobile Edge Computing and scalable user plane functions for Fixed Wireless Access and home broadband.

[Vodafone](#) accomplished the world's first space video call from a complete no-coverage zone using a standard mobile phone connected to [AST SpaceMobile](#) commercial satellites. Engineers assembled a temporary 2.4-meter, one-tonne satellite dish gateway in a Newbury office car park within three days, linking it to an upgraded base station and Vodafone's core network over 500 km distances. The setup delivered strong signals far beyond typical mobile tower ranges (limited to ~4 km), demonstrating viability for addressing rural not-spots (e.g., Welsh valleys). Plans include relocating the gateway permanently to support commercial 4G/5G satellite broadband services launching later in 2026 with sufficient constellation coverage for always-on connectivity.

Further advancements span [TELUS](#) commissioning a nearly 125-km submarine fibre optic cable buried in the St. Lawrence River seabed for essential redundancy east of Baie-Comeau; [Gilat](#) receiving multi-million-dollar orders for LEO constellation ground infrastructure and European MoD transportable terminals; [Ericsson](#), [Far EasTone](#), and [OPPO](#) validating an integrated 5G SA ecosystem enabling differentiated B2B2C models; [Ericsson](#), [Leonardo](#), and the Italian Navy trialing maritime 5G SA connectivity in day/night open-sea scenarios; [Ericsson](#) demonstrating drone detection via Integrated Sensing and Communication using massive-MIMO radios at its U.S. headquarters; and [Ericsson](#) completing the world's first 6G pre-standard over-the-air session. [AST SpaceMobile](#) successfully unfolded BlueBird 6, featuring the largest commercial LEO communications array (~2,400 square feet) for peak data speeds up to 120 Mbps and tenfold bandwidth capacity over prior satellites. [Telstra](#), [Ericsson](#), and [Qualcomm](#) achieved a 682 Mbps 5G uplink on Telstra's live Queensland network, marking a significant performance improvement.

AI & Analytics News

Agentic AI, AIOps, domain-trained models, and AI-native architectures are transforming telecom operations from reactive to predictive and autonomous, unlocking efficiency gains, new monetization models, and enterprise-grade intelligence.

[Ericsson](#) launched Agentic rApp as a Service on AWS, enabling reasoning and coordination for network optimization workflows. [Nokia](#) and [AWS](#) demonstrated the first agentic AI-powered 5G-Advanced network slicing solution in live environments, with [du](#) and [Orange](#) exploring intent-based premium services. [Amdocs](#) introduced aOS, a telecom-specific agentic operating system that embeds generative AI atop any BSS/OSS stack to elevate experiences, unlock growth, and drive measurable efficiency. [Tata Communications](#) unveiled an AI-ready suite of platforms and solutions for confident, controlled scaling of artificial intelligence adoption. [ServiceNow](#) partnered with [Anthropic](#) to integrate Claude models into core workflows for application development, healthcare, and life sciences,

powering agentic capabilities in ServiceNow Build Agent. [Infosys](#) collaborated with [Anthropic](#) on advanced enterprise AI solutions tailored for telecommunications, financial services, manufacturing, and software development.

[Deutsche Telekom](#) launched its Industrial AI Cloud in partnership with [NVIDIA](#) and Polarise, built over six months as an AI factory for mission-critical applications. [Singtel](#) established a Centre of Excellence for Applied AI with [NVIDIA](#) to build a trusted sovereign AI ecosystem in Singapore. [Snowflake](#) advanced its Cortex Code AI coding agent for data-native development, Semantic View Autopilot for automated governance of business metrics in AI agents, and expansions supporting external sources like dbt and Apache Airflow. [Spirent](#) introduced Luma, a domain-trained agentic AI solution for network testing and assurance, accelerating result interpretation, troubleshooting, and reduction of expert dependency.

Additional momentum includes [Ericsson](#) and [KT](#) completing a mid-band Frequency Division Duplex Massive MIMO trial in Korea toward AI-powered 6G; [SoftBank](#) and [Ericsson](#) conducting a proof-of-concept for low-latency, reliable networks required for Physical AI and distributed workloads in robotics/autonomous systems; [Lumen](#) adopting [Blue Planet](#) AI Studio agents across network domains for faster, context-aware outcomes in building trusted AI networks; and [Radisys](#) partnering with [Rakuten Mobile](#) to enable AI-enhanced digital services via the Engage Digital Platform, monetizing network investments through programmable Gen-AI-powered media applications.

Security & Assurance News

With AI accelerating adversary tactics and expanding attack surfaces, providers are prioritizing identity-centric defenses, post-quantum readiness, real-time intelligence sharing, and Zero Trust for critical infrastructure and agentic workflows.

