

TELSTRA: Corporate affairs head Tony Warren leaves for ANZ

CANBERRA DATA CENTRES: Invests in 5th local facility

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM: Why it doesn't roll out FTTP

SPIRIT TELECOM
Buys wireless ISP
World Without Wires,
expands in NSW/Qld

COMMUNICATIONS DAY

28 August 2017

Daily intelligence for the telecom C-suite

ISSUE 5447

Casa, C-Cor target Australian opportunities in NBN, competitor fixed & wireless

US-headquartered broadband infrastructure provider Casa Systems is targeting opportunities with NBN and other major telco players in Australia, focused particularly on small cells and distributed, multi-access tech architecture, **EXCLUSIVE** via its local partnership with C-Cor. Casa CEO Jerry Guo spoke exclusively to CommsDay on a visit to Australia along with C-Cor MD John Goddard.

As revealed by CommsDay, Melbourne-based telco equipment supplier C-Cor officially announced its ANZ-exclusive alliance with Casa in January this year after splitting with previous vendor partner Arris – one of NBN's HFC suppliers and a direct rival to Casa. For Guo, ever-increasing and “insatiable” demand for bandwidth in Australia plus a trend towards fixed-mobile network convergence make the local market an interesting proposition.

“When we look at broadband infrastructure, we see three segments. We see the cable side of broadband infrastructure [such as] cable modems and CMTS converged cable access platforms; we see telco broadband infrastructure, optical and DSLAM; and the third segment is mobile. And we see that all three are actually converging,” he said.

“We as a company are providing solutions in all three segments and especially for the convergence of all broadband infrastructure, HFC, optical, and mobile networks. We are playing in cable infrastructure and optical routing infrastructure as well as small cells, picocells and 5G cells going forward [plus] the packet core side: the core networks which aggregate and control all the access networks.”

Casa and C-Cor believe there could still be opportunities in the NBN HFC supply chain, particularly with the forthcoming upgrade to DOCSIS 3.1, a technology in which Casa positions itself as a market leader. But they are particularly focused on the possibility of helping NBN expand its fixed wireless network via small cell deployment at the network edge.

“In fixed wireless infrastructure, there are opportunities with a company like NBN;



Jerry Guo and John Goddard

October 10 and 11, 2017 Langham Hotel, Melbourne

COMMSDAY MELBOURNE CONGRESS - 2017

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE



NBN chair
Dr Ziggy
Switkowski



Telstra COO
Robyn
Denholm



Symbio
Networks'
Rene Sugo



Wideband
Networks'
Phillip Britt



Vodafone
Australia's
Ben McIntosh



Shadow comms
minister
Michelle
Rowland



Telsoc
president
Professor
Reg Coutts



Enex Testlabs
managing
director
Matt Tett



Optus
Business'
John
Paitradis



Telecomms
Industry
Ombudsman
Judi Jones



ACCAN's
Teresa
Corbin



New Street
Research's
Ian Martin



Netcomm
Wireless'
Steve Collins



Comms
Alliance's
John Stanton



AMTA's
Chris
Althaus

CommsDay Melbourne Congress is the peak telecommunications industry event in the state of Victoria. The event is now in its 10th year and attracts nearly 300 delegates from the telecom sector C-suite. The Congress returns in 2017 bigger and better than ever, with signature presentations from NBN, Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, Macquarie Telecom and government.

FEATURED SPEAKERS from Symbio Networks, Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, NBN, Wideband Networks, Macquarie Telecom, Comms Alliance, ACCAN, TIO, Nokia, Cyient, Netcomm Wireless, Cisco, NEXTDC, Coutts Communications, ImmediateConsulting, New Street Research, Enex TestLabs, ACMA (TBC), ACCC (TBC) and Federal Parliament.

