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*The latest in Telecom, ICT and SatCom sectors of the Middle East, Asia and Africa*



## **Advancing Multi-Orbit Connectivity Through Next-Gen Antenna Technology**

**Ryan Stevenson, Chief Scientist, Kymeta**



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## Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June 2026 edition of Teletimes International.

As the ICT industry enters a new phase of transformation, innovation is increasingly being defined by the convergence of connectivity, artificial intelligence, cloud-native architectures, and space technologies. Across telecommunications, satellite communications, enterprise IT, and digital infrastructure, organizations are moving beyond experimentation and toward large-scale implementation of technologies that will shape the next decade.

In this issue, we explore some of the industry's most important developments, from the emerging "IQ Era" highlighted at MWC Shanghai 2026 to the growing role of AI in networks, education, healthcare, and data governance. We also bring you exclusive insights from industry leaders at Eutelsat, Kymeta, and ST Engineering iDirect, who share their perspectives on the future of video distribution, multi-orbit connectivity, and next-generation satellite networks.

Our coverage further examines breakthroughs in semiconductor innovation, advances in digital inclusion, and the expanding role of satellite technologies in enabling resilient and ubiquitous connectivity worldwide.

As always, our goal is to provide decision-makers, policymakers, and technology leaders with meaningful insights into the trends shaping the global digital economy.

Thank you for your continued support and readership.

**Khalid Athar**  
Chief Editor



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## 'IQ Era' MWC Shanghai 2026 Ready to Chart the Next Frontier of Intelligent Connectivity

The global telecommunications and mobile ecosystem is realigning its sights on the Far East as the GSMA prepares to host MWC Shanghai 2026. Taking place from June 24 to June 26, 2026, at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC), this year's edition arrives at a monumental inflection point for technology. Positioned under the overarching visionary umbrella theme of "The IQ Era," MWC Shanghai 2026 transitions the industry from mere baseline connectivity toward deeply integrated, cognitive, and autonomous network ecosystems.

As Asia's largest and most influential gathering for the connectivity sector, the event is anticipated to draw over 45,000 physical attendees from more than 128 countries and territories. Bringing together a powerful matrix of mobile network operators (MNOs), government policymakers, tech giants,

device manufacturers, and cross-industry enterprise buyers, MWC Shanghai 2026 serves as a global bridge. It showcases how China's hyper-advanced digital market actively cross-pollinates with international tech ecosystems to redefine how society lives, works, and communicates.

### Conference Core Themes: Navigating The IQ Era

The core architecture of the MWC Shanghai 2026 conference program is systematically organized around key core themes that reflect the current multi-trillion-dollar digital transformation priorities. Rather than treating mobile networks as standalone infrastructure, this year's agenda focuses on the intersections of telecommunications with vertical industries.

• **The IQ Era (AI Everything):** Moving beyond conversational chatbots, the

primary focus centers on how operators are embedding Generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) directly into network cores to build zero-touch, self-healing automated networks. Discussions will highlight both general AI models and tailored B2B solutions empowering heavy industries.

• **5G-Advanced & The Runway to 6G:** With 5G-Advanced (Release 18 and beyond) entering commercial deployment, sessions will map out real-world monetization strategies, localized industrial private networks, and the foundational requirements needed to transition toward early 6G frameworks.

• **Intelligent Infrastructure & Cloud-Native Networks:** Exploring the hybridization of edge computing, localized data centers, and advanced cloud architectures necessary to process massive, real-time AI workloads

without latency.

• **Satellite & Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN):** A dedicated focus on seamless space-to-ground connectivity, detailing how satellite communication integration into consumer smartphones and commercial logistics is creating ubiquitous global coverage.

### The Programme and High-Level Agenda

The three-day agenda is designed to offer a balance between high-level macroeconomic strategies and deep-dive technical architectures. The conference programme is distributed across dedicated keynote theaters, partner programs, and technical summits designed to tackle the industry's most pressing operational pain points.

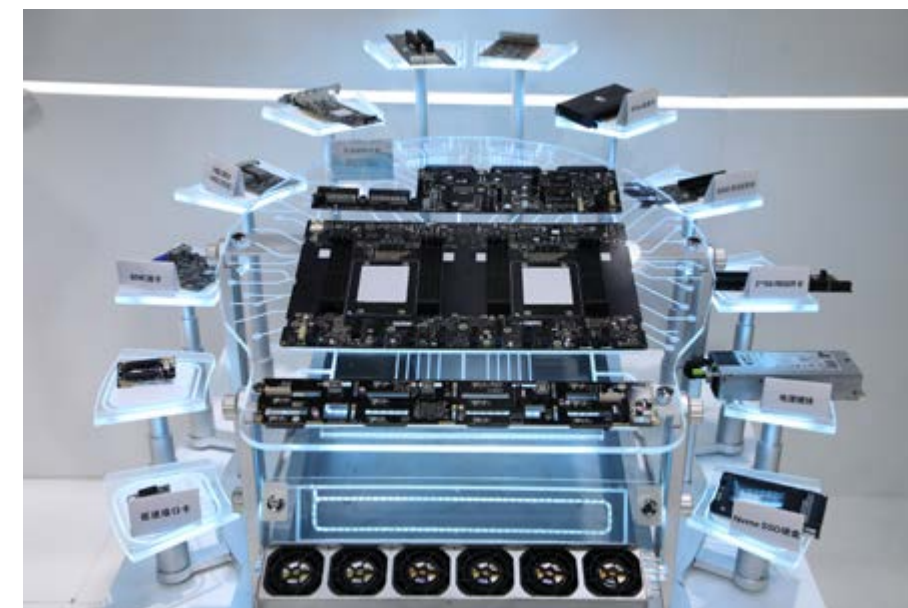
**High-Impact Keynotes:** Spanning the opening and secondary days, the keynote presentations feature global captains of industry unpacking digital sovereign infrastructure, cross-border data security, and sustainable green computing.

**Monetizing the Network via Open Gateway:** A substantial portion of the agenda focuses on the commercialization of the GSMA Open Gateway initiative. This program highlights how universal network Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) are successfully allowing developers to build fraud-prevention and location-based tools, thereby unlocking new revenue streams for operators.

**The Global Policymaker Roundtable:** This closed-door and open forum brings together international regulatory bodies to deliberate on spectrum allocations (particularly the 6GHz band), digital inclusion policies, and ethical frameworks governing autonomous AI in telecommunications.

### A Stellar Lineup of Visionary Speakers

MWC Shanghai 2026 is set to play host to around 400 world-class speakers. The speaker roster represents a diverse cross-section of tech leaders, combining top executives from the "Big Three"



Chinese state operators with international tech visionaries, cloud hyperscalers, and pioneering enterprise end-users.

**Tier-1 Mobile Network Operators:** Chief Executives and Chief Technology Officers from China Mobile, China Telecom, and China Unicom will lead the charge, sharing vital data on their deployment of containerized AI models over nationwide 5G networks.

**Global Ecosystem Enablers:** Key leadership figures from infrastructure titans such as Huawei and ZTE alongside international silicon providers will outline the hardware

breakthroughs driving token processing speeds at the network edge.

**Cross-Industry Visionaries:** Leaders from the automotive, fintech, and manufacturing sectors will participate in panel discussions, offering concrete case studies on how advanced connectivity acts as the primary catalyst for operational efficiency in automated factories and smart transport grids.

### Special Conference Features and Summits

To ensure specific vertical industries receive

localized focus, MWC Shanghai 2026 integrates distinct conference features tailored toward deep corporate networking and specialized insight accumulation.

**The Digital Everything Summit:**

This feature drills down into the total digitalization of consumer spaces, tracking the evolution of smart glasses, spatial computing, and next-generation smart-home hubs powered by ambient connectivity.

**Leaders in Connectivity Stage:** A highly technical track focusing heavily on the engineering realities of implementing 5G-Advanced, managing massive IoT fleets, and reducing the massive carbon footprint of modern high-power AI computing centers.

**GSMA Pavilion & Innovation Showcase:**

At the center of the show floor, the GSMA Pavilion—featuring major contributions from prominent members like CITIC and ZTE—will host live, immersive demonstrations. Attendees can interact directly with active, cross-operator network API rollouts and global collaborative ecosystem projects.

**The Exhibition Floor: Groundbreaking Tech Unveiled**

Covering multiple massive halls of the SNIEC, the MWC Shanghai 2026 exhibition plays host to roughly 400 exhibitors, sponsors, and partners. It serves as a bustling marketplace where physical hardware, software frameworks, and conceptual enterprise solutions are demonstrated in real time.

**Next-Gen Device Launches:** Global device OEMs will use the platform to debut AI-native smartphones, integrated augmented reality (AR) wearables, and next-generation laptops running localized neural processing units (NPUs).

**Live Infrastructure Demodulations:** Tech providers will showcase actual massive MIMO setups, energy-efficient liquid-cooled base stations, and private 5G network



slices customized for harsh industrial environments.

**The Connected Car Arena:** Reflecting Shanghai's status as a booming automotive hub, the exhibition floor will feature live demonstrations of Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything (C-V2X) platforms, showcasing how low-latency networks enable Level 4 autonomous driving.

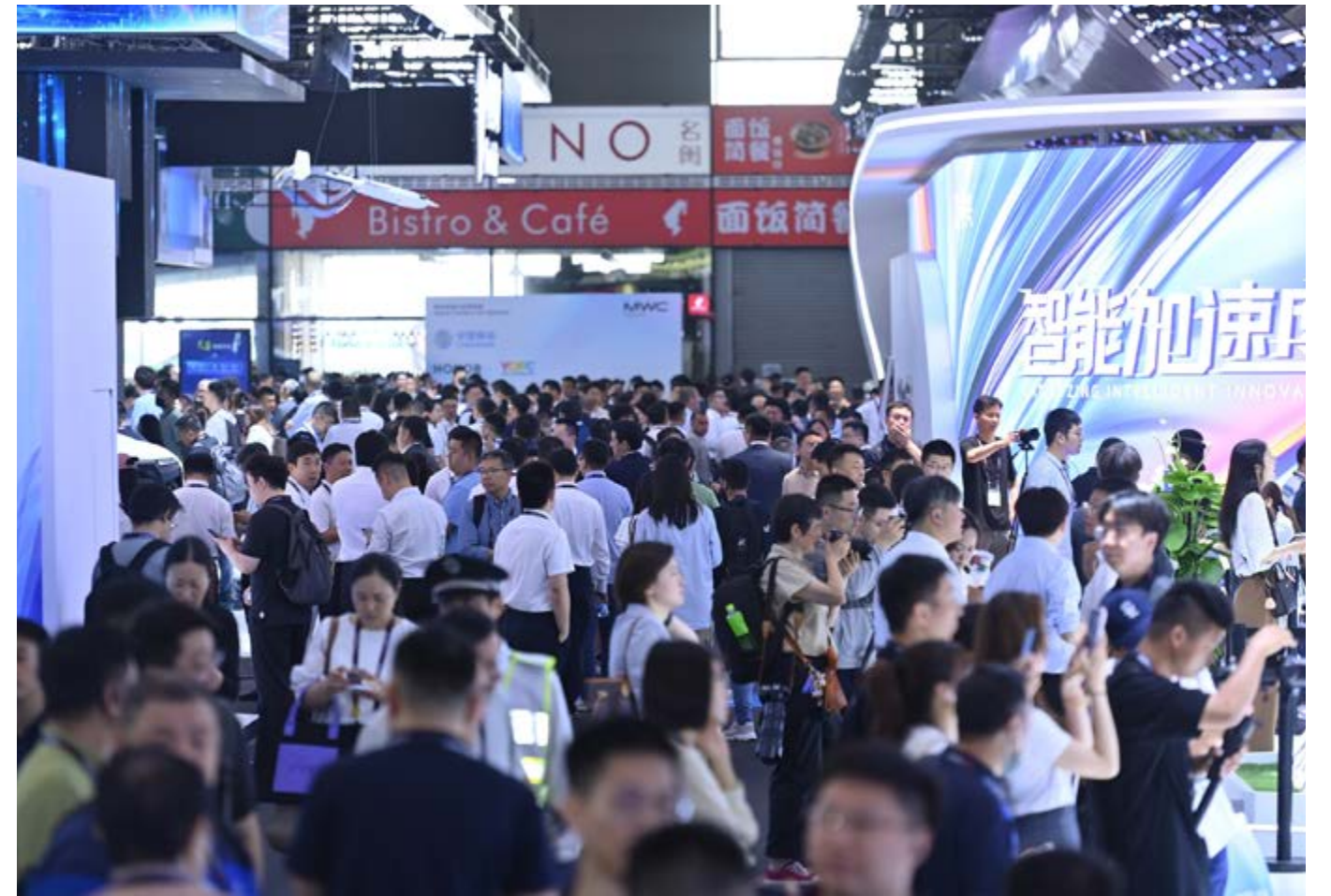
**Featured Zones: Exploring Vertical Segments**

Recognizing that connectivity has expanded far beyond traditional telecom boundaries,

the exhibition floor features specialized, highly curated zones designed to bridge the gap between MNOs and vertical enterprises.

**The Future Tech Hall:** This flagship zone acts as a magnetic nexus connecting telecom infrastructure directly to vital high-growth sectors. It is divided into distinct neighborhoods dedicated to Fintech (secure blockchain payments and digital assets), Manufacturing (digital twins and industrial robotics), and Healthcare (remote robotic surgery and real-time patient monitoring).

**The Mobile AI Zone:** A specialized area



completely dedicated to practical artificial intelligence applications, displaying everything from real-time language translation hardware to AI-driven predictive maintenance algorithms for complex utility grids.

**SME & Startup Zone:** Designed specifically to allow agile small-and-medium enterprises to scale, this zone pairs disruptive tech startups with venture capitalists, angel investors, and prospective enterprise partners looking for rapid innovation.

**Celebrating Excellence: The GLOMO Awards**

A definitive highlight of the MWC Shanghai itinerary is the presentation of the prestigious GSMA Global Mobile (GLOMO) Awards. Globally recognized as the ultimate accolade in the connectivity space, the

GLOMOs honor the organizations and individuals pushing the boundaries of what is possible.

**Honoring Regional and Global Breakthroughs:** The awards celebrate the ultimate achievements across multiple categories, including Tech Innovation, Mobile Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Outstanding Mobile Technology, and the coveted Asia Mobile Award for outstanding contribution to the regional ecosystem.

