TELETIMES MEDIA LLC

INTERNATIONAL teletimes

Issue 252
MAY
2026

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

# Asia Tech X 2026

## The Future of Asia's Connectivity

## Singapore


**5G Advanced | Open RAN | Satellite IOT | Sustainable Connectivity**

teletimes INTERNATIONAL
TELETIMES MEDIA LLC

www.teletimesinternational.com info@teletimesinternational.com

Vol: 21 Issue: 05 May 2026 ABC Certified



***Printer: Khursheed Printers (Pvt) Ltd.***

**21th YEAR OF PUBLICATION**

***Recipient of***

**"MEA Business Award 2021 for Best Telecom Publication"**
**"Best IT & Telecoms News Outlet Award 2020"**
**"International Arch of Europe Award for Quality"**
**"Teradata ICT Excellence Award for Media"**

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TELETIMES MEDIA LLC.
P.O. Box 239031,
Dubai - UAE
+971 50 1305097

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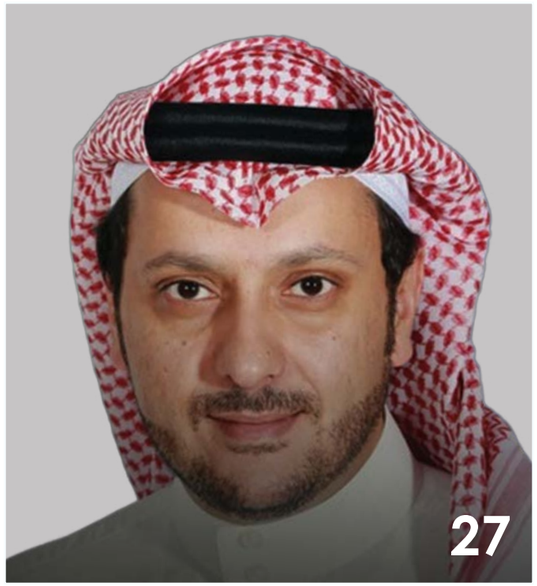
| Price per copy | 8 | 25 | 25 | 1000 | 7 | 5 |
| One year | 80 | 250 | 250 | 12000 | 70 | 50 |

A Teletimes Media Publication, Dubai

# Contents




## Telecommunications



## Cybersecurity & Enterprise IT



## Events



## Satellite



## Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the May 2026 edition of Teletimes International.

This month, a common theme emerges across the telecommunications, satellite, AI, and cybersecurity sectors: the shift from connectivity to capability. As digital technologies become increasingly embedded in our economies and societies, success is no longer measured by network reach alone, but by how effectively technology creates value, resilience, and opportunity.

In this edition, we bring you insights from major industry gatherings including the SAMENA Leaders' Summit 2026 and Asia Tech x Singapore, where discussions focused on AI, digital sovereignty, next-generation connectivity, and the future of digital infrastructure. We also explore developments in satellite communications, cybersecurity, and enterprise technology that are reshaping industries across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond.

As innovation accelerates, collaboration between governments, technology providers, and industry stakeholders will remain essential to building a secure, sustainable, and inclusive digital future.

Thank you for your continued support of Teletimes International. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Happy Reading.

**Khalid Athar**
Chief Editor

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# Shaping the Global-Asia Digital Frontier at Asia Tech x Singapore (ATxSG) 2026

As the global technology sector navigates unprecedented advancements in automation, hyper-connectivity, and cross-border digital governance, Asia Tech x Singapore (ATxSG) 2026 establishes itself as the ultimate global-Asia nexus. Jointly organized by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) of Singapore and Informa Tech, with comprehensive support from the Singapore Tourism Board, ATxSG returns for its landmark fifth anniversary edition. Serving as a crucial gateway to the world's fastest-growing digital economies, the 2026 iteration brings together an elite gathering of global tech titans, visionary innovators, policy-makers, and enterprise buyers. Over three action-packed days, the event bridges the gap between high-level policy frameworks and enterprise application, exploring how disruptive technology can be responsibly scaled to drive tangible economic and societal outcomes.

The architecture of ATxSG 2026 is structurally divided into two major components to serve different facets of the technology ecosystem: the exclusive, high-level ATxSummit hosted at Capella Singapore, and the sprawling, commercial ATxEnterprise exhibition and conference marketplace stationed at the Singapore EXPO. By weaving together deep-dive technology tracks with cross-border diplomatic discussions, the event establishes a roadmap for the future. From the commercialization of agentic artificial intelligence and the deployment of next-generation satellite constellations to the defense of critical enterprise architecture via next-tier cybersecurity, ATxSG 2026 is uniquely equipped to address how organizations can translate current technological priorities into highly measurable and ethically sound outcomes.

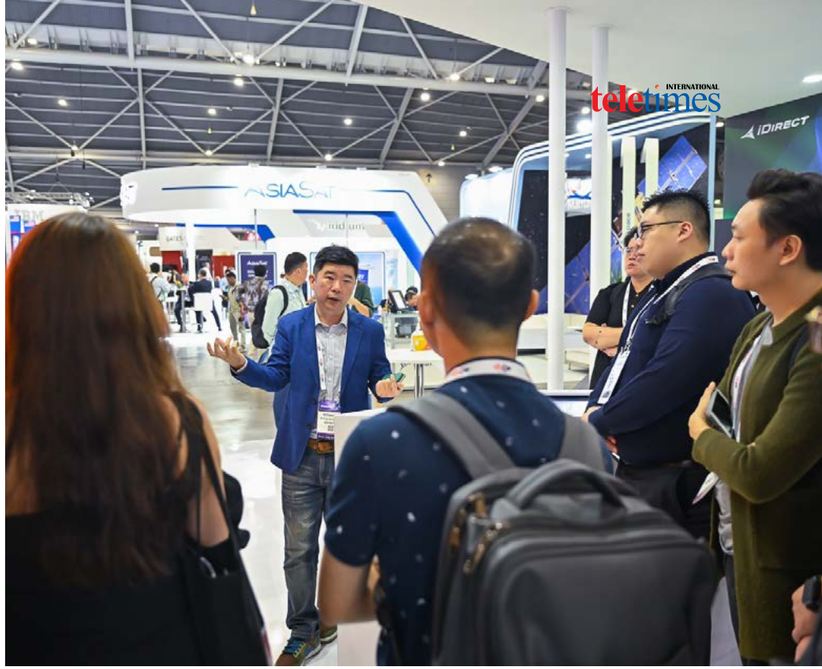
**Architectural Blueprint: ATxSummit and ATxEnterprise**

The operational framework of ATxSG 2026 recognizes that technological progress cannot occur in a regulatory vacuum, nor can policy survive without enterprise utility. To address this, the invitation-only ATxSummit serves as the intellectual apex of the event. Nestled within Capella Singapore on Sentosa Island, the summit brings together heads of state, ministerial delegations, and chief executives of multinational tech firms. The discussions here are heavily focused on macro-level themes, including global AI governance, quantum computing readiness, industrial compute infrastructure, and digital sustainability. By hosting elite Government-to-Government (G2G) and Government-to-Business (G2B) closed-door roundtables, the summit facilitates a collaborative space where public regulations and private sector investments align to form harmonized international digital frameworks.

In contrast, the commercial heartbeat of the event pulses across the halls of the Singapore EXPO through ATxEnterprise. Serving as the flagship business-to-business (B2B) segment, ATxEnterprise integrates several long-standing anchor showcases—CommunicAsia, BroadcastAsia, SatelliteAsia, TechXLR8Asia, and The AI Summit Singapore. This massive marketplace acts as an experiential arena where multinational vendors, nimble telecommunications operators, broadcast engineers, and tech startups demonstrate live deployments. To celebrate its fifth anniversary, the platform has further diversified its agenda by introducing new initiatives such as the Asia Tech Leaders Forum, the CISO Tech Briefing, and the Enterprise Tech Awards. These additions are explicitly designed to deliver peer benchmarking opportunities and applied, real-world strategies tailored to the urgent needs of senior enterprise decision-makers.

**Thematic Pillars and Key Technological Triggers**

The agenda of ATxSG 2026 reflects a strategic shift from theoretical technological potential to practical, applied engineering. Rather than treating artificial intelligence, cloud infrastructure, and connectivity as isolated siloes, the conference tracks emphasize how these systems converge to redefine enterprise workflows. The primary themes guiding this year's presentations, panel debates, and technical sessions include:




• **Agentic AI Capabilities and Embodied Standards:** Transitioning from passive LLMs to autonomous AI agents capable of executing complex workflows, supported by rigorous framework standardization for embodied AI and physical robotics.

• **Enterprise AI Scaling and Workforce Adaptation:** Moving past the proof-of-concept phase to integrate AI into legacy enterprise systems, while deploying localized upskilling strategies to prepare the human workforce for collaborative operations.

