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From GEO to Multi-Orbit:

How Es'hailSat is Powering the Next Phase of Middle East SatCom

Ali Al Kuwari, *President & CEO, Es'hailSat*

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Dear Readers,

As we open 2026, the telecom and satellite industries stand at one of the most decisive inflection points in their history. The convergence of space, cloud, artificial intelligence, and terrestrial networks is no longer theoretical—it is operational, commercial, and reshaping how societies connect, govern, trade, and secure their digital futures. This edition of Teletimes International captures that transformation in motion.

Our cover story features Ali Al Kuwari, President & CEO of Es'hailSat, who explains how Qatar's national satellite operator is evolving from a traditional GEO-based broadcast platform into a multi-orbit, digitally-enabled satellite powerhouse. From sovereign communications and government resilience to AI-driven satellite operations and LEO/MEO integration, Es'hailSat's roadmap reflects a broader regional shift: satellite is no longer a backup—it is becoming a strategic layer of national digital infrastructure.

That theme continues in our exclusive interview with Cynthia Harty of ST Engineering iDirect, who offers one of the clearest industry perspectives yet on the future of 5G Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN). Over the next two to three years, the fusion of satellite and 5G will determine who leads global connectivity, particularly across Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, where terrestrial networks alone cannot meet the demands of modern economies.

We also explore how Space42, formed from the merger of Bayanat and Yahsat, is redefining what a space company can be. As our in-depth feature shows, Space42 is no longer just about satellites—it is about geospatial intelligence, sovereign manufacturing, direct-to-device connectivity, and AI-driven decision platforms, from the Map Africa initiative to the global Equatys D2D ecosystem.

At the same time, terrestrial telecom is undergoing its own revolution. Our coverage from MWC Doha 2025 reveals how 5G-Advanced and AI are pushing operators across the GCC toward 10-Gbps networks, autonomous operations, and new monetization models. Huawei's "3A Infrastructure"—5G-A, Always-Online Standalone, and AI-Driven networks—signals how the Middle East is emerging not just as a fast adopter, but as a global innovation leader.

As Teletimes enters its 21st year of publication, we remain committed to bringing you not just news, but the insights and leadership perspectives that shape the future of global communications.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Khalid Athar
Chief Editor

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Telecom Trends 2026: The four forces shaping the industry's future

Markus Persson, Global Industry Director, Telecom at IFS

The telecom industry has gone through extensive evolution over the past decade, however 2026 will be a hugely important year for this critical industry, driven by rapid advances in artificial intelligence, sustainability imperatives, digital infrastructure transformation, and a fundamental redesign of the workforce. In this year's iteration of the IFS trends and predictions, Markus Persson, Global Industry Director, Telecom, explores the four forces reshaping telecom, drawing on the latest research, operator case studies, and expert forecasts.

1. AI & Automation: From Copilots to Agentic Systems

The era of AI in telecom is evolving from simple copilots that answer questions to agentic systems that take autonomous actions. These agentic AI systems are goal-driven, equipped with memory, tools, and policies to plan, act, learn, and coordinate with humans and other agents. Unlike generative models that produce content, agentic AI observes, decides, and executes within governed boundaries, often chaining with other agents to accomplish complex tasks such as troubleshooting, fulfillment, or workforce scheduling.

The transition to embedded intelligence is accelerating. IDC projects $337 billion in AI-supporting technology spend in 2025, rising to $749 billion by 2028, with two-thirds of enterprise AI investments embedded directly into core operations. This shift is crucial: only embedded AI can close operational loops across OSS/BSS, networks, and customer channels.

Operators like AT&T and Telefónica are already deploying autonomous assistants that orchestrate multiple agents. These systems act on fraud alerts, coordinate customer care offers, and automate software engineering tasks. Telefónica's Aura, for example, handles over 400 million interactions annually across 30+ channels, now augmented with generative capabilities for real-time, personalized replies.

Key architectural choices for successful AI adoption include:

• Persistent memory with policy controls

• Tool catalogs for system capabilities

• Grounding and evaluation against authoritative data

• Closed-loop operations with human-in-the-loop oversight

Priority use cases for 2025-2026 include assurance and energy optimization, field service augmentation, customer operations, and accelerated software development. These use cases deliver measurable financial impact and can be made safe with constrained actuators.

Risks such as hallucination, compliance, and operational drift must be addressed through retrieval policies, output checkers, versioning, and continuous testing. Measuring success requires establishing baselines and publishing daily "agent scorecards" across network, care, field, and engineering domains.

2. Sustainability: From Reporting to Operational Engineering

Sustainability in telecom is shifting from mere reporting to operational engineering. For operators in Europe who have largely decarbonized Scope 1 and 2 emissions, Scope 3—emissions embedded in purchased equipment and the use-phase of sold products—now dominates. Industry bodies like GSMA, GeSI, and ITU provide harmonized guidance, giving telcos a common yardstick for measuring and managing emissions.

Commercially, energy is a top-three operating expense. Reducing kWh per GB by double digits while maintaining user experience can save tens of millions annually for midsize networks and is essential for supporting AI workloads at the edge and in the RAN. Credible Scope 3 plans are increasingly required for enterprise sales, public procurement, and financing.

Evidence from Vodafone UK and Ericsson shows up to 33% daily power reduction at selected 5G sites in London by combining AI/ML applications like 5G Deep Sleep and power-efficiency heatmaps. Radios enter ultra-low energy hibernation during low traffic, with savings up to 70% during off-peak hours and no user-experience degradation.

A telco decarbonization stack includes:

• Measurement using industry methodologies

• Optimization via AI control planes

• Electrification and renewables

• Circularity through refurbish-and-reuse programs

• Governance tying incentives to CO_2e reductions

AI's energy paradox—where increased inference demand can raise energy consumption—is resolved by placing inference at the edge, using small models for known tasks, batching non-urgent inference, and measuring energy per action alongside business KPIs.

3. Digital Infrastructure: Edge-Native and AI-Infused

Digital infrastructure moves to an edge-native and AI-infused footing. GSMA Intelligence projects 5.5 billion 5G connections by 2030, with enterprise IoT connections forecast to reach 38.5 billion. The next 24 months will see three tectonic shifts:

1. 5G Standalone to unlock slicing and low-latency control loops

2. Open RAN at industrial scale for modularity and vendor diversity

3. Cloud–edge convergence for latency, privacy, and cost optimization

Operators like AT&T, T-Mobile, and Vodafone are partnering with hyperscalers to deploy private 5G and edge compute, enabling industrial use cases such as predictive maintenance and worker safety. Microsoft's Azure for Operators and Google Cloud's DNA platform are accelerating AI adoption by consolidating data planes and modernizing real-time processing.

Service innovation roadmaps include differentiated connectivity, AI at the edge, autonomous operations, and developer ecosystems. Engineering priorities for 2025-2026 focus on SA upgrades, mid-band expansion, Open RAN integration, and edge

platform development.

KPIs to track include build velocity, performance percentiles, commercial revenue mix, reliability, and efficiency metrics.

4. Workforce Evolution: Redesigning Work at Scale

Workforce evolution in telecom is less about headcount cuts and more about redesigning work at scale. The World Economic Forum's 2025 report highlights the transformative impact of AI and information processing, with demand rising for skills in AI, big data, networks, cybersecurity, and technological literacy.

MIT research suggests AI will augment rather than replace most occupations, with impact arriving through task reallocation and new complements. Leaders should invest in complementarity—pairing people with systems that elevate decision quality and execution speed—and in institutions that convert productivity into broad-based opportunity.

Operators like AT&T are enabling scale transformation through internal GenAI programs, co-authored usage guidance, and skills development for tens of thousands of employees. Workforce transformation is a co-production between HR and tech, embedded in policies, learning, and day-to-day tools.

Change management starts with equipping managers to coach AI-augmented work, creating fusion teams, and codifying "AI Ways of Working" handbooks. Trust and safety are paramount, requiring standardized guardrails, human review for high-risk actions, transparent logs, and privacy-by-design.

KPIs and incentives include tracking AI literacy, SOP augmentation, time-to-productivity, throughput, and pairing productivity with quality and safety signals. Leadership incentives should be tied to capability building and safe adoption milestones.

Roadmap for 2025-2026: Baseline skills, augment critical roles, expand enablement, align with IT/Legal/Privacy, and integrate AI into career paths and continuous learning cycles.

Conclusion

Telecom in 2026 is defined by the convergence of agentic AI, operational sustainability, edge-native infrastructure, and a redesigned workforce. Operators that embrace these trends will unlock new efficiencies, revenue streams, and opportunities for innovation—while safeguarding trust, compliance, and sustainability. The journey is complex, but the roadmap is clear: embed intelligence, optimize energy, modernize infrastructure, and invest in people.

From GEO to Multi-Orbit:

How Es'hailSat is Powering the Next Phase of Middle East SatCom

Ali Al Kuwari,
President & CEO, Es'hailSat

Interview: Khalid Athar

Khalid Athar: Es'hailSat has firmly positioned itself as Qatar's national satellite operator. How do you envision the company's strategic direction over the next five years, especially in light of evolving regional and global satellite demand?

Ali Al Kuwari: Over the next five years, Es'hailSat will reinforce its role as Qatar's sovereign satellite operator while expanding its commercial relevance in the region. Our strategy is anchored on four priorities: **(1)** Strengthening national communication resilience with next-generation satellite capabilities; **(2)** Expanding multi-orbit solutions through selective LEO/MEO partnerships; **(3)** Growing our Teleport and managed-service portfolio; and **(4)** Developing Qatari technical talent for long-term national capability.

KA: What key market segments will drive Es'hailSat's growth—broadcast, government, mobility, enterprise, or new digital services?

AK: Government and mobility will remain our strongest growth engines. Broadcast continues to be core and profitable, while new opportunities in enterprise connectivity, cloud access, backhaul, and disaster recovery offer strong commercial potential.

KA: With LEO, MEO, and GEO systems rapidly converging into multi-orbit architectures, how is Es'hailSat preparing to integrate or collaborate within this emerging ecosystem?

AK: Es'hailSat is preparing for a multi-orbit future by evaluating partnerships that enhance Qatar's communication resilience while maintaining sovereign oversight. Integrating LEO/MEO capabilities will support low-latency applications, mobility services, and cloud connectivity.

KA: How do you see technologies like software-defined satellites, digital payloads, and AI-based network automation reshaping Es'hailSat's service offerings?

AK: Technologies such as software-defined satellites, digital payloads, and AI-based network automation are paving the way for more flexible, intelligent, and efficient satellite services at Es'hailSat. By embracing these advancements, we can dynamically allocate resources, enhance service customization, and automate network management to better meet our customers' evolving needs. These innovations allow us to improve operational agility, respond swiftly to market demands, and deliver secure, high-performance connectivity solutions. Ultimately, they help Es'hailSat remain at the forefront of technological progress Classification: General Business in the satellite industry while supporting Qatar's National Vision 2030 across various pillars.

KA: Es'hailSat is a preferred broadcast platform for major regional channels. What innovations are you pursuing to support ultra-HD, OTT distribution, and hybrid satellite-IP media workflows?

AK: To support ultra-HD, OTT distribution, and hybrid satellite-IP media workflows, Es'hailSat is investing in advanced satellite technologies and platform enhancements that enable seamless, high-quality content delivery across multiple channels. We are focused on integrating next-generation compression standards and flexible payload architectures to ensure efficient bandwidth utilization and superior video quality for our broadcast partners. Our ongoing efforts include developing robust Tier-4 certified Teleport infrastructure to facilitate smooth transitions between traditional satellite and IP-based media distribution, allowing broadcasters to offer viewers a richer, more interactive experience as well as disaster recovery options. By prioritizing innovation and reliability, Es'hailSat continues to empower regional channels with future-ready solutions that meet the evolving demands of the digital media landscape.

> *Software-defined satellites, digital payloads, and AI-based network automation are allowing us to deliver more flexible, intelligent, and secure satellite services*

KA: Qatar's national interests rely heavily on secure and sovereign communications. How does Es'hailSat ensure cybersecurity, resilience, and service availability for governmental and defense customers?

AK: We maintain strict ISO-certified security standards, encrypted networks, 24/7 monitoring, and multi-layered redundancy. Close coordination with national cybersecurity authorities ensures full compliance with Qatar's defense and security requirements.

> *Over the next five years, Es'hailSat will reinforce its role as Qatar's sovereign satellite operator while expanding its commercial relevance across the region*

KA: Es'hailSat has become an important symbol of Qatar's ambitions in space. How is the company contributing to space education, national talent development, and Qatari workforce empowerment?

AK: Through partnerships such as our MoU with Qatar University, we support education, internships, and hands-on training. Our goal is to increase national participation in technical roles and build sustainable Qatari capability in the space sector.

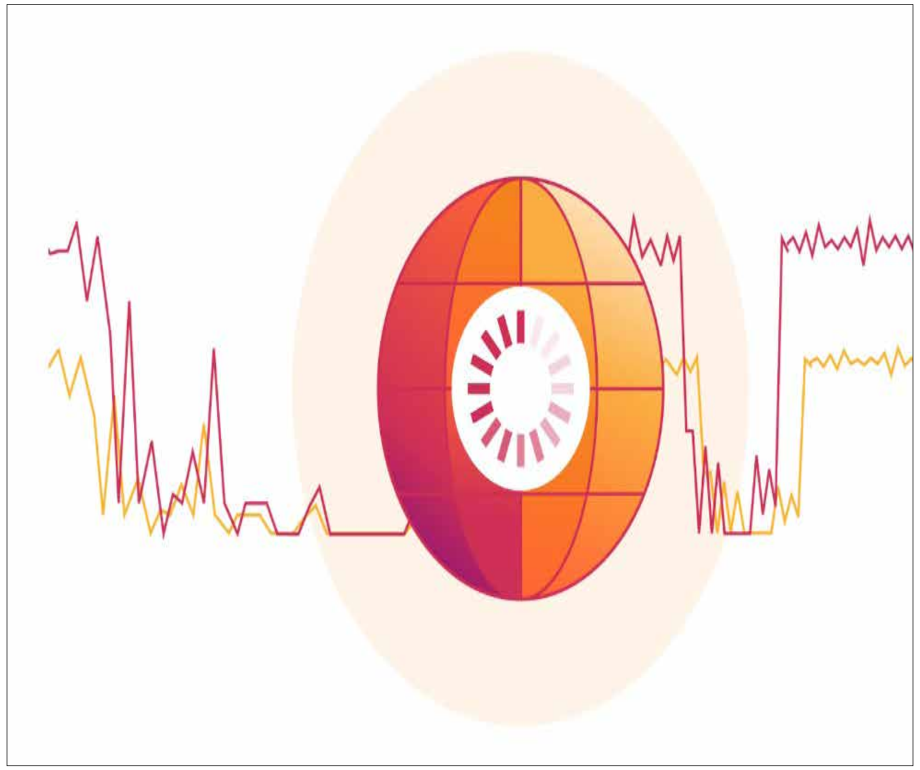
KA: How is Es'hailSat incorporating sustainability into satellite operations—whether through ground-station energy efficiency, space-debris mitigation, or greener production and launch planning?

AK: At Es'hailSat, we are committed to incorporating sustainability across all aspects of our satellite operations. This includes investing in energy-efficient Teleport and ground Classification: General Business stations, implementing best practices for space-debris mitigation, and exploring environmentally conscious approaches to satellite production and launch planning. By prioritizing sustainable solutions and continuously evolving our operational strategies, we aim to minimize our environmental footprint while supporting Qatar's vision for responsible space activities. Our dedication to sustainability not only ensures the long-term viability of our assets but also contributes to the broader goal of safeguarding the space environment for future generations.

KA: What trends do you believe will have the greatest impact on satellite communications in the Middle East over the next decade?

AK: Over the next decade, satellite communications in the Middle East will be shaped by the convergence of multi-orbit networks, rapid advancements in software-defined satellites, and the integration of AI-driven automation across satellite operations. Increasing demand for high-capacity, low-latency connectivity will drive innovation, especially in support of digital transformation, remote learning, and smart city initiatives across the region. As regulatory frameworks evolve and partnerships between public and private sectors strengthen, we also expect to see expanded applications in government, defense, and commercial markets. These trends will collectively enhance the region's resilience, connectivity, and ability to meet diverse communication needs. ■

Cloudflare Q3 2025 Internet Disruption report reveals widespread global and regional connectivity challenges



Cloudflare published its Q3 2025 Internet Disruption Summary, analyzing the major Internet outages that occurred between July and September 2025. The report provides a detailed look at connectivity incidents worldwide, including numerous disruptions across the Middle East and Africa (MEA) driven by a combination of infrastructure issues, power outages, and government-imposed restrictions.

Globally, Cloudflare observed outages resulting from government-directed shutdowns, fibre and submarine cable damage, power failures, cyberattacks, and technical anomalies affecting national and regional connectivity. The company's Radar platform, which continuously monitors Internet traffic patterns worldwide, revealed that the quarter underscored both the growing complexity and fragility of the global Internet.

Middle East and Africa: Connectivity Under Pressure

During Q3 2025, the MEA region experienced several significant disruptions:

• **United Arab Emirates:** A submarine cable cut on July 17 caused a sharp 28% drop in traffic, impacting multiple ISPs and international routing paths. Traffic gradually recovered over several hours as rerouting was implemented.

• **Egypt:** A fire at a major telecom facility in Cairo disrupted service for multiple Internet providers, leading to connectivity loss across parts of the country.

• **Sudan, Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan:** Government-directed shutdowns were recorded, often timed with national examination periods or security-related events, underscoring the continued use of Internet controls during politically sensitive moments.

• **Tanzania:** A nationwide power outage triggered a steep decline in Internet traffic, illustrating how infrastructure fragility continues to impact digital services in developing markets.

Yemen: Cloudflare detected a targeted cyberattack that disrupted international connectivity routes, temporarily isolating several networks from the global Internet.