**Rigorous Peer Review:** Judged by a highly independent panel of world-class analysts, journalists, and academics, winning a GLOMO award represents a definitive stamp of market leadership and engineering excellence in a highly competitive arena.

For a premier publication like Teletimes International, MWC Shanghai 2026

represents far more than a typical trade show; it is an invaluable glimpse into a hyper-connected tomorrow. As the telecom sector grapples with flatlining ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) globally, the innovations originating in Asia offer a definitive blueprint for financial recovery and future growth.

By aggressively pivoting toward "The IQ Era," MWC Shanghai 2026 underscores that the network is no longer a passive pipe. Enhanced by native intelligence, satellite integration, and universally accessible APIs, the modern telecommunications grid is transforming into an active, cognitive computing layer. For operators worldwide, the methodologies, partnerships, and technical standards established in Shanghai during this pivotal week in June will undoubtedly reverberate through their corporate strategies for the remainder of the decade. ■

# From Broadcast to Broadband

## Why the Future of Video is Satellite + OTT

**Annamaria Recchia, VP Commercial Development, Marketing & Product at Eutelsat, discusses how hybrid satellite-OTT architectures, GEO-LEO integration, and IP-native broadcasting are reshaping the future of video distribution**



### Satellite vs OTT Evolution

"I think that the 'satellite vs OTT' mindset no longer reflects the current market reality. At Eutelsat we believe in a "satellite + OTT" hybrid model. The real question is not how satellite competes with OTT, but rather how satellite amplifies OTT. Broadcasters now have multilayered distribution strategies to optimize their channel delivery, enabling them to get the best from this hybrid broadcast-OTT world.

***“The real question is not how satellite competes with OTT, but how satellite amplifies OTT.”***

Satellite is unique in delivering broadcast efficiency at scale, without CDN costs that increase as audiences grow. For broadcasters distributing content to tens of millions of homes, particularly live and high-quality content, that economic model is irreplaceable – and it's here to stay. Over the past few years, we have been reshaping the place of satellite into a smarter part of the OTT stack. Through new standards such as DVB-NIP, HbbTV, and our hybrid

distribution model, broadcasters can use satellite for the heavy lifting, ensuring mass distribution to wider audiences, with no risk of latency or quality issues from internet congestion at peak demand times; while using broadband return paths, where

for the next generation of video monetization, and FAST channels are a perfect example of how satellite fits into the business case.

Through our hybrid satellite and FAST

***“Through our hybrid satellite and FAST channel distribution model, channels can unlock dual revenue streams.”***

available, for interactivity, personalisation and analytics. The two work in tandem. That's where the value chain is heading."

### Hybrid GEO-LEO Strategy

"Our multi-orbit strategy is genuinely differentiated. Eutelsat is the first fully integrated GEO-LEO satellite operator, with a fleet of 31 geostationary (GEO) satellites located at key orbital positions and more than 600 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites in a pole-to-pole constellation, delivering unique opportunities for customers around the world.

For video specifically, GEO remains the gold standard for broadcast distribution: wide beams, high throughput, proven reliability. But LEO opens up entirely new possibilities for contribution links, live event coverage from remote locations and low-latency interactive applications. Think about live sports production (natively IP) from a stadium in a rural area, or news gathering in a conflict zone: LEO significantly reduces the friction and cost of getting that signal back to the studio, seamlessly integrating it into their remote production stack. We are happy to be ready now to offer Eutelsat's OneWeb-based Video solutions to our customers and are already seeing significant interest."

### Monetization & New Revenue Models

"We're actively building the infrastructure

channel distribution model, channels can unlock dual revenue streams: leveraging CPM-based ad-monetization for the streaming part, while maintaining traditional advertising revenue models via satellite, thus maximizing overall potential across platforms.

Our partnership with wedotv is a great example: by using HbbTV technology, wedotv can enable dynamic ad-insertion on channels distributed via our HOTBIRD satellites. Combining the massive reach of these satellites, with the targetability of digital advertising, they can reach a larger audience of connected TVs throughout Europe and the MENA region, as well

***“The economics and reliability of delivering a live event simultaneously to 50 million homes via satellite are simply not replicable over IP at scale today.”***

as a new audience of non-connected TV viewers. That's a genuinely new business model that we have been pursuing over the past couple of years.

Beyond FAST, we're also looking at IP-based broadcasting and edge-caching as

key levers. DVB-NIP enables push-based VOD delivery via satellite: content is cached locally on a gateway device, reducing the broadband load for on-demand viewing while maintaining satellite's distribution efficiency in delivering a high-quality user experience. For broadcasters and also streamers in markets where broadband remains unaffordable, this is transformative."

### Bridging the Digital Divide

"This is where satellite's public service mission and commercial opportunity genuinely converge. GEO satellites are essential for digital inclusion, ensuring access to linear and non-linear content where terrestrial broadband is limited or missing; satellites also connect rural and hard-to-reach areas where fiber deployment is costly or impractical, ensuring universal coverage.

In education, we're seeing real traction: satellite-delivered content for distance learning, particularly in the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa and MENA, where we can reach schools that are simply beyond the reach of any ground infrastructure. In public services, emergency broadcasting and governmental communication in times of crisis, rely on satellite as the only truly resilient last-mile option.

What's changed is that we're now able to layer interactivity on top of these services through hybrid connectivity. For example, a student in a remote village can watch a lesson delivered via satellite and use a low-bandwidth return path to submit work or access supplementary content. This



changes the educational use case fundamentally."

**Innovation in Video Technologies**

"We're very actively involved in the DVB standards evolution and I think our participation at DVB World 2026 signals clearly where we're heading. Our latest implementations ensure seamless satellite distribution of IP-native OTT streams, push-file based VOD and AVOD via local gateway storage and hybrid DVB-I service lists that merge OTT services with traditional broadcasting services.

What this means in practice is that a single satellite transmission can now serve a fully connected Smart TV with an interactive, multiscreen-ready experience and, simultaneously, serve a basic DTH receiver with a traditional linear channel. One infrastructure, multiple user experiences. For broadcasters, that's a significant simplification of their distribution architecture.

**Future of Video Distribution (2026–2030)**

"A few convictions shape how I think about the next five years and beyond.

First, IP-native broadcasting will become the new norm, not the exception. The industry is converging on common standards and satellite will be a first-class citizen in those workflows, not an afterthought. We're working hard to make sure this happens.

Second, live content, and particularly live sports, will remain satellite's strongest card. The economics and reliability of delivering a live event simultaneously to 50 million homes via satellite are simply not replicable over IP at scale today and the gap will narrow, but not close by 2030.

Finally, satellite distribution is here to stay. Our challenge over the next 5 years is to adapt our value proposition fast enough to stay central to broadcasters' distribution thinking as they modernise their technology stacks. This is what makes it so exciting. By reimagining video distribution solutions that combine the coverage, resilience and efficiency of satellite with the interactivity and personalisation of IP, we can define a future where global reach, high-quality delivery and digital innovation coexist seamlessly in a symbiotic way for everyone." ■

# Her's Law: Can Time Scaling Unlock the Next Semiconductor Revolution?

## Huawei presents the Tau ( $\tau$ ) Scaling Law, enabling breakthroughs in transistor density and system performance

During the 2026 IEEE International Symposium on Circuits and Systems (ISCAS), He Tingbo from HUAWEI delivered a keynote speech titled "New Semiconductor Path in Practice". In her speech, she presented the Tau ( $\tau$ ) Scaling Law (or Her's Law as referred to by peers in the technical community), a new principle for guiding the future development of the semiconductor industry. This law proposes replacing geometric scaling with time ( $\tau$ ) scaling as a new guiding principle for the evolution of both semiconductors and electronic systems. Based on this principle, innovative technologies such as LogicFolding can be used to continuously



**"Time scaling is the ultimate goal that system evolution has been pursuing – continuously raising operating frequency for higher performance. At the device level, is it really hard to shift to time scaling? Quite the opposite."**

**"If scaling no longer delivers free gains and our litho tooling is restricted, how can we keep our words—delivering better products every year or two?"**

**He Tingbo, Director, Chair of Huawei Scientist Committee**

compress signal propagation delay and steadily improve transistor density, which will drive the ongoing evolution of semiconductors and electronic systems.

In recent years, Moore's Law – which has guided the semiconductor industry for

more than five decades – has faced severe physical limits and diminishing economic returns. The global industry has been increasingly constrained by the slowdown in the geometric scaling of transistors and the erosion of cost-per-transistor benefits. The industry must now tackle the urgent and common challenge of overcoming the physical constraints of traditional processes and finding a new, sustainable evolution path that can match surging computing demands. This is where the  $\tau$  Scaling Law comes into play.

Based on this law, HUAWEI has developed innovative core technologies like LogicFolding and established a multi-level co-optimization mechanism that spans semiconductor devices, circuits, chips, and systems. This mechanism aims to systematically shorten the time constant  $\tau$  in order to drive up performance, energy efficiency, and transistor density at each level in the following ways:

At the device level: Optimizing the resistance and parasitic capacitance of

transistors and interconnects to minimize the device-level time constant  $\tau$  at the underlying physical layer

At the circuit level: Adopting the LogicFolding architecture to break down the physical boundaries of traditional circuit layouts, significantly shortening critical-path wiring, effectively reducing the resistive and capacitive load of signal propagation, and ultimately boosting transistor density and circuit performance

At the chip level: Employing full-stack coordinated design of software, architecture, and silicon to achieve fine-grained, workload-driven control over instruction and data flows, enhancing system-level parallelism and efficiency, and significantly reducing end-to-end execution time

At the system level: Redefining interconnect protocols for computing systems with UnifiedBus to achieve unified memory addressing and native memory semantics for SuperPoDs, significantly reducing system communications latency

In her keynote speech, He Tingbo elaborated on HUAWEI's application of the  $\tau$  Scaling Law to smartphones and AI computing. Over the past six years, HUAWEI has designed and mass-produced 381 chips based on the  $\tau$  Scaling Law, serving a wide range of industries, sectors, and markets. The Kirin chips scheduled to launch in Fall 2026 will be the first ever to adopt the LogicFolding architecture, which will considerably enhance the chips' performance. By 2031, the high-end chips HUAWEI designs based on the  $\tau$  Scaling Law are expected to feature a transistor density that is equivalent to 14 Å (1.4 nm) processes. Looking ahead, He Tingbo noted, "We believe that openness and collaboration are key to driving ongoing progress in the semiconductor industry. No single company can independently find all the answers along the path of semiconductor evolution. With the  $\tau$  Scaling Law, we look forward to working closely with scientists, engineers, and industry partners around the world to drive the sustainable development of the semiconductor and electronics industries." ■



Huawei has announced that its patent licensing royalty rate for Wi-Fi 7 technologies would be set at US\$0.5 per unit for Wi-Fi 7 compliant devices.

This announcement underscores Huawei's dedication to fostering a healthy innovation ecosystem through fair, transparent, and predictable licensing practices.

As the latest generation of Wi-Fi technologies, Wi-Fi 7 delivers dramatically higher throughput, lower latency, and greater reliability. Serving as much more than just a connectivity upgrade, it lays the groundwork for the next wave of digital transformation and opens up new possibilities for interactions between people and intelligent systems.

As a leading contributor to the IEEE 802.11 standards family, Huawei has played a pivotal role in shaping Wi-Fi 7 (802.11be) technologies and holds one of the largest portfolios of declared essential patents for Wi-Fi 7. The company has invested a decade of research and substantial resources into developing the core technologies that make Wi-Fi 7 truly next generation.

Huawei has thus emerged as a leader in the global Wi-Fi licensing landscape, and its patent license agreements had covered over 1.2 billion consumer electronic devices worldwide by the end of 2024.

With today's announcement, Huawei provides clear advance notice of its Wi-Fi 7 royalty rate, which is US\$0.5 per

unit for consumer grade Wi-Fi 7 devices. Implementers may obtain licenses either through bilateral agreements or via patent pools, on FRAND (Fair, Reasonable, and Non-Discriminatory) terms.

In July 2022, Huawei joined the Sisvel Wi-Fi 6 patent pool as a founding member, concurrently becoming both a licensor and a licensee of the pool. The patent pool is a valuable option for the industry which in large provides a "one-stop" licensing solution under a transparent and fair framework with lower transactions costs.

Huawei also maintains a strong and proven Wi-Fi 6 patent portfolio, which has been widely recognized and licensed across the industry. This legacy of innovation across successive generations further demonstrates Huawei's long-term commitment to advancing wireless connectivity.

Building on this success, Huawei has extended its participation to the Sisvel Wi-Fi Multimode pool as a founding member, offering licensees a single, streamlined platform for accessing essential patents across both Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 generations.

Alan Fan, Huawei's Chief Intellectual Property Officer, said: "Through these initiatives, Huawei continues to facilitate collaborative licensing models that balance the interests of innovators and implementers, further reinforcing its leadership in shaping a transparent and efficient global Wi-Fi licensing environment." ■

## Per Narvinger appointed new President and CEO of Ericsson as Börje Ekholm steps down

Ericsson has appointed Per Narvinger President and CEO by the Board of Directors as Börje Ekholm has decided to step down as CEO of Ericsson.

Per Narvinger joined Ericsson in 1997 and has broad experience from different areas of the telecoms and ICT industry, including research and standardization, development, product management, and sales. Narvinger has worked in various senior leadership roles where he has engaged with key customers globally. He has also had long-term assignments in Australia and Spain. Most recently, Narvinger has headed Business Area Networks since March 15, 2025, and prior to that he headed Business Area Cloud Software and Services since 2022.

Jan Carlson, Chair of Ericsson's Board of Directors, says: "The Board is pleased to announce that Per Narvinger has been appointed CEO of Ericsson as of October 1, 2026. He has deep technical knowledge of our industry as well as extensive commercial experience and has proved himself in several key leadership positions. The Board is very pleased to welcome Per into this role at a very important time for the company."

Per Narvinger says: "It is a great honor to step into this role in a company where I have spent my entire professional career. It has been a pleasure working with Börje in our joint efforts to create a stronger Ericsson. This is a pivotal time in our industry. As AI continues to industrialize, this will increasingly require advanced connectivity solutions, an area where Ericsson is leading. With our extraordinary employees who are cementing technology leadership as a foundation for success, we will continue to provide great value to our customers. I look forward to taking up the role as President and CEO of this amazing company."