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October 10 and 11, 2017 Langham Hotel, Melbourne

COMMSDAY MELBOURNE CONGRESS - 2017

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 DAY 1 program

8.30 Registration and coffee
8.55 MC introduction

KEYNOTES

9.00 NBN chairman Dr Ziggy Switkowski
9.25 Symbio Networks CEO Rene Sugo
9.50 ACCC executive to be confirmed
10.15 Wideband Networks CEO Philip Britt

10.40 Refreshments

PLENARIES

11.00 Cisco speaker TBC
11.25 Enex Testlabs CEO Matt Tett:
"RIP Perimeters, Password and Privacy"
11.50 Netcomm Wireless CTO Steve Collins
12.15 Telsoc president & Coutts Communications CEO
Professor Reg Coutts
"Australia's satellite sector: where to now?"
12.40 Nokia speaker TBC
1.05 Lunch sponsored by Nokia

WIRELESS SESSION

2.10 Ruckus Wireless' Jason Baden
2.20 AMTA CEO Chris Althaus
2.40 Vodafone director, consumer business unit
Ben McIntosh
3.00 iPass CEO Gary Griffiths
3.20 Refreshments

WHOLESALE & DATA CENTRE SESSION

3.40 Optus Wholesale speaker TBC
4.00 Macquarie Telecom head of cloud
James Mystakidis
4.20 **Data centre panel discussion:**
Featuring panelists from NEXTDC, Macquarie,
Airtouch and more
5.00 Conference cocktails
6.00 Close

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11 DAY 2 program

8.30 Registration and coffee
8.55 MC introduction

KEYNOTES

9.00 TBC
9.25 Shadow Communications
Minister Michelle Rowland
9.50 Telstra chief operating officer Robyn Denholm
10.15 ACMA chairman Richard Bean (TBC)

10.40 Refreshments

PLENARIES

11.00 Optus Business director John Paitaridis
"Real world experiences in cyber security"
11.25 Communications Alliance CEO John Stanton
11.50 Telecommunications Industry
Ombudsman Judi Jones
12.15 ACCAN CEO Teresa Corbin
12.40 Cyient's Kiram Solipuram
1.05 Lunch sponsored by Cyient

SUPERFAST BROADBAND SESSION

2.00 Ciena Advisor, APAC Customer Solutions
Andrew Roberts
2.20 Imediate Consulting principal Bob James
2.40 New Street Research senior analyst Ian Martin
3.00 **Superfast broadband panel session**
Featuring panelists from Nokia, Netcomm Wireless
and more
3.40 Close



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it's got that fixed wireless mandate, it can't go mobile, but it does hold 2.3GHz [spectrum] and 3.4-3.7GHz as well. Clearly, there are opportunities there for it to... transform that fixed wireless network into a small-cell fixed wireless network," said Goddard.

"Part of that driver for that expansion [would be] the fact that their core customers, [such as] Telstra and Optus and Vodafone I guess, are currently expanding their mobile networks and their fixed mobile networks into small cell structures, particularly Telstra... we could see a situation where the other operators are competing against NBN for customers with a mobile infrastructure."

However, the two companies are not restricting their overtures to NBN; they are also talking to other local fixed and wireless players, some of which are potential competitors to the national network.

"The opportunities we see in general [with] fixed broadband operators, not necessarily NBN specifically," said Guo, "are that when they push the node closer, fibre deeper, we [can] basically build a hardware platform - a digital node - which can act as an HFC node, which can act as a 5G cell -"

"- but can also host DSL, can also host optics -" put in Goddard

"- so for some business services or new builds, they could put an optical line terminal in that digital node to provide optical service. It's really about HFC, optical, as well as 5G or 4.5G cells going forwards," finished the Casa CEO. "We can [also] help the mobile operators to extend their coverage or provide densification of their network by putting the cells into areas that macrocells do not cover well. So it's both a fixed wireless opportunity as well as a mobile wireless opportunity."

Guo's trip to Australia has provided him and Goddard with the opportunity to engage in person with a range of potential customers. "We're talking to all the big guys, the major players; all the major telcos, and the Tier 2s," noted Goddard. "We've got a leading provider of ultra-broadband technology [in Casa], and the local supplier - us - with the feet on the ground, the local knowledge, the understanding of the deployment methods and methodologies [with] the capacity to customise product if required for localisation."