• **Next-Generation Connectivity and 5G-Advanced:** Showcasing the commercial rollout of 5G-Advanced (5.5G) networks, the virtualization of the Radio Access Network (Open RAN), and the monetization models for high-speed, ultra-low latency infrastructure.

• **The Convergence of Satellite and Terrestrial Networks:** Integrating Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) satellite constellations with terrestrial telecom networks to ensure ubiquitous, disaster-resilient global



connectivity.

• **Next-Era Broadcasting, Cloud, and Media Workflows:** Navigating the complete migration of media production to decentralized cloud environments, driven by AI-assisted content creation and virtualized IP broadcasting standards.

• **Resilient Enterprise Infrastructure and Zero-Trust Cybersecurity:** Implementing defense-in-depth methodologies, continuous threat exposure management, and quantum-resistant cryptographic keys to secure distributed enterprise data.

**The AI Summit Singapore & ATxAI**

Artificial intelligence stands as the connective tissue across the entirety of ATxSG 2026. The AI Summit Singapore, hosted at the Singapore EXPO, addresses the practical realities of deploying machine learning architectures at scale. It emphasizes practical governance models that do not stifle corporate agility, presenting frameworks that allow enterprises to measure the exact return on investment (ROI) of their AI implementations. Concurrently, the ATxAI track explores the frontiers of ethical algorithmic deployment, focusing heavily on reducing data bias, maintaining algorithmic transparency, and developing standardized metrics for AI safety. Special emphasis is also placed on scaling equitable AI impact, ensuring that emerging economies across the Asia-Pacific region can leverage these technologies to narrow the digital divide rather than widen it.

**CommunicAsia & TechXLR8Asia**

For telecommunications professionals and network architects, CommunicAsia remains the definitive venue for analyzing the evolution of digital infrastructure. The event centers heavily on the deployment strategies for 5G-Advanced and the foundational planning required for the eventual transition to 6G. TechXLR8Asia runs parallel to this, diving into the cloud-native systems, edge computing hubs, and internet-of-things (IoT) ecosystems that rely on this enhanced connectivity. Key discussions focus on how telecom operators can transition from traditional "Telcos" offering basic pipeline connectivity into "Techcos" that deliver end-to-end cloud computing, localized edge processing, and advanced digital solutions directly to enterprise clients.

**SatelliteAsia**

As satellite communication experiences a massive renaissance driven by rapid private and public sector launches, SatelliteAsia 2026 serves as an essential gathering point for the space and satellite ecosystem. The event highlights the critical role that satellite technology plays in bridging the connectivity gaps within remote and underserved geographies across Asia. The conference tracks delve deeply into the deployment of LEO satellite constellations and the technological innovations required to achieve seamless interoperability between space-based networks and terrestrial cellular systems. Additionally, sessions cover satellite-based earth observation for climate monitoring, maritime communication advancements, and the critical regulatory challenges surrounding orbital debris and spectrum allocation.

**BroadcastAsia**

The media and entertainment landscape is undergoing a profound structural overhaul, a reality deeply explored within BroadcastAsia. The focus of the 2026 exhibition centers on the industrial application of cloud-driven workflows, which allow production teams to ingest, edit, and broadcast high-definition content from anywhere in the world without relying on heavy physical infrastructure. Furthermore, the event tackles the integration of generative AI within the media creation pipeline, examining how automated editing, localized AI-driven translation, and real-time virtual production can dramatically reduce overhead costs while simultaneously elevating content personalization for global audiences.

**New Additions and Networking Echo-Systems**

Marking its fifth year of continuous growth, ATxSG 2026 introduces targeted sub-forums to address the specific pain points of executive leadership. The newly launched Asia Tech Leaders Forum provides a closed-door environment for C-suite executives to share peer benchmarking data regarding macroeconomic headwinds, supply chain diversification for hardware components, and cross-border data privacy compliance. Similarly, the CISO Tech Briefing offers chief information security officers a hyper-focused platform to discuss emerging threat vectors, zero-trust implementation challenges, and methods to secure corporate networks against sophisticated, state-sponsored cyber maneuvers. To celebrate pioneering breakthroughs, the inaugural Enterprise Tech Awards will formally recognize organizations and technology vendors that have successfully translated emerging digital priorities into highly measurable, sustainable, and impactful business outcomes.

Beyond the formal stages, ATxSG 2026 acts as a critical incubator for early-stage technology through the InnovFest x Elevating Founders segment. This marketplace connects hundreds of web3, clean-tech, health-tech, and deep-tech startups with regional venture capitalists, angel investors, and corporate accelerators. By providing a platform where pre-seed and Series-A startups can pitch directly to enterprise buyers, ATxSG effectively stimulates the regional investment pipeline, driving economic vitality across the broader ASEAN digital landscape.

For a global audience of telecom, satellite, and media executives, Asia Tech x Singapore 2026 offers a definitive preview of the operational standards that will shape the next decade. The event successfully demonstrates that the conversation around technology has evolved past mere speculation; the priority now lies in scalable execution, rigorous governance, and cross-industry integration. From Singapore's strategic vantage point as a global-asia hub, ATxSG 2026 underscores that the future of the digital economy depends entirely on building resilient infrastructure, enforcing proactive safety models, and fostering deep public-private partnerships. As the event unfolds, the insights generated across the Capella Singapore and Singapore EXPO venues will undoubtedly dictate the pace of digital transformation and enterprise technology integration worldwide. T

# H.E. Nahyan bin Mubarak inaugurates SAMENA Telecommunications Council Leaders' Summit 2026

H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance & Coexistence, inaugurated the SAMENA Telecommunications Council Leaders' Summit 2026, held at Atlantis The Palm in Dubai, under the theme: "Intelligent Networks for Sovereign and Sustainable Futures." The summit convened at a sensitive time in the region, bringing together a distinguished group of leaders and decision-makers from the telecommunications, technology, policy, and investment sectors, underscoring the importance of continued dialogue, coordination, and strengthened partnerships across the industry.

***H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan,***
*Minister of Tolerance & Coexistence*

The summit was held in strategic collaboration with Huawei and under the principal patronage of the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), reflecting the UAE's continued leadership in advancing a stable, forward-looking digital ecosystem. The event witnessed broad participation, both in person and virtually, from key stakeholders across the digital landscape, reaffirming the UAE's position as a trusted hub for industrial cooperation and strategic dialogue.

In this context, H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan delivered a keynote address at the opening of the summit, where he said: "It gives me great pleasure to join you on this important occasion. I would like to begin by extending my warmest congratulations to the SAMENA Council on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary. Over the past two decades, the Council has played a constructive role in shaping dialogue, fostering cooperation, and advancing strategic thinking across our region. During these years, I have come to know the SAMENA Council as an organization that embraces creativity, innovation, and forward-thinking, with a strong ability to adapt, while maintaining a deep commitment to regional development and global connectivity. Twenty years may not be a long time in the life of some institutions, but in the life of the digital economy, it represents multiple generations. When SAMENA was founded, broadband was a luxury, smartphones did not exist as we know them today, and the idea that artificial intelligence would one day be central to national economic strategies seemed closer to science fiction. The Council's success and its growing relevance year after year reflect the clarity of its vision and its ability to evolve without losing its core purpose. I commend your significant contributions to shaping the digital and economic landscape of our region and express my appreciation for your steadfast commitment to our shared vision of an inclusive and sustainable digital economic future."

He added: "It is fitting that your annual meeting is being held here in Dubai, a city that serves as a key nexus for trade and investment flows across SAMENA markets. This year's meeting takes place at a time of heightened tensions and conflicts in the region. While this undoubtedly presents a challenge, the United Arab Emirates has never approached challenges with hesitation. We face them from a position of strength, built on firm foundations established with great care and exceptional vision over more than five decades. These foundations continue to be strengthened under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, with the strong support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, and through the wisdom and dedication of our people, both citizens and residents. Regardless of the pressures or challenges, the UAE will remain steady, capable, and forward-looking. We will continue to protect our nation and preserve peace. Under the guidance of His Highness the President, the UAE is committed to pursuing a path that safeguards lives and reduces violence. With his wise and visionary leadership, we will meet challenges with confidence, discipline, and determination. This is the strength of the UAE. This is its resilience. Our vision is clear, our leadership is wise, our people are committed to the values of peace and justice, and our institutions are built on strong principles and traditions. Accordingly, the UAE will continue to work for peace and prosperity, both domestically and internationally, with determination and dedication."