After more than nine years as President and CEO of Ericsson, and 20 years as a member of the Board of Directors, Börje Ekholm



Per Narvinger, new president and CEO of Ericsson

will retire from the Company, stepping down from his role as President and CEO on September 30, 2026 and thereafter acting as executive advisor to the new CEO until June 15, 2027. He will also step down from the Board of Directors as of October 1, 2026.

The Board of Directors has executed a well prepared and orderly CEO succession as part of the Company's ongoing leadership and governance planning.

Jan Carlson says: "Börje's tenure as CEO of Ericsson is defined by extraordinary leadership and strategic advancements. During his almost 10 years as CEO, we've seen Ericsson solidifying its position as the leading provider of trusted communications networks. Today, Ericsson's global market position is stronger than ever thanks to his strategic vision and global leadership. Börje has challenged traditional thinking and

has positioned the company for long-term success. I would like to extend my and the entire Board's gratitude to Börje for his efforts."

Börje Ekholm comments his departure: "When I stepped in as CEO in 2017, the company faced considerable headwinds. Since then we have turned Ericsson around and emerged as a global communications and technology leader. Today, Ericsson is driving the transformation of mobile connectivity by changing how networks are used and commercialized, and we are leading the industry into the next stage of AI: the physical AI era. It is our ability to innovate, to adapt and to compete globally that continues to define us. With Per Narvinger as CEO, Ericsson will have the right leader to continue developing this great company. I want to thank the Board, my Executive Team and all of my great colleagues at Ericsson." ■

## Cisco study reveals AI is reshaping data privacy and governance priorities

Cisco unveiled the results of its 2026 Data and Privacy Benchmark Study, showing a striking shift in how organizations approach data privacy and governance.

As AI adoption accelerates, nearly all companies are expanding privacy programs and governance frameworks to protect their data and innovate at scale. The growing demand for high-quality data to power AI is exposing gaps in oversight, and raising the stakes for trust, security, and competitiveness. The bottom line: for organizations to succeed in the AI era, scalable and responsible AI strategies must be built through a mature, integrated approach to privacy and data governance.

Cisco surveyed 5,200 IT, technology, and security professionals with data privacy responsibilities across 12 markets worldwide. The study reveals AI as the primary catalyst driving 90% of companies to report expanded privacy programs, with 93% planning further investment to keep up with the complexity of AI systems and expectations of customers and regulators. Notably, 38% of organizations surveyed spent at least \$5 million on their privacy programs in the past year, up from 14% in 2024.

### AI Raises the Bar for Privacy and Trust, But Governance Is Still Evolving

An overwhelming 96% of organizations report that robust privacy frameworks unlock AI agility and innovation, while 95% recognize privacy is essential for building customer trust in AI-powered services.

This year's report points to a deep structural shift, where trust is no longer established simply by meeting regulatory requirements. Data governance is now seen as a strategic business enabler with 99% of organizations reporting at least one tangible benefit from their privacy initiatives, such as enhanced agility, innovation, and greater customer loyalty. Forty six percent say that clear communication about how data is collected and used is the most effective way to build customer confidence.



With this momentum, governance is evolving to meet the needs of this changing landscape. Many organizations are still working to define and establish the governance structures required to manage AI responsibly at scale. While 3 in 4 organizations report having a dedicated AI governance body in place, only 12% describe these structures as mature. And, as AI systems draw from increasingly complex and distributed datasets, 65% of organizations struggle to access relevant, high-quality data efficiently.

"AI is forcing a fundamental shift in the data landscape, calling for holistic governance of all data – both personal and non-personal," said Jen Yokoyama, Senior Vice President, Legal Innovation and Strategy at Cisco. "Organizations must deeply understand and structure their data to ensure every automated decision is explainable. It's not just for compliance, but a necessary scaling engine for AI innovation."

### AI Sparks Global Data Flow Challenges

While around 72% of respondents are generally positive about data privacy laws, there is a growing push to streamline and update data requirements.

The study found that 81% of organizations surveyed face heightened demand for data localization. Eighty-five percent of organizations say data localization adds cost, complexity, and risk to cross-border service delivery. Further, 77% report these

requirements limit their ability to offer seamless 24/7 service across markets.

Global companies increasingly prefer technology partners that match their footprint: 82% believe global scale providers are better at managing cross border data flows. The assumption that locally stored data is inherently more secure is gradually eroding, from 90% in 2025 to 86% in 2026.

"To capture the potential of AI, organizations (83%) are advocating for a shift toward harmonized international standards," said Harvey Jang, Cisco Vice President and Chief Privacy Officer. "They recognize that global consistency is an economic necessity to ensure data can flow securely while maintaining the high standards of protection required for trust."

### Building Trust and Innovation in the AI Era

To successfully evolve from reactive compliance to a proactive approach, the data shows that companies should invest in robust data infrastructure, prioritizing transparency, and embedding security and privacy throughout AI initiatives. Organizations should make informed decisions about data localization, establish strong AI governance, and empower their teams with comprehensive training and safeguards. These concrete actions are crucial for building enduring trust, driving responsible innovation, and ultimately thriving in the dynamic, AI-driven digital economy. ■

## stc group congratulated leadership on the success of Hajj Season 1447H

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed K. A. Al-Faisal, Chairman of stc group, extended his sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the outstanding success of the Hajj season 1447H.

HRH Prince Mohammed bin Khalid bin Abdullah Al Faisal, Chairman of stc group, said: "On behalf of all stc group employees, I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince on the success of the Hajj season. The Kingdom continues to excel in providing pilgrims from around the world with an exceptional Hajj experience. We are honored to contribute by enabling reliable and advanced connectivity throughout the season."

Olayan M. Alwetaid, CEO of stc group, said: "We take pride in contributing to the aspirations of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for a successful Hajj season. At stc group, we are committed to delivering a smart and integrated digital environment that enables pilgrims to perform their rituals with ease and reassurance. This success reflects the continued guidance of the Kingdom's leadership, as we support millions of pilgrims with seamless and reliable connectivity."

stc group's network capabilities ensured pilgrims remained seamlessly connected throughout Hajj 1447H, enhancing the experience of millions of worshippers who came from around the world. The group deployed an extensive network of indoor and outdoor sites, supported by widespread wireless internet access points, and continued the expansion of fourth and fifth generation network infrastructure



HRH Prince Mohammed bin Khalid bin Abdullah Al Faisal, Chairman of stc group



Olayan M. Alwetaid, CEO of stc group

to accommodate peak demand. Through ongoing network enhancements and the addition of new sites across the holy sites, stc group maintained reliable and

high-quality coverage at scale. These achievements reflect stc group's role in supporting the Kingdom's broader efforts to enhance the pilgrim experience. ■

## stc delivers exceptional data and voice traffic during Eid Al-Adha

stc recorded exceptional data and voice traffic across its network during Eid Al-Adha 1447 AH, demonstrating the effectiveness of its integrated operational plan to meet the elevated demand throughout the Hajj season.

At peak times, the network registered an overall data traffic increase of 44% compared with the same period last year, while 5G traffic climbed by 60%, reflecting the growing reliance on high speed digital services and smart applications during the pilgrimage.

stc group executed around 15,000 autonomous actions per hour and deployed advanced solutions to boost connectivity efficiency during peak periods. In addition, intelligent systems were used to monitor network performance and manage operations with high precision.

Field and logistics support played a central role in maintaining service quality



throughout the Hajj season, with more than 550 trained field staff deployed at key locations to enable rapid emergency response and uninterrupted services.

To enhance the pilgrims' experience, the

group established 149 sales points across land, sea and air entry points, supported by over 1,000 sales representatives and 200 specialized translators providing multi-language services to arriving pilgrims. ■

## Radio frequency specialist DAC System joins TCCA

DAC System, a global leader in advanced radio frequency (RF) monitoring and operational awareness solutions for mission-critical communication infrastructures, has announced membership of TCCA, the global member-led organisation for the critical communications ecosystem.

Established in 2013 and headquartered in Switzerland, DAC System develops RF monitoring technologies entirely in-house, combining deep RF engineering expertise with continuous monitoring capabilities designed for critical communication environments including public safety, air traffic control, defence, utilities and broadcast infrastructures.

In the critical communications world,

radio frequency monitoring systems are fundamental for optimising performance and service delivery, and safeguarding operations. DAC's approach focuses on continuous RF visibility, proactive infrastructure monitoring and operational awareness across increasingly complex and distributed RF environments.

The company brings expertise in areas such as continuous interference detection, RF anomaly visibility and interference source localisation — capabilities becoming increasingly important for the resiliency and operational continuity of next-generation mission-critical communication networks.

"DAC looks forward to becoming actively involved within the TCCA ecosystem,"

said Pietro Casati, DAC System CEO. "We are keen to contribute to discussions and initiatives related to operational RF awareness, continuous spectrum monitoring and the future resiliency of critical communication infrastructures worldwide."

"RF performance is essential to maintain reliable coverage for critical sector end users. We welcome DAC System to TCCA membership and their experience and expertise in RF monitoring solutions that aid network operators." said TCCA CEO Kevin Graham. "Degraded performance of RF networks and coverage can have potentially grave consequences in mission critical situations, so solutions that monitor, predict and report in real time are prudent measures." ■

## Ooredoo Kuwait wins two prestigious Huawei Awards in Industry Excellence & Commercial Sales

Ooredoo Kuwait has been awarded two prestigious awards at the recently held Huawei Kuwait Partner Summit, hosted at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. The recognition highlights the company's continued leadership in delivering advanced digital solutions to Kuwait's business sector and its contribution to supporting the country's digital transformation agenda in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.

During the summit, Ooredoo Kuwait received the Industry Excellence Award – Hospitality and the Commercial Sales Excellence Award, reaffirming its position as a trusted partner for organizations seeking to accelerate digital transformation and enhance operational efficiency through innovative technology solutions.

The awards reflect the ongoing efforts of Ooredoo business to develop a comprehensive portfolio of digital services and technology solutions tailored to the needs of various economic sectors. In particular, the company has played a significant role in supporting the hospitality industry in its different sectors and in particular the healthcare institutions, which continues to rapidly adopt smart technologies to enhance guest experiences and improve operational performance.

The Huawei Kuwait Partner Summit brought together leading technology executives, decision-makers, and strategic partners to discuss emerging technology trends and the future of digital transformation. The event also recognized organizations that have demonstrated exceptional success in leveraging technology to strengthen business performance and competitiveness.

Ooredoo Kuwait's recognition in the hospitality sector highlights the company's success in delivering advanced connectivity services, cloud computing solutions, digital infrastructure, and other technology offerings that provide more efficient and sophisticated experiences for their customers. Ooredoo Kuwait recently developed a digital infrastructure that enables healthcare institutions to adopt a "smart hospital" model, improve secure and efficient medical data management, and leverage artificial intelligence to support the decision-making process.

Meanwhile, the Commercial Sales Excellence Award reflects Ooredoo Kuwait's ability to deliver innovative solutions that address the evolving needs of businesses of all sizes and industries. The award also acknowledges the company's success in building long-term strategic partnerships based on a deep understanding of market requirements and a commitment to delivering tangible value to customers.

Commenting on the achievement, (Ali Al-Dabbous, Head of Digital Transformation for Government and Enterprise) at Ooredoo Kuwait,



said: "We are proud to receive both the Industry Excellence Award for Hospitality and the Commercial Sales Excellence Award from Huawei. This achievement reflects the dedication of our teams to delivering best-in-class solutions and services to our customers, while also highlighting the strength of our strategic partnerships with some of the world's leading technology companies."

He added: "At Ooredoo business, we believe that innovation is a key driver of sustainable business growth. That is why we continue to invest in advanced technologies and digital solutions that empower our customers to achieve their objectives and strengthen their competitiveness. These awards validate our strategy of enabling organizations across various sectors to leverage the latest technological advancements to drive growth and success."

Ooredoo Kuwait continues to strengthen its position as a leading provider of integrated digital solutions through a comprehensive portfolio that includes advanced connectivity services, cloud computing, cybersecurity, Internet of Things (IoT) solutions, artificial intelligence, and managed services. These offerings are designed to support organizations as they navigate the demands of an increasingly digital economy. ■



The gender gap in mobile internet adoption narrowed slightly in 2025 according to the 'Mobile Gender Gap Report 2026,' published by the GSMA. However, progress remains slow and uneven. Women across low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are still 12% less likely to use mobile internet than men. This translates to 200 million fewer women than men, with the total figure for women not using mobile internet in LMICs sitting at 810 million.

The ninth edition of the GSMA report examines data on women's access to and use of mobile across LMICs, the barriers they face, and how these findings compare to men. It also shares recommendations for how to close the mobile gender gap and get women online, which is vital to support their livelihoods, access to essential services, and ability to achieve their economic potential.

**Geographic disparities persist**

Of the 810 million women still not using mobile internet in LMICs, more than two thirds live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the regions with the widest gender gaps in mobile internet adoption, at 26% and 25%, respectively. The gender gap also tends to be two to three times wider in rural areas compared to urban areas across LMICs, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. Least developed countries and landlocked developing countries also suffer from wider gender gaps in mobile internet adoption.

**Barriers to getting online**

The primary way people in LMICs access the internet is via mobile phones. Yet the gender gap in smartphone ownership in LMICs is 13%, which equates to around 210 million fewer women than men owning smartphones in these countries, making it challenging for women to access the internet.

Despite awareness of mobile internet remaining high and almost equal among men and women, several barriers to adoption remain. The top reported barriers are affordability (primarily of handsets) and literacy and digital skills. Women are disproportionately affected by these barriers, feeling them more acutely due to social norms and structural inequalities such as lower education and income.

Even once women are online, they often face barriers to using mobile internet as frequently and for as many use cases as men. Women's top reported barriers to further use are safety and security concerns, affordability (particularly data but also handsets) and, to some extent, the connectivity experience. These barriers prevent women from reaping the full benefits of mobile internet to improve their lives.

Claire Sibthorpe, Head of Digital Inclusion at the GSMA, said, "While there has been a slow narrowing of the mobile gender gap since 2022, much more is needed to address the persistent and significant gender gaps in mobile internet adoption and use. We

live in an increasingly digital world and the proliferation of technologies such as AI are creating greater digital divides and inequities, elevating the need to ensure digital inclusion for all.