Global Overview: Patterns and Implications

Beyond the MEA region, the report identified other major disruptions:

• *Government-imposed shutdowns in Venezuela and parts of Asia.*

• *Submarine and terrestrial cable issues impacting Pakistan and Southeast Asia.*

• *Data center and power-related outages across Cuba, Gibraltar, and the Czech Republic.*

• Technical anomalies such as the Starlink service disruption and anomalous Great Firewall activity in China, which injected forged TCP resets that blocked encrypted traffic.

Cloudflare Radar: Advancing Internet Transparency

Cloudflare's Radar platform now offers regional traffic insights, allowing researchers, media, and network operators to analyse outages by network, geography, or service type. This expanded visibility helps identify patterns in latency, DNS behaviour, and routing changes during disruption events.

Huawei's Allen Tang charts bold 5G-A and AI telecom vision for GCC at MWC25 Doha

Allen Tang, President of Huawei Middle East & Central Asia ICT Marketing & Solution Sales Department, delivered a keynote at the inaugural MWC25 Doha, titled "The Booming Era of 5G-A: Innovation, Leadership, and Growth," outlining clear pathways for operators to turn 5G-Advanced (5G-A) and mobile AI into sustained business value. Under Huawei's theme "Accelerating the Intelligent World," Allen described how the Middle East, especially the GCC, can define the next horizon of global telecommunications by advancing "3A" infrastructure: 5G-A experiences, Always-Online Standalone networks (SA), and AI-Driven operations.

Allen highlighted the rapid momentum since 5G-A commercialization began, with more than 25 commercial 5G-A networks now live worldwide. In the GCC, the 5G-A Region initiative has driven record adoption, with 5G-A brand surpassing one million users in unprecedented time. Partnerships are strengthening on both Standalone and AI fronts. Globally, AI users are approaching 2.5 billion, while in the GCC approximately 75 percent of smartphones already support Standalone and more than 36 percent are AI-capable. "5G-A and AI are converging to usher in a booming era of intelligence," said Allen. "By advancing 3A infrastructure, operators can unlock new value, reinvent business models, and accelerate growth. The Middle East is shaping the next horizon of global telecommunications."

Setting out the business inflection ahead, Allen noted that with 300 MHz as the foundation, operators in the region can deliver seamless 5 Gbps experiences today, with 10 Gbps expected within two years. This step-change in experience opens the door to immersive services and new revenue streams, underpinning projected telecom growth of 4-7% across the GCC. He highlighted three models gaining traction: tiered speed plans with up to 3 Gbps that can increase Average Revenue Per User by around 20 percent, enhanced experience for high demand use cases such as gaming and streaming, and premium service for VIP and VVIP users to strengthen loyalty and grow premium segments. "Aligning 5G-A with bold commercial innovation is how operators turn breakthrough technology into durable revenue," Allen added.

Allen emphasized that the industry's rapid evolution from Non-Standalone to Standalone is a critical catalyst for the next stage of 5G. Nearly 80% of regional operators are now advancing to Standalone, which improves coverage by around 20%, boosts uplink by more than 50%, reduces latency significantly, and extends device battery life. Standalone unlocks new growth in wearables, device-to-device services, and Fixed Wireless Access, and supports emerging low altitude applications like drone delivery and flying taxis. It is also critical for high quality mobile AI, which needs low latency and strong uplink, with autonomous driving pushing standards even higher.

Turning to AI for Network, Allen described two strategic pathways for operators. First, the evolution to Autonomous Network Level 4, shifting from human-led workflows to agent-centric operations. Engineers guide AI agents that analyze, decide, and execute across planning, optimization, and assurance, delivering major gains in speed, quality, and cost efficiency. Second, the convergence of data and AI across domains. By building a unified, cross-domain data fabric, operators can turn complex questions into instant, business-ready insights.

Reaffirming Huawei's commitment to working with operators to build true 3A networks, Allen explained how Huawei's latest portfolio helps deliver Ubiquitous Immersion by making apps and experiences feel instant across devices, Ubiquitous Connectivity by extending strong, reliable coverage indoors and outdoors, and AI-Driven operations by automating planning and assurance with actionable insights. Anchored by an advanced 5G-A core and intelligent business systems, these capabilities enable operators to launch services faster, guarantee premium experiences, and scale new monetization models.

"From Middle East to the world, innovation never stops," Allen concluded. "The region is uniquely positioned to lead, from 10 Gbps 5G-A and full-fledged Standalone, to the rise of mobile AI, and to pioneer speed and experience-based monetization."

The next two to three years are pivotal for the evolution of 5G NTN

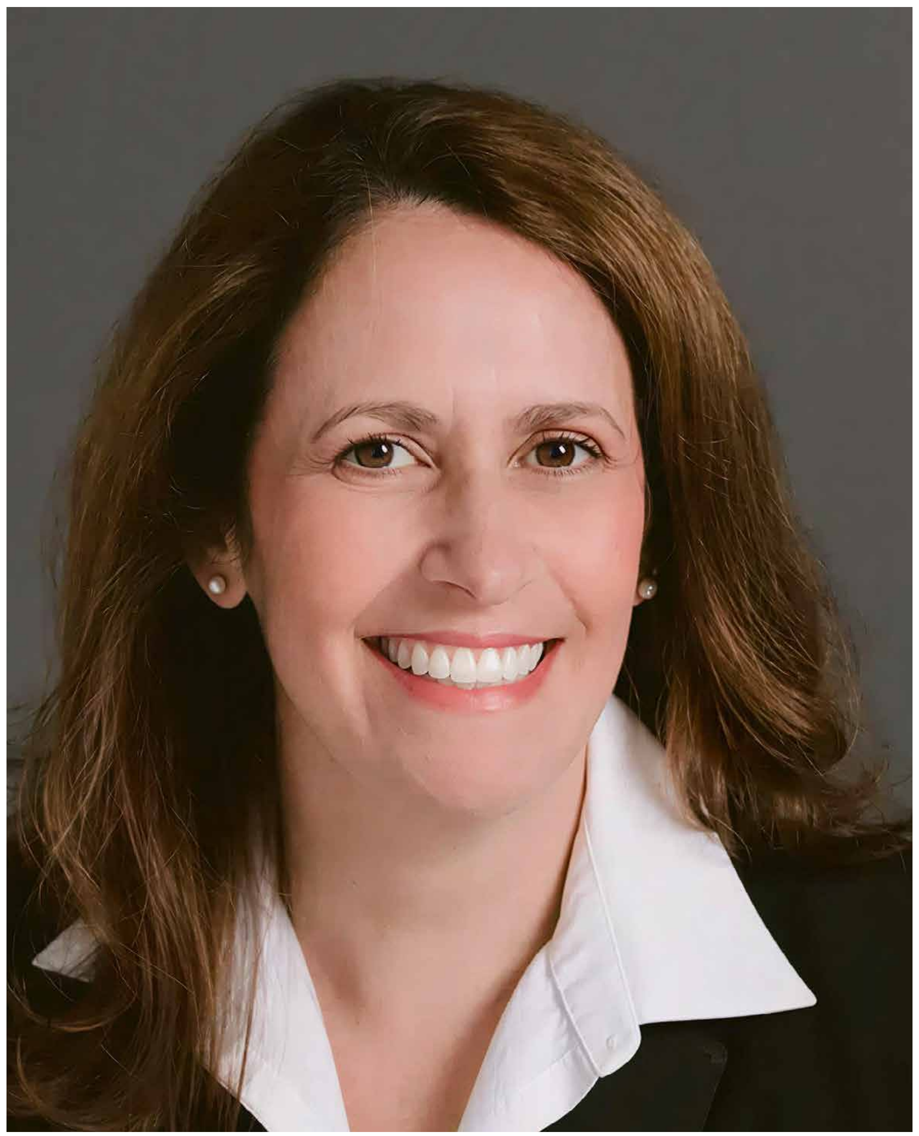
Cynthia Harty, *SVP of Corporate Development, ST Engineering iDirect speaks with Teletimes in an exclusive interview about the future of NTN and 5G in a multi-orbit, multi-vendor environment*

Gulraiz Khalid: How does ST Engineering iDirect see the role of non-terrestrial networks (NTN) in completing the 5G ecosystem, and what key problems are you specifically aiming to solve for mobile operators and enterprises?

Cynthia Harty: By integrating satellite and terrestrial infrastructures, non-terrestrial networks (NTN) create a unified communication layer. This layer enables satellite networks (non-3GPP networks) to interoperate with native 5G NTN networks and terrestrial networks. This interoperability redefines connectivity by supporting global mobility, resilience, and innovation. It's not just about extending coverage; it's about fundamentally transforming how connectivity is delivered and experienced by the end user.

The key problems we aim to solve for Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and enterprises are multifaceted. First, there is the issue of closing the connectivity gap. Terrestrial 5G alone cannot bridge the digital divide, especially in regions like Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. NTN enables operators to connect remote schools, clinics, and enterprises more cost-effectively than terrestrial solutions, ensuring that even the most underserved areas can access modern digital services.

Second, NTN addresses the need for global mobility. Industries such as aviation, maritime, and land mobility require seamless connectivity that terrestrial networks alone cannot provide. NTN ensures that these industries can operate without interruption, regardless of their location.



Third, NTN enhances resilience and redundancy. By creating a "network of networks," NTN provides a backup layer for critical services, ensuring high availability through multi-orbit satellite networks, including LEO, MEO, HEO, and GEO constellations. This is particularly important for disaster recovery and mission-critical applications.

Fourth, NTN drives operational efficiency and fosters a multi-vendor ecosystem.

Compliance with 5G NTN standards, cloud-native principles, and disaggregated architectures will help reduce vendor lock-in, enabling them to choose different modules and standardized User Equipment (UEs). It also allows operators to reuse existing satellite and terrestrial infrastructure while adopting 5G Core advantages, driving operational efficiencies. This approach not only lowers costs but also accelerates deployment timelines.

Finally, NTN unlocks new revenue streams. For MNOs, solving connectivity, resiliency, and mobility challenges can lead to new markets and revenue streams. To best serve enterprises, operators can monetize idle satellite capacity, offer differentiated services like network slicing, and bring new business models to market. Our Intuition ground system exemplifies this vision by supporting both non-3GPP and native 5G NTN architectures. It enables operators to roam seamlessly across NTN and TN networks to expand coverage, reduce churn, and improve network resilience.

GK: From a technical and commercial perspective, what are the main challenges in integrating 5G NTN with existing terrestrial 5G networks, and how is ST Engineering iDirect working with MNOs to overcome issues such as mobility, and handover, and spectrum coordination?

CH: Interoperability is the key issue. Standardizing protocols and interfaces across diverse network components is essential for smooth integration. Integrating satcom architecture with a 5G Core is a first step, as a unified NTN architecture allows operators to centralize key functions such as authentication, billing systems, policy control, mobility, and handover management. This simplifies operations, reduces complexity, and lowers costs. Most importantly, interoperability improves the customer experience with seamless mobility and consistent service quality. Telcos/MNOs would benefit from running NTN networks as an extension of their terrestrial networks, while maintaining the customer experience and opening opportunities to offer tailored services with specific performance guarantees, regardless of where the customer's site is located.

Bandwidth and resource management, latency, Doppler shift, and the integration of regenerative payloads are other key technical challenges in bringing satellite networks into the 5G ecosystem. ST Engineering iDirect is actively contributing to 3GPP working groups to tackle these challenges, applying its extensive satcom expertise to influence the 5G NR and scheduling standards and to develop solutions such as satellite-optimized waveforms with GNSS-free operation, as well as scheduler and mobility manager enhancements.

On the commercial side, integrating satellite systems cost-effectively into existing 5G infrastructure has remained a barrier for many operators. At ST Engineering iDirect, we are addressing these challenges through our cloud-native Intuition system, which provides access to the 5G Core in two ways: Telcos can either use their existing satcom networks (non-3GPP networks) through our innovative Satellite Interworking Gateway function, or they can use Intuition's native 5G NTN architecture with a gNodeB, 5G UEs, and 5G NR waveforms. We are also building hybrid 5G UEs to allow for seamless, hybrid roaming between terrestrial and satellite networks. Telcos can build their own standalone architectures, work with satellite operators, reach roaming agreements with other providers, or use service models. Providing business model flexibility will be key.

Roll of NTN in completing 5G ecosystem: Closing the connectivity gap Addressing the need for global mobility Enhancing resilience and redundancyDriving operational efficiency in a multi-vendor ecosystem Unlocking new revenue streams

Cynthia Harty, *Senior Vice President, Corporate Development, ST Engineering iDirect*

Cynthia Harty is Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at ST Engineering iDirect. Her career began in the software applications industry in venture capital start-up-funded companies. In 2000, Cynthia was brought into the legacy iDirect through its venture capital funding source; she has remained with the company ever since.

Cynthia's expertise lies in operations and the introduction of new products, services and solutions to market, establishing channel and pricing strategy. As Vice President of Business Development her focus is on the augmentation of the company's 5-year plan and the strategic partnerships that will enable the introduction of incremental capabilities to a product, solution or service and differentiated go-to-market strategy. The other big area of focus for Cynthia in terms of strategic business development is inorganic growth in terms of investment or M&A activity.

By adhering to 3GPP standards, we ensure interoperability and scalability, reduce vendor lock-in and legacy infrastructure dependency, and enable MNOs to unlock the full potential of 5G NTN with the appropriate business model that best fits their go-to-market plans.

GK: Which 5G NTN use cases do you believe will scale first—IoT, backhaul, direct-to-device, critical infrastructure, or something else—and can you share any concrete examples or pilots that demonstrate real customer value?

CH: The most scalable 5G NTN use cases for Satellite Operators, Service Providers, and Telcos in the near term include the resiliency of critical infrastructure, mobility services for the aviation and maritime industries, and enterprise-grade applications. These use cases address specific market demands and offer significant opportunities for operators and enterprises to expand their reach and capabilities.

> *Telcos/MNOs would benefit from running NTN networks as an extension of their terrestrial networks, while maintaining the customer experience and opening opportunities to offer tailored services with specific performance guarantees*

The resiliency of critical infrastructure is a key area where 5G NTN is poised to deliver transformative value. Enterprises in sectors such as energy, banking, and logistics can deploy mission-critical applications with greater confidence, ensuring secure and reliable connectivity in remote or underserved locations. Governments can also leverage 5G NTN to enhance public safety systems, national security, and disaster response capabilities. The ability to provide resilient, high-performance connectivity in challenging environments is a game-changer for these industries, enabling them to operate efficiently and securely.

Enterprise-grade applications are emerging as another significant use case for 5G NTN. By integrating satellite and terrestrial networks, operators can extend secure, high-performance connectivity to remote sites, enabling enterprises to adopt advanced technologies such as digital twins, IoT, and real-time data analytics. This capability is particularly valuable for industries such as mining, agriculture, and manufacturing, where reliable connectivity is essential for optimizing operations and driving innovation.

Mobility services for the aviation and maritime industries are another area where 5G NTN is set to thrive. Seamless connectivity across global routes will revolutionize trade, tourism, and logistics, ensuring uninterrupted service for passengers and operators. For example, hybrid roaming capabilities enabled by 5G NTN allow devices to switch seamlessly between terrestrial and satellite networks, providing consistent connectivity for aircraft, ships, and other mobile devices. This ensures that passengers and operators remain connected.

A concrete example of 5G NTN in action is ST Engineering iDirect's Intuition ground system, which has been deployed in proof-of-concepts (POCs) to demonstrate hybrid roaming capabilities.

The first POC demonstrates non-3GPP access to the 5G Core, where satellite systems are integrated using our Satellite Interworking Gateway (SIG) and an Access Gateway Function (AGF). This solution enables existing satellite ground systems to connect to the 5G Core, supporting identity management, billing, and consistent traffic policies, all while leveraging satellite-specific waveforms like DVB-S2X and MX-DMA MRC without requiring immediate infrastructure overhauls.

The second POC focuses on inter-provider roaming, enabling seamless user mobility between different satellite networks operated by separate providers. This capability mirrors terrestrial roaming agreements, breaking down silos between providers and allowing uninterrupted services across network boundaries.

Our next POC will demonstrate our native 5G NTN system in action. Built on satellite-optimized gNodeB and 5G NR, and using 5G UEs, we will showcase hybrid roaming between satellite and terrestrial networks.

GK: As the industry moves towards 3GPP-aligned 5G NTN and direct-to-device services, what technical milestones and ecosystem partnerships are most critical in the next 2–3 years, and how is ST Engineering iDirect positioning itself within that standards landscape?

CH: The next two to three years are pivotal for the evolution of 5G NTN. Advancing 3GPP standards, particularly the development and adoption of Release 18 and beyond, is essential to ensuring interoperability and scalability. These standards will enable seamless integration between terrestrial and satellite networks, creating a unified communications fabric that supports both everyday and mission-critical applications.

> *Advancing 3GPP standards, particularly the development and adoption of Release 18 and beyond, is essential to ensuring interoperability and scalability*

Developing hybrid user equipment capable of seamless transitions between terrestrial and satellite networks is another critical milestone. This technology will ensure that end users enjoy uninterrupted connectivity, regardless of location or network type.

Enhancing satellite ground systems to support 5G NR over NTN, such as satellite-optimized gNodeB technology, is also a priority. This advancement will enable operators to deliver high-performance connectivity and support advanced use cases like network slicing and mobility.

5G NTN readiness for onboard processing capabilities within regenerative satellite architectures represents another critical milestone in advancing satellite networks. This will enable seamless interoperability and enhanced processing directly in orbit. By fostering collaborative partner ecosystems and embracing open standards, ST Engineering iDirect is driving innovation to build resilient, adaptive 5G NTN architectures.

We are positioning ourselves as leaders in this space by actively participating in 3GPP working groups and collaborating with ecosystem partners to shape the future of 5G NTN. Our innovative solutions, such as cloud-native, multi-orbit ground systems and hybrid network and UE developments, enable satellite operators and MNOs to accelerate the adoption of 5G NTN solutions.