He added: "The theme of this summit is both timely and highly relevant. 'Intelligent Networks for Sovereign and Sustainable Futures' reflects the reality that our digital future is inseparable from our economic future, our security, and our humanity. This theme addresses critical issues such as data centers, cybersecurity, and the regulation of technology companies. Above all, it concerns the ability of nations—and indeed regions—to make free, secure, lawful, and strategic decisions regarding their digital systems. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring that countries retain control over the digital foundations of their economic and social life, with the power to decide, the capacity to act, and the strength to endure. Naturally, the discussion around digital sovereignty and sustainability is shaped by regional considerations, prevailing political and legal environments, strategic realities, and global developments. No country can, or should, aim for complete digital self-sufficiency. Our world is interconnected, and our prosperity depends on cooperation, investment, openness, and exchange."

***Bocar BA.,***
*CEO of SAMENA Council*

He noted that: "Digital sovereignty and sustainability are of critical importance to the SAMENA region. It is a region defined by strategic geography, ambitious digital transformation, advanced infrastructure, energy systems, logistics corridors, financial flows, smart cities, and growing investments in artificial intelligence. It is also home to dynamic populations and governments committed to building a brighter future. This presents tremendous opportunities, but also significant responsibilities. These responsibilities require that digital sovereignty be understood in practical terms, supported by appropriate policies and regulations, and strengthened through regional cooperation and coordination."

He said: "This brings me to the current tensions in our region. In times of conflict, the digital domain becomes part of the battlefield, potentially targeted to create disruption, fear, and economic instability. It is therefore essential that digital infrastructure remains resilient and capable of serving the needs of the nation and its people under all circumstances. In the UAE, we have embraced digital transformation with clarity and confidence. We have invested in digital government, AI-powered public services, strategic infrastructure, and future-ready governance. We encourage innovation, welcome global partnerships, and recognize the importance of effective regulation and long-term strategic planning."

He concluded: "Allow me to conclude by emphasizing that the future of digital

sovereignty and sustainability in our region must be built on four key principles: First, resilience — our infrastructure must be secure, redundant, and prepared for disruption. Second, trust — individuals, businesses, and governments must have confidence in the legality, reliability, and governance of their digital systems. Third, partnership — no country can succeed alone, and responsible regional and international cooperation remains essential. Fourth, wisdom — technology policy must serve people and protect dignity, stability, prosperity, and peace. I once again congratulate the SAMENA Council on twenty years of distinguished service, leadership, and regional contribution. This anniversary is not only a celebration of past achievements but also an opportunity to look ahead and shape the next chapter with purpose and courage. I wish you continued success."

The summit witnessed strong participation from telecom operators, regulators, global technology providers, and international organizations. Partners contributed specialized sessions addressing key industry transformations, including the evolution of advanced 5G technologies, the integration of artificial intelligence into networks and industrial systems, and the emergence of new connectivity models combining terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks.

Discussions highlighted the increasing complexity of the operating environment for telecom operators, driven by the rapid growth in demand for data and digital services, rising investment requirements, evolving regulatory frameworks, and the need for sustainable revenue models. Participants emphasized that the next phase requires moving beyond traditional connectivity models and focusing on value creation through enterprise solutions, digital platforms, and specialized applications.

Artificial intelligence featured prominently, with sessions examining its transition from experimentation to real-world deployment, alongside governance, accountability, and alignment with national priorities. The concept of "sovereign AI" was also highlighted as a practical framework to balance innovation with regulatory sovereignty.

The summit also addressed the accelerated transformation of telecom companies into broader technology-driven business models, the integration of terrestrial and satellite networks, and the emergence of direct-to-device connectivity technologies, enhancing coverage and network resilience while requiring greater coordination in spectrum management and regulatory standards.

In this context, the upper 6 GHz band emerged as a key discussion point, with participants stressing the importance of aligning spectrum policies with future requirements. The summit also highlighted issues related to space sustainability and orbital governance amid increasing space activity.

A high-level CEO session explored leadership roles in shaping the future of digital infrastructure and innovation, showcasing practical applications of artificial intelligence such as digital twins to support strategic decision-making.

For his part, Bocar BA., CEO and Board Member of the SAMENA Council, emphasized that convening the summit amid current regional conditions reflects the importance of continued dialogue and coordination among stakeholders, noting that developing digital infrastructure is a necessity that cannot be postponed.

He added that the outcomes of the summit will contribute to advancing regional and international discussions on spectrum policy, AI governance, connectivity models, and investment in digital infrastructure. The summit concluded by reaffirming the SAMENA Council's pivotal role as a platform uniting public and private sectors, fostering partnerships, supporting innovation, and ensuring that technological advancements translate into tangible economic and societal value. T

## From Connectivity to Capability

# Rethinking Digital Development through Global Collaboration

**H.E. Eng. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar**, *Director General of TDRA UAE*

The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) enters 2026 with a clear vision: connectivity alone is no longer a sufficient measure of digital progress. What matters is how digital systems translate into real national capability, improving how people live and how the nation competes.

That vision is rooted in lessons drawn from domestic implementation and international engagement, guided by the directives of the UAE's leadership. At the United Nations General Assembly in December 2025, the UAE articulated a perspective that has since become central to TDRA's work. The global challenge has moved beyond connectivity gaps. The real divide is in how countries turn digital tools into development outcomes. The disparities in digital integration directly influence how nations grow, compete, and deliver for their societies.

*The Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority enters 2026 with a clear vision: connectivity alone is no longer a sufficient measure of digital progress.*

The operating context in 2026 is different from even two years ago. Artificial intelligence now runs through both public and private services. Data governance has grown more demanding, with governments paying closer attention to security and sovereignty. Cyber threats are more frequent and more sophisticated.

These shifts demand a different kind of regulation. Fixed frameworks cannot keep up. TDRA is updating its regulatory models to support innovation without losing system integrity, improving how it monitors the sector, coordinating across government, and responding at the right pace.

Technology adoption cycles are accelerating, driven by market dynamics and rising customer expectations. This reinforces the need for regulatory agility. Frameworks must keep pace with technological change, while safeguards remain firmly in place to protect customers and ensure stability.

Despite significant advances in global connectivity, structural gaps persist. Billions remain unconnected, while many who are connected operate within fragmented or underperforming digital environments. For TDRA, the challenge is clear. Infrastructure expansion must be measured by outcomes. Digital systems must enable real access to services, participation in economic life, and public trust in how digital systems work.

TDRA's mandate has evolved accordingly. Telecommunications, digital government, and regulatory policy are not treated as separate domains, but as interdependent components of a unified national system. The result is coordinated planning, faster execution, and more consistent outcomes across sectors. This follows the whole-of-government model that the UAE has built over the past decade.

At the national level, this system is structured across three core layers. The first is telecommunications infrastructure, designed to ensure reliability, coverage, and performance. The second is government transformation, where services are delivered digitally by default. The third is digital public infrastructure: shared platforms that enable secure data exchange, digital identity, and smooth service integration.

Each layer serves a distinct purpose: infrastructure provides capacity. Government transformation determines how that capacity is used. Digital public infrastructure ensures that this use is secure and able to grow. When these layers work together, the system can deliver services before citizens need to ask for them.

TDRA's role is to maintain that coherence through regulatory oversight, planning, and coordination across public and private sectors. It must also stay ahead of how new technologies will change the rules.

The same thinking guides TDRA's international work. Through the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the ITU, and the UN Global Digital Compact, the UAE has focused on practical implementation, showing how integrated digital systems can be built and sustained. These frameworks are valuable, but their effectiveness depends on how well they connect. Where coordination between them breaks down, national implementation suffers.

As AI, data regulation, and cybersecurity risks grow more complex, the need for coherence across international mechanisms grows with them. Infrastructure development, policy dialogue, and guiding principles must function as a coordinated system. Without that coordination, countries duplicate effort and lose time.

Beyond multilateral forums, TDRA works bilaterally and through industry bodies such as the SAMENA Telecommunications Council. These partnerships are operational, not ceremonial. They focus on sharing implementation experience, comparing regulatory approaches, and identifying where systems can be improved. Digital transformation requires continuous refinement, informed by what the UAE has learned at home and what works elsewhere. As digital infrastructure becomes more interconnected globally, TDRA's engagement with partners has deepened accordingly, building shared responses to data governance and cybersecurity threats.