"Addressing the barriers that limit women's access to and use of mobile internet is crucial. There is an urgent need to accelerate the pace of progress that has been made to date, which requires informed, targeted action and investment by all stakeholders working together to realise the significant social and commercial benefits to women, societies and economies of addressing the mobile gender gap."

**Closing the mobile gender gap**

Over the eight years from 2023 to 2030, closing the gender gap in mobile internet adoption in LMICs could add \$1.3 trillion in additional GDP, and closing the gender gap in mobile ownership and use in LMICs could deliver \$230 billion in additional revenue to the mobile industry. Access to mobile internet can also transform women's lives, giving them greater resilience in the face of economic, climate and political crises and shocks, as well as access to digital services to improve their livelihoods.

With strengthened collaboration across government, industry and the development community, progress towards closing the mobile gender gap can be accelerated. With targeted and sustained intervention to improve the affordability of handsets and data, expand digital skills and literacy programmes, address safety and security concerns, design mobile products and services to meet women's needs, and tackle social norms and structural inequalities, the international community can ensure women are not left behind in an increasingly digital world.

Progress in this area is already being made through the GSMA Connected Women Commitment Initiative. More than 50 mobile operators have committed to formal targets to accelerate women's digital and financial inclusion, reaching over 90 million additional women with mobile internet or mobile money services since 2016. ■

## Huawei launches "AHEAD" Program to build a new ecosystem for mutual benefits in education and healthcare

The 2026 Global Education & Healthcare Partners Convention, convened under the theme "Together, Enabling Intelligent-led Education & Healthcare," successfully concluded in China. The event drew over 500 industry customers and partners across more than 40 countries and regions. At the event, Huawei unveiled the Alliance on Healthcare & Education AI Digitalization 2.0—"AHEAD" Program, dedicated to forging tighter industry synergy and cultivating a sustainable, high-caliber ecosystem.

**AI-driven transformation, upgrading the partner alliance to keep pace with the times**

Junfeng Li (Wind), Vice President of Huawei, CEO of Global Public Sector BU, pointed out in his keynote speech that we are in a wave of transformation driven by AI. As the bedrock of sustainable human development, the education and healthcare sectors face a global imperative for intelligent transformation—a challenge that concurrently harbors immense opportunities.

He emphasized Huawei's commitment to pioneering optimal pathways for the intelligent transformation of education and healthcare, aiming to leverage AI and other frontier technologies to democratize access to high-quality education and optimize healthcare delivery globally. The launch of the "AHEAD" Program is a crucial step for Huawei to work with global partners to build an industry community for the future.

**Partner Alliance 2.0 deepens global cooperation in six dimensions**

Scaling from the 1.0 infrastructure to a more integrated global ecosystem, the Partner Alliance 2.0 optimizes six critical collaborative pillars: trend insight, empowerment, solution co-creation, marketing, opportunity sharing, and expansion, collectively driving superior



*Junfeng Li (Wind), Vice President of Huawei, CEO of Global Public Sector BU*



*Robert Yang, Director of Partner Dev. Dept., Global Public Sector BU, Huawei*

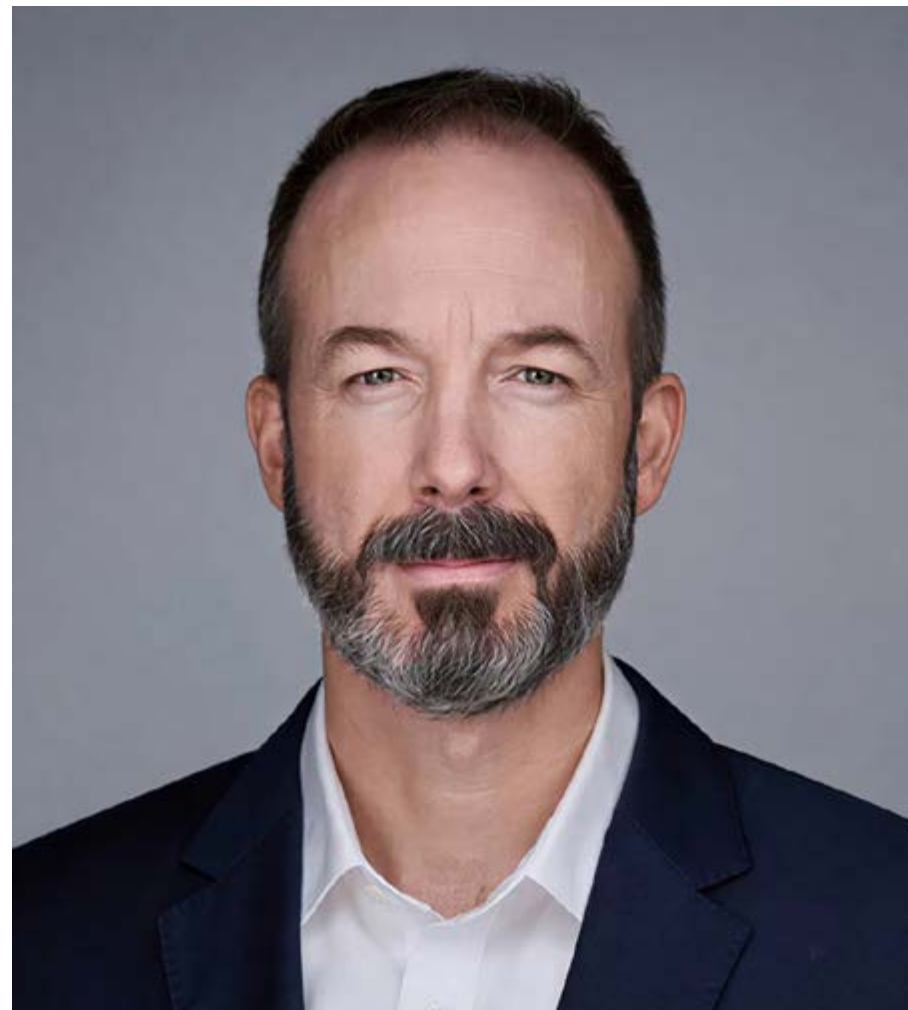
value for partners and customers.

Robert Yang, Director of Partner Development Dept, Global Public Sector BU, Huawei, outlined the core roadmap for the alliance upgrade, highlighting Huawei's intent to mobilize the collective expertise of global partners. By fostering a collaborative framework, Huawei is positioned to bring forth more innovative, industry-specific solutions, thereby driving a quantum leap in the digital and intelligent transformation of education and healthcare sectors.

The success of this Global Education & Healthcare Partners China Convention stands as a testament to the collective commitment of Huawei and its partners to advancing these sectors. Looking ahead, Huawei will deepen strategic synergy with partners to explore high-value application scenarios, co-innovate on cutting-edge technologies, and navigate global challenges. Together, Huawei and partners are set to redefine the roadmap for the digital and intelligent transformation of education and healthcare on a global scale. ■

# Kymeta: Advancing Multi-Orbit Connectivity Through Next-Generation Antenna Technology

*Ryan Stevenson, Chief Scientist, Kymeta, discusses the evolution of electronically steered antennas, multi-orbit connectivity, and the technologies shaping the future of satellite communications*



**Gulraiz:** Kymeta has recently attracted significant attention for its growing role in mobility connectivity, particularly in the rail sector. How do you see this market evolving, and what role will solutions such as the Kestrel U5 play in addressing emerging customer requirements?

**Ryan Stevenson:** One of the key applications for our Kestrel U5 terminal is high-speed rail connectivity. This is a particularly demanding environment, with stringent operational and environmental requirements, and it remains a segment that has historically been underserved.

We are excited about the potential of this next-generation product to address those needs. The Kestrel U5 represents what we consider the third generation of Kymeta technology and marks a significant step forward in our technology roadmap. It incorporates major advancements over previous generations while delivering a smaller, lighter and lower-power solution. Overall, it represents a substantial evolution in both performance and design.

**GK:** Considering Kymeta's extensive experience in electronically steered antennas, what advantages does that bring in today's market?



*The combination of electronic steering, multi-orbit capability and a favourable SWaP profile creates a compelling solution for the next generation of mobility-focused connectivity applications*

**RS:** Mobility applications benefit greatly from electronic beam steering. Traditional mechanically steered parabolic antennas can be challenging to deploy effectively in highly dynamic environments such as trains, vehicles and other mobile platforms.

Kymeta's electronically steered antenna technology is designed to provide efficient operation while supporting connectivity across multiple satellite orbits. For applications that require resilient communications, seamless mobility and the ability to operate across both LEO and GEO networks, power efficiency becomes especially important.

The combination of electronic steering, multi-orbit capability and a favourable SWaP profile—size, weight and power—creates a compelling solution for mobility-focused applications.

**GK:** With spectrum efficiency and power optimisation becoming major priorities

across the industry, how does this benefit Kymeta and its customers?

**RS:** Multi-orbit interoperability enables more intelligent and efficient use of available network resources. As the industry progresses from 5G toward 6G, there is

increasing discussion around AI-assisted network management.

Future networks may be able to dynamically direct user terminals to operate on different satellite constellations or orbital layers depending on traffic demand, network

*As the industry moves from 5G toward 6G, flexible terminals capable of operating across multiple orbits and frequency bands will play an increasingly important role in network optimisation and resilience*

conditions and spectrum utilisation. Flexible terminals capable of operating across multiple orbits and frequency bands can play an important role in that environment.

Looking ahead, our planned Ku- and Ka-band developments are intended to further expand that flexibility by enabling more dynamic operation across networks, frequency bands and orbital architectures.

**GK: Do you see examples of AI already being deployed in satellite network management?**

**RS:** Yes, there are companies actively developing AI-driven network management platforms. One example that comes to mind is Elyria, although there are others as well. We expect the use of AI in network optimisation and resource management to continue growing as the industry moves toward 6G architectures.

**GK: Given your background, how do you view the role of materials science and metamaterials in the satellite communications industry today?**



Across the broader industry, manufacturers continue to benefit from advances in printed circuit board manufacturing, semiconductor technologies and assembly techniques. These innovations contribute to improved performance, greater integration and lower manufacturing costs.

While different antenna technologies

**products?**

**RS:** For the Kestrel U5, one of the most significant developments has been the evolution of advanced PCB manufacturing techniques, particularly additive manufacturing processes.

Traditional subtractive manufacturing removes material from a copper layer to create the desired circuit pattern. Newer additive techniques allow for much finer feature definition and higher-density integration. This capability enables more sophisticated designs and improved performance.

These manufacturing advancements have played an important role in enabling the architecture and integration levels required for products such as the Kestrel U5.

**GK: How is Kymeta supporting operators as they move toward 5G, 6G and increasingly integrated terrestrial-satellite networks?**

**RS:** Kymeta has been actively involved in the development of non-terrestrial network (NTN) technologies. We have participated in industry initiatives exploring how emerging 5G NTN standards can be supported over satellite networks in mobile environments.

Today, we continue to monitor



developments from organisations such as MediaTek, Eutelsat and others that are working to advance NTN capabilities. Beyond traditional satellite backhaul, the industry is increasingly focused on more native integration between cellular and satellite networks.

As standards mature, we expect to see greater adoption of native 5G NTN implementations capable of delivering higher-performance satellite connectivity directly within broader telecommunications ecosystems.

**GK: From a geographical perspective, how important are the Middle East and South Asian markets to Kymeta?**

**RS:** They are very important regions for us.

These markets often present challenging environmental conditions, including high temperatures and demanding operating environments. Such conditions place significant requirements on

communications equipment and make reliability a critical consideration.

As a result, we see considerable opportunity for advanced satellite connectivity solutions across both regions.

**GK: The ruggedness and durability of equipment must play a key role in those markets.**

**RS:** Absolutely. Thermal performance is particularly important.

Many electronically steered antenna technologies generate significant heat during operation. When combined with high ambient temperatures and solar loading, thermal management can become a major challenge.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Kestrel U5 is its passively cooled architecture. This contributes to operational efficiency and supports reliable performance in demanding environmental

conditions.

**GK: What are the most important technology developments currently shaping Kymeta's roadmap?**

**RS:** The Kestrel U5 represents an important milestone in our technology evolution and reflects our continued focus on mobility and multi-orbit connectivity.

In parallel, we are advancing our Ku- and Ka-band technology roadmap. The objective is to build on our existing capabilities by integrating both Ku-band and Ka-band receive and transmit functionality into a shared antenna aperture.

Development work is ongoing, and we continue to refine the product definition and specifications. The long-term goal is to provide simultaneous operation across both Ku-band and Ka-band networks, enabling greater flexibility for customers operating in increasingly complex multi-network environments. ■

*The long-term goal is to enable simultaneous operation across both Ku-band and Ka-band networks, providing customers with greater flexibility in increasingly complex multi-network environments*

**RS:** Materials science remains extremely important to our technology development. Kymeta has been a pioneer in the commercialisation of metamaterial-based satellite antenna technology, so advancements in this area are highly relevant to us.

leverage different underlying components and processes, advances in materials science continue to drive progress across the entire satellite communications ecosystem.

**GK: What recent innovation has had the greatest impact on Kymeta's latest**

## du and Open Innovation AI join forces to power UAE's sovereign Agentic AI future, in presence of the Head of Cyber Security for the UAE Government

du has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Open Innovation AI, a UAE-based AI infrastructure and workload orchestration provider. Orchestrated in collaboration with the UAE Cyber Security Council (CSC), the partnership will accelerate the adoption of Agentic AI workforce across government entities and enterprises. This initiative will strengthen the UAE's sovereign AI ecosystem through du's sub-brand du Tech, in alignment with national security and digital priorities.

The MoU was signed during the Digital Readiness Retreat 2026 in Dubai, a premier national forum for digital transformation. Jasim Al Awadi, Chief ICT Officer at du and Dr Abed Benaichouche, Co-Founder & CEO of Open Innovation AI executed the agreement in the presence of His Excellency Dr Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of the UAE Cyber Security Council. This high-level endorsement underscores the convergence of AI capabilities and national security. The partnership leverages du Tech's National Hypercloud platform, which recently received formal CSC certification, ensuring locally governed capabilities to power the nation's AI-driven economy.