Petroc Wilton

...as NBN challenger Spirit Telecom buys up fixed wireless operator for \$4.6m

NBN challenger Spirit Telecom has announced the A\$4.6 million acquisition of World Without Wires, which has a fixed wireless network of 12,000km² across southeast Queensland and northern New South Wales serving 2,200 business and residential clients. The move builds on a growing industry theme of competition against the NBN from firms invested in fixed wireless, which face far milder near-term regulatory headwinds than their fixed-line counterparts.

Spirit is funding the acquisition, which will also bring on Wires CEO Dainen Keogh

as Spirit's new chief infrastructure officer, partly with a \$1.5 million equity placement and an extra \$2.2 million debt; it noted that Wires had generated \$2.6 million in revenue for the past fiscal year and a normalised earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of around \$1 million. Wires' network spans an area from Noosa to Byron Bay, complementing Spirit's existing holdings, and Spirit MD Geoff Neate (pictured) told CommsDay that he was looking at further expansion both organic and inorganic.

"We'll continue to look for other players, and for rollout opportunities there – but we'll also be building out both networks," he said. "We'll be expanding in NSW, there's a lot more of QLD to go and there's a lot more of Victoria to go."

Previously an NBN reseller, ASX-listed Spirit has been ramping up as a competitor to the national network in parts of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. While its own network includes significant fixed-line assets, it also has existing fixed wireless infrastructure; the new acquisition further strengthens it as one of a growing number of companies explicitly looking to wireless to challenge the NBN. About a year ago, serial telco entrepreneur Bevan Slattery announced his intent to acquire established fixed wireless player BigAir for this specific purpose. Uniti Wireless has similarly positioned itself as an NBN alternative with backing from Vocus founder James Spenceley – who also has an interest in Spirit via one of its investors, MHOR Asset Management, of which he is CEO.

One factor that could make wireless NBN competition an attractive prospect is that, under legislation now before Parliament, wireless would be exempt from a new \$7.10 per line charge to be levied on NBN rivals to help fund NBN non-commercial services – at least until a review set for five years out.

"I'm not overly concerned about the \$7.10 levy even if it was applied to fixed wireless, because [those paying it] can pass it through to endusers anyway, and the margins are there. I'd rather have the marginal costs that we have with our fixed wireless and managing the last mile than having a capacity virtual circuit charge and a marginal cost of around the \$42 mark being an NBN reseller!" said Neate. "But I think that's where the trend is coming from. We're still in an environment of regulatory uncertainty, but fixed wireless seems to have a pathway through which is advantageous, and I think that more players will probably see that and come into this space."

"Aside from the regulatory aspect, it allows us to improve our margin. We do control the last mile, we get to control the contention; there's a whole heap of reasons outside of regulatory that make this acquisition and this market attractive. We can [also] move a hell of a lot quicker with fixed wireless out to our geographic market than we can with any fibre or in-ground assets," he added. "We were, I think, one of the original NBN resellers but we stopped that a long time ago. The only NBN resale that we do is for VPNs... we don't sell single tails... we can't see anything really attractive about selling NBN at the moment."



Petroc Wilton

Telstra regulatory champion Tony Warren departs for ANZ; Carmel Mulhern steps up

Telstra corporate affairs group executive Dr Tony Warren, a longstanding lynchpin of the firm's regulatory engagement and a central figure in its past negotiations with government on its NBN deal, has resigned to take up a new role with ANZ Bank as group GM for communications and public affairs. He will be replaced by Telstra group general counsel Carmel Mulhern, whose existing responsibilities will be expanded to take in the corporate affairs role.