GK: In regions like the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia—where coverage gaps and rural connectivity remain key issues—how can 5G NTN practically help operators extend reach while still maintaining a viable business model?

CH: 5G NTN is a transformative solution for operators in regions with significant connectivity challenges. By integrating satellite technology with terrestrial networks, operators can overcome the limitations of traditional infrastructure and deliver reliable connectivity to underserved areas. Satellite technology provides the most practical means of connecting rural schools, clinics, and enterprises, bypassing the high costs and logistical challenges of terrestrial infrastructure. Operators can easily extend the same offerings beyond terrestrial coverage all while augmenting their centralized functions, such as 5G Core unified functions including billing, authentication, network control, mobility streamlining operations, reducing complexity and cutting costs. making it economically viable to serve low-revenue regions.

Furthermore, satellites act as a robust backup layer, ensuring network continuity during terrestrial outages or natural disasters. Additionally, operators can monetize satellite capacity by offering advanced services like network slicing for enterprise in remote areas and sovereign network capabilities for government customers, services that weren't possible before.

GK: Looking ahead to 2030, what does a mature 5G/6G NTN environment look like to you, and what strategic steps should operators be taking today if they don't want to be left behind in the satellite-enabled 5G era?

CH: By 2030, a mature 5G NTN environment will deliver a fully integrated satellite-terrestrial ecosystem, enabling seamless, resilient, and intelligent global connectivity. Satellite networks will complement terrestrial networks, providing ubiquitous coverage and ensuring connectivity in underserved and remote areas. Satellite-optimized gNodeB technology, matured 5G NR waveforms, and hybrid 5G user equipment will enable seamless transitions between terrestrial and satellite systems.

In the 6G era, AI-enabled automation will play an even greater role, driving innovation and unlocking new efficiencies—an evolution we at ST Engineering iDirect welcome, as we have been at the forefront of many AI-enabled proof-of-concepts (PoCs) focused on automation.

The integration of satellite and terrestrial networks is projected to generate $134 billion in technology and service revenue by 2033, according to the Analysys Mason, Satellite 5G and next-generation networks report.

Analysis Mason. This represents a substantial revenue opportunity that satellite operators, service providers, and MNOs must prepare to capitalize on. However, they must act now to avoid being left behind. Priorities should include unifying access to the 5G Core, adhering to 3GPP standards, leveraging satellites to enhance network resilience, adopting hybrid systems incrementally to minimize disruption, fostering ecosystem collaboration, and investing in AI-driven automation.

With each milestone—such as advancements in 3GPP Release 19, the maturation of 5G NR waveforms, hybrid UEs, and the incorporation of AI workflows—the industry moves closer to achieving a unified, intelligent communications fabric. Those who act decisively today will lead the satellite-enabled 5G/6G.

By Gulraiz Khalid

Powering a New Frontier of Global Connectivity and Intelligence: The Space42 Story

In an era defined by the fusion of space and digital transformation, Space42 stands out as a bold integrator of satellite communications, geospatial intelligence, and next-generation connectivity. Born from the 2024 merger of Bayanat and Yahsat, Space42 has rapidly extended its mission well beyond traditional satellite services — into Earth observation, AI-driven analytics, and the emerging world of direct-to-device connectivity.

At the heart of this ambitious strategy is Elmuiz Saad, Senior Vice President Commercial, whose vision blends commercial pragmatism with big-picture innovation. "We're building a platform that serves governments, enterprises, and end-users with one integrated technology stack — from conventional MSS [Mobile Satellite Services] to AI-enabled location intelligence and consumer connectivity," Saad tells Teletimes.

Four Strategic Pillars Driving Growth

Space42's strategic framework rests on four interconnected pillars:

1.Space Services — expanding satellite communications and managed solutions;

2.Smart Solutions — geospatial data and AI analytics;

3.Direct-to-Device Connectivity — a disruptive hybrid of space and terrestrial networks; and

4. Manufacturing and Sovereign Infrastructure — localized production of satellites and high-altitude platforms.

This multi-pronged approach ensures Space42 isn't just a space operator, but also a provider of intelligence, connectivity, and sovereign capability worldwide.

Connecting the Globe — From Thuraya-4 to Universal Access

The recent commercial launch of the Thuraya-4 L-band satellite expanded Space42's footprint across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, reinforcing its role as a leading provider of resilient communications. Saad highlights the importance of a comprehensive service

***Elmuiz Saad** - Senior Vice President, Commercial, Space42*

Elmuiz Saad is the Senior Vice President of Commercial at Space42, where he drives the company's global growth strategy through strategic partnerships and customer engagement. In his role, he focuses on expanding the company's international reach and deepening commercial relationships that strengthen its leadership in the SpaceTech sector, across satellite communications and AI-powered solutions.

Previously, Saad held senior roles at Thuraya and YahClick, where he advanced satellite-enabled services and led commercial initiatives that expanded access to innovative solutions across new markets. His experience spans new business development, key account management, and commercial strategy, guided by a focus on anticipating customer needs and delivering long-term value. He has also held roles in Etisalat and Satellite Communication SA.

Saad is an active contributor to international business networks, including the UAE–Singapore Business Council and the UAE–Estonia Business Council. He holds an MSc in Global Management and Masters in Science from the University of Salford in Greater Manchester, United Kingdom.

portfolio: "Our goal is to unify connectivity solutions so customers don't need to piece together disparate technologies from different vendors."

And while MSS remains a backbone, Space42 is innovating rapidly in hybrid services — driven by strategic partnerships and technological evolution.

Map Africa: A New Geospatial Foundation for Development

One of Space42's most ambitious Smart Solutions initiatives is the Map Africa Initiative — a five-year plan to produce the most detailed, continent-wide base map ever created, in collaboration with Microsoft and Esri.

This project will develop high-resolution, AI-enhanced base maps across all 54 African countries, enabling better infrastructure planning, logistics optimization, renewable energy deployment, environmental monitoring, and smart city development. With data accessible across governments,

> *" Our goal is to unify connectivity solutions so customers don't need to piece together disparate technologies from different vendors."*

businesses, and local communities, Map Africa exemplifies how satellite-derived geospatial intelligence can fuel economic growth and innovation at scale.

"Accurate, dynamic data is the foundation for smart decision-making," Saad notes. "Map Africa represents not just a mapping project — it's a data infrastructure that unlocks opportunities across industry, governance, and society."

Equatys: Redefining Connectivity with Direct-to-Device Services

Perhaps the boldest frontier for Space42 is Direct-to-Device (D2D) connectivity — enabling standard smartphones and IoT devices to connect directly with satellites without modifying hardware or SIM cards. This vision takes shape through Equatys, a joint venture with Viasat designed to deliver global connectivity rooted in an open, standards-based 5G NTN (Non-Terrestrial Network) architecture.

Equatys is built on the largest coordinated block of harmonized MSS spectrum, with ambitions to cover more than 180 markets worldwide and create a hybrid ecosystem where terrestrial cellular and space networks operate seamlessly. "Think of Equatys as a global space tower," Saad explains. "It extends connectivity everywhere while enhancing the reach and efficiency of terrestrial infrastructure."

This vision is already attracting major ecosystem partners. In October 2025, Space42 and e& UAE signed an MoU to explore deployment of 5G D2D services using the Equatys platform, aiming to combine terrestrial 5G with space coverage for enhanced user experiences.

For Saad, the Equatys model isn't about competition with network operators — it's about complementing them. "We're enabling mobile operators to extend their reach without sacrificing spectrum or infrastructure, while preserving user experience and network performance," he says.

Sovereign Manufacturing and Strategic Infrastructure

Space42's long-term strategy also includes localized aerospace manufacturing, a critical element for sovereign capability and regional leadership.

In Abu Dhabi, Space42 — in partnership with the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) — is establishing the Middle East's first

commercial Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite manufacturing hub. This facility will allow design, assembly, and testing of advanced Earth observation satellites locally, building sovereign space capability and creating highly skilled jobs.

Additionally, Space42's Mira Aerospace subsidiary has opened MENA's first High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) manufacturing facility, capable of producing over 20 advanced UAV systems annually. These platforms support terrestrial connectivity augmentation, environmental monitoring, and defense applications, further strengthening Space42's integrated ecosystem.

Balancing Commercial Growth and Strategic Impact

Space42's hybrid business isn't just about selling services — it's about architecture, infrastructure, and capability building. Even as the company reported a transitional revenue mix in 2025, with focus shifting toward programme-aligned engagements, its foundation has strengthened through recurring government contracts, advanced product launches, and long-term infrastructure commitments.

Saad frames Space42's role as both commercial and mission-driven: "We succeed when our partners succeed — when governments can plan smarter, when enterprises can operate with real-time intelligence, and when users can stay connected everywhere."

> *" Map Africa exemplifies how satellite-derived geospatial intelligence can fuel economic growth and innovation at scale ."*

Looking Ahead: Innovation at Scale

From deepening partnerships to delivering continental-scale mapping, advancing sovereign manufacturing, and enabling universal connectivity, Space42 is asserting itself as a new kind of space technology company — one that blends commercial scale with strategic impact.

"Innovation is non-negotiable," Saad concludes. "We're building the infrastructure — physical, digital, and regulatory — that allows space to truly uplift economies, societies, and everyday lives."

With its ecosystem expanding across continents and platforms, Space42's trajectory underscores a broader transformation in how we connect, understand, and interact with our planet — from orbit to handheld devices. T

> *" We're enabling mobile operators to extend their reach without sacrificing spectrum or infrastructure, while preserving user experience and network performance ."*

Space42 and Cobham Satcom redefine L-band performance with new portfolio of Thuraya-4 terminals

Space42 and Cobham Satcom have announced the completion of the full range of advanced terminals for the Thuraya-4 Next Generation Satellite (T4-NGS). This expanded portfolio provides users with broadband-grade L-band service across government, national security, maritime, and commercial sectors.

Together, the new terminals and the Thuraya-4 network deliver a new level of capability in L-band mobility and mission performance, giving users more ways to access high-throughput connectivity in the field.

"Rooted in our strategy to be a leader in Non-Terrestrial Networks, we are scaling Thuraya-4 services through an ecosystem of trusted technology partners with proven field expertise," said Sulaiman Al Ali, CCO, Space42. "Cobham Satcom's leadership in secure mobile satellite systems enables customer access to the high-speed broadband and operational resilience that Thuraya-4 provides. We look forward to advancing our capabilities and maximizing existing coverage through the collaboration."

"Our new L-band terminals deliver the secure, resilient connectivity users need to operate effectively whether on the battlefield, in disaster zones or on the rough seas," said Christophe Duret, CEO, Cobham Satcom. "With Thuraya-4 entering service, we're enabling mission success for those who depend on reliable communications, whether in defense, humanitarian, commercial, or critical infrastructure applications."

The comprehensive Cobham Satcom terminal portfolio ensures users can rely on broadband-grade L-band connectivity exceeding 1 Mbps, even in contested or remote environments. This milestone follows the start of commercial service on Space42's next-generation mobile communications satellite, Thuraya-4, in November 2025. Amongst the largest and most advanced geostationary satellites in orbit, it delivers resilient coverage across more than 100 countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Cobham Satcom's Thuraya-4 terminal range meets the distinct demands of government, defense, maritime, and commercial users. All terminals are available in two variants: certified for military operation (MIL-810H, MIL-461) and high-end commercial-grade terminals (IP-68).

The portfolio spans both Comms-on-the-Pause and Comms-on-the-Move systems, each offered in military and commercial configurations.

The IP NEO terminals are Comms-on-the-Pause terminals that fit into a backpack; the IP NEO M for military use delivers secure, high-throughput connectivity for mission-critical operations, whereas the rugged IP NEO C for commercial use is ideal for enterprise, humanitarian, and civil missions.

The rest of the terminals are Comms-on-the-Move solutions. The Orion NEO terminal supports maritime and offshore operations, aiding naval, coast guard, and commercial vessels in remote or high-threat areas. The Voyager NEO is a commercial vehicular terminal that keeps vehicles and teams connected while in transit. Finally, the Commander is a military vehicular terminal with military-grade certification for dust, rain, and extreme conditions, ensuring soldiers on the move maintain secure, real-time situational awareness.

The Thuraya-4 network sets a new standard in L-band communications with advanced beam management and enhanced resilience in harsh conditions, all built on 3GPP LTE standards. Users benefit from reliable service during interference or infrastructure failure, while support for video, real-time data, and IoT boosts field capabilities. With default end-to-end AES-256 encryption ensuring secure communications and expanded coverage into sub-Saharan Africa, coastal Europe, and the Middle East, Thuraya-4 connects operations far beyond terrestrial network capacity.

As the exclusive terminal and ground infrastructure partner for Space42's Thuraya-4, Cobham Satcom continues to advance the next generation of dependable mobile connectivity. Its integrated approach, combining ruggedized terminals, secure infrastructure, and decades of field-proven experience, cements its position as the most trusted provider of L-band satellite communications for government, defense, humanitarian, and commercial missions worldwide. T

PT Telkom Satelit Indonesia and Space42 explore partnership to extend 5G Direct-to-Device services

Space42 has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PT Telkom Satelit Indonesia (Telkomsat) to explore collaboration in Direct-to-Device (D2D) connectivity. The partnership leverages Equatys, a D2D venture between Space42 and Viasat (NASDAQ: VSAT) designed to enable seamless 5G connectivity across satellite and terrestrial networks. This collaboration supports both companies' ambitions to expand D2D connectivity beyond traditional infrastructure and create a seamlessly converged communications experience.

Announced in September 2025, Equatys aims to bridge connectivity gaps through a 3GPP Release 17+ Non-Terrestrial Network (NTN) framework. Supporting more than 100 MHz of harmonized global Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) spectrum, it will enable standard smartphones and IoT devices to connect directly to satellites, extending seamless 5G access across more than 180 markets worldwide.

Scope of Collaboration

Under this MoU, Telkomsat and Space42 intend to explore potential areas of collaboration related to NTN and D2D connectivity. The scope includes:

• **Exploration on Technical Integration:** Assess the feasibility of technical, commercial, and regulatory cooperation related to D2D and satellite-enabled communication services. This may include preliminary alignment of network infrastructure to ensure seamless handover between terrestrial and satellite systems without additional hardware, set service benchmarks for latency, bandwidth, and reliability, and jointly develop new 5G NTN capabilities.

• **Regulatory and Security Cooperation:** Ensure compliance with relevant local legislation, coordinate licensing and spectrum allocation, and maintain data privacy to meet regional and international standards.

• **Research and Development:** Joint innovation labs and pilot programs will test new technologies, advance service capabilities, conduct field trials, and assess interoperability with existing 4G and 5G networks.

• **Strategic Initiatives and Future Growth:** Joint product road map and infrastructure investment programs within Telkomsat's expansive footprint as Equatys scales globally.

Equatys will enable Telkomsat to offer enhanced user experiences within a unique value proposition, supporting its leading market

position as a technology provider.

Ali Al Hashemi, CEO of Space Services at Space42, said: "Equatys represents the future of global connectivity, tackling existing gaps that leave billions unserved by terrestrial networks. By partnering with Telkomsat, we continue to expand our ecosystem and advance our shared vision of universal connectivity. The move builds on Space42's standing as a global leader in non-terrestrial networks and highlights the power of collaboration in ensuring users and devices can access next-generation, sustainable connectivity."

Lukman Hakim Abd Rauf, CEO of Telkomsat, said: "Satellite-based connectivity will remain a key element in the national network architecture, particularly to ensure reliable communications in remote areas as well as for the country's strategic needs. Telkomsat remains committed to delivering inclusive and sustainable services for all communities."

A New Model for Universal Connectivity

Operating as a shared "space tower" company, Equatys applies a multi-tenant TowerCo model that reduces redundant capital expenditure while delivering cost-efficient capacity to multiple operators. Its architecture will serve three market segments through a scalable, infrastructure-grade network: D2D, IoT, and MSS.

By exploring avenues to integrate this scalable infrastructure with Telkomsat's accessible markets, Equatys will advance from concept to commercialization, turning universal connectivity into a shared growth opportunity. Together, the companies aim to deliver a new generation of hybrid connectivity that supports digital economies, enterprise innovation, and inclusive growth.

Thuraya enters South African market for the first time with Thuraya-4 commercial rollout

Thuraya announced the commercial rollout of its next-generation mobile communications satellite, Thuraya-4, in South Africa. The expansion marks Thuraya's complete portfolio operational presence in the country and a major milestone in bringing reliable satellite connectivity to one of Africa's fastest-growing digital markets.

The rollout expands national coverage and strengthens critical communications across essential sectors. Thuraya-4 supports the nation's digital inclusion goals outlined in South Africa's Vision 2030, improves operational efficiency for industry and government verticals, and complements the country's growing investment in space and telecommunications infrastructure.

Sulaiman Al Ali, Chief Commercial Officer at Space42 said: "Thuraya has delivered mobile satellite services across Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia for over 20 years, supporting customers where coverage and continuity are essential. South Africa's focus on digital inclusion and infrastructure resilience makes it an important addition to that journey. As a UAE-based company, we see strong alignment in how both countries view connectivity as a driver of economic resilience. Through Thuraya-4, we are proud to support that shared ambition."

Supporting South Africa's Resilience and Growth

Thuraya-4 strengthens South Africa's most connectivity-dependent industries, including energy, mining, maritime, civil government, and humanitarian operations. Aligned with South Africa's digital inclusion priorities, it extends communications networks to remote and high-risk areas, and enhances productivity, operational efficiency, safety, and continuity in sectors vital to the country's economy.

Thuraya enters the market in close collaboration with South African regulators and industry partners, ensuring alignment with local connectivity goals and shared digital growth ambitions.

A New Kind of Connectivity in South Africa

Thuraya-4 introduces mobility and reliability beyond the limits of conventional satcom systems. While most networks are built for fixed, high-bandwidth access, Thuraya-4 is designed for mission-critical communications where reach, security, and resilience are essential.