His Excellency Dr Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of the UAE Cyber Security Council, said: "Sovereign AI is a critical national security priority. Following our recent certification of du Tech's National Hypercloud, this homegrown collaboration represents the secure in-country AI infrastructure orchestration the UAE requires to protect its data and digital future. The UAE Cyber Security Council remains committed to fostering an environment where AI is securely governed within UAE jurisdiction, and this initiative is a meaningful step toward elevating national AI innovation."



The partnership brings together du's advanced digital infrastructure and cloud capabilities with Open Innovation AI's expertise in AI infrastructure orchestration, GPU resource management, and AI security. By integrating du Tech's National Hypercloud with Open Innovations AI fabric, the collaboration will enable public and private organizations to deploy and scale autonomous Agentic AI workloads with unprecedented speed, efficiency, and strict regulatory compliance.

Under the MoU, both parties will explore several areas of collaboration, including technical integration between du Tech's National Hypercloud and Open Innovation AI's platform to action GPU orchestration, along with resource management capabilities, sovereign AI platform development, commercial deployment opportunities, and joint go-to-market initiatives.

Jasim Al Awadi, Chief ICT Officer at du, said: "True digital sovereignty requires

an infrastructure capable of powering tomorrow's cognitive workloads today. By merging du Tech's CSC-certified National Hypercloud with Open Innovation AI's orchestration platform, we are delivering the foundational compute engine required for secure, in-country Agentic AI deployment. We are building the secure, compliant, and high-performance backbone that will allow UAE government entities and enterprises to deploy autonomous AI workforces with absolute confidence."

As part of this collaboration, both parties will assess opportunities to establish sovereign AI and GPU orchestration capabilities on du Tech's National Hypercloud infrastructure, enabling secure access to AI compute resources while supporting innovation across public and private sector ecosystems. The initiative is expected to contribute to the development and deployment of AI solutions and agentic AI agents that meet the UAE's growing demand for trusted and locally governed AI services, with security and data sovereignty embedded at the infrastructure level in alignment with the UAE Cyber Security Council's national framework.

Dr. Abed Benaichouche, Co-Founder & CEO, Open Innovation AI, said: "This MoU with du marks a meaningful step toward building the foundations of sovereign AI in the UAE. By bringing Open Innovation's Sovereign AI Fabric together with du Tech's National Hypercloud, we aim to give government entities and enterprises secure, in-country access to the compute that AI workloads demand, while keeping data, models, and infrastructure firmly within UAE jurisdiction. We are proud to work alongside du and the UAE Cyber Security Council to accelerate this national ambition."

The agreement is expanding du's growing AI partner ecosystem, reinforcing its position as a primary sovereign infrastructure enabler under its sub-brand du Tech with cybersecurity governance embedded at the core. ■

## du joins 'SME in a Box' as a telco partner offering tailored connectivity solutions to accelerate business growth



du has joined as the telco partner of 'SME in a Box,' a flagship initiative by the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) and Dubai SME, bringing together over 17 partners across banking, ecommerce, payments, and more to support of the UAE's entrepreneurial community. Through du Business's services portfolio, du will deliver tailored connectivity solutions for the 'SME in a Box' ecosystem comprising startups, freelancers, entrepreneurs and SMEs holding a valid trade licence with the DET or Dubai SME to accelerate their business journey.

As the telco services partner, du will offer a wide range of Business Mobile Plans with exclusive benefits for 'SME in a Box' customers, alongside flexible fixed solutions that enables them to adopt digital tools quickly and cost-effectively. Businesses will also receive a premium 5G-enabled router delivering high-speed performance, unlimited internet usage and key business services including Microsoft 365, .ae domain, and enhanced security features.

Karim Benkirane, Chief Commercial Officer at du, said: "'SME in a Box' is a

forward-thinking initiative that helps businesses in the UAE scale faster and smarter. As the telco services partner, du ensures seamless connectivity for entrepreneurs and SMEs aiming to establish and grow their presence in Dubai. Our offers are designed to give the businesses an immediate digital advantage, with the flexibility to diversify, as their needs evolve."

du's partnership with SME in a Box reinforces its customer-centric approach, providing streamlined onboarding and flexible features that grow alongside the businesses it serves, and providing access to affordable infrastructure, operational tools and partner ecosystem to support UAE-based SMEs in building a strong digital foundation from day one.

'SME in a Box' brings together pre-vetted service providers to reduce complexity, time, cost, and friction of setting up and running a business in Dubai. The initiative supports D33 vision by reducing barriers to entrepreneurship, lowering the cost of doing businesses, accelerating scalability and strengthening Dubai's position as a global hub for business, investment and innovation. ■



Global 5G mobile subscriptions passed the three billion mark during the first quarter of 2026; 5G Standalone (SA) network slicing commercial offerings from communications service providers continue to grow significantly; while uplink mobile data traffic growth is already outpacing downlink for many service providers. All this and more features in the June 2026 edition of the Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) Mobility Report (EMR).

The June 2026 report covers the same period (2025-2031) as the November 2025 edition, with updated statistics and forecasts.

The 162 million new 5G subscriptions added globally during the first quarter of 2026 brought the total past the three billion mark, to 3.1 billion subscriptions. This figure is expected to grow rapidly and is forecast to more than double (to 6.4 billion) by the end of 2031.

Some 390 service providers have launched commercial 5G services to date - more than 90 of which have launched 5G Standalone (SA). 5G networks handled 48 percent of all mobile data traffic at the end of 2025 - a figure expected to rise to 85 percent by the end of 2031. Western Europe, North America, North East Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are forecast to have 5G mobile subscription adoption close to, or above, 90 percent by the end of 2031.

The number of commercial differentiated connectivity service offerings based on 5G SA network slicing from service providers – with the ability to deliver guaranteed quality of service for use cases through securing slices of the network - continues to grow at pace. The total increased from 65 in the November

2025 EMR report to 84 across all regions in the new June edition - indicating that services based on differentiated connectivity are moving from early adoption to mainstream commercialization.

“With the upcoming transition to physical AI, traffic patterns will fundamentally shift as we move from centralized models in data centers to distributed, autonomous AI agents embedded across our device vehicles and cities, commonly connected by 5G,” Erik Ekudden, EMR publisher and CTO, Ericsson, says. “Mobile networks are no longer only about providing best-effort connectivity, they are becoming critical, intelligent infrastructure that meets diverse application needs. Reflecting part of this shift is the continued rise in new commercial service offerings based on 5G standalone network slicing and the number of communications service providers deploying 5G SA.”

Speed-based tariff plans for fixed wireless access (FWA) also continue to appeal to service providers as a structured monetization strategy targeting different market segments. The share of FWA service providers offering the service over 5G has reached 71 percent - up from 57 percent in June 2025 - the largest annual increase in four years. Speed-based tariff plans are now offered by 57 percent of FWA service providers - up from 51 percent a year ago. The diverse momentum is reflected in new 5G FWA launches in Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Morocco, Taiwan, Türkiye and Vietnam.

5G FWA connections uptake is strongest in North America, the Nordics, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and parts

of Asia.

The appeal is broad, spanning markets with more than 95 percent fiber-connected homes to low-ARPU markets, such as India. However, growth in Latin America, Africa and parts of South East Asia remains limited, despite long-term potential.

Changing user behavior is also reflected in the June 2026 EMR network traffic statistics.

Uplink traffic is growing faster than downlink for most service providers - in some instances, significantly faster. The main current drivers are smartphone communication and collaboration apps, the sharing of user-generated content, and cloud storage.

Based on network traffic measurements conducted by Ericsson, 43 out of 55 service providers experienced a higher uplink growth rate than downlink, while 17 out of 55 service providers experienced more than 1.5 times higher uplink growth rate than downlink. Ericsson scenario modeling suggests additional AI traffic could result in uplink traffic being three times higher or more in 2031 compared to 2025.

Network data traffic (for both mobile and FWA) grew 22 percent year-on-year for the first quarter of 2026 compared to the same period in 2025 - exceeding expectations. This was driven mainly by continued strong growth in India and North America.

The report also reflects the increasing industry focus on 6G – with standardization discussions underway. Early expectations include full support for integrated sensing and communication (ISAC); seamless integration between terrestrial and satellite networks to reduce coverage gaps; and a strong focus on energy efficiency - all driven by AI-native 6G.

The first implementable 6G specifications are expected to be finalized by the end of 2028 or early 2029. The first commercial 6G services are expected to follow around 2030, with varying subsequent uptake between regions and countries. As with 5G launches, the US, China, Japan, South Korea and the GCC countries are expected to be early adopters. ■

## Huawei launches EduTech1.0 Framework to advance intelligent education and digital talent development

During the Huawei ICT Competition 2025–2026 Global Final, Huawei officially launched the EduTech1.0 Framework, a comprehensive framework designed for educational institutions, governments, and industry partners to advance intelligent education through both technology-enabled learning innovation and digital talent development. The framework aims to accelerate the transition from digital education to intelligent education while helping build a more inclusive, personalized, and sustainable learning ecosystem.

The EduTech1.0 Framework adopts an integrated approach that combines intelligent education transformation with digital talent cultivation. By bringing together technology infrastructure, AI-enabled educational innovation, and ICT talent development, the framework provides a structured pathway for building future-ready education ecosystems and preparing learners for the digital economy.

As countries across the Middle East and Central Asia continue to advance their digital transformation agendas, education systems are increasingly exploring the use of AI and digital technologies to enhance learning experiences and develop future-ready talent. Yet many educational institutions still face practical challenges, from managing isolated learning and administration platforms to delivering personalized learning experiences at scale. Many are also exploring how AI can effectively support teaching, student services, and institutional management.

To address these challenges, Huawei developed the EduTech1.0 Framework, providing a practical model for integrating educational innovation, digital infrastructure, and talent development into a unified ecosystem.

At the heart of EduTech1.0 is a dual-engine model built around two complementary



**Alfie Liu, Vice President of Huawei's Middle East & Central Asia ICT Marketing & Solution Sales Department, and Dr. Shafika Isaacs, Director a.i., UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and Chief of Section for Technology and AI in Education, unveiling Huawei's EduTech1.0 Framework**

pillars: Tech4Edu and Edu4Tech. Tech4Edu focuses on using digital technologies to transform education, while Edu4Tech focuses on developing the digital talent needed to support future innovation and economic growth.

On one side, Tech4Edu leverages advanced digital technologies to transform the education sector. Through AI-enabled learning environments, cloud-based education platforms, and intelligent network infrastructure, EduTech1.0 helps institutions deliver more personalized learning experiences, improve operational efficiency, and expand access to quality education across diverse learning scenarios.

On the other side, Edu4Tech focuses on cultivating the next generation of digital talent. By integrating foundational ICT curricula, industry-recognized certifications,

hands-on training, and online talent platforms, EduTech1.0 equips learners with competencies in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, networking, cybersecurity, and other emerging technologies.

More importantly, Edu4Tech aims to help countries build sustainable and self-reliant AI talent pipelines. By enabling educational institutions to systematically develop local digital and AI capabilities, the framework supports national efforts to nurture homegrown talent, reduce skills gaps, and strengthen long-term innovation capacity in the intelligent era.

Alfie Liu, Vice President of Huawei's Middle East & Central Asia ICT Marketing & Solution Sales Department, shared Huawei's insights into the future of intelligent education and the role of AI in shaping next-generation learning ecosystems.

"Intelligent education is not simply about introducing new technologies into classrooms. It is about fundamentally reimagining how educational institutions cultivate talent, deliver learning experiences, and prepare learners for an AI-driven future," said Alfie Liu. "With EduTech1.0, Huawei proposes a holistic framework that brings together intelligent education transformation and digital talent development. By connecting technology, learning, and industry needs, we aim to help educational institutions build more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready education ecosystems, while empowering countries to cultivate their own AI talent and innovation capabilities for long-term sustainable development."

Echoing the principles underpinning intelligent education transformation, Dr. Shafika Isaacs, Director a.i., UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and Chief of Section for Technology and AI in Education, highlighted the importance of ensuring that AI-enabled educational innovation remains equitable, inclusive, and human-centered.

"Artificial intelligence presents a historic opportunity to reimagine education, but technology alone cannot transform learning. Meaningful transformation requires a shared commitment to equity, quality, and human-centered innovation. As education systems adapt to the digital age, our collective responsibility is to ensure that technology expands opportunities for all learners while helping societies develop the knowledge, skills, and values needed for a sustainable future," said Dr. Isaacs.

By connecting intelligent education with digital talent development, EduTech1.0 creates a virtuous cycle in which technology advances learning and learning cultivates future innovators. Through this approach, Huawei aims to support governments, educational institutions, and industry stakeholders in building education systems that are better prepared for the AI era while strengthening national AI talent ecosystems and contributing to long-term economic and social development. ■

## Physical and digital infrastructure across deep canyons boosts rural development in Guizhou

The province of Guizhou has reached the top ranks in base station numbers and 5G coverage in China. Digital infrastructure like base stations forms a strong economic foundation and stimulates rural development. Under the guidance of national strategies like Digital China and Broadband China, Guizhou continues to enhance communications network construction.

Robust 4G, 5G, and 5G-A networks have enabled mountainous villages and ancient towns in Guizhou to overcome geographical and communications barriers. These upgrades have made life more convenient for local residents, stimulated rural economic growth, and enabled local intangible cultural heritage to reach a wider audience, ensuring shared benefits from digitalization for all.

Guizhou is one of China's first national big data pilot regions. To date, China Mobile has built nearly 200,000 base stations in the province, including more than 70,000 5G base stations. Now all of Guizhou's administrative villages and high-speed rail lines are covered by 5G. Special coverage assurance is provided for key urban and rural areas, with gigabit broadband available in all townships.

### Connecting canyons with 5G-A to stimulate growth in the mountains

Economic and telecom development along the Huajiang Grand Canyon, which looks like a crack in the Earth, have long been constrained by the region's mountainous terrain. Now, the Huajiang Grand Canyon Bridge has eliminated physical barriers, and the integrated communications networks built by Huawei and China Mobile provide a digital bridge for these villages.

Working in the steep cliffs of the Huajiang Grand Canyon, Huawei and China Mobile innovatively used drones to deploy four 4G sites, four 5G sites, and 39 cells on

the bridge and in its surrounding areas to provide 4G, 5G, and 5G-A connectivity for around 11,000 users. Field tests in hotspot areas like the Yundu Service Area have shown average 5G-A download speeds of up to 1500 Mbps.