*Digital systems must enable real access to services, participation in economic life, and public trust in how digital systems work.*

TDRA measures progress by what digital infrastructure delivers, not by what it promises. By aligning telecommunications, government services, and international engagement under a single framework, the UAE has built a system designed to keep pace with what comes next. That work continues under the "We the UAE 2031" vision, with a clear test: whether digital systems produce measurable gains for the people and the economy they are meant to serve. T

**H.E. Eng. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar**
*Director General of TDRA UAE*

## stc group achieves 12% net profit growth in Q1

# Core revenue hit SAR 19.9 billion

stc group announced the company's preliminary financial results for the period ending on 31 March 2026:

***• Revenues for the 1st quarter of 2026 reached SAR 19,939 million with a growth of 3.8% as compared to the comparable quarter last year.***

***• Gross Profit for the 1st quarter of 2026 reached SAR 9,772 million with an increase of 7.4% as compared to the comparable quarter last year.***

***• Operating Profit for the 1st quarter of 2026 reached SAR 3,978 million with an increase of 11.0% as compared to the comparable quarter last year.***

***• Earnings before Interest, Taxes, Zakat, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) for the 1st quarter of 2026 reached SAR 6,557 million with an increase of 7.1% as compared to the comparable quarter last year.***

***• Net Profit for the 1st quarter of 2026 reached SAR 3,696 million with an increase of 12.0% as compared to the comparable quarter last year after excluding the non-recurring items.***

***• stc distributes SAR 0.55 per share for the 1st quarter of 2026, in accordance with the dividends distribution policy approved by General Assembly.***

stc group CEO Eng. Olayan Alwetaid stated that the group began 2026 with strong operational and financial momentum, successfully translating the group's strategy into tangible growth and reinforcing its role in the digital economy. In the first quarter, the group achieved a 3.8% increase in revenue, 7.1% EBITDA growth, and a rise in net profit (after excluding non-recurring items) by 12% compared to the same quarter last year. These results demonstrate a robust business model and an effective balance between investments opportunities, operational efficiency, and digital infrastructure development, supporting sustainable and competitive long-term growth.

The GCEO highlighted the group's continued execution of its strategy to expand regional digital infrastructure through the Silklink project. This initiative, in partnership with the Syrian Sovereign Fund and an investment of SAR 3 billion, aims to implement telecommunications infrastructure in Syria. The project is a significant step toward building a cross-border digital ecosystem by developing advanced infrastructure that connects Syria regionally and internationally through a fiber-optic network of over 4,500 kilometers, as well as data centers and international submarine cable landing stations. This strengthens stc's role in supporting regional digital connectivity and creates new opportunities for growth and expansion in telecommunications and digital services.

Further, stc supported millions of Riyadh Season visitors with advanced telecommunications and digital services, demonstrating efficient service delivery during peak periods. The group also showed high readiness during Ramadan by serving Umrah performers and visitors to the Two Holy Mosques through enhanced infrastructure and increased operational capacity, meeting rising data and voice traffic demands. During Ramadan, internet data traffic rose by more than 21% at the Grand Mosque and over 40% at the Prophet's Mosque year-on-year, with 5G accounting for over 48% of traffic. These results highlight the efficiency of stc's digital infrastructure and its ability to provide reliable, high-quality connectivity to visitors worldwide.

To advance local content and national capabilities, the group enhanced its role in building a resilient and sustainable digital ecosystem by localizing technologies, developing supply chains, and enabling national partners. In 2026, the group participated in the Private Sector Forum and signed several agreements to boost local content, expand supplier networks, and support national partners in workforce training and technological advancement. These efforts strengthened local digital industries, advanced the telecommunications and IT sector, and improved global competitiveness.

On the institutional excellence and innovation front, the group continued to cement its digital maturity by embedding best practices in data governance, which enable innovation, improve business efficiency, and support reliable decision-making. This progress was recognized by two data governance awards received across the Middle East, reflecting stc's achievements in building an advanced digital ecosystem.

The GCEO concluded that in the first quarter of 2026, the group demonstrated its ability to execute its strategy, achieve objectives, and strengthen its leadership in telecommunications and technology. This maximized its contribution to the national and digital economy and enhanced its societal impact. The group's efforts reinforce its role as a key partner in digital transformation across the Kingdom and region, in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030. T





# UAE launches world's first commercial U6GHz Network, advancing path to 10Gbps connectivity

## New spectrum deployment strengthens the UAE's position in 5G-Advanced evolution and lays early groundwork for 6G


The launch of the world's first commercial upper 6GHz (U6GHz) network and ecosystem was announced at the SAMENA Council Leaders' Summit 2026, marking the UAE's leadership on the U6GHz front, led by the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA). This is a significant step in the evolution of next-generation mobile infrastructure in the UAE and the world. The milestone reinforces the UAE's position at the forefront of global digital development and reflects a shift in how networks and regulatory approaches are evolving to handle rising data intensity and AI-driven traffic.

In the 5G-Advaned & AI Applications for Resilient Economy Forum, a dedicated session held during the Leaders' Summit 2026, TDRA's keynote delivered by Eng. Saif Bin Ghelaita Representative of Director General of TDRA , reaffirmed the UAE's aims to become a 10 Giga intelligent nation and to firmly support the U6GHz IMT industry and plans to build the world's first commercial U6GHz network in 2026. The TDRA also called on industry stakeholders, including chipmakers and device manufacturers, to participate in the U6GHz commercialization.

In the U6GHz joint commercialization initiation ceremony at the Leaders' Summit 2026, representatives from the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), the SAMENA Telecommunications Council, Huawei, du, e&, GSMA, Nokia, HONOR, and Tozed affirmed their commitment to the new ecosystem, setting another milestone in the UAE's digital development journey.

During the Leaders' Summit 2026, a parallel session on 6GHz and policy, technology, and deployment alignment was also held, with policy-dialogue partnership of GSMA and chairmanship of TDRA, represented and led by Eng. Tareq Al Awadhi, Executive

Director of Spectrum Affairs and the Chairman of Arab Spectrum Management Group. Introducing the strategic context, Eng. Al Awadhi stated: "The upper 6 GHz band is a key resource for IMT services and support future mobile technologies 5G Advanaced and it will be foundation for 6G. This first dialogue on deployment alignment among various stakeholders is both timely and necessary."

**Empowering Digital Transformation and Technological Evolution**

U6GHz refers to the 6425–7125MHz range identified by the 3GPP standard as Band n104. With 700MHz continuous bandwidth, it offers a balance between wide-area coverage and high-capacity performance. Often hailed as the "golden spectrum," U6GHz is critical as networks evolve beyond traditional downlink-heavy architecture.

AI usage is multiplying by the day and as millions of AI systems operate across industries, the amount of data being processed is rising tremendously, placing new pressure on networks to provide balanced high-speed downlink and uplink capacity securely, reliably, and low-latency.

Estimations done by the SAMENA Council's technology providers members indicate that U6GHz is expected to enable peak speeds of up to 10Gbps downlink and 1Gbps uplink under 5G-Advanced (5G-A). Moreover, this "golden band" an create a solid foundation for the smooth evolution of mobile communication technologies from 5G-A to 6G, on which a roadmap has already been issued by TDRA-UAE. For the UAE, the Upper 6GHz spectrum strengthens national digital infrastructure ambitions across sectors, including finance, healthcare, and manufacturing, among others.

**From Global Trials to Commercial Readiness**

Recently, the global U6GHz industry entered a critical phase of accelerated development, transitioning from technical verification to large-scale commercial deployment. Vendors showcased compatible infrastructure, while ecosystem players continue to accelerate development.

At MWC26, one of the Councils leading members, Huawei, launched a full-range of U6GHz products, achieving coverage comparable to C-band and 10Gbps peak rates. During the event, GSMA along with Huawei, Qualcomm, Tozed, Meig, and other stakeholders signaled ecosystem readiness for U6GHz deployment, while global operators including Vodafone, China Mobile, and Brazil TIM completed U6GHz field tests, laying a solid foundation for commercialization.

**Bocar BA, CEO of the SAMENA Council, has stated: "With this U6GHz ecosystem launch, the UAE has moved ahead of many markets in transitioning from trials to commercial rollouts, and it is a privilege that this development has taken place during the Leaders' Summit 2026, an industry leadership meeting held during these challenging times in the regional context, to foster dialogue, build support for the ecosystem, and to signal continuity in efforts toward collaboration and development."**

**The UAE U6GHz Journey**

The launch of U6GHz in the UAE is the result of the long-term strategic layout and unremitting efforts in the field of advanced communication technologies. Following the consensus reached at WRC-23, the UAE's Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) allocated the U6GHz band for IMT services in 2024, positioning the UAE among the first countries globally to do so. In 2025, e& UAE, in collaboration with strategic partners including Huawei, successfully completed U6GHz field tests, achieving an ultimate 10Gbps user experience and laying the groundwork for the construction of Dubai's "5G-A 10Gbps connection" city. The UAE U6GHz Sail Ceremony is the culmination of these efforts, officially kicking off the commercial operation of U6GHz services and marking the UAE's entry into the U6GHz era.

**Jawad Abbassi, Head of MENA, GSMA, said, "The U6GHz ecosystem is now sufficiently ready to support commercial deployment. The band will play a central role in achieving 10Gbps connectivity and serve as an initial spectrum for future 6G networks. The Middle East can leverage U6GHz during the 5G-A phase to gain a first-mover advantage."**

**Drive to the Digital Future**

With the official commercial launch of UAE U6GHz, the UAE is poised to unlock new value in digital transformation and lead the Middle East's communication industry into a new stage.