Tony Warren

A ten-year veteran of Telstra, Warren has been a prominent industry figure at the forefront of the telco's regulatory presence under past CEO Sol Trujillo – at a time when the firm's engagement with industry and government was much more openly combative – and also under the very different leadership of subsequent chief David Thodey and his successor, current CEO Andy Penn. Indeed, ANZ noted that “over the past seven years, Dr Warren has helped rebuild Telstra's relationships with regulators, government and the media, initially in his role leading the company's negotiations with the government regarding the NBN.”



Carmel Mulhern

“ANZ is committed to rebuilding our relationships with government, our customers and the wider community. Tony's appointment is an important sign we are focused on driving a culture of trust, integrity and character throughout the bank,” commented ANZ CEO Shayne Elliott.

Telstra's Penn thanked Warren for his work at Telstra and said that Mulhern was a “natural fit” for the corporate affairs position.

“Carmel has been at Telstra for 17 years and in that time has shown tremendous leadership protecting Telstra's reputation and managing risk across our business,” said the Telstra CEO.

“Carmel is well suited to this new role, having a strong knowledge of government, a central role in Telstra's most sensitive communications for many years, and a keen sense of corporate responsibility. The board and I look forward to working with Carmel in her expanded role.”

Mulhern will take on her expanded role when Warren leaves Telstra on 22 September. Warren will start at ANZ on 3 October, based in Canberra.

Petroc Wilton

CDC to invest \$150 million in fifth Canberra facility

Canberra Data Centres will look to support the growth in digital transformations across the public sector and its recent cloud partnership with Microsoft Azure by building a second datacentre in Fyshwick. The 20-MW Fyshwick 2 will be CDC's fifth data centre overall and its largest facility to date.

Earlier this month CDC announced a partnership with Microsoft to deliver its

cloud platform across its two datacentre campuses in Hume and Fyshwick, starting in 2018. CDC CEO Greg Boorer also noted that the government sector was expected to boost its data holdings 100-fold over the next decade.

“The addition of Fyshwick 2 – slated to come on stream in 2018 – will ensure enough capacity for two to three years’ growth in the market we operate in, both meeting the needs of our direct clients, and also those government agencies and departments that will use Microsoft Azure delivered out of our datacentres,” Boorer said.



The firm’s three datacentres in Hume are currently capable of delivering a total of 21 MW of capacity, while the existing Fyshwick facility has 18 MW capacity. It currently has 30% spare physical footprint and significant reserve power capacity.

ACT chief minister Andrew Barr welcomed the new investment, which will bring the total CDC investment in Canberra to \$500 million over 10 years. He also welcomed the recent partnership between CDC and Microsoft, describing it as a “very significant city-building investment.”

Boorer said that Fyshwick 2 would represent a further evolution of CDC’s data centre design with the latest security. The facility is designed to handle data classifications up to top secret, and will also offer clients access to on-site top secret office space.

The investment in Fyshwick 2 is expected to top \$150 million and create 100 jobs during the construction phase.

Geoff Long

Victoria launches state-based cybersecurity strategy

Victoria has launched its own state-based cybersecurity strategy, which will move from the previous agency-by-agency approach to a whole-of-government effort.

As part of the new strategy the state government will appoint a chief information security officer within the Department of Premier and Cabinet to oversee the government response to the ongoing cyber threats and co-ordinate cross government action.

As well as the new CISO role, the strategy is intended to:

- develop cyber emergency governance arrangements with Emergency Management Victoria
- strengthen partnerships across all levels of government and the private sector
- rationalise and better co-ordinate the procurement of cyber security services
- develop a workforce plan for skilled cyber security public sector workers
- present a quarterly cyber security briefing to the Victorian Secretaries Board and the State Crisis and Resilience Committee

The strategy was launched by Victorian special minister of state Gavin Jennings, who

said that as organised crime and others became more sophisticated in hacking and disrupting digital services, government needed to step up to better protect against threats.

“Victoria’s first ever cybersecurity strategy ensures we can stay ahead of the cyber criminals and develop the infrastructure, systems and processes needed to protect government services and information,” Jennings said.