Pan Cong, a network engineer at China Mobile Guizhou, said, "For Guizhou's complex mountainous terrain, we used drone-assisted lifting and installation to solve the challenge of building networks over cliffs and canyons where traditional construction methods cannot be applied."

Improved transport and network infrastructure is stimulating and transforming the development of villages in the region. Residents of Xiaohuajiang Village now use high-speed networks for e-commerce and homestay businesses. In April 2026, the village had a total of 19 homestays, and its homestay revenue and tourist numbers increased three to fourfold year-on-year.

Homestay owner Lin Guoquan said, "Now, more tourists can find out about our village through short videos and livestreaming. And many young people who used to work in other places have returned home to seek careers in the village."

### Digital technology helps conserve and promote the intangible cultural heritage of ancient towns

Digital enablement is happening in Guizhou's ancient towns as well. In Tianlong Tunpu Ancient Town, which has a history of more than 600 years, network construction was very difficult in the past due to the town's narrow streets and densely-packed stone buildings. Today, Huawei and China Mobile have used innovative solutions to build nine 4G base stations, eight 5G base stations, and one 5G-A base station to provide seamless network coverage in the town's core areas.



With improved connectivity, residents in the town have started selling local products like chili peppers and batik items through livestreaming. This has resulted in a 15% increase in agricultural product sales and a 9% increase in resident income. Dixi Opera, a form of intangible cultural heritage, can now reach a wider audience through livestreaming. Relevant livestreams have already garnered more than 100,000 views. These developments have boosted local cultural tourism. From January to April 2026, the number of visitors to Tianlong Tunpu Ancient Town increased by two to three times year-on-year.

Dixi Opera performer Zheng Ruhong said, "Now, many people across the country know about Dixi Opera from livestreaming. Many young people who used to work in other places have returned home to learn this art. This ensures that this intangible cultural heritage can be preserved and passed down."

### Working together to promote digital

### inclusion and bridge the development divide

On May 29, China Mobile and Huawei jointly hosted the TECH Cares Digital and Intelligent Guizhou Roundtable Forum, which brought together representatives from carriers, enterprises, and international organizations. The attendees discussed how digital infrastructure enables rural development, intangible cultural heritage preservation, and sustainable development in the region, and explored new paths for inclusive digital development.

Yang Mengmeng from China Mobile Guizhou stated that China Mobile Guizhou set up special teams to overcome the challenges of building networks in mountainous areas to serve local residents in Guizhou. The company has led the construction of a gigabit Guizhou, providing 5G coverage to all administrative villages and dual gigabit connections to all townships.

Aleksei Savrasov from the United Nations

Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) said, "For a remote enterprise, a signal bar is the difference between a local stall and a global market. Where the signal reaches, the economy follows."

Huawei's Zhou Jianguo stated, "While physical bridges shorten distances, digital connections bridge digital gaps. Huawei will continue advancing technological innovation and open collaboration to provide remote areas with equal access to the digital world, so that they can share in the dividends of the digital era."

By 2025, Huawei had worked with partners to provide digital connectivity for 170 million people in rural and remote areas in more than 80 countries and regions. Moving forward, Huawei and China Mobile will continue to innovate in rural network technologies and provide digital skills training to help more regions bridge geographical and digital divides. This will allow more people to benefit from the digital and intelligent world. ■

## From complexity to connectivity: How cloud-native ground systems are reshaping satellite networks

*Sridhar Kuppanna, CTO and SVP, ST Engineering iDirect, discusses how 5G NTN, cloud-native architectures, and AI-driven automation are accelerating the convergence of satellite and terrestrial networks*

**Gulraiz Khalid: ST Engineering iDirect recently showcased its latest innovations around multi-orbit and cloud-native ground systems. What were the key messages you wanted to convey to the industry, and how do these innovations address the growing complexity of satellite networks?**

**Sridhar Kuppanna:** At MWC Barcelona, our focus was on addressing a challenge we see across the industry: operators are managing increasing complexity as they bring together GEO, MEO, LEO, and terrestrial networks. Our message was simple — the path forward requires standards-based integration, cloud-native architectures, and automation at scale. That’s where 5G NTN becomes essential. It provides the framework for unifying satellite and terrestrial domains so operators can deliver seamless, resilient connectivity wherever it’s needed.

We also emphasized that cloud-native design is now foundational. Operators need the ability to scale, automate, and deploy services quickly without adding operational burden. Cloud-native architectures give them that flexibility. They enable real-time orchestration, faster service rollout, and the ability to adapt to dynamic traffic and multi-orbit behavior. When combined with AI-driven operations, networks can predict issues, self-optimize, and simplify day-to-day management.

Ultimately, our goal is to help operators move away from siloed, hardware-bound systems toward open, software-defined, interoperable networks. By aligning

with 3GPP standards and enabling hybrid satellite-terrestrial connectivity, we’re creating an environment where operators can modernize at their own pace while preparing for hybrid roaming and next-generation services. The innovations we showcased at MWC are all about giving operators the tools to manage complexity,

“*The path forward requires standards-based integration, cloud-native architectures, and automation at scale*”

improve performance, and build networks that are ready for the future.

**GK: Following your engagements at MWC Barcelona and SatShow, how are customers responding to solutions like the Intuition platform and unified service management and orchestration? Are you seeing a shift in how operators are prioritizing automation and scalability?**

**SK:** We’re seeing a very strong response to Intuition, especially as operators look for practical ways to manage the growing complexity of multi orbit networks and prepare for 5G NTN interoperability. What resonates most is that Intuition gives them a clear, incremental modernization path. They can integrate new capabilities without disrupting existing operations, while positioning their networks for the

next generation of services.

Our recent Proofs of Concept have reinforced this. For satellite operators, the Interworking Gateway Function (IWG) has been particularly important. It allows their current infrastructure to interface with the 5G Core, which protects existing

investments while opening the door to new revenue streams through inter provider roaming. For telcos and satellite operators, Intuition’s native 5G NR NTN architecture aligns directly with 3GPP standards, enabling seamless hybrid connectivity between satellite and terrestrial domains. This is essential as the industry moves toward unified, standards based RAN architectures.

We’re also seeing strong interest in Intuition Foresight. By adding a robust service management and automation layer, Foresight helps operators streamline workflows, reduce manual intervention, and scale across multi vendor and multi network environments. The standardized API framework is a key differentiator — it gives operators confidence that they can manage diverse ecosystems through a

single, consistent operational model.

What’s clear from these engagements is that operators are prioritizing automation, interoperability, and scalability more than ever. By combining 5G NTN integration, AI driven operations, and cloud native design, Intuition provides a unified approach that simplifies operations while preparing networks for hybrid roaming and future growth. This is the direction the industry is moving, and Intuition is giving operators the tools to get there with confidence.

The satellite industry has reached a point where network complexity can’t hinder agility any longer. Operators, once slowed

“*Our goal is to help operators shift from managing physical infrastructure to orchestrating services*”

by fragmented, siloed systems, are now turning to integrated service management and OSS/BSS layers in modern ground systems. This shift fundamentally accelerates service deployment and streamlines operations.

The goal is to help operators shift from managing physical infrastructure to orchestrating services. With standardized APIs and cloud-native design, Intuition connects network and service layers, eliminating bottlenecks and simplifying workflows across multi-orbit networks.

For telecom, this service-centric shift is truly transformational. It lets satellite



operators adopt agile practices like rapid feature deployment—long standard in terrestrial networks. By reducing time spent on system integration, providers can focus on business growth and market

connect their current satellite networks to the 5G Core without major infrastructure changes. At the same time, satellite optimized gNodeB implementations and hybrid equipment make seamless roaming

APIs. The shift is already underway. Instead of reacting to issues, operators will increasingly rely on intelligent, self healing systems that can manage diagnostics, optimize bandwidth, and mitigate interference in real time with minimal human intervention.

“*True convergence depends on broad industry alignment around 3GPP standards*”

expansion. This end-to-end orchestration ultimately delivers the automation, scalability, and interoperability needed for next-generation connectivity.

**GK: You've been a strong advocate for integrating satellite into the broader telecom ecosystem, including 5G NTN. What are the biggest technical or ecosystem barriers still preventing seamless convergence—and how is iDirect addressing them?**

**SK:** The biggest barrier to seamless 5G NTN convergence continues to be interoperability. Satellite and terrestrial networks have historically evolved with different protocols, architectures, and operational models. Bringing them together introduces technical challenges around bandwidth management, latency, Doppler effects, and spectrum coordination — all of which must be addressed to integrate satellite payloads cleanly into a unified 5G Core. On the commercial side, many operators still face the cost and complexity of linking existing satellite systems with established 5G infrastructure.

True convergence depends on broad industry alignment around 3GPP standards. Cloud native architectures that support both non 3GPP and native 5G NTN access are essential to overcoming these barriers. Our Satellite Interworking Gateway is a good example — it allows operators to

between terrestrial and non terrestrial networks achievable.

By embracing open standards and flexible, software driven architectures, we remove vendor lock in and simplify deployment. This gives operators a cost effective way to extend their reach and integrate satellite as a natural, scalable part of the global telecom ecosystem.

“*We're moving toward intelligent, self-healing satellite networks that can optimize, adapt, and respond with minimal human intervention*”

**GK: With increasing use of AI, automation, and standardized APIs, do you foresee satellite networks becoming fully autonomous in the next decade? What role will platforms like Intuition play in enabling that transition.**

**SK:** I do believe we're moving toward truly autonomous satellite networks over the next decade, driven by advances in AI, machine learning, and standardized

Reaching that level of autonomy requires a fundamental change in the underlying infrastructure. Legacy, hardware centric systems simply can't support the pace and scale of modern AI models. This is why cloud native architectures are so important. They provide the virtualization, elasticity, and data orchestration capabilities needed to run AI driven operations effectively. Platforms like Intuition are designed around this principle — giving operators a flexible, software defined foundation that can process network data at scale and adapt quickly as conditions change.

Continuous integration and deployment will also play a major role. As AI models evolve, operators will be able to roll out improvements seamlessly across the

network. And as we move toward the 6G era, automation becomes even more critical for managing multi orbit complexity and delivering consistent service quality.

Ultimately, this transition leads to networks that are far more resilient, adaptive, and efficient — systems that can respond to demand in real time and support the next generation of global connectivity. ■

## UAE Space Agency signs agreement with New York University Abu Dhabi to support research on Emirates Mars Mission



The UAE Space Agency and New York University Abu Dhabi signed a sponsorship agreement to support the research project: Studies of the Martian Atmosphere and Surface with the Emirates Mars Mission. This is a significant milestone toward expanding the utilisation of the mission's scientific data in advancing studies about Mars. The agreement supports the Agency's commitment to promoting advanced scientific research in planetary and space sciences.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Salem Butti Al Qubaisi, Director-General of the UAE Space Agency, Fabio Piano, Vice Chancellor, NYU Abu Dhabi and Marta Losada, Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Research and Senior Vice Provost for Research, NYU Abu Dhabi, along with several officials and employees from both organisations.

Al Qubaisi affirmed that this agreement reflects the Agency's commitment to advancing scientific research in space exploration and leveraging the scientific data generated by the Emirates Mars

Mission to contribute to global knowledge. Al Qubaisi said: "Our partnership with New York University Abu Dhabi reflects the UAE's commitment to investing in scientific talent and enabling research that delivers meaningful contributions to our understanding of Mars. As the Emirates Mars Mission enters its extended phase through 2028, we remain focused on maximizing the mission's scientific return, advancing knowledge of the Martian atmosphere, and building a sustainable space ecosystem driven by innovation, research, and national capabilities."

NYU Abu Dhabi Interim Vice Chancellor Fabio Piano said: "This agreement with the UAE Space Agency reflects our shared commitment to advancing scientific discovery through research, innovation, and collaboration. The support provided through this partnership will strengthen the work of NYU Abu Dhabi's Center for Astrophysics and Space Science, leveraging the extraordinary scientific data generated by the Emirates Mars Mission, and supporting the UAE's vision in space exploration, scientific research, and

innovation." The agreement aims to support the research project: Studies of the Martian Atmosphere and Surface with the Emirates Mars Mission, enabling more utilisation of the mission's data and its application in the development of research related to Mars.

Furthermore, the agreement supports the objectives of the UAE Space Agency and the National Space Strategy 2031. This strategy seeks to advance the ecosystem of science, technology, and innovation, strengthen the UAE's position in the space sector regionally and globally, and reinforce its role as a key contributor to advanced scientific research.

This agreement underscores national efforts to nurture academic and scientific partnerships, and to leverage the outcomes of the UAE's space missions to support research and development. These efforts contribute to reinforcing the UAE's leadership in space sciences and enhancing its role in advanced scientific knowledge. ■



## Intersputnik participates in RCC's 35th anniversary celebrations

A delegation from Intersputnik, led by Director General Ksenia Drozdova, participated in the celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC).

The anniversary events featured a joint meeting of the RCC Commission on Telecommunications Regulation and the RCC Council of Telecommunications and Infocommunications Operators, alongside a joint meeting of the Board of Heads of Communications Administrations and the Coordination Council of the CIS Member States on Informatization. The celebrations also included a high-level plenary session, "Digital Future: Common Development Vectors, Challenges and Solutions," held during the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The plenary session brought together senior government officials responsible for communications and digital development from RCC member states, many of which are also members of Intersputnik. Speakers included:

- Kirill Zalessky, Minister of Communications and Informatization of Belarus
- Doszhan Musaliev, Vice Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development of Kazakhstan
- Isfandiyori Sa'dullo, Head of the

Communications Service under the Government of Tajikistan

- Altynbek Toktorbaev, Chairman of the Service for Regulation and Supervision in the Communications Industry of Kyrgyzstan
- Khadzhymyrat Khudaygulyev, Minister of Communications of Turkmenistan
- Maksut Shadayev, Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation
- Sherzod Shermatov, Minister of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan

The session was moderated by Alexei Borodin, Director General of the RCC.

Participants discussed key issues including technological sovereignty amid global digital transformation and geopolitical challenges, the development of unified regional and international digital infrastructure, regional approaches to digital regulation, and strategies for promoting these frameworks at the global level.