Its advanced L-band payload and software-defined architecture allocates bandwidth and power dynamically, configures coverage intelligently, and supports seamless interoperability with terrestrial networks even in adverse weather or isolated regions. This combination of mobility and endurance ensures uninterrupted service for sectors that rely on continuous communication.

A Broader Commitment to Africa's Connected Future

Thuraya's expansion into South Africa reflects Space42's broader strategy to extend digital access and strengthen geospatial infrastructure across Africa.

• **Digital Connectivity:** In Zimbabwe, Space42 has connected over 1,000 schools and 500 clinics and plans to reach 2,500 more schools serving 1.9 million students. In Rwanda, its subsidiary Mira Aerospace conducted the world's first 5G video call from a fixed-wing High-Altitude Platform Station, demonstrating how airborne systems can extend broadband coverage where satellites and terrestrial networks cannot. In South Africa Space42 offers coverage via Yahclick, enabling reliable broadband access.

• **Geospatial Intelligence:** Through the Map Africa Initiative, Space42, Microsoft, and Esri are building the continent's most comprehensive base map using satellite imagery and AI analytics. The program supports infrastructure planning, resource management, and climate-resilient development in partnership with regional and national institutions.

Huawei showcases 5G-A and AI integration at MWC25 Doha, drives regional digital transformation

Huawei successfully concluded its participation in the inaugural MWC25 Doha, demonstrating how the integration of 5G-Advanced (5G-A) and artificial intelligence is driving unprecedented digital transformation across the Middle East region. The two-day event at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center brought together government leaders, telecom operators, and industry experts to explore the future of intelligent connectivity.

In his keynote address titled "Empowering Middle Eastern Digital Visions with 5G-A x AI," Richard Liu, President of ICT Marketing and Solution Sales, Huawei, highlighted the remarkable global progress of 5G-Advanced technology and its synergy with AI in reshaping industries.

"The synergy between 5G-Advanced and AI is reshaping the global industry landscape at an unprecedented pace," said Richard Liu. "Just one year after commercial deployment, 5G-Advanced has already driven the deployment of over 60,000 enterprise private networks and is expected to create more than $2.8 trillion in economic value by 2025."

Liu emphasized that Middle Eastern operators are at the forefront of this transformation, accelerating their 5G-Advanced deployment and achieving 30-40% improvements in network energy efficiency through AI integration. The region has already implemented more than ten intelligent application scenarios, demonstrating the practical impact of this technological convergence.

The integration is driving major transformations across three key areas: business model innovation through tiered services and scenario-based solutions that boost Average Revenue Per User (ARPU); intelligent services where AI agents cover 80% of daily scenarios with voice

interaction and cloud services providing instant responses; and infrastructure upgrades including all-optical infrastructure supporting 10GE access, with automation rates in operations and maintenance reaching 40%.

Middle East Leads Global 5G-A Development with Over One Million Users

Allen Tang, President of ICT Marketing and Solution Sales, Huawei Middle East and Central Asia delivered a keynote titled "The Booming Era of 5G-A: Innovation, Leadership, and Growth" at the 5G Future Summit on the first day of MWC Doha, emphasizing the Middle East's leadership position in the global 5G-Advanced rollout.

"The Middle East is leading a new wave of global 5G-Advanced development," said Allen Tang. "More than 25 commercial 5G-A networks have been deployed globally, and the number of 5G-A users in the Middle East has exceeded one million, demonstrating strong growth momentum."

Tang highlighted that the integration of 5G-A and AI is driving telecom operators to transition from traditional telecom service providers (Telcos) to technology companies (Techcos), increasing ARPU by 20% through diversified business models including tiered rates, scenario-based experiences, and VIP services.

In GCC countries, 75% of smartphones already support Standalone (SA) networking, and 36% have AI capabilities. SA network coverage has improved by 20%, and uplink speeds have increased by 50%, laying the foundation for low-altitude economic applications such as drone delivery and flying taxis.

Huawei has proposed "3A Infrastructure" (5G-A, Always-Online, AI-Driven), which uses AI agents and data fusion to elevate operational efficiency from "hour-level" to "real-time." Through multi-band Meta technology, Sub-1GHz solutions, and intelligent BSS platforms, Huawei is helping operators achieve "10Gbps experience" and full-coverage networks.

Strategic Partnerships and Comprehensive Technology Showcase Drive Intelligent Transformation

During MWC25 Doha, Huawei and MEEZA, a leading end-to-end managed IT services and solutions provider, signed two strategic Memoranda of Understanding to advance Qatar's national priorities in digital infrastructure, AI innovation, and talent development.

The agreements focus on deepening collaboration in Private Digital Infrastructure and AI services, and launching a National Training Program to cultivate local expertise in emerging digital fields. These partnerships support Qatar's vision for economic diversification, technological leadership, and long-term resilience.

Throughout MWC25 Doha, held under the theme "Accelerating the Intelligent World," Huawei showcased comprehensive solutions that demonstrate how 5G-A and AI convergence create new business opportunities and monetization models across multiple sectors.

At its exhibition booth, visitors experienced AI-driven solutions that empower industries, including public services, transport, utilities, finance, and energy, to achieve higher efficiency and productivity. Huawei also presented cloud and digital energy advancements, demonstrating how intelligent infrastructure supports sustainable, low-carbon digital ecosystems.

Huawei's participation in MWC25 Doha reinforces its commitment to advancing Qatar's ICT ecosystem, building on over two decades of contribution to the nation's digital transformation journey and supporting Qatar's vision for a knowledge-based, intelligent economy.

The event concluded with the message that "Innovation Never Stops," emphasizing that the Middle East will continue to play a leading role on the global telecom stage, setting new standards for technological breakthroughs and business success in the 5G-Advanced and AI era.

FWA and fiber to drive Saudi Arabia fixed communication services market through 2030 - GlobalData forecast

Fixed communication services revenue in Saudi Arabia is set for a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.9% during 2025-2030, underpinned by surging fixed broadband adoption even as traditional voice declines. The rapid shift toward fixed wireless access (FWA) and fiber reflects accelerating digital infrastructure priorities, signaling deeper market readiness for high-capacity connectivity and stronger nationwide coverage aligned with the Kingdom's evolving residential and enterprise demand, says GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's Saudi Arabia Total Fixed Communications Forecast (Q3 2025) reveals that fixed voice service revenue will decline at a CAGR of 9.6% over the 2025-2030 period, given the significant decline in circuit-switched subscriptions as users continue to shift away from traditional voice services towards mobile/app-based voice communications.

Fixed broadband service revenue, on the other hand, is expected to increase at a strong CAGR of 12.9% over the forecast period, driven by the robust growth in FWA and FTTH/B subscriber lines. This growth is further supported by the government's Vision 2030 program, which targets providing high-quality broadband coverage to 90% of homes in densely populated urban areas and 66% in other less dense urban centers by 2030.

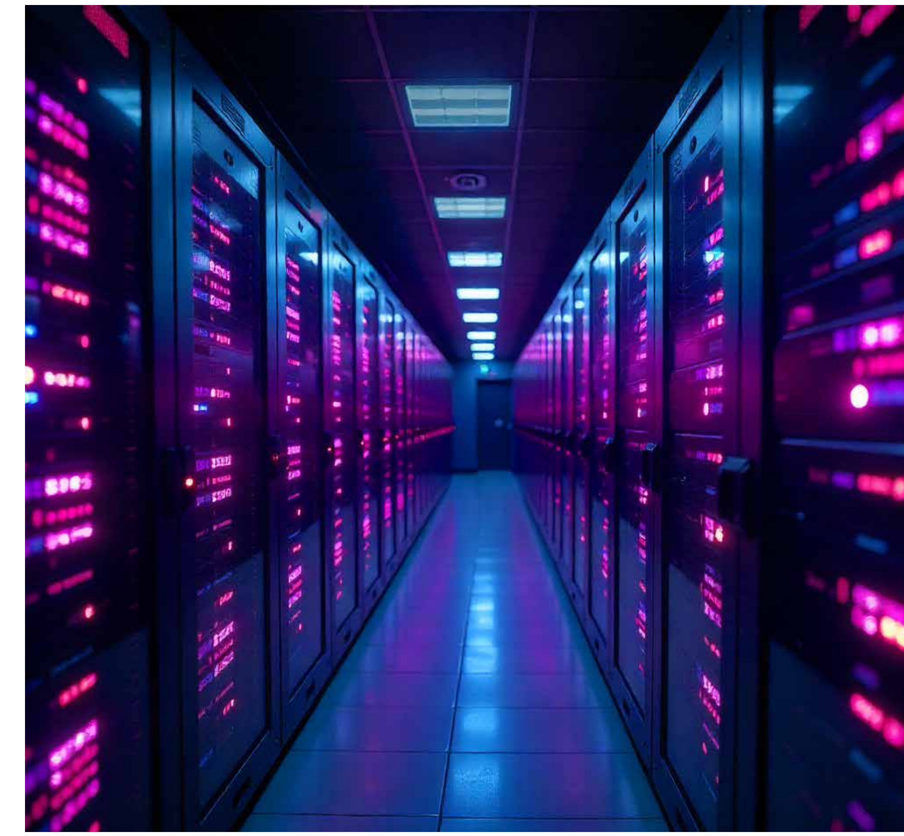
Sarwat Zeeshan, Telecom Analyst at GlobalData, comments: "FWA accounted for more than 57% share of total fixed broadband subscriptions in 2025 and will remain the leading technology through 2030, thanks to its faster deployment capabilities and its ability to reach areas where providing fiber lines is challenging. Government initiatives supporting FWA services will also help in their wider availability and adoption in the coming years."

For instance, in June 2025, the country's telecom regulator, CST launched the Spectrum Outlook for Commercial and Innovative Use (2025-2027) as a part of its efforts to advance wireless broadband technologies in the country. The plan is aimed at optimizing the use of the radio spectrum as an enabler of digital transformation and enabling FWA for improved broadband services.

Fiber broadband remains a well-established broadband technology with fiber lines accounting for 39.2% share of total fixed broadband subscriptions in 2025, thanks to its wider availability and faster internet speeds from 100 Mbps up to 1 Gbps (or more).

Zeeshan concludes: "stc will lead both fixed voice and fixed broadband segments by subscriber share through 2030. In the broadband segment, all major operators are taking a hybrid approach offering both FWA and fiber broadband services, positioning FWA for faster rural rollout and urban complement, and offering fiber in easily accessible areas with high reliability and driving gigabit speeds."

stc and HUMAIN to develop AI-focused data centers in Saudi Arabia



Saudi Telecom Company (stc) and HUMAIN, a Public Investment Fund (PIF)-backed AI company, have announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic joint venture aimed at developing and operating next-generation, AI-focused data centers across Saudi Arabia.

The partnership brings together stc's digital infrastructure capabilities, through its data center subsidiary Center3, with HUMAIN's mandate to advance artificial intelligence infrastructure and applications in the Kingdom. The joint venture is designed to address the rapidly growing demand for high-performance computing and data infrastructure required to support large-scale AI workloads, including generative AI, machine learning, and advanced analytics.

Under the proposed structure, HUMAIN will hold a 51 percent stake in the joint venture, while stc, through Center3, will retain 49 percent ownership. The collaboration leverages Center3's proven expertise in building and operating carrier-neutral data centers and HUMAIN's strategic focus on developing end-to-end AI capabilities aligned with national priorities.

The joint venture plans to develop data centers capable of supporting up to 1 gigawatt (GW) of AI workloads in Saudi Arabia. The initial phase is expected to deliver approximately 250 megawatts (MW) of capacity, subject to customer demand and commercial agreements, with a roadmap for phased expansion over time.

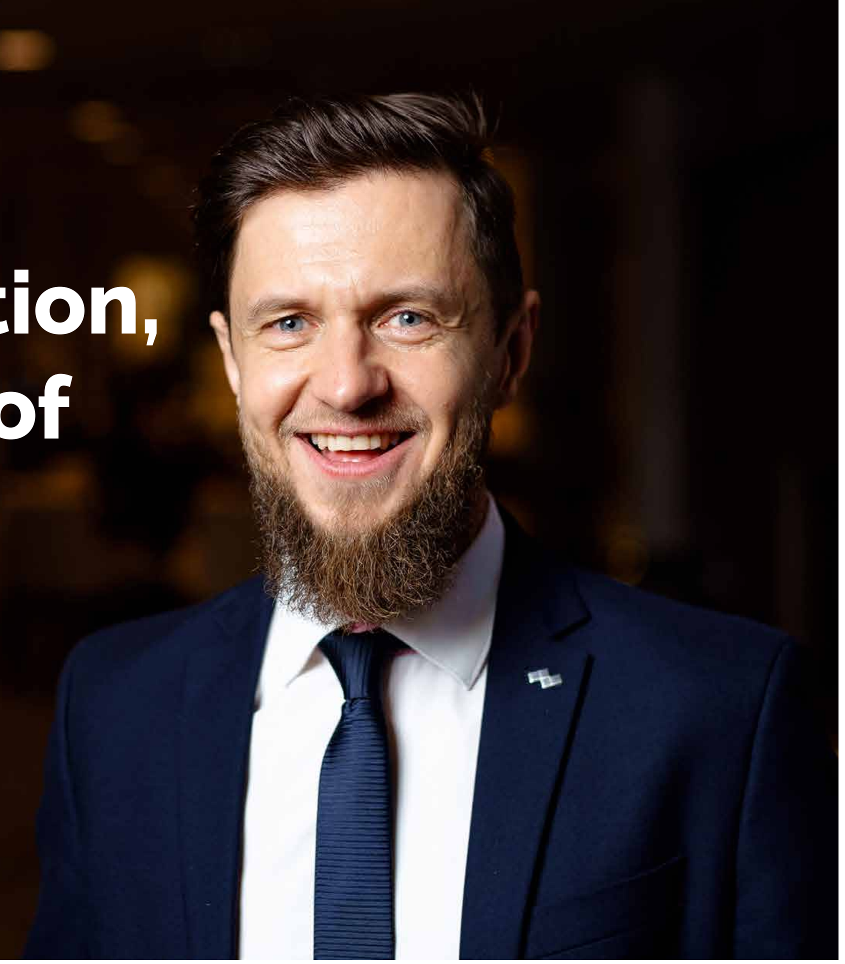
The data centers will be purpose-built to meet the intensive requirements of AI computing, including high-density power configurations, advanced cooling technologies, ultra-low latency connectivity, and robust energy efficiency standards. These facilities will support both local and international customers, including hyperscalers, government entities, and enterprises seeking secure, scalable, and high-performance AI infrastructure within the Kingdom.

This initiative aligns closely with Saudi Vision 2030, supporting the Kingdom's objectives to diversify its economy, strengthen digital infrastructure, enhance data sovereignty, and position Saudi Arabia as a global hub for AI and emerging technologies. By localizing advanced AI compute capacity, the joint venture will enable organizations to deploy AI workloads domestically, reduce reliance on external infrastructure, and foster innovation across multiple sectors.

Center3 currently operates and develops data centers across Saudi Arabia and the wider region, with a long-term roadmap targeting up to 1 GW of capacity by 2030. HUMAIN, established as part of Saudi Arabia's national AI strategy, is focused on building a comprehensive AI ecosystem spanning infrastructure, platforms, and applications.

The parties will work over the coming months to finalize definitive agreements and advance the project toward implementation. Once operational, the joint venture is expected to contribute to job creation, technology transfer, and the development of a robust AI ecosystem that supports both public and private sector digital transformation.

The stc–HUMAIN joint venture marks a significant milestone in Saudi Arabia's digital infrastructure journey, reinforcing the Kingdom's commitment to becoming a leading destination for AI innovation and data-driven growth.



Fleet Digitalization, AI & the Future of Smart Mobility

An exclusive conversation with **Alexander Kushinov**, *Head of Wialon*

Interview: Gulraiz Khalid

Gulraiz Khalid: Alexander, tell us about Wialon and the role it plays in the global fleet industry.

Alexander Kushinov: Wialon is the world's largest platform for fleet management and fleet digitalization. Any company that operates vehicles—cars, trucks, heavy machinery, public transport—can use our platform to optimize operations, reduce fuel costs, cut idling, and make data-driven decisions. Today, more than 4 million vehicles are connected to Wialon globally, creating one of the richest telematics datasets in the industry.

GK: How do you see the telematics industry evolving over the next five years with AI and edge computing?

Kushinov: AI is becoming unavoidable in telematics. At Wialon we are already implementing AI assistants that allow users to interact with the platform in natural language — for example, asking for the safest driver, the most efficient route, or the vehicles with the least violations.

Because we manage data from over 4 million connected vehicles, we have access to traffic conditions, accident trends, and road behavior at massive scale. As large language models evolve, we will use this data to improve route safety, road security, and fleet efficiency using predictive intelligence.

GK: The Middle East is heavily investing in smart mobility. How is Wialon positioned in the GCC?

Kushinov: The GCC is one of our key regions. While Wialon is a global technology platform headquartered in Europe (Vilnius, Lithuania), we maintain a physical office in Dubai to stay close to customers and regulators.

Governments in the Middle East are actively promoting fleet digitization, logistics automation, and smart transportation. We continuously adapt our platform to comply with regional regulations and operational needs so fleets here can move toward advanced digital operations.

GK: Sustainability is a major priority in the region. How does Wialon support ESG and fuel efficiency goals?

Kushinov: ESG is one of the key reasons fleet owners adopt platforms like Wialon.

> *At Wialon we are already implementing AI assistants that allow users to interact with the platform in natural language*

Aliaksandr Kuushynau

Head of Wialon at Gurtam, member of the Forbes Council

Aliaksandr joined Gurtam in 2009 as the Chief Marketing Officer. In his current role, Aliaksandr directs the entire Wialon division. He is responsible for building product development and commercial strategy, strategic and tactical planning, as well as coordination of all departments within the Wialon division and communication with key customers.