Geoff Long

Government introduces updated NBN migration framework

The federal government has introduced an updated migration policy for transitioning services to the NBN. The new migration assurance framework replaces the previous migration assurance policy and has been developed to better reflect the multi-technology NBN model.

The framework was developed in collaboration with the telecommunications industry and sets out agreed roles and responsibilities of each of the parties when customers take up a new NBN service.

The previous migration policy, released in February last year, focussed on migration in NBN FTTP areas. According to the new framework documentation, the latest policy has incorporated learnings from migrations in the FTTB and FTTN areas, and more recently in HFC areas since June 2016.

As well as clarifying roles and responsibilities and dealing with service continuity, the MAF provides updated information on power outage considerations and arrangements for the migration of over the top services such as fire alarms, medical alarms and lift phones.

According to the industry guide, the MAF is intended to drive active industry involvement without imposing undue costs or regulatory burden. However, the federal government has also warned that it could resort to regulatory intervention should the MAF guidelines be inadequate.

“If industry or parties in the end to end migration process are not adhering to their roles and responsibilities and this results in high instances of poor customer service or continuity concerns, the Australian government may look to regulatory and legislative mechanisms to improve migration processes and the customer experience,” it said.

The MAF can be updated as required over time, including to reflect further migration experience and any new learnings or new technologies including FTTC. The government said the MAF would continue to be open to any part of industry to propose improvements to the framework.

Geoff Long

Trans-Tasman collaboration to help process science data in real time

New Zealand will provide A\$350,000 in funding to help the Australian government develop an operating system for managing enormous amounts of science data in real

time. The technology could be applied to the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope in Western Australia in future.

The funding will be used for a collaborative project between New Zealand's Nyriad and the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research in Western Australia and was announced by New Zealand science and innovation minister Paul Goldsmith.

"Australia is a major science and innovation partner for New Zealand, and this new collaboration is another sign that our relationship continues to grow and thrive following the signing of the cooperation agreement earlier this year," Goldsmith said.

He noted that there was no supercomputer system yet available capable of handling the data that the SKA is expected to generate.

"This project is looking to solve the high performance computing challenges of the future, and places Nyriad at the forefront of this potentially game-changing technology," Goldsmith said.

The project will use the hardware and data from the Murchison Widefield Array radio telescope in Western Australia to test Nyriad's technology. The MWA is a precursor telescope to the SKA.

The funding will come from the New Zealand government's Catalyst Fund, which supports international collaboration that has a strategic benefit to New Zealand.

Geoff Long

Telstra, Telkom Indonesia announce employee exchange program

Telstra and its established Asian partner Telkom Indonesia have signed a new memorandum of understanding for a 'talent exchange pilot program'.

Set to begin in November this year, the six-month pilot will see each of the companies committing six staff to two exchange programs that will run in parallel. Participants in the first of these, the project team program, will work on a specific project pre-identified by the company and business unit they are joining; participants in the second, the talent swap program, will simply swap companies to perform a role similar to their own.

Telstra enterprise group executive Brendon Riley signed the MoU together with Telkom enterprise and business service director Dian Rachmawan. "Our enterprise business continues to grow across Asia. We therefore need our talent pool and our future leaders to have a global mindset in order to serve our customers better. I'm pleased that we are extending our partnership with Telkom and building global capabilities between our two companies," said Riley. "We are fortunate to have established a firm and positive partnership with Telkom in the past three years. Together we are supporting enterprise customers as they embark on their digital transformation journeys and adopt network applications and services through our joint venture, Telkomtelstra."

"Through this program, the people who will participate in the program will get new experience and knowledge. We hope this experience will inspire them to be innovative

in the business, in line with the industry dynamics to boost the company's development," added Rachmawan. "All TelkomGroup employees from all business units, including our subsidiaries, have the opportunity to participate in the program."

Petroc Wilton

INTERNATIONAL

Focus on FTTH misses the point: Deutsche Telekom

The singular focus on FTTH in Germany by the German press is misleading and misses a very important point – providing people with high transmission speeds as quickly and as comprehensively as possible. That's according to a statement by Deutsche Telekom in response to ongoing criticism of its broadband deployment strategy.