Deployment of U6GHz networks will expand coverage across major cities and key economic zones, ensuring that enterprises and residents can enjoy stable, ultra-high-speed network services. It will also deepen industry integration, promoting the application of U6GHz technology in smart cities, industrial Internet, digital healthcare, and smart tourism. Use cases include real-time remote medical diagnosis, intelligent traffic management, and immersive digital experiences. The rollout will strengthen international cooperation, collaborating with global technology partners to promote U6GHz technology innovation and standardization, while sharing experience in U6GHz deployment to enhance the UAE's influence in the global digital ecosystem.

By 2028, U6GHz is expected to cover a substantial portion of the UAE's population, supporting long-term digital economy growth and future 6G readiness.

This U6GHz ecosystem launch positions the UAE as a reference market for how spectrum, regulation and industrial collaboration can accelerate next-generation connectivity.





## Advancing Telco-to-Techco Transformation in the Intelligent Era

# Huawei unveils "Techco2.0" framework at SAMENA Leaders' Summit 2026

Huawei officially unveiled its Techco2.0 framework during the Telco-to-Techco Transformation Forum at the SAMENA Telecommunications Council Leaders' Summit 2026, bringing together leading operators, regulators, and industry stakeholders to accelerate the evolution of telecom operators into fully intelligent technology companies (Techcos).


Building on the momentum of Techco1.0, which introduced servitization, platformization, and intelligentization as core transformation cornerstones, Techco2.0 marks the next evolution. This phase shifts from foundational digitalization toward intelligence-led operating models, by integrating Agentic AI across three critical layers, AI-Driven Infrastructure, AI-Native Operations, and AI-Advanced Business, hence redefining how intelligence powers the enterprise.

**From Digital to Intelligent Transformation**

At the core of Techco2.0 is a structural shift in how value is created, delivered, and scaled across telecom networks. For decades, networks were designed to connect people. Today, connectivity is transforming into a dynamic, decision-enabling layer to support interactions between people, intelligent agents, and autonomous systems.

The industry is moving from building AI models to applying them in real-world environments. While training establishes capability, value is realized at the point of inference, where intelligence is operationalized across services, networks, and user experience. This redefines the role of data from a passive asset into an active input for continuous value creation, requiring real-time integration, governance, and cross-domain coordination.

AI-Advanced Business delivers personalized, context-aware experiences for consumers and smart, integrated solutions for industries. It enables operators to move beyond connectivity and act as strategic partners delivering AI-enabled services. AI-Native Operations shifts network management from reactive processes to predictive, automated systems, improving efficiency while reducing costs and churn. Meanwhile, AI-Driven Infrastructure provides the foundation for intelligent growth through programmable connectivity, AI-ready computing, and extended intelligence, transforming infrastructure into a strategic asset.

**"Over the past two years, this shift has accelerated across Middle East operators, driven by breakthroughs in infrastructure modernization, unified platform development, experience-based monetization," said Jesson Ni, President of ICT Marketing & Solution Sales Department at Huawei Middle East and Central Asia. "Several innovations underpin the Techco2.0 framework. In network connectivity, 5G-A continues advancing toward 10 Gbps performance with deterministic assurance for both users and services while AI-driven operations ensure consistently optimal experience, critical for the emerging era of agentic AI that depends on smooth coordination between on-device intelligence and cloud-based models", he continues.**

**Vision to Action: Industry Dialogue and Techco2.0 White Paper**

Industry leaders shared insights on monetizing AI, accelerating 5G-Advanced deployment, and building sustainable

growth models during a high-level panel session at the SAMENA forum. Discussions reflected a growing industry consensus that intelligence will be the core driver of the next phase of telecom value creation.

Highlighted a key perspective during the panel discussion:"The transition from Telco to Techco is a strategic imperative. Frameworks like Techco2.0 provide a clear and actionable path for operators to integrate AI, enhance customer experience, and unlock new growth opportunities.

Following the panel discussion, SAMENA officially released the Techco2.0 White Paper, providing a comprehensive methodology, reference architectures, and best practices to support operators in their transformation journey.

**Driving Intelligent Economy, Shaping the Future**

Huawei emphasized that Techco2.0 is not only a technology framework, but also a business growth model. By embedding intelligence across all domains, operators can unlock new revenue streams, enhance efficiency, and strengthen their role in national digital economies. As the telecom industry enters the intelligent era, Techco2.0 provides a clear roadmap for operators to transform into full-stack, intelligence-driven platform companies, unlocking new opportunities for innovation and sustainable growth across the Middle East and Central Asia. T


## Kenya launches AI for Disability Project with Huawei and local partners to advance inclusive digital transformation

The Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy officially launched the Kenya AI for Disability Project during the Connected Africa Summit 2026 in Nairobi. This ambitious project is designed to bridge the digital divide for hundreds of citizens with disabilities. Announced during the summit's closing ceremony, the initiative represents a strategic collaboration between the Kenya Institute for Special Education (KISE), Qhala, Assistive Technologies for Disability Trust (AT4D), InABLE, and Huawei. Together, these partners will develop AI-driven hardware and software solutions to empower persons with disabilities across Kenya and the wider African region.

This multi-stakeholder partnership brings together policy makers, disability experts, and global technology leaders to build scalable local solutions. These tools aim to solve real-world challenges that hinder disabled individuals from learning, working, and achieving their potential. Mary Kerema, lead for AI and Emerging Technologies in the Government, stated: "Together, we are not merely identifying barriers; we are co-creating practical hardware and software solutions that expand access, restore dignity, and unlock opportunity."

Dr. Norman Kiogora, Director of KISE, emphasized that while technology makes life easier for most, for the disability community, it makes things possible. He described Huawei's involvement as a "game changer" that will accelerate inclusive education and assistive tool development. Adam Lane, Huawei Kenya's Director for Policy and Partnerships, noted that AI has made it significantly more cost-effective to create responsive technology. He explained that leveraging AI helps persons with disabilities and their caregivers secure employment and thrive in modern society.

Qhala CEO Dr. Shikoh Gitau highlighted that inclusion has historically been an afterthought in design, but this project changes that narrative. She noted that by uniting government and tech leaders, they are building an ecosystem where AI works for everyone from the outset, ensuring Africa's digital future leaves no one behind. Similarly, Bernard Chiira, CEO of AT4D, remarked that technology designed for inclusion is the greatest equalizer, building upon the foundations of the 2024 AI for Special Needs Innovation Challenge.

The launch was attended by stakeholders from twelve African countries, signaling a continental commitment to inclusive AI. Also present were students from the 2024 AI for Disability Hackathon, who were commended for their dedication to solving real-world challenges. The project will now serve as an incubator to scale these student-led innovations into sustainable, market-ready solutions.

The Kenya AI for Disability Project underscores a shared vision of digital equity. By focusing on enhancing digital skills and supporting innovation ecosystems, the initiative enables meaningful participation in the digital economy for underserved communities. Ultimately, this launch reinforces a collective commitment to ensuring that Africa's digital transformation serves as a blueprint for inclusive innovation. Through sustained collaboration between the government, private sector, and development partners, the initiative establishes a strong foundation for an equitable digital future where technology serves as a bridge rather than a barrier. T






## GSMA reveals MWC26 Kigali line-up, including first-ever Africa GLOMOs and new industry summits

The GSMA has revealed new updates for MWC26 Kigali, Africa's most influential connectivity event, including the arrival of new industry summits and the first-ever GLOMOs Africa awards.

In partnership with the Ministry of ICT & Innovation of Rwanda, MWC Kigali will return to the Kigali Convention Centre between 16–18 June 2026, where Africa's digital agenda will once again take centre stage. Registration is now open here.

MWC Kigali will bring together pan-African and global decision-makers, regulators and investors in one of the continent's fastest-growing innovation hubs for three days of exhibition, keynotes, sessions, and industry conferences. This year's edition will welcome several new and returning summits reflecting the issues at the top of Africa's digital agenda in 2026.

**New additions include:**

**Scams Summit (16 June):** Examining the growing threat of AI-powered fraud and coordinated industry responses.

**AgriTech Summit (16 June):** In partnership with AGRA, examining how connectivity and emerging technologies are unlocking new economic opportunities for Africa's agricultural sector.

**Health Summit (17 June):** Exploring how digital technologies and mobile connectivity are expanding access to quality healthcare across the continent.

**GSMA Technology Summit (17–18 June):** A dedicated regional forum for

African network operators covering 5G implementation, security and roaming.