Wialon is the fleet management software for GPS tracking and IoT, with 4 million connected vehicles in more than 160 countries. With more than 20 years of experience, Wialon has helped thousands of companies optimize their operations by effectively processing and analyzing telematics data. Being a flexible and multifunctional system, Wialon helps deliver any telematics project of any scale and for any industry.

Wialon is developed by Gurtam, a software development company providing IoT solutions with a focus on fleet tracking, headquartered in Vilnius with offices in Boston, Dubai, and Tbilisi.

Recent articles:

The Power Of B2B Partnerships: How To Build A Tech Community

Fleet Management: Four Trends Set To Transform The Landscape

Driving down fleet operating costs with the power of telematics-based solutions

Will The 3G Sunset Leave Supply Chains In The Dark?

Staying Ahead Of The Curve: 3 Key Fleet Management Trends For 2023

Our system provides high-precision fuel analytics, combining data from:

- Vehicle sensors
- Fuel stations
- Fuel cards assigned to each driver

This allows fleet managers to track every liter and every dollar spent on fuel. We also provide CO_2 emission reporting, not just fuel usage.

Using this data, managers can:

- Detect inefficient routes
- Reduce idling
- Identify unsafe or wasteful driving
- Lower emissions

This makes ESG compliance measurable, trackable, and improvable.

GK: Are AI tools being used directly in fuel and emission calculations?

Kushinov: Absolutely. Wialon's fuel and emissions models are the result of more than 15 years of development. Fuel efficiency is extremely important in our home markets in Eastern Europe, so these algorithms are very mature.

Now, we are adding an AI layer on top of this data to improve pattern detection, anomaly detection, and optimization of fuel and emissions management.

> *The GCC is one of our key regions. While Wialon is a global technology platform headquartered in Europe (Vilnius, Lithuania), we maintain a physical office in Dubai to stay close to customers and regulators*

> *We are adding an AI layer on top to improve pattern detection, anomaly detection, and optimization of fuel and emissions management*

GK: What role does AI play in routing and driver safety?

Kushinov: Routing and dispatching benefit greatly from AI and machine learning because optimal routes are never static. Our system constantly updates routes based on:

- Traffic
- Road conditions
- Historical fleet behavior

We also integrate AI dashcams that detect:

- Distracted driving
- Phone usage
- Fatigue
- Dangerous behavior

These insights flow from the vehicle into the Wialon backend, allowing fleet managers to coach drivers, prevent accidents, and reduce risk.

GK: With so much sensitive data, how do you ensure cybersecurity and privacy?

Kushinov: Security is critical in telematics. Some OEM systems in the market have suffered breaches, but Wialon has not.

We use:

- Encrypted HTTPS connections between vehicles, servers, and users
- Secure communication protocols
- Two-factor authentication for user logins

Despite managing massive volumes of data, we have never had a case where customer data was compromised.

GK: How do you see the future of telematics in the Middle East?

Kushinov: Telematics is evolving into something bigger: fleet digitalization. GPS tracking was just the beginning.

Today we integrate:

- Fuel data
- Maintenance
- Driver profiles
- Routing
- Safety
- Emissions
- Dispatching

Telematics has become the backbone of a full digital fleet ecosystem. In the Middle East, where logistics, transportation, and smart cities are expanding rapidly, this evolution will happen even faster.

GK: What will fleet management look like in the future?

Kushinov: Fleet owners no longer want five different applications for five different tasks. They want one platform.

The future will be a consolidated fleet ecosystem, combining:

- Aftermarket telematics
- OEM-embedded vehicle data
- Maintenance
- Fuel
- Compliance
- Safety
- Analytics

All in one place — one dashboard, one truth. That is exactly where Wialon is headed.

UAE announces successful launch of Arab Satellite 813

This milestone marks the beginning of a new era for joint Arab space initiatives

The UAE announced the successful launch of Arab Satellite 813, a strategic milestone that ushers in a new era of joint Arab space initiatives.

Arab Satellite 813 aims to advance regional space capabilities by developing the skills of young Arab engineers and scientists, strengthening collaboration among the Arab Space Cooperation Group countries, and supporting sustainable development through advanced Earth observation technologies. The satellite also contributes to building regional expertise in assembling and testing microsatellites, reinforcing the Arab region's space infrastructure. The project contributed to attracting and training 10 Arab engineers and researchers

Arab Satellite 813 is the first Arab satellite with hyperspectral imaging technology, providing unprecedented capabilities for studying environmental and climatic systems and monitoring changes on Earth's surface through three integrated technologies: Hyperspectral Imaging (HSI), a Panchromatic Camera (PAN), and an Atmospheric Polarimeter (AP). Arab Satellite 813 will provide member states of the Arab Space Cooperation Group with access to open data to develop tailored solutions that address their environmental and climate priorities. The satellite will also support the creation of a unified database for Arab environmental and development policies, while reducing reliance on costly ground-based measurements.

The satellite will also enhance understanding of climate change and support the development of practical, space-based solutions—powered by artificial intelligence models and analytical applications—to serve vital sectors across Arab countries. In addition, it contributes to the achievement of 10 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

His Excellency Salem Butti Al Qubaisi, Director-General of UAE Space Agency, said: "Arab Satellite 813 is the first Arab space project dedicated to Earth observation and the study of environmental and climatic systems. It serves as a unified platform to enhance scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange, and support sustainable development."

Al Qubaisi added: "The satellite provides high-resolution data on water, soil, and vegetation, processed with artificial intelligence to support rapid and efficient environmental decision-making. It enables monitoring of coastal pollution, forest health, and agriculture to bolster Arab food security. It also acts as an incubator for developing Arab talent in space science, and provides open data to member states, strengthening the region's research infrastructure and positioning it as a significant global contributor."

H.E. Professor Dr. Ahmed Ali Al Raisi, Vice Chancellor of United Arab Emirates University, stated: "The successful launch of the Arab 813

satellite marks a historic milestone for the Arab world and reflects the UAE's vision in supporting joint projects that empower young Arab talent and build globally competitive research capabilities."

He emphasized that UAE University, as one of the region's leading research institutions, is proud to be part of this national and scientific achievement, which strengthens its global presence in the fields of innovation and space. He added that the University will continue to forge strategic partnerships that help develop innovative solutions to environmental and climate challenges, in support of sustainable development goals.

Ali Al Shehhi, Director of the National Space Science and Technology Center said: "The launch of the Arab Satellite 813 is a milestone of great pride for all of us, and a clear message that investing in science and national talent can create a unified Arab impact in space. This mission reflects the UAE's vision to empower local capabilities and build a world-class space infrastructure. We believe that 813 will stand as a model of meaningful Arab collaboration, proving that shared ambition can turn ideas into lasting achievements."

Dr. Maged Ismail, CEO of the Egyptian Space Agency and current Chair of the Arab Space Cooperation Group, affirmed that the launch of the Arab Satellite 813 represents a landmark in the trajectory of joint space efforts. He highlighted that the project demonstrates the integration of Arab capabilities in space science and technology and their application in support of sustainable development goals.

Ismail added that this achievement reflects the strength of Arab cooperation and the benefits of unifying expertise and resources, marking the first step toward a new phase of joint Arab space projects dedicated to building advanced scientific and technological capacities.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Asiri, CEO of Bahrain Space Agency, emphasised that the launch of the Arab Satellite 813 marks a historic milestone embodying the Arab region's aspiration to build a future founded on knowledge and innovation. He noted that the project reflects the region's ability to move from symbolic participation to genuine scientific contribution in the space sector.

Al-Asiri continued: "This project offers an advanced model of joint Arab action and symbolises a new era in which the Arab nation reclaims its role in the progress of human civilisation through initiatives that transcend borders and lay solid foundations for scientific and technological integration."

Dr. Ghaleb Faour, Director of the National Center for Remote Sensing in Lebanon, described the launch of the first joint Arab satellite as a moment of pride and a testament to constructive cooperation among the Arab Space Cooperation Group countries. He noted that it is a foundational step toward establishing an Arab Space Agency and praised the pioneering role of the UAE and the UAE Space Agency in realising this achievement.

Dr. Saoud Al Shoaili, Director-General of Policies and Governance and Head of the National Space Program in the Sultanate of Oman, stated that this historic accomplishment demonstrates the success of Arab cooperation in space science and technology, and reflects a shared ambition to leverage space for sustainable development. He stressed that the satellite's launch is a pivotal milestone that opens the door for knowledge exchange and the development of scientific and technological partnerships that will strengthen the Arab region's role in space exploration and in crafting innovative solutions to environmental and developmental challenges.

Dr. Rafiq Akram, current Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and Director of the Royal Centre for Space Sensing in Morocco, affirmed that the launch of Arab Satellite 813 represents a historic achievement stemming from a strategic vision and meticulous joint Arab efforts. He added that it lays the foundation for a broad space cooperation framework among Arab states, and expressed gratitude to the UAE and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for this project.

Brigadier General Engineer Muammar Haddadin, Director-General of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Center, described the satellite's launch as a pioneering Arab accomplishment that illustrates the depth of scientific cooperation within the Arab Space Cooperation Group, under the UAE's leadership. He stressed that the project embodies a shared vision for building a knowledge-based economy rooted in space science. and represents a strategic step that bolsters the region's position in the global scientific community.

Dr. Hala Khaled Al-Jassar, representative of the Kuwait National Center for Space Research and Acting Head of the Department of Physics at Kuwait University, noted that the launch marks a historic moment that reflects profound cooperation and integration among Arab countries in space and sustainable development. She emphasised that this pioneering initiative aligns with shared Arab ambitions to leverage space science for vital applications, including agriculture, water management, pollution monitoring, combating desertification, and addressing climate and environmental applications. T

China to host ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 in Shanghai

WRC-27 will shape the future of radiocommunication services on Earth and in space

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is pleased to announce that the next Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-27) and World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-27) will take place in Shanghai, China, from 11 October to 12 November 2027.

Held every four years, the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) reviews and revises the ITU Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio frequency spectrum and associated satellite orbits.

During the four-week conference, ITU Member States will consider the results of technical studies and adopt decisions that shape the future use of spectrum for a wide range of radiocommunication services and applications, including mobile, satellite, radiolocation, radio astronomy, and space research services that support lunar communications.

"WRC-27 will be a defining moment in making universal, meaningful connectivity a reality," said ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. "The conference will make critical decisions about sharing spectrum and satellite orbit resources efficiently and equitably, on Earth and in space, in ways that benefit all of humanity."

Over 4,000 delegates are expected to attend the WRC-27 and RA-27 meetings. In addition to ITU's 194 Member States, representatives from sister United Nations agencies, Regional Telecommunication Organizations, and ITU Radiocommunication Sector Members will participate as observers.

"As the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to host the WRC, China highly anticipates the successful convening of this grand event," said Li Lecheng, Minister of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) of China. "We will fulfill our obligations as the host country in accordance with ITU's rules and regulations, provide comprehensive services and support for the Conference, and work together with all ITU member states to present to the world a radiocommunication event that fosters win-win cooperation and yields fruitful outcomes. We hereby extend a cordial invitation to all delegates to the event and wish them all a pleasant stay in Shanghai."

Preparations underway

The WRC preparatory process spans a four-year study cycle, involving extensive studies and technical discussions among governments, regulators, equipment manufacturers, telecommunication operators, and industry forums at national, regional, and global levels.

"World Radiocommunication Conferences are essential to shaping the future of global communications," said Mario Maniewicz, Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau. "WRC-27 in Shanghai will guide the evolution of radiocommunication services on Earth and in space — for broadband connectivity, safety of life, and space and Earth observation. It is where the international community comes together to ensure that spectrum regulations keep pace with rapid technological innovation and respond to global, regional, and national needs."

WRC's inclusive and collaborative approach enables consensus-building among all stakeholders. It ensures that the Radio Regulations remain a stable, predictable, and universally applied framework – fostering an interference-free environment that supports continued investment in radiocommunication services. T

Huawei and MEEZA sign two strategic MoUs at MWC25 Doha, driving Qatar's digital leadership and economic diversification

Strengthening Qatar's digital infrastructure, AI innovation, and homegrown talent to build a resilient, future-ready economy

MEEZA and Huawei have signed two strategic Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) during MWC25 Doha to advance Qatar's national priorities in digital infrastructure, AI, and talent development. The agreements demonstrate how private-sector innovation can support the country's vision for economic diversification, technological leadership, and long-term resilience.

The MoUs aim to deepen collaboration in Private Digital Infrastructure and AI services, and to launch a National Training Program to cultivate local expertise in emerging digital fields. By enabling Qatar's private sector to lead innovation and adopt advanced technological solutions, Huawei and MEEZA aim to strengthen the country's digital foundations, foster homegrown talent, and enhance national competitiveness.

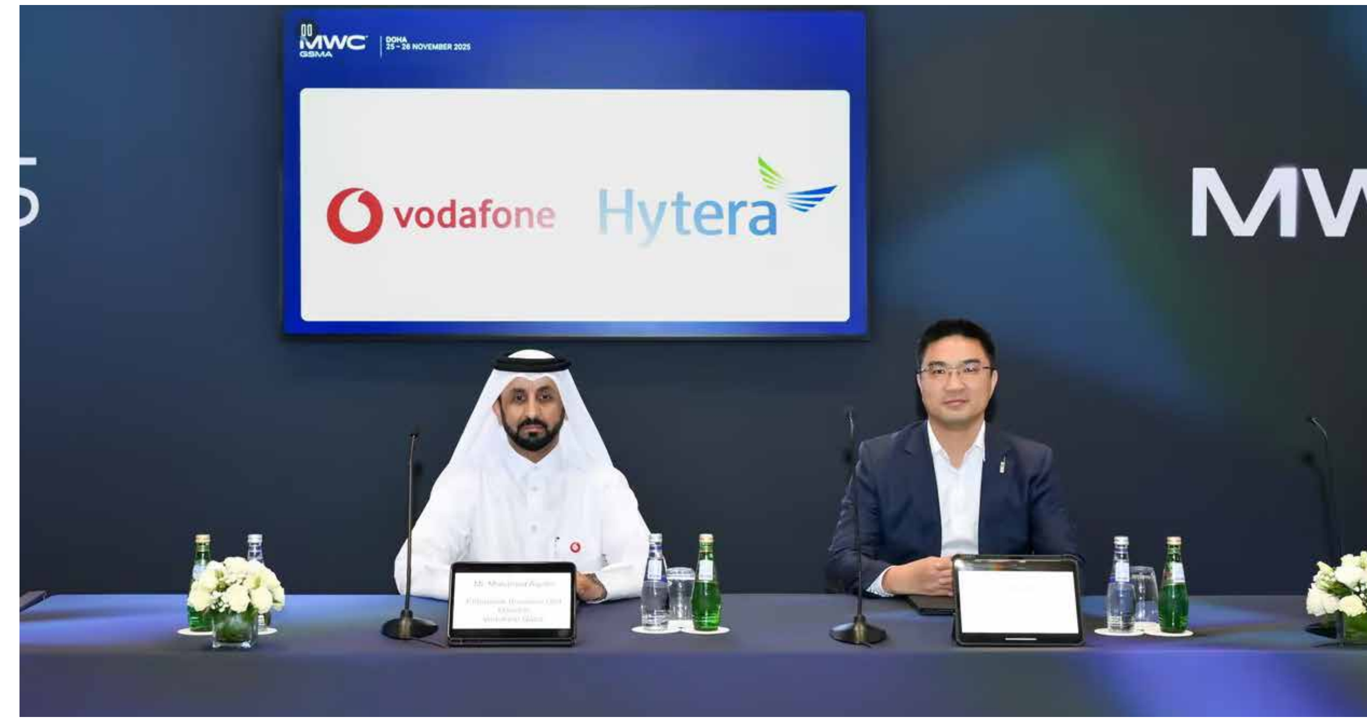
"This partnership with Huawei reflects our continued commitment as a leading IT Service provider to support Qatar's digital transformation and economic diversification," said Mohamed Ali Al-Ghaithani, Chief Executive Officer of MEEZA. "Building strong local capabilities in advanced technologies is essential for long-term national progress. Through these initiatives, we aim to empower local talent, accelerate innovation, and contribute to a technology ecosystem that benefits the entire country."

Rico Lin, President of Huawei Gulf region, emphasized the strategic significance of private-sector engagement in national initiatives: "Huawei is proud to partner with MEEZA to advance Qatar's digital agenda. Strengthening in-country infrastructure, AI capabilities, and local expertise is critical for fostering a knowledge-based economy, reducing reliance on hydrocarbons, and supporting sustainable growth. This collaboration reflects our commitment to building resilient, future-ready digital ecosystems that will underpin the country's economic and technological ambitions."

As global digital transformation accelerates, the MoUs highlight the essential role of private companies in complementing national strategies. By jointly exploring advanced technologies, AI-driven solutions, and localized platforms, Huawei and MEEZA aim to create robust, adaptable digital ecosystems that meet evolving technological demands and drive innovation across multiple sectors.

Through these agreements, Huawei and MEEZA reaffirm the private sector's vital role in empowering Qatar's national vision, strengthening critical digital infrastructure, enabling advanced technological capabilities, and nurturing local talent to lead the country's digital future. By boosting private-sector engagement in strategic digital initiatives, these partnerships support Qatar's long-term economic resilience, help diversify the national economy, and contribute to realizing the country's Vision 2030 objectives, ensuring sustainable growth, innovation, and prosperity across multiple sectors.

Hytera and Vodafone Qatar forge strategic partnership at MWC Doha 2025



Hytera has entered a new stage of collaboration with Vodafone Qatar through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Mobile World Congress (MWC) Doha 2025. The agreement builds on years of partnership and reflects the companies' shared commitment to advancing secure, reliable, and future-ready communication services for key industries across Qatar.

The MoU formalizes enhanced cooperation between Vodafone Qatar and Hytera, leveraging the strengths of both organizations to better serve sectors where dependable communication is essential—such as public safety, utilities, transportation, healthcare, and construction. By aligning Vodafone Qatar's strong network capabilities with Hytera's global expertise in professional communications, the partnership aims to create stronger value propositions for customers and expand opportunities in Qatar's rapidly evolving critical communications landscape.