Subsequent meetings focused on preparations for the 2026 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference, the evolution of non-geostationary satellite systems and their integration with mobile networks, and strengthening cooperation with regional and international organizations.

Among the distinguished participants were Ahmad Abdulla AlMuslemani (Qatar), Chair of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026; Seizo Onoe (Japan), Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau; Stephen Bero (Bahamas), candidate for ITU Deputy Secretary-General; and Revathi Mannepalli (India), candidate for Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau.

The principles of cooperation emphasized by RCC member states closely align with Intersputnik's mission as an international satellite communications organization. Working alongside governments, educational institutions, commercial enterprises, and international organizations, Intersputnik continues to implement projects that leverage satellite communications to bridge the digital divide and improve quality of life across the region.

These initiatives also support the development of regulatory frameworks for efficient spectrum management and promote capacity building through training programs for satellite communications professionals.

Concluding the celebrations, the Intersputnik Directorate congratulated the RCC on its 35th anniversary, expressing appreciation for the long-standing partnership between the two organizations and reaffirming its commitment to further strengthening cooperation for the benefit of RCC participants and Intersputnik member states. ■

## Eutelsat and French Armed Forces Ministry announce call-off capacity contract in the context of the NEXUS framework agreement

Eutelsat has announced the signature, through the French Directorate General of Armaments (DGA), of the CENTAURE contract, marking the first call-off contract under the €1bn NEXUS framework agreement with the French Ministry of the Armed Forces and Veterans inked in June 2025.

This new milestone marks the first concrete implementation of the NEXUS project (Neo-Space for Multiple Secure Uses), a strategic initiative led by the French Ministry of the Armed Forces and Veterans to strengthen France's military satellite communications capabilities by combining sovereign assets with trusted commercial capacity. Against a geopolitical backdrop characterised by growing demand for secure, resilient and sovereign connectivity, France is continuing to enhance its space capabilities while preparing for the deployment of the future European IRIS<sup>2</sup> constellation.

The total CENTAURE contract is valued at circa €350 million, for a duration of up to eight years. It is comprised of an initial firm commitment of €138 million over a period of four years for the provision of low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite capacity across multiple areas of strategic interest to the French Armed Forces as well as an initial stage aimed at enhancing the security of Eutelsat's OneWeb services.

This approach ensures the French Armed Forces benefit from sustained access to low-latency, globally available satellite resources, while maintaining operational continuity and flexibility during the ramp-up of the European IRIS<sup>2</sup> programme.

Through its OneWeb constellation, the only global LEO constellation currently operated by a European provider and readily available for governmental use, Eutelsat delivers secure operational capabilities tailored to the requirements



of today's most demanding defence missions.

The NEXUS agreement demonstrates how trusted European commercial space infrastructure can complement sovereign defence assets and accelerate the deployment of next-generation capabilities. As space becomes an increasingly critical component of national security, Europe must be able to rely on resilient, secure and sovereign connectivity solutions under its own control.

Jean François Fallacher, Chief Executive Officer of Eutelsat, said: "The signature of the CENTAURE contract marks a major milestone in the implementation of the NEXUS framework agreement and reflects the continued trust placed by the French Ministry of the Armed Forces in the capabilities of our OneWeb constellation. In a profoundly transformed strategic environment, secure, resilient and low-latency connectivity has become a decisive

driver of military operational effectiveness. With an infrastructure that is immediately available and field-proven, Eutelsat is now delivering a concrete response to the needs of the French Armed Forces."

Patrick Pailloux, Director General for Armaments (DGA) added: "With the CENTAURE call-off contract, France is taking another step forward in the modernisation of its military satellite communications capabilities. Recent conflicts have demonstrated the critical importance of diverse, secure, resilient and sovereign connectivity for the conduct of modern operations. By relying on a trusted European solution that is immediately available and provides global low-latency coverage, the French Ministry of the Armed Forces and Veterans is acquiring the necessary resources to address today's operational challenges while laying the groundwork for the future sovereign European capabilities that will be delivered through the IRIS<sup>2</sup> programme." ■

## Eutelsat and Voimatel partner to deliver LEO connectivity services in Finland

Eutelsat and Voimatel, a Finnish provider of telecommunications and critical digital infrastructure services, have announced a new partner agreement for Eutelsat's Low Earth Orbit (LEO) connectivity services in Finland.

Voimatel will integrate Eutelsat's LEO connectivity services into its network solutions, combining satellite and terrestrial connectivity to support critical network infrastructure. The solution will deliver resilient and redundant communications for enterprise and public-sector customers across urban, rural, and remote regions.

Voimatel designs and operates fixed and wireless communication networks for telecom operators, utility companies and public-sector organisations across Finland. By integrating Eutelsat's OneWeb LEO services, Voimatel will extend connectivity into high northern latitudes, including Arctic regions where terrestrial coverage can be limited.

Eva Bisgaard, President of Eutelsat's



Credits: GETTY IMAGES

Connectivity Business Unit said: "Our partnership with Voimatel reflects the growing role of LEO connectivity in supporting critical telecom infrastructure. By combining satellite and terrestrial networks, operators can strengthen the resilience and reach of their communications services, including in Arctic regions where reliable connectivity remains essential."

Mikko Heinonen, CEO, Voimatel, added: "The addition of Eutelsat's LEO services strengthens our ability to support telecom and data network customers across Finland. Their low-latency satellite connectivity and Arctic coverage will complement our existing infrastructure capabilities and support the evolving connectivity requirements of our customers." ■

## INTEGRASYS Group opens new office in Berlin

INTEGRASYS Group has announced the opening of a new office in Berlin, Germany, further strengthening its presence across Europe and reinforcing its commitment to supporting customers and partners in one of the continent's most important defense, aerospace, and space markets.

The new office represents a significant step in the company's international growth strategy and will serve as a hub for expanding relationships with government organizations, defense stakeholders, industry partners, and technology companies throughout Germany and the wider European region.

To lead this new chapter, INTEGRASYS has appointed Kristian Kuhlmann as Head of Germany and Director of Sales. Based

in Berlin, Kristian will be responsible for driving business development activities, supporting customers and partners, and expanding the company's footprint across the German market.

"Germany is playing an increasingly important role in the future of European defense, space, and secure communications technologies," said Alvaro Sanchez Garcia de Viedma, CEO of INTEGRASYS Group. "The opening of our Berlin office reflects our long-term commitment to the German market and our ambition to work even more closely with customers, partners, and institutions across the region."

INTEGRASYS continues to support government, military, commercial, and space-sector customers worldwide



through solutions covering SATCOM, Electronic Warfare, GNSS resilience, interference mitigation, RF monitoring, and multidomain operations. ■

## Space42 expands Earth Observation capabilities as three foresight satellites enter full operation

Space42 has announced that the Foresight-3, Foresight-4, and Foresight-5 satellites are fully operational. This milestone advances the Foresight Earth Observation (EO) constellation, now comprising five Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites, enabling continuous data acquisition and decision-grade geospatial intelligence.

The three satellites were manufactured in partnership with ICEYE in Finland, supporting technology transfer and sustainable access to capabilities, while localizing the supply chain. Aligned with this mandate, critical integration and testing processes were completed at Space42's Space Systems' Assembly, Integration and Testing (AIT) facility in Abu Dhabi.

Hasan Al Hosani, CEO of Smart Solutions at Space42, said: "With Foresight-3, -4, and -5 now live, we are expanding sovereign Earth observation with greater speed and consistency to governments, industries, and partners worldwide. The collaboration with ICEYE and proven operational success within the Space42 Space Systems facility has strengthened national capability to a level that competes with and scales across global markets. The constellation further delivers against our strategy to become the preferred partner for premium geospatial data, while growing the UAE's position in a dynamic, mission-critical industry."

### Expanded Coverage and Faster Insight

Foresight-3, -4, and -5 were launched into mid-inclined, Low Earth Orbit to extend coverage, strengthening monitoring across strategically important regions where more than 90% of the world's population resides. The Foresight constellation provides SAR imagery to Space42's AI-powered geospatial intelligence platform, GIQ, which converts raw data into decision-grade intelligence within minutes. By



operating across complementary orbits, the system maintains consistent performance at all times of day.

It delivers 25-centimeter resolution and all-weather imaging, enabling reliable detection of small-scale changes on Earth from space. GIQ processes this data into actionable outputs, helping reduce emergency response times by up to 90%, predictive maintenance costs by up to 30%, and operational inefficiencies by up to 25%.

### Global Demand and UAE Leadership

Demand for EO is accelerating as governments and industries rely on

geospatial intelligence to manage risk, optimize operations, and support climate and security objectives. By 2030, EO insights are projected to generate more than \$700 billion in economic value and contribute to emissions reduction across multiple sectors.

The UAE is positioning itself as a leading supplier of advanced EO capabilities, supported by its National Space Strategy 2030 and investments in sovereign infrastructure, AI integration, and local manufacturing. The expansion of Space42's Foresight constellation supports this ambition by combining space-based data acquisition with AI-driven analytics. ■



## 10th Huawei ICT Competition concludes with student winners from 49 countries and regions and a record 220,000 participants

Shenzhen played host to the Closing & Awards Ceremony of the 10th Huawei ICT Competition Global Final, bringing a record-breaking edition of the talent showcase to an end. This year's ICT Competition attracted more than 220,000 university students and faculty members from over 2,000 tertiary institutions across more than 100 countries and regions, making it the largest edition in the competition's history. After progressing through national and regional rounds, 177 teams from 49 countries and regions advanced to the Global Final and received awards, underscoring the growing global consensus on the importance of ICT talent development.

At the Closing & Awards Ceremony, Ritchie (Honghua) Peng, President of Huawei ICT Strategy & Business Development Department, said the competition reflects the company's long-standing commitment to using technology for good and for sustainable social and environmental development. Peng added that the Innovation Competition demonstrated the



**Ritchie (Honghua) Peng, President of Huawei ICT Strategy & Business Development Department**

value of learning through competition as a tool to address real-world challenges, and that participants in the Practice and Programming Competitions stood out for their dedication, curiosity, and deep technical focus. He also announced the introduction of a new Ascend AI Operator

Development Track in the Chinese mainland for the next edition. The track is designed to help young developers engage more directly with cutting-edge industry technologies through task-based challenges.

Dr. Shafika Isaacs, Director a.i. of UNESCO

Institute for Information Technologies in Education and Chief of Section for Technology and AI in Education, praised the partnership between UNESCO and Huawei and commended the participants for their performance. She highlighted that the future of AI requires collaboration among governments, international organizations, academia, and industry. She also noted that UNESCO and Huawei have been working together through initiatives such as AI capacity building programs in Arab countries and ICT education partnership programs in Central Asia and the Caucasus. These efforts aim to strengthen higher education and vocational training systems and develop future-ready talent. She said students in this year's Huawei ICT Competition demonstrated their ability to tackle real-world challenges across cultural boundaries by applying emerging technologies – showing not only creativity but also a responsible approach to technology that embodies the purpose of education.

This year marked the 10th edition of the Huawei ICT Competition. After the Practice, Innovation, and Programming Competitions, 18 outstanding teams from eight countries were awarded the Grand Prize:

- *Practice Competition—Network Track Grand Prize: Algerian team, Brazilian team, Nigerian team, and Shenzhen Polytechnic University*
- *Practice Competition—Cloud Track Grand Prize: Egyptian team, Algerian team, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, and Kenyan team*
- *Practice Competition—Computing Track Grand Prize: Egyptian team, Henan Institute of Economics and Trade, Dominican Republic team, and Algerian team*
- *Practice Competition—Ascend AI Track Grand Prize: Shenzhen Polytechnic University*
- *Innovation Competition Grand Prize: Wuhan University of Technology, Ahmadu Bello University, National University of Singapore, and Fujian Normal University*
- *Programming Competition Grand Prize:*



**Dr. Shafika Isaacs, Director a.i. of UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and Chief of Section for Technology and AI in Education**

Wuhan Vocational College of Software and Engineering

Special awards were also presented during the ceremony. The Women in Tech Award went to seven all-female teams from Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Kenya, China, and Bahrain; while the Green Development Award was won by two teams from Ghana and China. Ten students from China received Fast Passes to the Huawei Future Business Leader Track. The Most Valuable Instructor Award was conferred on 16 exceptional instructors from nine countries and regions, including Pakistan, China, Nigeria, Egypt, UAE, Brazil, Hong Kong SAR (China), Thailand, Türkiye. Six teams from Egypt, Brazil, Malaysia, Poland, Pakistan earned the ICT Competition Online Popularity Award.

The awards ceremony attracted diplomatic representatives from 11 countries, including ambassadors, consuls general, and counselors, who attended in person to present awards to students from their home countries.

During the Global Final, Huawei also hosted the AI Accelerating Education Transformation Summit, bringing together educators and industry experts to discuss the role of AI in driving educational transformation and innovation and to share leading practices in industry-academia

collaboration.

At the summit, Huawei unveiled its ICT Academy AI Course Solution, which is designed to provide universities with a comprehensive AI learning pathway and support the development of AI talent at scale. It also released the ICT Skills Development Insight Report with Recommendations for Nine Countries of Central Asia & the Caucasus, offering policymakers actionable insights to guide talent and industry development policies.

As digital transformation accelerates, demand for skilled professionals in AI, computing, big data, and cybersecurity continues to grow. However, a shortage of skilled talent in these areas remains a global challenge. To help address this gap, the Huawei ICT Competition has set up multiple tracks, including Practice, Innovation, Programming, Challenge, Entrepreneur, and Teaching. It provides participants with an international platform to hone their technical and hands-on skills to resolve real-world problems. Through partnerships with universities and the sharing of courses, this event focuses on strengthening practical skills and preparing students for the evolving demands of the digital economy. It also reflects Huawei's broader commitment to making technology more accessible and using it for good. ■

## Huawei releases full-stack data infrastructure solution of AI data centers

At the Huawei Innovative Data Infrastructure (IDI) Forum 2026 held on May 21, Yuan Yuan, Vice President of Huawei and President of the Huawei Data Storage Product Line, delivered a keynote titled "Data Awakening, Infra Evolving", unveiling the full-stack data infrastructure solution of AI data centers (DCs) to accelerate industry intelligence.