"There is always criticism of Deutsche Telekom's broadband build-out in the media: sometimes we're building too little, sometimes we're accused of using the wrong technology, sometimes the allegation is that we're preventing other providers from expanding. It's time to put a few things right," DT said. "The main feature of discussions of broadband build-out in Germany is tunnel vision. The benchmark is taken to be the stark figure of households with optical fibre lines, with no other factors taken into account."

"This misses the very important point that the actual objective is slightly different: providing people with high transmission speeds as quickly and as comprehensively as possible, something that is working very well in Germany."

DT argued that its hybrid strategy of combining advanced copper and fibre-to-the-node was bringing speedier broadband to people faster. At the same time, the architecture is laying the foundation to future platforms such as 5G.

According to DT, it is now setting an example for other European markets such as France and Switzerland when it comes to delivering broadband goals, such as the European Union's target of bringing super-fast broadband access (more than 30Mbps) to 80% of the population. As of 2016, Germany had 15.1 million next generation access subscribers, more than any other country in the EU.

The result is that "countries... are already rethinking their focus on FTTH," said DT, branding as evidence of its success the fact that it was able to connect a further 3 million households with super-fast broadband this year.

"Each year, we invest more than €4 billion in Germany, which is a record amount. We are building out the fibre-optic network, with an additional 25,000 kilometres each year since 2010. We have by far the largest fibre-optic network in Germany, stretching over 455,000 kilometres," the operator said. "We are committed to vectoring, because it is the only way to provide people in rural areas with faster lines, quickly. If we are fixated on FTTH, those in the countryside will remain left behind for years."

"It is simply impossible to roll out fibre lines to homes everywhere in the country. Neither the construction capacity nor the funding is available for that. Plus there is

quite simply no demand for it.”

Further, DT cited empirical evidence that its strategy was working, noting that it was “fulfilling” its commitment to provide 80% of Germany’s population with broadband at a minimum of 50Mbps, which the firm said “leaves no room for cherry-picking.”

At the same time, DT added there was no contradiction between its FTTN strategy and the FTTH model being highlighted by its critics, arguing that “the fact is FTTN is actually an intermediate stage of FTTH since it builds fibre out to the curb, setting the scene for extending that fibre all the way into homes at a later stage.” For accounts, such as enterprises, that want full fibre, DT said it had formulated provisions for them to request fibre connectivity as a priority. “We have also launched an initiative aimed at proving fibre-optic lines to hundreds of business parks in Germany.”

Meanwhile, DT said its broadband infrastructure strategy was consistent with advancements in mobile broadband and had enabled the country to be an European leader.

“Germany is among the leading nations in mobile communications. The average transmission speed, at 24.1Mbps, is the second highest,” DT said. “Plus, Deutsche Telekom provides the highest LTE coverage and has already connected up most of its antenna sites with optical fibre.”

Tony Chan

Consumers hot for wearables, lukewarm for autonomous cars: Gartner

As more and more consumers embrace wearables, many have expressed doubt over autonomous cars, according to the latest research by Gartner.

According to the market researchers, 310.4 million wearables will be sold worldwide in 2017, an increase of 16.7% from 2016, resulting in a total market value of US\$30.5 billion for the year of which US\$9.3 billion will be from smartwatches.

“Smartwatches are on pace to achieve the greatest revenue potential among all wearables through 2021, reaching US\$17.4 billion,” said Gartner research director Angela McIntyre. “The overall ASP of the smartwatch category will drop from US\$223.25 in 2017 to US\$214.99 in 2021 as higher volumes lead to slight reductions in manufacturing and component costs, but strong brands such as Apple and Fossil will keep pricing consistent with price bands of traditional watches.”