The deepened collaboration focuses on joint development, market expansion, and enhanced service offerings, enabling organizations across Qatar to benefit from communication solutions that support operational resilience and long-term digital transformation. Both companies share the vision of helping customers improve coordination, strengthen safety, and elevate service quality as they navigate increasingly complex operational environments

Mohamed Mohsin Alyafei, Enterprise Business Unit Director at Vodafone Qatar, commented: "This partnership is a pivotal step in our mission to deliver world-class communications solutions that empower Qatar's most vital sectors. The MoU reflects a shared vision for a safer, more connected, and more resilient nation aligned with Qatar's ambitions for digital leadership and sustainable growth. By partnering with Hytera, we are combining our strengths to set new benchmarks for reliability, innovation, and service excellence."

"Hytera is proud to deepen our partnership with Vodafone Qatar," said Stanley Song, Vice President of Hytera. "Together, we will continue to bring advanced communication capabilities to organizations across the country, supporting their digital journey with confidence and resilience. This collaboration marks an important step in strengthening our joint presence and creating long-term value for Qatar's key industries."

With the shared goal of empowering organizations through secure and future-oriented communication technologies, the partnership reinforces both companies' commitment to supporting Qatar's digital transformation in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

Intersputnik and RASCOM strengthen partnership with joint showcase at Africa Tech Festival 2025

Intersputnik and the Regional African Satellite Communications Organization (RASCOM) jointly participated in AfricaCom 2025, the continent's leading exhibition and conference dedicated to information and communications technologies (ICT), held from 10 to 13 November 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Following a strategic cooperation agreement signed in 2024, the two intergovernmental organizations shared a joint booth at this year's Africa Tech Festival to promote innovative satellite and digital infrastructure solutions designed to accelerate Africa's connectivity and digital transformation agenda.

At the event, Intersputnik and RASCOM presented comprehensive end-to-end solutions for deploying hybrid satellite data and video networks tailored for the African market. Leveraging Intersputnik's extensive satellite fleet and ground infrastructure, and RASCOM's regional expertise, the partnership demonstrated their ability to provide robust communication channels, VSAT networks, broadband internet access, and customized services for both corporate and government clients across the continent.

Africa remains one of the world's most dynamic regions in the development of information and communication services. Experts emphasize the continent's potential for further digital growth through the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) applications, cloud computing, and investment in human capital for emerging knowledge-driven industries. Such advancements are expected to enhance economic growth, bridge the digital divide, and improve the quality of life for millions of Africans.

Through their joint initiatives, Intersputnik and RASCOM are reinforcing international cooperation to make full use of modern satellite communication systems in support of Africa's socio-economic development. Their collaboration aims to connect the unconnected, support national digital strategies, and provide sustainable satellite-based solutions for both public and private sector needs.

Intersputnik's status as an intergovernmental organisation entitles it to file and use its own orbital and frequency resource, including for the implementation of joint satellite projects, while its experienced personnel continue to drive initiatives for ICT capacity building. The organization's ongoing efforts to support youth and professionals in the technology and communications sectors were also emphasized as key to strengthening Africa's growing satellite industry.

The joint participation at AfricaCom 2025 marks a significant milestone in the implementation of the 2024 cooperation agreement between the two organizations, opening new opportunities for the creation of satellite-powered digital ecosystems that contribute to the development goals of their Member States.

The 28th edition of AfricaCom reflected the breadth of Africa's digital transformation, including the integration of AI in key industries, precision agriculture applications, and international investment in Africa's digital economy. The conference also explored the increasing role of satellite technologies, particularly low-Earth orbit (LEO) constellations, in extending connectivity and advancing Africa's digital inclusion efforts.

Developing International Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region: Intersputnik at APSCO Forum

Intersputnik Director General Ksenia Drozdova delivered a keynote address at the plenary session of the Leadership Development Forum of the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 1 to 3 December 2025.

During her presentation, Ms. Drozdova outlined Intersputnik's key initiatives in collaboration with specialised international organisations, highlighting efforts to support and develop young professionals as well as the organisation's capabilities in advancing state-of-the-art digital applications. The forum focused on expanding the capabilities of the space industry and strengthening international cooperation to support the space economies of developing countries.

APSCO is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to promoting joint space programmes among its Member States through cooperation in the peaceful use of space science and technology. Similarly, Intersputnik places strong emphasis on international collaboration to advance economic, scientific, and technological development through satellite communications. Both organisations actively engage within global platforms, including the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and the International Astronautical Federation.

Beyond its engagement with APSCO, Intersputnik further strengthened its regional presence in 2025 by becoming a full member of the Asia-Pacific Space Community Council (APSCC), a regional industry association of satellite communications operators.

The APSCO Leadership Development Forum aims to facilitate dialogue and the exchange of ideas among government, public, commercial, and academic stakeholders involved in the space sector. The event addresses key issues such as space commercialisation and regulation, the application of artificial intelligence in space technologies, education and skills development, and financing models for the space industry in developing economies.

In her plenary remarks, Ms. Drozdova also elaborated on joint initiatives between Intersputnik and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) aimed at supporting young professionals. She highlighted an agreement signed in November 2025, describing it as a milestone that opens a new chapter in the long-standing cooperation between Intersputnik and the ITU, which dates back to 1983.

Emphasising the global importance of talent development, Ms. Drozdova underscored the role of international cooperation in nurturing human potential and building sustainable expertise in the space sector. She noted that Intersputnik continues to strengthen its position within the global space community by developing modern approaches to satellite communications that enable digital ecosystems in regions with underdeveloped information and communications infrastructure.

As an international organisation, Intersputnik draws on the diverse experiences of its member countries and regions, integrating economic and ethnocultural considerations into its strategies to support inclusive and sustainable digital development.

The Middle East's Race Toward Mission-Critical Broadband

Across the Middle East, governments are progressively modernizing the critical communication systems that support public safety, emergency response and national security. For years, agencies have relied on narrowband technologies such as TETRA and P25, which delivered secure, reliable, and dependable voice but offered little room for the data-driven operations shaping today's security landscape. Digital evidence, live video, precise geolocation, and AI-enabled intelligence now sit at the heart of frontline decision-making. These capabilities demand broadband, and the region's agencies have become some of the world's fastest adopters of mission-critical 4G/5G networks.

This momentum stems from a simple reality: voice-only systems can no longer support how operations work. Field teams need richer situational awareness. Command centers must see incidents in real time, not after the fact. Inter-agency coordination increasingly depends on shared data rather than isolated radio channels. Thibaut Faivre, Head of Sales and Programme Delivery for Public Safety and Security in the Middle East, Africa and India at Airbus Defence and Space puts it clearly: "The region's agencies are among the most forward-looking in embracing mission-critical broadband because they recognize that resilience today means resilient intelligence, not just resilient voice."

Migrating from LMR/PMR to broadband, however, is far more complex than swapping one network for another. It requires careful orchestration across people, systems, processes, and long-term lifecycle decisions. Airbus is supporting more than three million users in 80 countries, with half now engaged in migration programmes spanning nationwide transitions, pilot deployments, hybrid operations, and integration of legacy narrowband systems with 4G/5G and MCX capabilities. Our deep involvement in 3GPP and TCCA standards reinforces our ability to guide agencies through this shift with both technical and operational certainty.

Real success hinges on a set of principles shaped by Airbus' recent work as an end-to-end integrator for flagship programmes in France, Spain, and Finland. Public safety professionals rely on their communication tools in high-stakes environments, so any new capability must prove its reliability early and consistently. Airbus complements this by aligning lifecycle management across devices, accessories, applications, and network components, ensuring they evolve together rather than in disjointed cycles. A smooth transition also requires understanding how broadband behaves in different operational conditions. Agencies must adapt their models to broadband's strengths while respecting its constraints. Co-creation with users plays a crucial role here; features shaped with direct input from police, medics, and firefighters tend to gain traction faster because they mirror real-world workflows. Adoption is equally critical. Structured training and iterative development help teams shift from narrowband habits to broadband capabilities without eroding confidence.

The hybrid phase, where narrowband and broadband run in parallel, is often the most sensitive period of any migration. Preventing service interruptions during this time is essential, and Airbus' experience shows that the choreography of this phase can be as important as the technology itself. Long-term success then depends on designing interoperability, tactical management, and scalability into the system from the outset. Agencies must communicate across organizations seamlessly, adjust operational priorities in real time, and expand capacity as missions evolve. Airbus' delivery of France's RRF and Spain's SIRDEE illustrates how these principles come together to create user-validated, secure broadband networks at national scale. These projects sit alongside other flagship transitions. Finland's Virve 2 became Europe's first hybrid TETRA–broadband environment, combining Airbus solutions such as Agnet TETRA with a modernized infrastructure. Airbus' engagement with the Global Public

***Thibaut Faivre** - Head of Sales and Programme Delivery for Public Safety and Security in the Middle East, Africa and India at Airbus Defence and Space*

Safety Operators Conference has further strengthened the mission-critical ecosystem, aligning device models and technologies with the operational realities of public safety agencies globally. Together, these efforts demonstrate Airbus' ability to manage complex migrations, integrate hybrid architectures, and deliver secure broadband solutions shaped by real user needs.

For Middle Eastern governments, resilience remains a defining requirement. The region's vast geography, rapid urban expansion, and exposure to high security threats and climate-driven incidents create continuity challenges that terrestrial networks alone cannot solve. Airbus addresses this with solutions such as Agnet over Satcom, which maintains service even in remote or disaster-affected areas by routing mission-critical communications over satellite links. Agnet Direct further ensures continuity by enabling teams to communicate when dedicated broadband coverage is temporarily unavailable. This layered approach reflects what agencies across the region demand: systems that remain operational under any circumstance.

Thibaut Faivre adds: "The Middle East region expects connectivity that does not break, systems that interoperate without friction, and platforms that let operators respond instantly to fast-changing threats". With its global track record and long-standing presence in the Middle East, Airbus is well positioned to support governments and critical industries as they build the next generation of secure, data-driven mission-critical networks.

PTCL Spreads its Wings:
A New Chapter for Pakistan's Digital Future

Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) marks a defining moment in the evolution of Pakistan's telecom sector, as it formally completes the acquisition of 100 percent of the issued share capital of Telenor Pakistan and Orion Towers from 31st December 2025 onwards, ushering in a new era of digital enablement and transformation across the country.

Telenor Pakistan and Orion Towers will operate as 100% owned subsidiaries of PTCL, alongside Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (PTML) commonly known as Ufone 4G, and U Microfinance Bank. Telenor Pakistan will continue to operate as a separate legal entity during the transition period, following which PTML and Telenor Pakistan are planned to be integrated as merged entity (MergeCo) in due course of time, subject to regulatory approvals.

PTCL acknowledges the contribution of Telenor ASA to Pakistan's telecom landscape. As a competitor and industry peer, Telenor played a defining role in elevating service quality and expanding connectivity over nearly two decades. This milestone brings together complementary strengths to create a platform with a stronger focus on customer centricity, broader reach, and accelerated innovation. In the future, the MergeCo will be positioned to expand network capabilities, optimize spectrum resources, and deliver seamless, secure, and digitally enabled services designed around evolving customer needs and aligned with Pakistan's digital ambitions.

Commenting on the occasion, Hatem Bamatraf, President & Chief Executive Officer, PTCL & Ufone 4G, said: "This is a proud moment for PTCL and a significant milestone for Pakistan's telecom sector. Our focus remains on delivering a customer-centric, seamless, and high-quality services for improvement in user experience as we bring combined strengths at scale upon completion of regulatory approvals". He further added, "I warmly welcome our colleagues and want to assure them that this transition is rooted in respect for people, continuity of talent, and thoughtful integration of industry best practices. Together, we will build a stronger, future-ready organization that serves customers better, empowers its people, and advances Pakistan's digital future."

"With this milestone, PTCL step into a future fueled by innovation, empowering businesses, and individuals alike. This union strengthens Pakistan's digital economy, connecting millions with superior technology and services. As PTCL soar to new heights, our focus remains steadfast: delivering unmatched customer experiences and boosting digitalization across Pakistan," Hatem concluded.

Mobi Egypt signs up for Es'hailSat satellite capacity on Es'hail-1 for VSAT Connectivity across MENA

Es'hailSat has signed up for satellite capacity on Es'hail-1 satellite. Under this agreement, Es'hailSat will allocate satellite capacity on Es'hail-1 in the Ku-band for Mobi Egypt, enabling the migration of all its communication networks to Es'hailSat's high powered satellite. This transition will allow Mobi Egypt to serve its customers across Egypt and MENA region with enhanced reliability and coverage.

Es'hailSat provides satellite, broadcast, teleport and managed services from Doha, Qatar and brings to this relationship more than 15 years of being in the business of catering to broadcasters, telecommunication companies, enterprises, mobility applications and governments across the Middle East and North Africa. Es'hailSat's two satellites at 25.5/26 East together with our 50,000 sqm Tier-4 certified teleport facility provides reliable and robust connectivity services.

Mobi Egypt is a leading telecom infrastructure and digital services provider, delivering network build, system integration, and managed services across Egypt. Their expertise spans telecom, data centers, and facility management for industries like oil & gas, banking, and public institutions. As a licensed VSAT operator, Mobi Egypt ensures reliable satellite connectivity for remote and mission-critical operations. With global coverage and 24/7 support, they empower businesses with secure, high-performance communication solutions.

"Es'hailSat is excited to enhance satellite connectivity via Mobi Egypt's VSAT Network in order to enable high speed connectivity across the Middle East and North Africa," said Ali Ahmed Al-Kuwari, President and CEO, Es'hailSat. "Egypt is an important market within the region for us, and we intend to strategically enhance our service offerings to meet the needs of this vibrant market. We believe that the highly robust and reliable data services offered by us at Es'hailSat - Qatar Satellite Company, together with our Tier-4 certified Teleport infrastructure provide the strong base that Mobi Egypt needs to further build their capabilities and serve end customers across the region."

Al Jazeera Media Network and Es'hailSat sign MoU to further develop broadcasting solutions

Al Jazeera Media Network and Es'hailSat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation in satellite communication services, ground station infrastructure, and crisis and disaster management systems, to ensure the continuity of services and the enhancement of operations.

Ibrahim Abdulla Al-Obaidli, Deputy Director General of Al Jazeera Media Network, said, "This memorandum represents an important stage in the Network's ongoing efforts to remain up to date with new innovations and emerging technologies in the sector. It is an additional step towards expanding Al Jazeera's broadcast reach and reinforcing its global presence."

Al-Obaidli added that the memorandum

will contribute to further strengthening the existing cooperation between Al Jazeera Media Network and Es'hailSat in the field of satellite and terrestrial communications, ensuring continuity and reliability of services. He affirmed that Es'hailSat is a key partner of the Network.

Commenting on the MoU, Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, President and Chief Executive Officer of Es'hailSat, said, "We are pleased to further strengthen our partnership with Al Jazeera, bringing together the technical expertise of Es'hailSat with the pioneering role of Al Jazeera Media Network in operating and managing television and satellite channels. We fully understand Al Jazeera's need for strategic infrastructure in ground stations, crisis management solutions, and business continuity systems. Our aim is to collaborate and support this initiative, not only to improve operational management, but also to enhance efficiency and resilience."

The agreement reflects the desire of both parties to collaborate, exchange expertise, and assess future projects, exploring and opening new horizons in television and radio broadcasting, news gathering, and other supporting services.

CRA launches Qatar's 6G Testbed Platform at MWC25 Doha

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of Qatar announced the launch of the Qatar Sixth Generation (6G) Testbed Platform during MWC25 Doha, marking a major milestone in Qatar's progress toward enhancing innovation and accelerating adoption of next-generation communications.

The announcement featured the signing of a Letter of Intent (LoI) between CRA, Ooredoo Qatar, and Vodafone Qatar, establishing a national collaborative framework to test and develop emerging 6G technologies.

The LoI was signed by Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, President of CRA; Sheikh Ali bin Jabor bin Mohammad Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer of Ooredoo Qatar; and Sheikh Hamad Abdulla Jassim Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer at Vodafone Qatar. The signing took place during a ceremony held on the sidelines of MWC25 Doha in the presence of senior officials and representatives from the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry, academia, and international organizations.

The Qatar 6G Testbed Platform will serve as an integrated national experimental environment enabling the testing and validation of advanced wireless technologies ahead of their commercial deployment. The platform will support trials in high-frequency spectrum bands, Artificial Intelligence Native Networks (AINN), ultra-low latency communications, advanced edge computing, and the new generation of Internet of Things (IoT 2.0).

Initial trials are expected to begin later this year in selected smart districts across Qatar, including Lusail City and Education City.

This initiative forms an integral part of Qatar's national roadmap for 6G development, which aims to strengthen the country's leadership in the ICT sector and drive digital transformation journey. The roadmap outlines a collaborative approach involving CRA, telecom Service Providers, technology vendors, and academic partners to support innovation and enhance the national digital ecosystem.

Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, President of the Communications Regulatory Authority, said: "The launch of the Qatar National 6G Testbed Platform represents a strategic milestone that significantly enhances the country's readiness for future technologies and reflects our commitment to advancing the telecommunications sector in line with rapidly evolving global developments. This initiative aims to establish a comprehensive national environment for testing and validating advanced wireless technologies, including the technical capabilities enabled by 6G, such as high speeds and low latency. This platform will support advanced applications in artificial intelligence, edge computing, and the Internet of Things, providing essential pillars to bolster national efforts in digital transformation and create broader opportunities for innovation and investment across various sectors in the country."

"The signing of the project's Letter of Intent underscores the Communications Regulatory Authority's dedication to formalizing collaboration with its partners from government entities, academic institutions, and specialized companies. This ensures the implementation of the initiative according to the highest standards and contributes to enhancing Qatar's position as a regional hub for development and innovation in telecommunications and modern technologies," he added.