The Education Summit, delivered by the Future of Education and Work (FEWA), and 5G Summit both return, as well as the GSMA Ministerial Programme, which welcomed 49 delegations from 33 countries and 16 intergovernmental organisations during last year's inaugural edition.

Also new this year, MWC Kigali will host the first-ever GLOMOs Africa awards, celebrating the organisations driving Africa's digital transformation and delivering real, measurable impact across the continent. For its debut year, GLOMOs Africa will honour excellence across two focused categories: Digital Innovation for Africa's Real Economy Award and Closing the Mobile Internet Usage Gap in Africa – Innovation Award. The awards are free to enter. Submissions are now open and will close on 30 April.

MWC26 Kigali will adopt four key themes, each reflecting the unique challenges and opportunities reshaping Africa's digital future:

**ConnectAI:** How AI and next-generation connectivity can converge to drive inclusive growth, with the potential to double Africa's GDP growth rate by 2035.

**Fintech & Commerce:** An expanded programme for 2026, exploring the sector's role as a driver of economic diversification and resilience across the continent.

**Digital Africa:** Exploring how mobile-first solutions and expanding broadband are acting as catalysts for transformation across healthcare, manufacturing and education.

**Intelligent Infrastructure:** How 5G and AI-native autonomous networks are creating new revenue streams for African operators across mining, logistics, smart cities and beyond.

Exhibitors and sponsors for MWC26 include AethexAI, Airtel, Ericsson, Ethio Telecom, MTN, PXS, Terrapay, and YAS. T

# Pleias and GSMA launch 'CommonLingua', an open source language identification model supporting 61 African languages

Pleias and the GSMA have announced the release of CommonLingua, an open-source language identification (LID) model purpose-built to unlock African language data at scale. It is delivered under the GSMA's AI Language Models in Africa, by Africa, for Africa initiative, a coalition dedicated to closing the African language gap in AI.

Africa is home to more than 2,000 living languages, many of which remain underrepresented in AI training data. As a result, language identification systems often perform less reliably on African-language content, particularly when distinguishing between closely related or code-mixed text. Before a Swahili, Yoruba, or Wolof language model can be built, the underlying text must first be correctly identified by language – a step where existing tools currently often fail on African content.

This is because leading LID systems such as fastText, GlotLID, and OpenLID were built around European and Asian high-resource languages and frequently mislabel African-language text as English or French. Even state-of-the-art frontier models drop roughly 30 points in accuracy on African languages compared to major world languages.

CommonLingua is designed to fix this first step of the pipeline. On the new CommonLID benchmark, CommonLingua achieves 83% accuracy and a macro score F1 of 0.79, outperforming leading LID models by more than 10 percentage points under comparable evaluation conditions, while using roughly one three-hundredth of the parameters. The model is lightweight at 2 million parameters and shipping as an 8 MB checkpoint, and is designed for efficient deployment, running approximately 20 texts per second on CPU and up to 3,000 texts per second on a single GPU.

CommonLingua covers 334 languages in total, including 61 African languages across eight language families: Bantu (21), Niger-Congo / West African (18), Afro-Asiatic and Semitic (7), Cushitic and Chadic (4), Berber (3), Nilo-Saharan (3), and pidgins, creoles, and other (5). The model operates directly on UTF-8 byte sequences rather than relying on a language-specific tokenizer, enabling consistent handling across scripts including Latin, Arabic, Ethiopic, N'Ko, and Tifinagh.

"African languages are not an edge case. They are the working languages of hundreds of millions of people, and they deserve AI infrastructure built with the same care as any other language. CommonLingua is deliberately the first brick we are laying: you cannot curate what you cannot identify" said Pierre-Carl Langlais, Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Pleias.

The model is trained exclusively on open-licensed and public domain content aggregated through the Common Corpus project, including Wikipedia, Scientific publications in OpenAlex, VOA Africa, WaxalNLP, Cultural Heritage, and Pralekha. All datasets are released under permissive licenses.

This conversation will continue at MWC26 Kigali, where GSMA and partners will bring together industry leaders to accelerate progress on African-language AI. T





# UAE showcases strategic space projects at Space Symposium 2026

The UAE, represented by the UAE Space Agency, participated in the 41st Space Symposium held in Colorado Springs from 13 to 16 April 2026. The event brought together global industry leaders, government representatives, private entities, and space sector experts from around the world.

The UAE Space Agency's participation reflects its continued efforts to strengthen the country's international presence and deepen strategic partnerships with leading global space institutions. Aligned with the Agency's strategic direction to reinforce its role in the global space economy, and building on the adoption of the National Space Strategy 2031, the UAE's active presence at the Symposium underscores its commitment to advancing its long-term ambitions in the sector.

Headed by His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of Sports and Chairman of the UAE Space Agency, the UAE delegation included His Excellency Ibrahim Hamza Al Qasim, Deputy Director-General of the UAE Space Agency; Mohsen Al Awadhi, Director of Space Missions;


the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt (EMA) team; and a number of officials and engineers.

His Excellency Dr. Al Falasi emphasized that the UAE's participation in this prominent international event reflects a steadfast commitment to its role as a trusted and active partner in shaping the future of the global space sector, in line with the objectives of the UAE Space Strategy 2031. The strategy includes advancing global leadership in space partnerships and enhancing the sector's economic contribution, ultimately strengthening the country's competitiveness and supporting its ambition to rank among the world's leading space economies by 2031.

His Excellency stated: "Guided by our ambitious vision, we are establishing an integrated Emirati model that elevates international space cooperation from traditional frameworks to long-term strategic partnerships with space agencies, the private sector and research institutions. This approach accelerates the development of advanced technologies, empowers national talent and unlocks new opportunities for economic growth, further reinforcing the UAE's position as a global hub for innovation and investment in this key sector."

His Excellency Ibrahim Al Qasim, Deputy Director-General of the UAE Space Agency, said: "We are delighted to participate in the 41st Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, a premier gathering of global leaders and innovators in the space sector. It is a privilege to engage alongside our valued partners and friends from across the world."

His Excellency Al Qasim added: "The UAE continues to stand among the region's fastest-growing economies, and through the strong international partnerships we have cultivated over the past three decades, we have established a robust and forward-looking foundation for our space ambitions. As one of the founding signatories of the Artemis Accords and an early participant in the Artemis program, our commitment remains steadfast. We look ahead with great optimism and enthusiasm to the opportunities that lie before us, as we continue to advance collaboration, innovation, and progress in the global space community."

During the event, the UAE Space Agency delegation highlighted numerous national projects and initiatives, including the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM) Hope Probe, which was recently extended until 2028 following its exceptional success and the high operational efficiency of its systems. The mission has delivered the first comprehensive picture of the Martian atmosphere and provided more than 10 terabytes of open scientific data, supporting global research and enhancing understanding of Mars' climate evolution.

The team also highlighted the Emirates Mission to the Asteroid Belt (EMA), the Space Economic Zones Program, and the National Space Strategy 2031, which outlines the future of the sector and aims to strengthen its contribution to the country's economic growth.

On the sidelines of the Symposium, the UAE Space Agency delegation held a series of bilateral meetings with leading global space sector figures, including NASA, KASA, and CNES. Discussions focused on the latest updates of the 2031 Strategy, cooperation in Mars and lunar exploration program, the Artemis Accords, and enhancing the private sector's role in space innovation.

In addition, Mohsen Al Awadhi participated in a panel discussion alongside Major General Roberto Melgar Sheen, Head of the National Commission for Aerospace Research and Development in Peru, and Dr. Thomas Reiter, Director-General for Space and Security at the German Federal Ministry for Research, Technology and Space. The session, moderated by Kathleen Karika, Senior Advisor at NASA, and John Thompson, Senior Bureau Official at the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, focused on enhancing global space cooperation and expanding international partnerships in this vital sector. T





# GSMA announces Humanoid Robot Football Penalties Challenge, set to debut at MWC26 Shanghai

## The challenge will take place over three days with this edition's agenda set to focus on AI, intelligent infrastructure and mobile AI

The GSMA has announced that MWC26 Shanghai will see the debut of the "Humanoid Robot Football Penalties Challenge", a new international robotics competition.

MWC Shanghai, Asia's largest and most influential connectivity event, taking place from 24-26 June 2026, will host the robotics competition which is designed as a systems-level showcase of embodied intelligence.

In anticipation of football fever gripping the world this summer, the challenge aims to bring teams together from around the world for a penalty-based competition, demonstrating how advanced connectivity and AI enable real-time decision-making, motion control, and precision in humanoid machines.

Teams will warm up onsite from 23 June, ahead of the penalties challenge heats taking place from 24-25 June. Awards will recognise technical performance and execution, including Top Scorer, Best Goalkeeper, and Best Goal Celebration.

Robotics teams must register their interest in participating by 31 May here. An organising committee is steering the shape of the challenge, with members including the AI 100, AIIA, and Xinhua.net.