Today, AI is transforming the way enterprises operate. Agents are becoming a key driver of new digital productivity and are evolving into digital employees of enterprises. The rapid expansion of AI applications is driving a surge in enterprise token consumption at an unprecedented scale. Yuan pointed out that enterprises need to rapidly evolve their existing IT architecture into AI DC data infrastructure to accelerate AI adoption. Such infrastructure must be systematically planned and built around the following pillars: data lakes, AI data platforms, compute power, models, agent frameworks, and data resilience.

Against this backdrop, Huawei unveiled the full-stack data infrastructure solution of AI DCs to accelerate AI DC construction and large-scale AI adoption for enterprises.

### • AI data lake

High-density OceanStor Pacific Scale-Out Storage delivers 11 PB capacity in a 2 U space, enabling massive data storage at optimal total cost of ownership (TCO). DME Omni-Dataverse, the company's unified data space solution, supports multimodal, cross-site, and real-time data import, global data visibility and manageability, and retrieval from hundreds of billions of 1,000-dimension vectors in seconds, achieving high-quality data aggregation and supply.

### • Knowledge and memory platform

For ultra-scale inference clusters, Huawei introduces the industry's first Context



Memory Storage (CMS) that supports heterogeneous computing power. CMS supports key-value (KV) semantic direct pass or uses the dedicated data processing unit (DPU) for semantic offloading. It can expand into a PB-scale shared KV cache pool and reduce the time to first token (TTFT) by 90%.

For enterprises' AI inference scenarios, the industry-first 3+1 AI data platform developed by Huawei integrates KV cache acceleration, a knowledge base with over 95% retrieval accuracy, and an ever-evolving memory bank. In addition, Huawei's Unified Cache Manager (UCM) enables seamless scheduling and management, improving inference accuracy by 30%.

### • Model engineering and resource scheduling

Huawei's ModelEngine delivers out-of-the-box model usability and model gateway capabilities, enabling zero-code adaptation to new models and one-click model deployment. Furthermore, powered by fine-grained compute resource partitioning and intelligent scheduling, ModelEngine achieves an up to 1:10 ratio of xPU partitioning to make one xPU serve multiple purposes, improving resource

efficiency.

### • Agent framework

Huawei's ModelEngine Nexent agent platform directly generates agents via natural language-based interaction, simplifying development and cutting rollout time by 80%. Through automatic optimization of skills, prompts, and memory, Nexent ensures that agents grow smarter through continuous evolution.

### • Data resilience platform

To address potential data security risks across agents, models, platforms, and infrastructure, enterprises must build an end-to-end data protection solution that prevents tool misuse, data poisoning, tampering, and ransomware attacks, achieving all-round protection of AI data assets.

"AI is unlocking new opportunities for the IT industry", Yuan said, "The next chapter of AI is data. Committed to technological innovation in data storage, Huawei will accumulate the experience of industrial AI adoption, and work closely with the entire industry to help customers accelerate their journey into the intelligent era." ■



## New global study finds ai is breaking enterprise log management

Dynatrace released findings from its new research, The State of Log Management 2026 report, revealing that the rapid growth of AI workloads is pushing traditional log management approaches to their limits. Modern logs have become critical to understanding, validating, and securing AI-driven decisions, helping organizations ensure reliability, compliance, and performance at scale. However, the volume and complexity of AI telemetry are overwhelming legacy tools, making it harder for teams to keep AI systems explainable, trustworthy, and production ready. As a result, enterprises must rethink how they manage and analyze telemetry data to maintain visibility, control costs, and support AI at scale.

### Key findings from the report include:

- AI workloads have driven a 93% increase in log volume over the last 12 months.
- Organizations use an average of seven different tools to manage logs and telemetry.

- 80% say turning telemetry into actionable insights is negatively impacting customer experience and delaying AI initiatives.

- Organizations exclude an average of 86% of log data to manage costs and system limitations.

- Teams spend nearly \$2.5 million annually on logging solutions.

- Nearly three-quarters say AI workloads require a platform-based approach to log management.

- 81% believe log ingestion and processing must be open and automated for real-time analysis.

According to a global study of 450 senior technology leaders, this surge in data, combined with fragmented tools, is making it increasingly difficult for teams to detect issues, secure AI systems, and extract timely insights. Organizations are forced into manual, time-consuming workflows as they compare insights across systems, slowing

time to insight and limiting their ability to move AI initiatives from pilot to production.

### AI growth pushes traditional log management to breaking point

Respondents estimate they spend an average of nearly \$2.5 million annually on logging solutions, including log ingestion, management, storage, indexing, rehydration, and querying. At the same time, logs are a key component for understanding and securing AI systems. To manage rising costs and system limitations using traditional methods, many organizations are forced to limit the amount of telemetry they ingest or retain.

Nearly half of organizations report discarding or not collecting logs, excluding an average of 86% of log data from ingestion, storage, or analysis to manage cost and system limitations. These challenges are most pronounced in environments that rely on fragmented or log-centric approaches, rather than a unified observability platform designed to handle AI scale telemetry.

"AI is accelerating enterprise innovation, but most logging systems were never built for the scale, speed, or complexity of AI-driven environments," said Mala Pillutla, Vice President of Log Management at Dynatrace. "As AI agents operate probabilistically, treating logs, metrics, traces, and events as separate signals is no longer viable. To make AI systems reliable and trustworthy, organizations need a unified, intelligent approach that brings all telemetry together in real time, enriched with deep context to drive confident decisions."

As AI initiatives move from experimentation to production, fragmented log management from too many tools is emerging as a key barrier to reliability, trust, and operational scale.

**Unified observability becomes essential to scaling AI workloads**

The report underscores the need for a fundamentally new approach to log management, where logs serve as the high-fidelity foundation, unified with distributed tracing and other telemetry data to deliver real-time, context-rich insights at a massive scale.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents say AI workloads now demand a platform-based approach to log management, while 81% believe log ingestion and processing must be open and automated to enable real-time analysis without rigid schemas, indexing overhead, or rehydration delays.

The real cost of observability fragmentation isn't just the infrastructure bill — it's the opportunity cost of AI initiatives that stall between pilot and production because teams can't trust their telemetry. The research shows that roughly a third of organizations are paying for redundant or underutilized observability features, and more than a quarter are burning engineering cycles just keeping multiple tools running across environments. That's capacity that should be going toward making AI workloads production-ready, not toward stitching together dashboards across numerous different tools. ■



**AI in financial services accelerating, but growing governance gaps and infrastructure challenges are slowing scale**

Nutanix has announced the findings of its eighth annual Financial Sector Enterprise Cloud Index (ECI) report. The findings reveal that while financial services organisations are rapidly adopting AI, many are struggling to scale effectively as governance, infrastructure and operational readiness lag behind.

**Key findings:**

- *Shadow AI is widespread and poses a significant risk: 66% of IT executives report employees using unsanctioned AI, while 86% say it creates business risk.*
- *Governance and process are the biggest barriers: Process complexity (38%) and organisational factors, including leadership and skills (34%), outweigh technical limitations (28%) when scaling AI.*
- *Data sovereignty is creating growing tension: While 79% prioritise data sovereignty, 62% still run containerised workloads in the public cloud, creating a growing "Sovereignty Debt"*
- *Containerisation is accelerating as a foundation for AI: 90% say AI is accelerating container adoption, with 89% expecting containerisation to grow.*

The findings point to an inflection for the financial services industry, as organisations race to scale AI amid increasing regulatory

and operational pressures.

As organisations push forward with deployment, 68% acknowledge that their infrastructure is not fully equipped to support AI workloads on-premises, while nearly two-thirds (64%) rely on third-party providers to bridge that gap. To move from adoption to scale, organisations will need to better align infrastructure, governance, and operational processes to ensure AI can be deployed securely and compliantly.

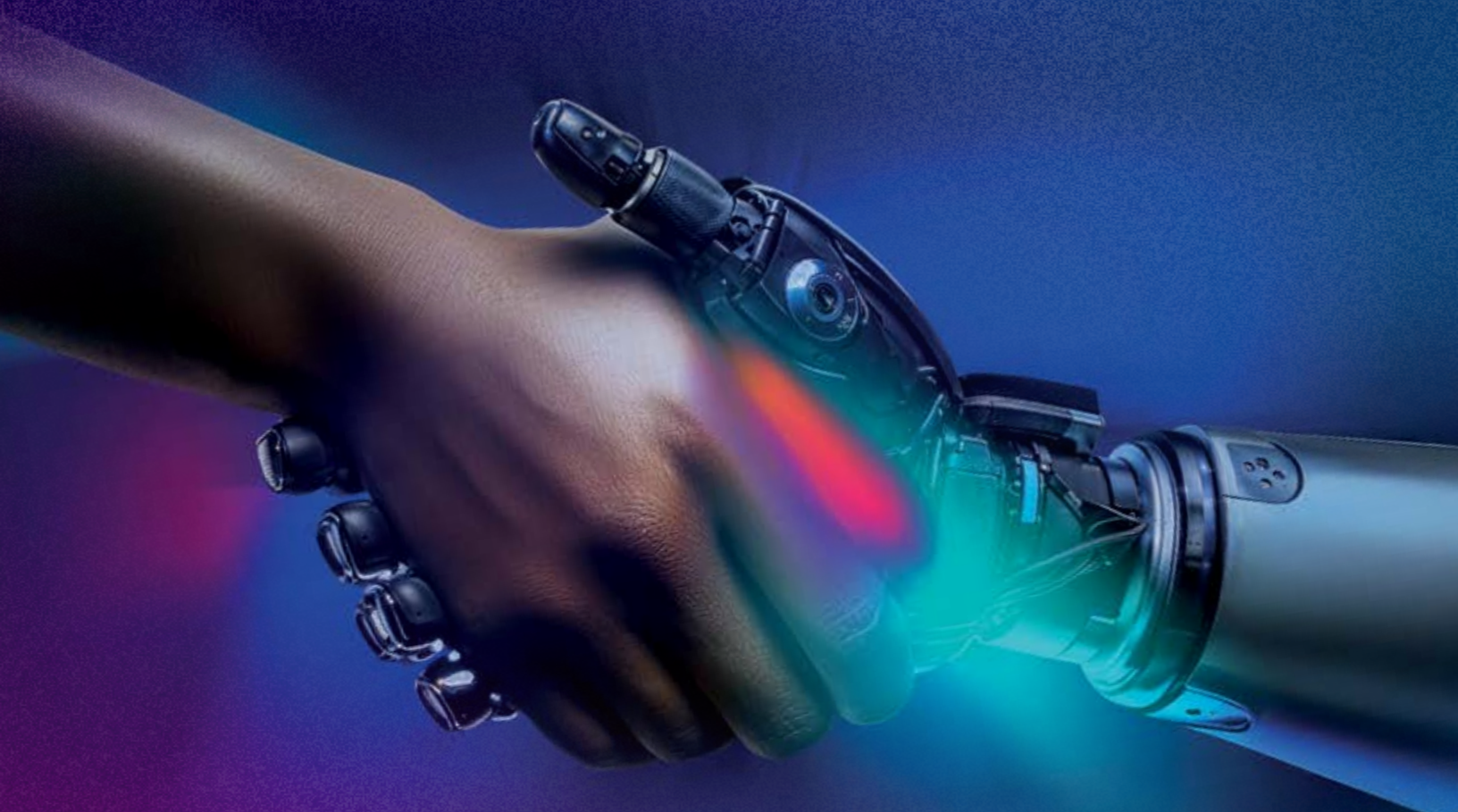
"Across the Middle East and Africa, financial institutions are moving beyond AI experimentation and increasingly embedding AI into core business operations - from customer engagement and risk management to fraud detection and regulatory compliance. However, as adoption accelerates, many organisations are discovering that scaling AI successfully requires more than access to models and data. The findings highlight a growing need for modern infrastructure, stronger governance frameworks, and greater operational readiness to ensure AI can be deployed securely, compliantly, and at scale. As regulatory expectations around data sovereignty continue to evolve across the region, financial services organisations must strike the right balance between innovation, control, and resilience to unlock the full value of AI," said Mohammad Abulhough, VP & GM, Middle East & Africa at Nutanix. ■

**GLOBAL ICT, TELECOM & SATCOM EVENTS 2026**

<p><b>01-03</b> June 2026</p> <p><b>MVNOs World</b> by informa+++</p> <p>Amsterdam, Netherlands</p>	<p><b>16-18</b> September 2026</p> <p><b>GISEC GLOBAL</b></p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p>	<p><b>27-28</b> October 2026</p> <p><b>TELECOMSWORLD Asia</b></p> <p>Bangkok, Thailand</p>
<p><b>02-04</b> June 2026</p> <p><b>SPACE TECH EXPO USA</b></p> <p>California, USA</p>	<p><b>05-07</b> October 2026</p> <p><b>CABSAT</b></p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p>	<p><b>02-05</b> November 2026</p> <p><b>GLOBAL MILSATCOM</b></p> <p>London, UK</p>
<p><b>08-10</b> June 2026</p> <p><b>MILSATCOM USA 2026</b></p> <p>Virginia, USA</p>	<p><b>05-07</b> October 2026</p> <p><b>SATEXPO</b></p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p>	<p><b>08-11</b> November 2026</p> <p><b>MWC GEMA</b></p> <p>Doha, Qatar</p>
<p><b>24-26</b> June 2026</p> <p><b>MWC GSMA Shanghai</b></p> <p>Shanghai, China</p>	<p><b>13-15</b> October 2026</p> <p><b>25 capacity EUROPE</b></p> <p>London, UK</p>	<p><b>09-10</b> November 2026</p> <p><b>CONNECTED WORLD</b></p> <p>Riyadh, KSA</p>
<p><b>31-03</b> Aug - Sept. 2026</p> <p><b>LEAP</b></p> <p>Riyadh, KSA</p>	<p><b>13-15</b> October 2026</p> <p><b>NETWORK X</b></p> <p>Messe Wien Vienna, Austria</p>	<p><b>17-19</b> November 2026</p> <p><b>AFRICA TECH FESTIVAL</b></p> <p>Cape Town, South Africa</p>
<p><b>11-14</b> September 2026</p> <p><b>ib</b></p> <p>Amsterdam, Netherlands</p>	<p><b>26-27</b> October 2026</p> <p><b>connect MENA</b></p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p>	<p><b>08-11</b> December 2026</p> <p><b>GITEX GLOBAL</b></p> <p>Dubai, UAE</p>

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