Sheikh Ali Bin Jabor Bin Mohammad Al Thani, Chief Executive Officer at Ooredoo Qatar, commented: "Launching the Qatar 6G Testbed Platform at MWC25 Doha sends a clear message. Qatar is already preparing for what comes after 5G. Building on our long-standing track record of pioneering next-generation networks, this collaboration with CRA will help us reimagine how connectivity, cloud, AI and advanced devices come together in a truly hyperconnected world. In doing so, we are directly supporting Qatar's National Digital Agenda and accelerating the country's journey towards a more inclusive, sustainable and digitally empowered economy. The insights we gain here will guide our long-term investments, strengthen Qatar's position as a regional technology hub and open new horizons of opportunity for the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs. As always, we remain committed to advancing Qatar's digital infrastructure by introducing cutting-edge innovations and technologies that strengthen the nation's connectivity and future-readiness."

Chief Executive Officer at Vodafone Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Abdulla Jassim Al Thani, commented: "Vodafone Qatar is proud to be part of this pioneering national collaboration to launch the Qatar 6G Testbed Platform. This collective effort supports the ambitions of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and reflects the country's shared commitment to advancing next-generation digital capabilities. As a trusted digital partner, we believe 6G will unlock new possibilities in intelligent connectivity, advanced mobility, and immersive digital experiences. Vodafone Qatar remains committed to driving innovation and technology development as well as contributing to Qatar's digital transformation journey."

Dubai SME collaborates with Google to empower Emirati businesses through landmark digital marketing initiative

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Dubai SME), part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), has announced a collaboration with global technology leader Google. The entities are collaborating to launch a pioneering initiative designed to elevate the digital competitiveness of Emirati-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The announcement took place in the presence of His Excellency Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing, part of DET, Ahmad Alroom Almheiri, Acting CEO of Dubai SME, Anthony Nakache, Managing Director, Google MENA, and Martin Roeske, MENA Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google.

The pilot programme will empower a select group of 10 high-potential Emirati businesses with access to premium digital marketing tools, advertising credits, and expert mentorship. This initial phase, designed as a proof of concept (POC), directly tackles key challenges faced by smaller businesses – modest budgets, developing digital marketing expertise, and fewer opportunities to engage with major advertising platforms – enabling participants to compete globally with a significantly lower capital outlay. These initial businesses were fairly selected based on specific criteria to test and refine the programme's model, and following the successful conclusion of this pilot, the validated strategies and resources will be scaled into a future industry-wide programme to benefit a larger cohort of SMEs. This initiative reflects Dubai SME's commitment to advancing the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33, including to become the fastest-growing and most attractive business hub for SMEs and local champions.

The collaboration features a unique tripartite co-funding model, with total investment for each participating business equally shared between Dubai SME, Google, and the SME itself, promoting ownership, accountability, and long-term capability building. Businesses will benefit from professional strategic guidance, creative support, and access to Google's advertising platforms, helping them run high-impact campaigns and enhance their digital performance. The programme also leverages DET's marketing expertise and its ecosystem of partners across the public and private sectors, ensuring participants receive practical mentorship on digital strategy, content, and campaign optimisation.

Ahmad Al Room Almheiri, Acting CEO of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Establishment for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Dubai SME), said: "Under the visionary leadership guiding Dubai's transformation, SMEs represent both the driving force and future of Dubai's economy. This pioneering collaboration with Google exemplifies how strategic collaboration between government and the private sector can transform challenges into opportunities for Emirati entrepreneurs. By investing in genuine digital capability, we are ensuring Emirati businesses can scale with confidence, compete on the global stage, and play their vital role in achieving the ambitious goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33. This initiative reinforces our commitment to making Dubai the most attractive hub for entrepreneurship and innovation."

Martin Roeske, Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy, Google MENA, said: "Technology is the great equalizer. It allows a traditional family business to reach the same global customers as a high-tech unicorn. By teaming up with Dubai SME, we're putting Google's most advanced AI tools, together with ads credits and mentorship, directly into the hands of Emirati entrepreneurs – giving them the precision to make every dirham count and compete on a world stage."

Pakistan to complete 600MHz spectrum auction early next year: Shaza Fatima

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja has announced that Pakistan's auction of 600MHz spectrum is expected to be completed by early next year, a move aimed at significantly improving internet quality and enabling the rollout of 5G services across the country.

Shaza Fatima Khawaja - Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad alongside Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb, the IT minister said that the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) had approved the recommendations of the Spectrum Advisory Committee. Finance Minister Aurangzeb confirmed that the approved recommendations would now be presented to the federal cabinet for final approval.

Following cabinet endorsement, Khawaja said the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) would issue an Information Memorandum, after which formal consultations and negotiations would be held with telecom operators and other stakeholders.

Highlighting the importance of the auction, the minister noted that Pakistan's internet quality currently lags behind international and regional standards, largely due to limited spectrum availability. She explained that Pakistan's population of approximately 240 million is operating on just 274MHz of spectrum.

"This is equivalent to managing traffic on two lanes when eight are required, which results in congestion, poor internet performance, and frequent service disruptions," she said.

Khawaja added that previous spectrum auctions resulted in the allocation of around 60MHz, whereas the upcoming auction will involve 600MHz—making it the largest spectrum auction in Pakistan's history.

The auction will also introduce additional frequency bands that have never before been offered in the country.

As a result, consumers can expect improvements not only in 3G and 4G services but also the launch of 5G connectivity. The PTA, she said, will ensure that network rollouts are completed within four to six months of the auction, allowing users to experience visible service improvements shortly thereafter. The government is targeting the commercial rollout of 5G services within six months of the auction.

The minister emphasized that reliable internet connectivity is central to the government's digital transformation agenda under the Digital Nation Pakistan Act, 2025. She further referenced the upcoming "Connect 2030" initiative, which aims to ensure minimum internet speeds of 100 Mbps nationwide over the next five years.

In November, the government received the final report from its 5G spectrum auction consultant, following delays caused by the PTCL–Telenor merger and litigation surrounding the 2600MHz band. The report, prepared by US-based consultancy National Economic Research Associates (NERA), proposed offering 606MHz of new spectrum across six key bands: 700MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz, 2300MHz, 2600MHz, and 3500MHz.

According to the report, the 2600MHz band is considered particularly well-suited for 5G deployment. The recommendations also cover auction design, methodology, base pricing, licence duration, and other key terms and conditions.

Huawei unfolds a new era of innovation in Dubai with Mate X7 and flagship lineup of devices

Huawei set the stage in Dubai last night with the highly anticipated Unfold the Moment launch event, unveiling a new lineup of flagship devices. From innovative foldable engineering to ultra-luxury wearables and cutting-edge tablets, the event introduced the HUAWEI Mate X7, the brand's latest foldable smartphone, HUAWEI FreeClip 2 open-ear earbuds, the HUAWEI WATCH ULTIMATE DESIGN as their latest ultra-luxury smartwatch, and HUAWEI MatePad 11.5 S creative tablet. Together, the new products expand Huawei's premium ecosystem and reinforce the brand's leadership in high-performance, design-driven technology.

Pushing boundaries of the foldable design, the Mate X7 boasts a slim and durable build and powerful performance, with a flagship-grade camera system. The HUAWEI FreeClip 2 claims to set a new benchmark for comfortable open-ear listening, while the HUAWEI WATCH ULTIMATE DESIGN blends refined aesthetics with advanced engineering and performance. The HUAWEI MatePad 11.5 S is a tablet designed for young creators, featuring a high-definition, paper-like display and Huawei's creative suite.

Zhu Ping, President of Marketing and Sales Services at Huawei Consumer Business Group, said, "By understanding and responding to users' needs, we aim to help the world use technology to unfold every moment. Our goal is not only to deliver exceptional product experiences, but also to enable every user to embrace the moments that matter most to them."

HUAWEI Mate X7: Unfolding a New Chapter

The Mate X7 draws design inspiration from the 1,600-year-old light-woven brocade tradition, widely regarded as a pinnacle of Chinese silk craftsmanship and part of its cultural heritage. The phone comes in a nano fibre-finished Brocade White, alongside two vegan leather options in Nebula Red and Black.

The Mate X7 brings imaging capabilities of Huawei's standard flagships to the foldable form factor. Its upgraded second-generation True-to-Color Camera delivers 43% improvement in colour accuracy, and the Ultra Lighting HDR Video achieves a whopping 17.5 EV of dynamic range. Durability has seen a substantial improvement from the new hinges to the reinforced display. Part of the new Ultra-Reliable Foldable Architecture is an outer display made of Ultra Durable Crystal Armor Kunlun Glass, Advanced Precision Hinges, and a 3-Layer Composite Ultra-Tough Structure. A 3,550 mm^2 SuperCool Ultra-Large VC & Graphene Heat Dissipation System and a 5,600 mAh battery further ensure stable performance and all-day battery life.

HUAWEI FreeClip 2: A Fashion Statement

The HUAWEI FreeClip 2 features the ear-clip design that combines open-ear listening with the aesthetics of a fashion accessory. Designed to wear all day, each earbud weighs just 5.1 g with long-lasting comfort and a secure fit. The earphones come in Blue, White and Black colourways.

Clear, dynamic audio and call quality across different usage is achieved using high-energy dual-driver units and an NPU AI processor with ten times more computing performance than the previous generation. Rated IP57 for dust and water resistance and up to 38 hours of total battery life, the FreeClip 2 offers effortless listening throughout the day.

HUAWEI WATCH ULTIMATE DESIGN: Expanding Your Horizons

The new HUAWEI WATCH ULTIMATE DESIGN comes in a new Royal Gold Edition, which features an industry-first rare-earth purple ceramic bezel with 18K gold, paired with a zirconium-based liquid metal case and a purple-gold titanium alloy strap. On the smartwatch are features tailored for deep-sea divers, including an innovative waterproof system and sonar-based underwater communication capabilities. An upgraded antenna for stronger all-scenario connectivity, AI-powered noise cancellation for clear calling, precise positioning enabled by the HUAWEI Sunflower Positioning System, and advanced eSIM communication technologies are also included.

HUAWEI MatePad 11.5 S: Inspiring Creativity

The HUAWEI MatePad 11.5 S is a next-generation tablet with a comfortable and exceptionally clear PaperMatte Display that effectively solves the issues related to sharpness found in traditional matte displays. Designed for paperless productivity, the tablet comes with the new M-Pencil Pro stylus and a magnetic keyboard that make note-taking, writing, and content creation smoother.

The pre-installed Huawei Notes app includes a versatile suite of brushes and templates, now expanded with covers, papers, and stickers designed to celebrate Arabic and African aesthetics. The GoPaint app now comes with several new animation tools that bring ideas to life. For video creators, the Wondershare Filmora app now offers shortcut key support to streamline editing workflows, while the WPS Office suite provides professional PC-level document editing, presentations, and data processing features.

Huawei said that today's launch goes beyond a mere set of technological upgrades; it reflects the company's enduring commitment to putting consumers first. Under the brand proposition "Now Is Yours," Huawei hopes to actively engage with consumers and build cross-regional and cross-cultural connections, enabling people worldwide to share the fruits of technological progress. T

Ericsson Mobility Report: Differentiated connectivity services gaining momentum

5G Standalone (5G SA) deployments have triggered a notable 2025 growth in the number of communications service providers (CSPs) offering differentiated connectivity commercial models based on 5G SA Network Slicing - where CSPs guarantee quality of service for customer use cases through the allocation of slices of the network. The statistic is part of in-depth reporting, analysis and forecasting in the November 2025 Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) Mobility Report (EMR).

More than 90 CSPs have now launched/soft-launched 5G Standalone (5G SA) networks - an increase of about 30 CSPs from the same period last year and 20 from the June 2025 EMR report. EMR researchers identified 118 cases - across 56 CSPs - where network slicing is used to provide differentiated connectivity services.

Of the 118 cases - 65 have moved beyond proof of concept and into commercial services, across 33 CSPs. These are either subscription services or add-on packages for consumer or enterprise customers. Twenty-one of the 65 commercial offerings - almost one third - were launched during 2025 alone.

"We see that service providers around the world are keen to embrace and deploy 5G SA to offer differentiated connectivity based on value services and not just data volume packages," EMR publisher and Ericsson CTO, Erik Ekudden, says. "As reflected in the case studies in this EMR edition, 5G SA is already enabling differentiated connectivity opportunities. We've seen many service providers go from proof-of-concept to commercial deployment in 2025 alone, and we expect to see that trend continuing."

The November 2025 EMR covers a new forecast timeframe, from 2025 through the end of 2031. The new reporting EMR period also covers the first expected deployments of commercial 6G. Based on previous mobile generation cycles' subscriptions uptake, EMR researchers expect the first commercial launches to be driven by leading service providers in front-runner markets - such as the U.S., Japan, South Korea, China, India, and some Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Global 6G subscriptions are forecast to reach 180 million by the end of 2031, not including the early uptake of AI-enabled Internet of Things devices. The subscription uptake number could increase significantly if 6G launches earlier than previous cycles indicate.

Commercial 6G is expected to launch about a year later in Europe, compared to other countries, than was the case for 5G, primarily due comparably later deployments of 5G SA

As an ongoing major 5G use case, enhanced mobile broadband is forecast to top 6.4 billion 5G subscriptions by the end of 2031, comprising about two-thirds of all mobile subscriptions at the time. Some 4.1 billion of these subscriptions - about 65 percent - are forecast to be 5G SA. In 2025 alone, 5G subscriptions are expected to top 2.9 billion by the end of the year - equating to about one third of all current mobile subscriptions - an increase of some 600 million subscriptions year-on-year.

In geographical coverage terms, 2025 saw an increase of 400 million people worldwide being able to access 5G. About 50 percent of the global population beyond mainland China is expected to have 5G coverage by the end of 2025.

Mobile network data traffic grew 20 percent between the third quarter of 2024 and the corresponding period in 2025 - a slightly larger than expected increase, driven by mainland China and India. Continued growth is forecast at an annual average of 16 percent through 2031.

5G networks are expected to manage 43 percent of all mobile data by the close of 2025 - up from 34 percent for the corresponding period last year. EMR experts forecast this to increase to 83 percent in 2031.

Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) broadband continues to grow as a 5G use case. The November 2025 EMR forecasts that about 1.4 billion people globally are expected to access FWA broadband by the end of 2031 - 90 percent via 5G.

EMR researchers have identified 159 providers that currently offer FWA services via 5G - amounting to approximately 65 percent of all FWA service providers. The number of service providers offering speed-based tariffs - a common monetization model for fixed broadband via fiber or cable - increased from 43 percent to 54 percent since the November 2024 EMR.

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The DCO's 2nd International Digital Cooperation Forum to take place in Kuwait to advance inclusive prosperity in the age of AI

The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) announced that the 2nd International Digital Cooperation Forum (IDCF) held in strategic partnership with ZainTECH, will take place in the State of Kuwait on 4 - 5 February 2026, convening ministers, policy leaders, CEOs, tech pioneers, entrepreneurs, civil society leaders and representatives from more than 60 countries to strengthen global cooperation on the future of AI and the digital economy.

The IDCF serves as an annual multi-stakeholder global platform to foster connections, showcase innovation, and drive action at a time when artificial intelligence and digital technologies are reshaping economic growth, governance, and social inclusion.

Held alongside the DCO's 5th General Assembly, the second edition of the IDCF will convene under the theme "Inclusive Prosperity in the Age of AI," reflecting a shared commitment to ensuring artificial intelligence delivers equitable, scalable, and human-centric outcomes.

With a flagship partnership agreed with ZainTECH, a leading MEA-based ICT digital solutions provider, the IDCF aims to explore actionable solutions to the most pressing issues shaping the global digital agenda, across six thematic pillars:

- ***Digital prosperity and inclusive growth, enabling cross-border trade and commerce.***

- ***Trust, safety, and responsible technology, including AI ethics, security, and online integrity.***

- ***Infrastructure for a borderless future, exploring semiconductor sovereignty and interoperability.***

- ***Skills, jobs, and capital addressing workforce transitions in the AI era.***

- ***Inclusive access and digital equity, ensuring access and affordability across genders, communities, and economies.***

- ***Global tech governance cooperation.***

Deemah AlYahya

Bader Al Kharafi

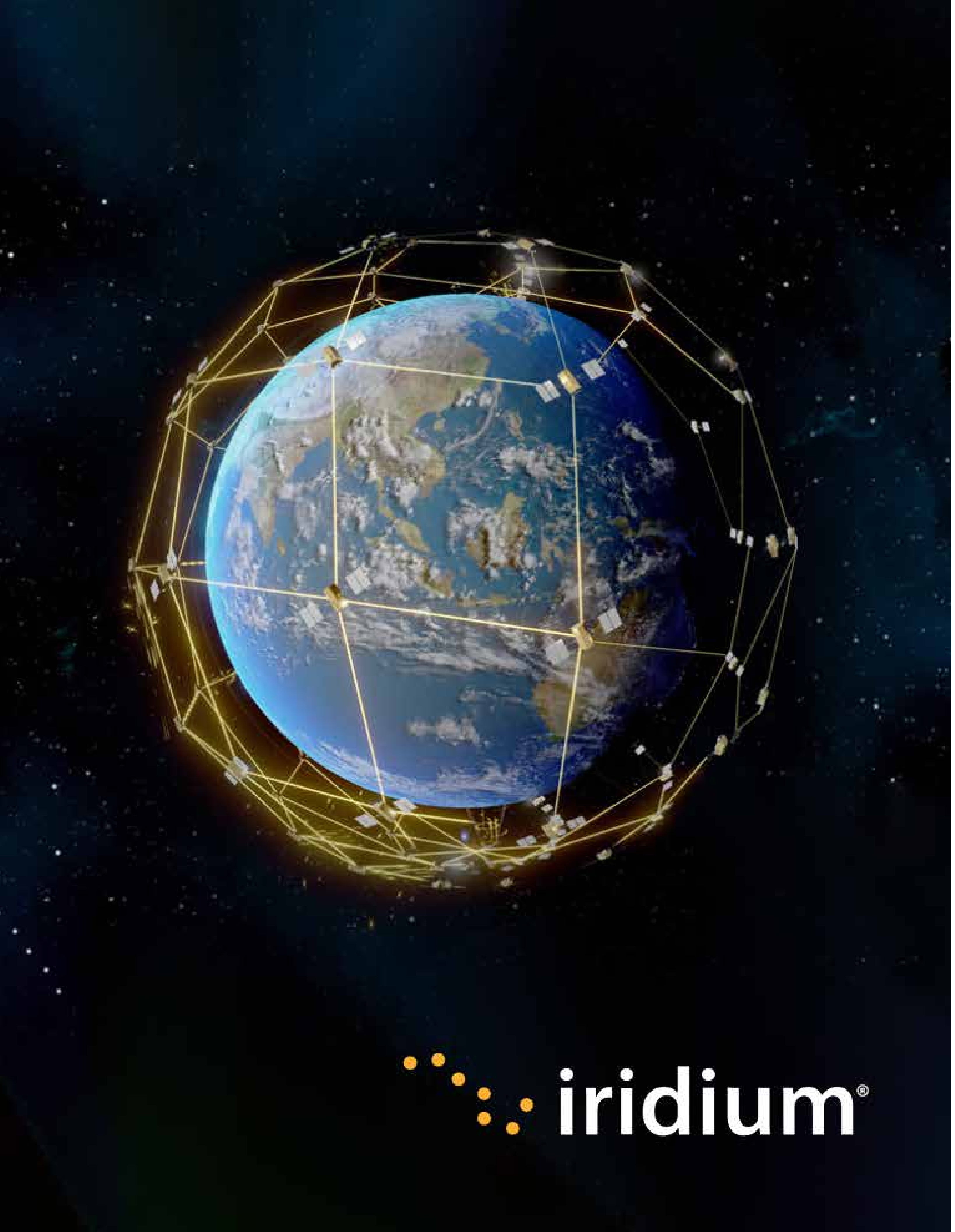
Deemah AlYahya, Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization said, "The International Digital Cooperation Forum reflects our firm belief that digital prosperity can only be achieved through deep and meaningful collaboration. As technology accelerates change across economies and societies, governments cannot shape effective digital policies in isolation. The private sector is a central stakeholder in the digital economy and a primary driver of innovation, investment, and scalable solutions."