John Hoffman, CEO of GSMA Ltd., said: "MWC26 Shanghai will bring together key industry players, government entities and technology innovators from around the world to catalyse digital transformation that drives meaningful impact. The event is shaping up to be a really strong edition, with an exciting mix of exhibitors, speakers, and new event features showcasing cutting-edge AI and robotics. MWC is an event focused on creating


opportunities for the whole ecosystem - we look forward to welcoming you to Shanghai in June."

Sihan Bo Chen, Head of Greater China at GSMA, said: "MWC Shanghai has always been a platform where innovation meets real-world impact. The Humanoid Robot Football Penalties Challenge will demonstrate how connectivity and AI come together to enable intelligent systems to operate in dynamic, real-world environments. By bringing together industry leaders, developers and visionaries, we aim to accelerate progress in robotics and unlock new opportunities for collaboration across the mobile ecosystem."

Today's announcements and remarks were made at GSMA's Post-MWC Sharing Event in Beijing, an annual gathering where GSMA shares insights from MWC26 Barcelona with China's mobile industry ahead of MWC26 Shanghai.

**MWC26 Shanghai: the place to engage with Asia's dynamic tech market**

MWC26 Shanghai marks the 13th edition of the event and builds on the momentum of 2025, which welcomed 45,000 attendees from 128 countries and featured more than 400 exhibitors and sponsors.

A growing line up of exhibitors, sponsors and strategic partners for MWC26 Shanghai includes industry leaders such as China Mobile, China Telecom, and China Unicom – in addition to AgiBot, Alibaba Cloud, APSAT, Asiainfo, China BroadNet, China Tower, CICT, HONOR, Huawei, Intel, Lenovo, NTT DATA, Qualcomm, Quectel, Singtel, Telenor, YOFC, and ZTE; industry and international organisations such as 5G-ACIA, 5GAA, AIIA, CHINA EV100, Fraunhofer, GTI, Mobile World Capital, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and

the World Broadband Association (WBBA); alongside, strategic zone partners, including China Mobile (Chengdu) Institute of Research and Development, China Mobile Group Device Co, China Telecom Low Altitude Economic Industry Alliance, and Unicom Vsens Telecommunications Co.

The thought leadership programme will centre on four themes - Intelligent Infrastructure, ConnectAI, AI 4 Enterprise and Mobile AI. The conference agenda will feature summits providing deep insights on topics including AI Devices, AI Beyond Boundaries, eSIMs, Future Networks and Smart Mobility – and are set to be led by experts from industry, government and the research community.

**New zones and flagship initiatives**

MWC26 Shanghai will introduce new and expanded zones showcasing technologies already being tested or deployed globally, including:

• **Mobile AI Innovation Frontiers:** A full-stack showcase of mobile-first AI, featuring live demonstrations of advanced chipsets, hyperscale AI servers, frontier models and AI-native hardware: from robots and glasses to phones and vehicles. Find the Humanoid Robot Football Penalties Challenge in this space.

• **Constellations of the Future:** A new initiative debuting ahead of ITU WRC-27, focused on non-terrestrial networks (NTN), direct-to-device connectivity and satellite-mobile convergence.

In 2026, the GSMA will launch the first GLOMOs Asia at MWC Shanghai, recognising excellence across mobile technology, services and solutions.

The GSMA Policy Leaders Forum will return to MWC Shanghai, convening senior policymakers, regulators, legislators and industry leaders in an invite-only, closed door programme. It will explore the policy enablers behind emerging technologies, the rapid evolution toward 5G Advanced, and the growing convergence of AI, digital infrastructure, and industrial transformation. T


# Huawei Cloud introduces token service in Asia Pacific

The Huawei Cloud AI Boost Day, themed "Agentic AI Practice," was held in Jakarta, marking the official launch of Model-as-a-Service (MaaS) in Asia Pacific. This follows the 2025 rollout of AI Compute Services across Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, and Singapore. Leveraging an in-house acceleration engine, MaaS supports mainstream models with stable, high-quality token services.

Huawei Cloud continues strengthening collaborations with premier open-source models. Six models from the GLM, DeepSeek, and Qwen families are the first supported by MaaS. Optimized for intelligent Q&A and AI coding, these offer one-click access and out-of-the-box hosting. MaaS covers the entire model lifecycle—deployment, inference, fine-tuning, and evaluation. With elastic compute and pay-per-use billing, enterprises can integrate AI capabilities without managing underlying infrastructure, making advanced technology truly accessible.

Notably, this release includes support for the GLM-5 model. Having attained state-of-the-art performance in coding and agent capabilities, GLM-5 serves as an ideal general-purpose foundation for complex system engineering and long-text tasks in enterprise environments.

Huawei Cloud's strategic investment has yielded a comprehensive AI suite: CloudMatrix AI Infra, MaaS, ModelArts (training/inference), CodeArts (coding agent), AgentArts (agent platform), and DataArts (data agent). Both CodeArts and AgentArts will launch outside the Chinese mainland in the second half of 2026.

The regional infrastructure is highly optimized, comprising five Regions and 18 availability zones across Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and the Philippines. This network ensures a 50 ms access latency. Furthermore, Huawei Cloud and partners have established a local cloud in Malaysia.

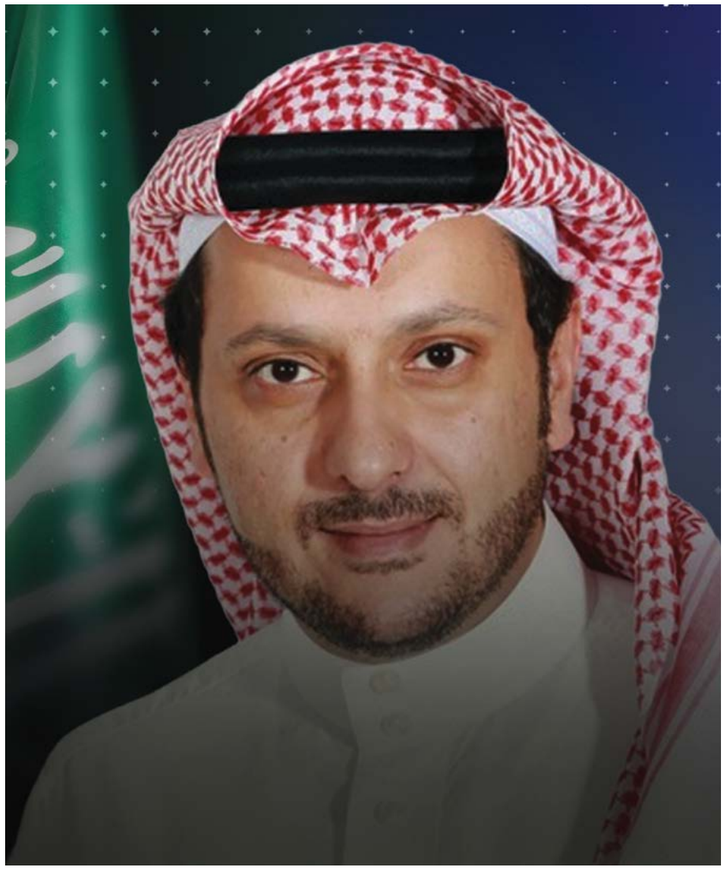
These services help Asia Pacific customers transition from simple migration to effective AI utilization, boosting productivity and adaptability. For instance, iFLYTEK selected Singapore for its global expansion in 2023, extending its Chinese partnership with Huawei Cloud globally. Huawei Cloud AI Compute Service enabled iFLYTEK to deploy large language model training resources within two weeks. The training remained stable for 60 days, ensuring zero faults during major version releases.

In Vietnam, Green and Smart Mobility (GSM) migrated its core platform to Huawei Cloud to reduce costs and enhance efficiency. GSM developed a fleet management platform using AI and IoT. By utilizing Huawei Cloud IoTDA and ModelArts, GSM analyzes violations and generates risk alerts to ensure driver and passenger safety.
Through these innovations, Huawei Cloud is not just providing tools but fostering an ecosystem where agentic AI drives real-world value. T





# Neo Space Group appoints Eng. Haithem Mohammed Mojil Alfaraj as Chief Executive Officer to lead next phase of growth



The Board of Directors of Neo Space Group (NSG), a PIF company and Saudi Arabia's leading commercial space services provider, has announced the appointment of Eng. Haithem Mohammed Mojil Alfaraj as Chief Executive Officer of NSG. He will assume his responsibilities on April 9, 2026, succeeding Martijn Blanken, who has led the company since its inception.

This planned leadership transition reflects NSG's evolution into its next phase of accelerated growth, building on the strong foundation established during its launch and scale-up period.