Other key wearable segments with high growth potential included ‘head-mounted display’ units and body-worn cameras, both of which Gartner forecast to skyrocket exponentially between now and 2021. While HMD units are still nascent, with projected shipments numbering 22.01 million in 2017, they are set to more than triple to over 67 million by 2021. Similarly, the number of body-worn cameras to be shipped is expected to surge from just over 1 million units to over 5.6 million units over the same period.

But while consumers are warming up to wearables, they remained hesitant when it

came to self-driving cars, a separate Gartner report noted.

According to a Gartner survey of just over 1,500 people in the US and Germany, 55% said they “will not consider riding in a fully autonomous vehicle” citing concerns over potential technology failure and security.

“Fear of autonomous vehicles getting confused by unexpected situations, safety concerns around equipment and system failures and vehicle and system security are top concerns around using fully autonomous vehicles,” said Gartner research director Mike Ramsey.

Despite the apparent fear, Ramsey predicted a radical disruption to the automotive industry from autonomous vehicles, citing the fact that 71% of the respondents were open to “riding in a partially autonomous vehicle.”

Tony Chan

VoLTE now available on 1 in 5 LTE networks: report

Voice-over-LTE services are now available on 20% of LTE networks launched worldwide according to a new report by Hadden Telecoms, the new research firm led by ex-Global Mobile Suppliers Association president Alan Hadden.

According to the new report, 123 out of the 615 commercially launched LTE and LTE-Advanced networks worldwide now offer VoLTE.

“VoLTE technology delivers not only an enhanced voice calling experience for users with compatible devices, but also underpins other new and valued services including video calling and WiFi Calling,” Hadden said, adding that VoLTE was now available in 60 countries.

The report also found that a further 74 LTE operators were understood to be planning, deploying or trialling VoLTE technology on their networks. Taken together with the 123 commercial service launches reported, this means 197 operators are investing in VoLTE-related activities in 85 countries.

Tony Chan

The importance of spectrum sharing: 5G Americas

A new whitepaper by the 5G Americas industry organisation has highlighted the importance of spectrum sharing in emerging 5G regulatory policy, arguing that the ability to tap into additional spectrum for mobile network operators is an essential enabler of future services.

“Shared spectrum is a building block for new network innovations that will help pave the way to full 5G deployments,” 5G Americas said. “The 5G system operates best when given large amounts of spectrum. While sole access to spectrum will continue to be a mainstay of major public networks, the ability to take advantage of additional spectrum that is shared with others will provide expansion capacities that may be extremely important to providing subscribers with the speeds and capacities they expect of 5G.”

According to the report, access to shared 5G spectrum could permit mobile network

operators to augment their licensed services by aggregating shared spectrum resources with their licensed bands to offer additional capabilities to their subscribers, allowing them “to create a larger bandwidth channel, which in turn can support higher user throughput and data-intensive applications.”

At the same time, the report argued that the availability of shared spectrum will also open the door for new operators, particularly those with business models focused on specific applications and environments.

“The ability to share spectrum is also being focused on to support the entrance of new operators that may deploy a network in a single facility, such as a mall, refinery or factory,” the report said. “Experience being gathered now in the use of shared spectrum for 4G LTE is expected to provide the foundation for the sharing of spectrum for 5G systems.”

According to 5G Americas, spectrum sharing is already being implemented across multiple bands, such as the 3.5GHz citizens broadband radio service band in the US and the 2.3GHz licensed shared access band in parts of Europe. Meanwhile, the US Federal Communications Commission is further considering spectrum sharing schemes for the 37.0-37.6GHz and 64-71GHz bands.

Tony Chan

LEVEL 3 LAUNCHES ELASTIC CLOUD CONNECTIVITY OFFERING

Level 3 has rolled a new Ethernet-based offering that allows enterprises to scale up and down their connectivity into public clouds. According to the company, the new Cloud Connect service supports multiple virtual LANs on a single Ethernet virtual circuit. Enterprises can then add or drop VLANs to match their requirements from an online management portal dubbed MyLevel3 or by hooking their systems into the platform through application programming interfaces. The platform is available from 290 markets in North America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Asia Pacific.