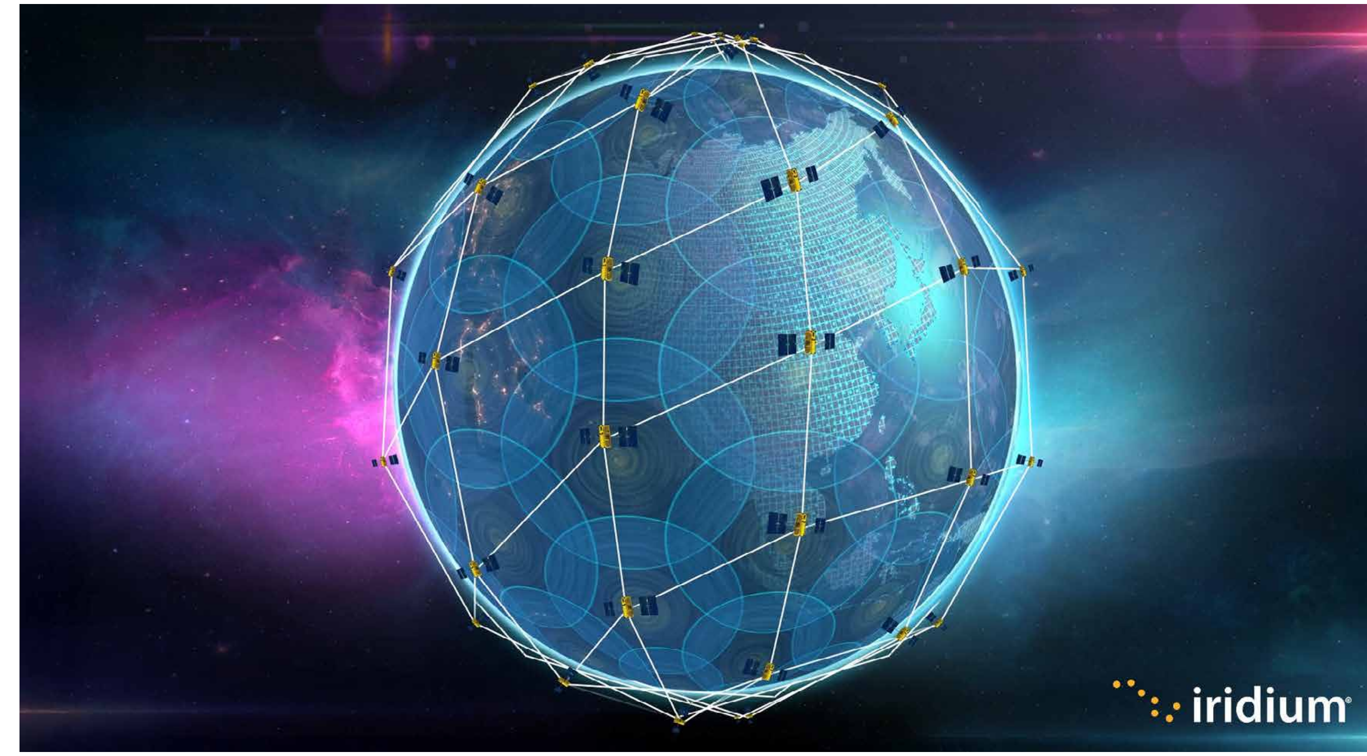
AlYahya added, "At the DCO, we strongly believe that involving industry leaders in policy dialogue is essential to building frameworks that are practical, future-ready, and trusted. Partnerships with innovators such as ZainTECH demonstrate how public-private cooperation can ensure that digital transformation remains inclusive, resilient, and focused on delivering real value for people, businesses, and economies worldwide."

Commenting on the partnership, Bader Al Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, commented, "As a regional and purpose driven TechCo dedicated to driving positive and inclusive change, we firmly believe in championing the power of entrepreneurship and digitalization in this Age of AI. Through this collaboration with the DCO and IDCF, both Zain and ZainTECH are playing pivotal roles in fostering innovation and advancing the region's socio-economic growth."

Al Kharafi added, "Hosting this prominent event in Kuwait further underscores the country's growing prominence on the global digital map. We look forward to working closely with the DCO to strengthen international digital cooperation within Kuwait and across the wider region."

The Digital Cooperation Organization calls everyone across the global digital ecosystem to register their interest in attending and participating in the 2nd International Digital Cooperation Forum.





HD Hyundai Construction Equipment chooses reliable, global connectivity with Iridium

Iridium Communications has been selected by HD Hyundai Construction Equipment to integrate their vehicle monitoring system Hi MATE with Iridium's truly global satellite IoT connectivity. This integration enables HD Hyundai to expand the reach of its Hi MATE service into new markets and regions, enhancing connectivity and support for its global customer base.

With Iridium Short Burst Data® (SBD®), Hyundai's customers gain unmatched global coverage and mission-critical reliability, key advantages for equipment operating in even the most remote locations.

Hyundai's Hi MATE remote management system provides location tracking, geofencing, and diagnostic insights for excavators and wheel loaders, including key performance data such as engine hours and fuel consumption. The Iridium ConnectedSM Hi MATE solution extends these capabilities to even the most remote sites, enabling real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and remote troubleshooting that help reduce downtime, optimize scheduling, and lower operating costs.

"As a leading equipment manufacturer, HD Hyundai Construction Equipment has set the bar high for reliability by adding Iridium's low-latency, reliable connectivity to Hi MATE, enabling their customers to get critical data regardless of deployment conditions," said Tim Last, Executive Vice President, Iridium. "With Iridium Short Burst Data® (SBD®), Hyundai's customers gain unmatched global coverage and mission-critical reliability, key advantages for equipment operating in even the most remote locations."

As the only truly global satellite communications network, Iridium provides an easily deployable, mobile alternative to traditional and expensive on-site fixed infrastructure. The world's leading heavy equipment manufacturers continue to choose Iridium® connectivity for its reliability, truly global reach, and mission-critical performance, especially when the most important data needs to be delivered. ■

Indonesia set for steady telecom growth fueled by rising 5G uptake and FTTH demand

The total telecom services revenue in Indonesia is expected to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.7% during 2024-2029, led by rising mobile data usage and accelerating fiber adoption. The shift from traditional voice to data-centric consumption underscores operators' push toward higher-value 5G and FTTH services, signaling a competitive phase marked by infrastructure upgrades, premium plans, and widening access that will redefine user experience and market structure, reveals GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company.

GlobalData's Indonesia Telecom Operators Country Intelligence Report reveals that the mobile voice service revenue will decline during the forecast period, due to the free bundling of voice minutes by MNOs into their mobile plans, rising user preference for OTT/internet communication services and the subsequent decline in mobile voice ARPU levels.

Mobile data service revenue, on the other hand, will continue to increase at a healthy CAGR of 5.3% over the forecast period, fueled by the growing adoption of higher ARPU-5G services. High-data quotas and premium unlimited plans will further drive revenue growth in the mobile data segment.

Srikanth Vaidya, Telecom Analyst at GlobalData, says: "4G services accounted for a majority share of the overall mobile subscriptions in 2024 in Indonesia and will remain the leading mobile technology through 2029. However, 5G subscriptions will increase at a faster pace over the forecast period, driven by the ongoing 5G network expansions by major MNOs, and wider availability and affordability of 5G smartphones."

For example, in June 2025, Telkomsel extended its 5G network coverage in the city of Batam by deploying additional 5G base transceiver stations (BTS) in key areas of the city, taking the total BTS units to about 112 and improving 5G connections in key commercial and residential areas like Harbour Bay, Nagoya, Batam Center, Engku Putri and Hang Nadim Airport.

In the fixed communication services segment, fixed voice service revenue will decrease at a CAGR of 2.5%, due to a drop in circuit switched subscriptions and a decline in voice ARPU levels. Fixed broadband service revenue on the other hand will grow at a CAGR of 4.5% over 2024-2029 period, driven by the growth in FTTH subscriptions.

Growing demand for higher-speed broadband connectivity and the expansion of fiber-optic network infrastructure by the government and telcos across the country will support fiber broadband subscriptions' growth over the forecast period. New FTTH service options introduced by leading service providers and the expansion of FTTH networks by local ISPs will continue to drive fiber optic subscriber growth in the country over the forecast period.

Vaidya concludes: "Telkomsel will maintain its lead in the mobile services market through the forecast period thanks to its wider 4G coverage and aggressive efforts to expand its 5G network infrastructure. The telco achieved over 97% population coverage for 4G as of December 2024 and operates over 3,000 5G base stations across 56 cities as of mid-2025. In the fixed services segment, Telkom Indonesia topped both fixed voice and fixed broadband service segments. Telkom Indonesia has strengthened its position through the integration of IndiHome under its FMC strategy, enabling unified mobile and home broadband services."

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Wireless Broadband Alliance trials set new benchmark proving up to 70% latency reduction with Wi-Fi QoS management

The Wireless Broadband Alliance (WBA), the global industry body dedicated to driving the seamless and interoperable service experience of Wi-Fi across the global wireless ecosystem, has released its "End-to-End Quality of Service (E2E QoS) Field Trials Report – Maximizing Performance: Unveiling the Real Benefits of Wi-Fi QoS Management". The trials demonstrate how standardized Wi-Fi QoS mechanisms deliver measurable, real-world performance gains across latency-sensitive applications such as video conferencing, cloud gaming, and live streaming.

The trials were conducted by WBA members Airties, Charter Communications, Intel, Meta and Zebra. They recorded QoS performance improvements in all tested scenarios, including audio/video conferencing, cloud gaming and live streaming. Up to 70% reductions in latency were achieved alongside higher and smoother framerates, higher resolutions and reduced round-trip traffic times. Overall stability under heavy network traffic was also improved in all cases.

Going beyond performance metrics

Well-implemented QoS delivers advantages that extend far beyond technical performance. The findings show that consistent, intelligent QoS management drives operational efficiency for providers, improves Quality of Experience (QoE) across latency-sensitive applications, and creates new commercial and brand opportunities. From lowering network congestion costs to enabling differentiated premium services and enhancing user satisfaction, QoS has become a strategic business enabler rather than a purely technical feature.

Business benefits seen in the trials include:

- **Performance differentiation:** Enables operators, OEMs and enterprises to deliver consistent low-latency connectivity, improving customer satisfaction and reducing churn
- **Enhanced user experience:** Provides smoother collaboration, education, gaming and streaming experiences, strengthening brand loyalty and user engagement
- **Operational efficiency:** Prioritizes latency-sensitive traffic and optimizes resource use, reducing packet loss, congestion and operational costs
- **Market & ecosystem readiness:** Supports the creation of new service tiers like "low-latency Wi-Fi" or "QoS-certified enterprise Wi-Fi" and aligns chipset vendors, OS developers and service providers for rollout
- **Foundation for Next-Gen Wi-Fi:** Establishes a scalable performance baseline for AR/VR, industrial IoT, and real-time collaboration, with IoT identified as a key focus for the application of the same QoS framework in future trial phases

A framework that bridges standards and the real-world

The Wi-Fi Alliance QoS Management Specification Release 2 (R2), validated through these field results, now stands as a practical and effective framework for ensuring consistent traffic prioritization across uplink and downlink flows, bridging the gap between standards and real-world implementation. The results validate that enabling Wi-Fi QoS Management mechanisms, such as Mirrored Stream Classification Service (MSCS) and Stream Classification Service (SCS), significantly enhances the QoE for today's most demanding applications.

Phase two trials to explore new enterprise use cases

By translating advanced QoS specifications into real-world outcomes in use cases for consumers and enterprises, WBA and its members are establishing the performance foundation for next-generation applications such as augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), industrial IoT and real-time collaboration tools.

Building on the success of the phase one trials, phase two will extend testing into multi-access point, mesh network and high-density environments to allow further exploration of real-world enterprise and IoT scenarios.

Tiago Rodrigues, President and CEO of the Wireless Broadband Alliance, said: "These trials mark a major step forward for the Wi-Fi ecosystem and a pivotal enabler for the next wave of low-latency applications. By proving that standardized QoS management translates into tangible, real-world performance we are helping operators, device makers and application developers deliver faster, more reliable connectivity for millions of users and new business use cases worldwide."

One-year countdown begins for next ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

ITU's global membership prepares to meet in Doha to elect leadership and set four-year plans

Preparations for the next meeting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) have reached the one-year countdown. This is a key milestone in the continuous efforts over the past several years to ensure the successful hosting of the conference, set to take place in Doha, Qatar, from 9 to 27 November 2026.

The preparatory period marks the formal opening of nominations for ITU's top management posts to be elected at the meeting of the organization's principal governing body.

During the conference, ITU Member States will consider how the UN agency for digital technologies should address shared priorities such as managing the world's radio-frequency spectrum, setting responsible technology standards and advancing digital development for all.

"The Plenipotentiary Conference is where ITU's global membership sets the course for humanity's shared digital future," said ITU Secretary-General Doreen Bogdan-Martin. "Next year in Doha, our 194 Member States will come together to agree on strategies that ensure technology — from satellites to 5G to AI — drives meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation for all people, everywhere."

Discussions at PP-26 will reflect the ever-increasing importance of space and satellites, artificial intelligence (AI) and other advancing technologies to support global communications networks.

ITU Member States selected Doha to host PP-26 during the organization's last plenipotentiary conference in Bucharest, Romania in 2022.

"Hosting ITU PP-26 in Doha represents a milestone in Qatar's ongoing efforts to drive the global digital agenda and foster dialogue on the future of the global Information and Communications Technology sector," said Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, President of Qatar's Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and Chair-Designate of PP-26. "Qatar reaffirms its commitment to working with ITU Member States to promote innovation, inclusion, and sustainable digital development for the benefit of nations and communities."

Electing leaders to shape the digital future

Elections for ITU's five top leadership positions at PP-26 comprise the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and Directors of the organization's three technical bureaux: Radiocommunication, Telecommunication Standardization, and Telecommunication Development.

The Plenipotentiary Conference will also elect 48 Member States to serve on the ITU Council as well as the 12 members of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB) for their 2027-2030 terms.

The ITU Council acts as ITU's governing body in the intervals between plenipotentiary conferences. The RRB is responsible for applying and interpreting the ITU Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits.

Nominations for all positions are open from one year until one month before the conference. In addition to elections, PP-26 will set ITU's strategic and financial direction for the coming years. It will also address key issues and questions raised by ITU Member States on information and telecommunication technologies. ■

GLOBAL ICT, TELECOM & SATCOM EVENTS 2026

Dates	Month	Event	Location
12-14	January 2026	intersec	Dubai, UAE
13-16	April 2026	LEAP	Riyadh, KSA
24-26	June 2026	GSMA MWC Shanghai	Shanghai, China
10-12	February 2026	capacity MIDDLE EAST 2026	Dubai, UAE
20-21	April 2026	DCD Connect | MENA	Dubai, UAE
11-14	September 2026	IBC	Amsterdam, Netherlands
02-05	March 2026	MWC GSMA	Barcelona, Spain
05-07	May 2026	GISEC GLOBAL	Dubai, UAE
13-15	October 2026	NETWORK X	Messe Wien Vienna, Austria
23-26	March 2026	SATSHOWWEEK	Washington, DC
20-22	May 2026	COMMUNIC ASIA	Singapore
02-05	November 2026	GLOBAL MILSATCOM Conference & Exhibition	London, UK
07-09	April 2026	GITEX AFRICA Morocco	Marrakesh
20-22	May 2026	SatelliteAsia	Singapore
17-19	November 2026	AFRICA TECH FESTIVAL	CapeTown, SA
09-10	April 2026	GITEX ASIA Singapore	Singapore
02-04	June 2026	CABSAT	Dubai, UAE
08-11	December 2026	GITEX GLOBAL	Dubai, UAE