[Palo Alto Networks](#) completed its acquisition of [CyberArk](#), establishing identity security as a core platform pillar to protect human, machine, and agentic identities. Unit 42's 2026 Global Incident Response Report, based on over 750 incidents, revealed AI usage throughout attack lifecycles accelerating breach speeds fourfold.

[CrowdStrike](#)'s 2026 Global Threat Report noted average eCrime breakout times falling to 29 minutes (fastest at 27 seconds) due to AI tools, with partnerships including an MoU with [Aramco](#) for Kingdom-wide cybersecurity and AI transformation; [NordVPN](#) selecting CrowdStrike Threat Intelligence for Threat Protection Pro; [Qualtrics](#) integration for real-time risk visibility in experience programs; and [VAST Data](#) combining data-layer governance with CrowdStrike threat detection/response.

[Kaspersky](#) reported 44.99% of global email traffic as spam in 2025, with over 144 million malicious attachments (15% increase year-over-year), discovered [Keenadu](#) malware preinstalled or embedded in Android devices/firmware, and enhanced Anti Targeted Attack 8.0 for improved network visibility and early sophisticated threat detection. [NICE Actimize](#) launched the Actimize Insights Network, leveraging fraud/financial crime intelligence for real-time counterparty risk visibility and pre-transaction prevention. [Cloudflare](#) and [Mastercard](#) partnered to develop comprehensive cyber defense tools for small businesses,

critical infrastructure, and governments, incorporating modern post-quantum encryption in Cloudflare's Secure Access Service Edge. [Akamai](#) introduced agentless Zero Trust segmentation powered by [NVIDIA](#) BlueField DPUs to protect operational technology and industrial control systems from sophisticated attacks.

Cloud News

Sovereign cloud initiatives, AI-optimized infrastructures, and multi-cloud connectivity are addressing data sovereignty, latency, and hyperscale demands amid exploding AI workloads.

[Deutsche Telekom](#) is significantly expanding T Cloud Public into a fully-fledged sovereign high-tech alternative for Europe, closing feature gaps with U.S. providers by end-2026 in core capabilities and specialized AI services. [Netlife Ecuador](#) commercially deployed [ZTE](#)'s Smart Cloud Platform to enhance home network visualization, manageability, and intelligent operations. [Bell Canada](#) and [SAP](#) signed an MoU for a comprehensive Canadian-operated cloud solution meeting stringent data protection standards to bolster digital sovereignty. [Oracle](#) introduced new capabilities in Fusion Cloud Supply Chain & Manufacturing for process industries, unifying formulas, recipes, materials, and batch execution for real-time visibility and regulatory compliance. [US Signal](#) expanded OpenCloud with Desktop-as-a-Service and SyncSafe Replication for flexible enterprise infrastructure and workload mobility. [Zilliz Cloud](#) launched a new region in AWS eu-west-1 (Ireland) to support data locality, compliance, and performance for AI applications in Western Europe, the UK, and Ireland. [Lumen](#) expanded its enterprise networking portfolio with Multi-Cloud Gateway and enhanced metro data center connectivity across major U.S. markets to resolve AI infrastructure bottlenecks.

IoT and Innovation News

Multi-orbit satellite integration, compact modules, narrowband NTN testing, quantum workforce development, and post-quantum cryptography are expanding IoT reliability and future-proofing connectivity.

[Deutsche Telekom](#) enabled multi-orbit IoT roaming for seamless data transmission via terrestrial mobile networks or satellite depending on coverage.

[Iridium](#) launched the 9604, a three-in-one compact IoT module combining Short Burst Data satellite service, LTE-M cellular, and GNSS positioning to reduce complexity, costs, and time-to-market for dual-mode deployments. [Rohde & Schwarz](#) and [Viasat](#) partnered on a Narrowband Non-Terrestrial Networks IoT test plan to validate device interoperability with Viasat's network for uninterrupted satellite-based IoT applications. [EPB](#) initiated a Quantum Computing Fellowship program with eight participants for hands-on training and real-world quantum solution development to build a local quantum-ready workforce. [D-Wave](#) joined the Southeastern Quantum Collaborative as an inaugural member alongside universities and defense firms. [Cloudflare](#) achieved the world's first complete Secure Access Service Edge supporting modern post-quantum encryption standards.

CX/DX News

Agentic AI is delivering measurable customer experience improvements in production environments.

[NICE](#)'s Agentic AI CX Frontline report provided the industry's first data-backed analysis of large enterprises deploying agentic AI, achieving double-digit reductions in cost per contact, containment rates exceeding 80%, and CSAT gains up to 20% through automated, intelligent interactions.

Market News

Leadership changes, major acquisitions, divestitures, and consortium deals reflect consolidation and strategic repositioning.