1.4BN 5G CONNECTIONS BY 2025: JUNIPER RESEARCH

A new report by Juniper Research is predicting 1.4 billion 5G connections by the year 2025, fuelled by the US, China and Japan. The three largest 5G markets are expected to account for 55% of 5G connections by 2025, with the US alone being home to 30% of those connections, including Internet of Things and fixed wireless services. The researchers also predicted the arrival of 5G as early as 2019, when they said there would be about 1 million 5G connections.

ZTE 1H NET PROFIT UP 30% YOY

ZTE posted a 30% year-on-year profit growth for the first half of 2017, which matched market expectations, according to the company. Net profit for the period was US\$344 million on revenues of US\$8.1 billion. The results reflect a 13% growth for its telecoms equipment business and a 24% increase of its consumer business.

OVERNIGHT TELECOM STOCK PRICES (ASX)

Companies

Telstra	TLS	3.920	▼	-0.020	3.910	3.920	3.930	3.935	3.900	33,531,848
TPG	TPM	5.640	▼	-0.030	5.630	5.690	5.680	5.730	5.620	836,890
Vocus	VOC	2.460	▼	-0.090	2.460	2.470	2.550	2.550	2.455	5,173,304
Spark	SPK	3.570	▼	-0.010	3.550	3.600	3.570	3.590	3.560	777,485
Chorus	CNU	4.230	▼	-0.050	4.050	4.360	4.290	4.290	4.230	181,350
Hutchison Australia	HTA	0.066	▼	-0.001	0.066	0.072	0.066	0.066	0.066	665
Amaysim	AYS	1.665	▼	-0.045	1.660	1.705	1.715	1.715	1.660	659,386
Macquarie Telecom	MAQ	14.850		0.000	14.350	14.800	0.000	0.000	0.000	0
MyNetFone Group	MNF	5.190	▲	0.040	5.180	5.300	5.150	5.250	5.110	130,468
Megaport	MP1	2.280	▲	0.050	2.250	2.290	2.220	2.290	2.220	128,391
Superloop	SLC	2.420	▼	-0.040	2.400	2.420	2.440	2.450	2.400	136,743
Over The Wire	OTW	1.970	▲	0.010	1.960	2.080	2.080	2.080	1.970	19,790
Netcomm Wireless	NTC	1.515	▲	0.095	1.490	1.515	1.420	1.530	1.420	215,808
Vita	VTG	1.515	▼	-0.085	1.505	1.540	1.600	1.600	1.515	1,480,410
Inabox	IAB	0.930	▼	-0.020	0.910	0.930	0.930	0.930	0.930	24,600
Spirit Telecom	ST1	0.120	▲	0.020	0.120	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.120	3,727,278
NextDC	NXT	4.250	▼	-0.010	4.230	4.270	4.250	4.290	4.235	926,921

ON THIS DAY IN 2007 IN COMMSDAY

The delayed Australian Broadband Guarantee subsidy scheme formally commenced operations... Telstra was slugged with an embarrassing reprimand over its Next G mobile marketing, with the consumer regulator forcing the carrier to withdraw and amend a series of advertisements promoting the network's coverage... People Telecom delivered a mixed set of full-year results, reporting a post-tax profit of \$1.96 million but EBITDA loss of \$1.42 million on continuing operations.

FOR THE DIARY

TELSOC THIS FRIDAY is holding a lunchtime lecture in Sydney. "IoT Design Challenges and the Social IoT Solution" is presented by David Goad, GM, Hitachi Solutions and postgraduate Fellow and Honorary Associate University of Sydney. More details at <https://telsoc.org/>

COMMSDAY MELBOURNE CONGRESS returns on October 10/11 at the Langham Hotel in Melbourne. Full details in this issue.

- NBN will be releasing its 2018-2021 corporate plan on Thursday in Sydney.
- Chorus is releasing its latest financial results today.
- Amaysim releases its 2017 FY results today.