[Amdocs](#) appointed Shimie Hortig as CEO succeeding retiring Shuky Sheffer. [Mediacom Communications](#) named Giuseppe B. Commisso Chairman and CEO following the passing of founder Rocco B. Commisso. [AT&T](#) completed its \$5.75 billion all-cash acquisition of substantially all [Lumen](#) Mass Markets fiber assets.

[TransUnion](#) signed a definitive agreement to acquire [RealNetworks](#)' mobile division, augmenting capabilities with AI/ML and real-time analytics for fraud reduction and engagement. [EXFO](#) sold its Adaptive Service Assurance division to Teleo Capital, forming NumoData to accelerate service assurance innovation. [Lumen](#) appointed Jeff Sharritts Executive Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer. A KKR-led consortium with [Singtel](#) signed agreements to acquire the remaining 82% stake in [ST Telemedia Global Data Centres](#) for S\$6.6 billion (~US\$5.1 billion).

IT & Telecom News Digest

The telecom industry in early 2026 has reached a decisive turning point, where foundational technologies that were once emerging experiments—5G Standalone, Open RAN, non-terrestrial networks, agentic AI, sovereign cloud, multi-orbit IoT, post-quantum security, and programmable platforms—are now converging into mature, production-grade ecosystems. What began as isolated proofs-of-concept and pilot deployments has solidified into a coherent industry direction: operators are no longer primarily competing on raw bandwidth or coverage footprint, but on how intelligently, securely, and flexibly they can orchestrate connectivity to power enterprise digital transformation, industrial automation, and consumer experiences at scale.

The most visible shift is the maturation of 5G as a programmable, intent-driven fabric. Standalone cores, massive MIMO efficiency gains, network slicing, and edge computing are no longer optional enhancements; they are baseline expectations that enable differentiated QoS, low-latency applications, and dynamic resource allocation. Satellite and NTN extensions have closed the final coverage gaps, turning “no-signal zones” into viable service areas and creating hybrid terrestrial-satellite continuity that supports mobility, rural broadband, and mission-critical use cases. This infrastructure layer is increasingly self-optimizing and energy-aware, reflecting a broader push toward sustainable, autonomous networks that respond to business intent rather than manual configuration.

Layered atop this is the rapid mainstreaming of agentic AI and AIOps. What started as generative tools for chat interfaces has evolved into reasoning, coordinating, and executing agents that handle complex telecom workflows—fault prediction, resource orchestration, optimization loops, and assurance—with minimal human oversight. Domain-specific models and telecom-tailored operating systems are embedding intelligence directly into BSS/OSS stacks, turning operations from cost centers into value drivers. Sovereign AI clouds and industrial AI factories underscore a parallel trend: data locality, regulatory compliance, and trusted compute are now non-negotiable for enterprises and governments, driving regional cloud builds that rival hyperscale providers while keeping sensitive workloads on-shore.

Security has moved from reactive patching to proactive, identity-first architectures. AI-accelerated attack lifecycles have compressed breakout times dramatically, forcing the industry to adopt zero-trust segmentation, post-quantum cryptography, real-time threat intelligence sharing, and agentic identity protection at scale. Critical infrastructure, OT environments, and agent-driven workflows are now defended with the same rigor once reserved for core financial systems.

Cloud and edge strategies reflect the same maturity: sovereign alternatives are closing capability gaps, multi-cloud gateways are eliminating lock-in and latency pain points, and AI-optimized fabrics are turning data centers into efficient workload engines rather than passive storage silos. IoT connectivity has followed suit, with seamless multi-orbit roaming and compact dual-mode devices making massive, reliable scale economically viable.

Customer experience has crossed the chasm from pilot metrics to enterprise-scale outcomes. Agentic AI deployments are consistently delivering double-digit cost reductions per contact, containment rates well above 80%, and meaningful CSAT lifts—proving that intelligent automation can simultaneously improve efficiency and satisfaction when applied thoughtfully.

Market movements tell the same story of consolidation and reinvestment: leadership transitions, fiber and mobile asset acquisitions, data-center stake sales, and large-scale divestitures are freeing capital and aligning portfolios to fund the heavy infrastructure and AI investments required for the next phase.

In aggregate, early 2026 reveals a telecom sector that has decisively moved beyond “connectivity as a commodity.” Operators and vendors are building layered, intelligent platforms where 5G provides the physical foundation, AI supplies the cognitive engine, cloud/edge delivers the compute scale, security ensures trust, and IoT extends the reach. The result is an ecosystem that is more adaptive, more secure, more programmable, and more monetizable—positioning telecom as the indispensable backbone of an AI-driven, always-on digital world rather than merely a utility provider. The momentum captured across these announcements points to sustained multi-year investment cycles, deeper enterprise partnerships, and a clear path toward telecom becoming the enabling layer for physical AI, autonomous systems, and inclusive global connectivity.