Haithem M. Alfaraj brings more than two decades of leadership experience across telecommunications and technology.
He most recently served as Group Chief Technology Officer at stc, where he led major technology transformation initiatives including network modernization, digital platform development, cloud adoption, and cybersecurity capabilities, helping position stc as a leading digital technology group.

Earlier in his career, Alfaraj held senior technology leadership roles at Mobily and began his professional journey at Saudi Aramco, developing deep expertise in large-scale technology operations and engineering. He also contributes to global industry development as a member of the GSMA Technology Group Board and serves on the Board of the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), a partnership between KACST and the World Economic Forum.

NSG was launched by PIF in May 2024 to establish a national space champion and accelerate the development of Saudi Arabia's space economy. In less than two years, the company has built a fully operational multi-domain platform through the strategic acquisitions of Taqnia ETS, UP42, and Display Interactive, and the establishment of capabilities across Geospatial & Earth Observation (EO), Satellite Communications, and In-Flight Connectivity.

NSG secured Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST) approval for its EO platform services and launched the Kingdom's first Earth Observation marketplace powered by UP42. The company has also deployed in-flight connectivity services with leading airlines — including Riyadh Air, Thai Airways, Turkish Airlines, AEGEAN Airlines, and Uzbekistan Airways — strengthening its commercial footprint regionally and internationally.

As it enters its next phase, NSG will focus on advancing commercialization of sovereign space infrastructure, including SGS-1, while deepening its role across government and commercial sectors in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030.

With continued support from PIF, NSG is positioned to scale its impact, expand Saudi Arabia's sovereign space infrastructure, and reinforce the Kingdom's role in the global space economy. T

# Huawei appoints Corey Deng as Chief Cybersecurity and Privacy Officer for Middle East and Central Asia region

Huawei has appointed Corey Deng as Chief Cybersecurity and Privacy Officer (CSPO) for its Middle East and Central Asia Region, underscoring its continued focus on strengthening cybersecurity and privacy governance across the region.

In this role, Corey Deng will lead Huawei's regional cybersecurity and privacy strategy, overseeing frameworks spanning cybersecurity, data protection, AI security, and privacy compliance. He will work closely with customers, partners, and regulators to further advance Huawei's end-to-end cybersecurity assurance system and support the region's evolving digital landscape.

Corey Deng brings over 18 years of experience within Huawei, having joined the company in 2008. His career reflects a combination of technical depth and international leadership across both mature and emerging markets.

Prior to this appointment, he served as Chief Cybersecurity and Privacy Officer at Huawei's Digital Power Business Unit Headquarters. He has also held roles as Cybersecurity Director and Vice President of Solutions Sales in the United Kingdom, Solutions Sales Director in the Netherlands, and earlier positions in Research and Development as a Marketing Manager and IC Chipset Designer.

Commenting on the appointment, Phillip Gan, President of Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, said: "Cybersecurity and privacy are foundational to building a trusted digital ecosystem. Corey Deng's experience and leadership will further strengthen our ability to support clients and partners with secure, resilient solutions aligned to the region's digital ambitions."

Corey Deng added: "As digital transformation accelerates across the Middle East and Central Asia, trust must remain central to innovation. I look forward to working with stakeholders across the region to strengthen cybersecurity and privacy frameworks that enable sustainable and secure growth."

The region faces a complex threat situation, which is influenced by ongoing geopolitical dynamics. As rapid technology adoption expands the attack surface, Huawei emphasizes that traditional security must evolve and adapt to the new era by focusing on sovereign AI infrastructure and quantum safety.

Under Deng's leadership, Huawei will continue to integrate cybersecurity and privacy protection into its products, solutions, and internal governance practices. This appointment reflects the company's ongoing commitment to supporting a secure and trustworthy digital environment across the Middle East and Central Asia. T





# UAE Cyber Security Council, Cisco and Open Innovation AI establish National AI Test and Validation Lab


The UAE is setting a new global benchmark for the secure and responsible adoption of artificial intelligence (AI). As the nation accelerates its AI adoption, the UAE Cyber Security Council (CSC), Open Innovation AI, and Cisco, working in strategic collaboration with Emircom, announced the establishment of the National AI Test and Validation Lab. This is a first-of-its-kind facility to help UAE government entities and private sector organizations test, validate and certify AI models, agents and applications for security, safety and trustworthiness.

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al-Kuwaiti, Head of Cybersecurity, UAE Government and Chairman of the UAE Cyber Security Council said: "Artificial intelligence is becoming part of the fabric of government services, critical infrastructure and everyday life in the UAE. The National AI Test and Validation Lab offers the country a sovereign capability to ensure that every AI model and every AI agent deployed in our economy is secure, trustworthy and aligned with our national policies. This is how we turn the UAE's ambition to lead in AI into concrete, verifiable assurance for our citizens."

**A Sovereign Environment for AI Security:** Hosted in the UAE, and operated under the governance of the Cyber Security Council, the Lab is designed with the aim of enabling AI deployments that are aligned with UAE cybersecurity policies related to AI, cloud and critical information infrastructure. Additionally, it aims to assess the models' compliance against international standards such as ISO 42001, MITRE ATLAS, NIST AI RMF, and the OWASP frameworks for LLMs and AI agents.

**Comprehensive Assessment Framework:** The Lab provides a comprehensive evaluation of AI systems aiming to ensure the highest standards of reliability.

**Assessments cover:**

- ***Model Security:*** *Testing for robustness and safety.*
- ***Threat Defense:*** *Identifying vulnerabilities like prompt-injection and jailbreak attempts.*
- ***Data Integrity:*** *Monitoring for data leakage and privacy risks.*
- ***Supply-Chain Security:*** *Verifying the integrity of models and weights.*
- ***Agent Autonomy:*** *Evaluating risks associated with agent tool-use.*
- ***Regulatory Compliance:*** *Ensuring alignment with UAE AI, cloud, and cybersecurity mandates.*

Systems that successfully pass these evaluations will receive a national certification mark. This provides regulators, operators, and citizens with clear assurance that the AI system is secure and verified.

Fady Younes, Managing Director for Cybersecurity at Cisco Middle East, Turkey, Africa, Romania, and CIS commented: "In the AI era, security cannot be an afterthought; it must be embedded within all infrastructure. Our collaboration with the UAE Cyber Security Council and Open Innovation AI marks a pivotal moment in securing the future of the UAE's digital economy. By combining our secure, AI-ready infrastructure with the UAE's proactive regulatory vision, we are creating a global blueprint for an AI ecosystem that is resilient by design, protected at scale, and inherently trustworthy."

Dr. Abed Benaichouche, Chief Executive Officer, Open Innovation AI commented: "Securing AI cannot be a one-time exercise, models evolve, agents act autonomously, and new attack techniques emerge every week. With the UAE Cyber Security Council and Cisco, we are industrialising AI security: continuously red-teaming, testing and certifying AI systems at a scale that matches how fast they are being deployed. We expect the Lab to analyse tens to hundreds of thousands of agents per year, and we are proud to put our platform at the service of the UAE's national mission."

**A Unified Technology Stack:** The Lab is built on a high-performance foundation designed for scale. By combining Cisco's secure infrastructure with Open Innovation AI's software, the Lab is designed with the aim to automate policy conformance and evidence collection. Key components include:

- **Cisco AI-Ready Infrastructure:** Secure networking and high-performance compute powered by NVIDIA GPUs.
- **Open Innovation Cluster Manager (OICM):** Orchestrates end-to-end AI workloads.
- **OI AI Security & Cisco AI Defense:** Provides comprehensive red-teaming and automated testing.

**Operational at Scale:** The Lab is already operational. Over the coming months, the facility aims to scale to analyze tens of thousands of AI agents annually, supporting the UAE's rapid adoption of agentic AI.

**Open to government and industry:** The Lab will serve federal and local government entities, critical national infrastructure operators, financial services, healthcare, energy and telecommunications, as well as UAE-based AI developers seeking to demonstrate that their models and agents meet national requirements before going to market.

# Presight CEO awarded Kazakhstan's Order of Dostyk for advancing national AI systems

Presight congratulates its Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Pramotedham, on receiving the Order of Dostyk, II degree, one of the Republic of Kazakhstan's highest state honours. The award was presented by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in recognition of his contribution to the country's digital transformation and to strengthening cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates.

During the award presentation, President Tokayev noted the strong level of cooperation with Presight and the UAE, expressing appreciation for their contribution to the advancement of AI solutions in Kazakhstan. He also highlighted opportunities to expand collaboration through further practical initiatives aligned with national priorities.

Looking ahead, Thomas Pramotedham reiterated Presight's commitment in supporting Kazakhstan's future digital infrastructure ambitions, including participation in Kazakhstan's "Data Center Valley" initiative, aimed at building an ecosystem for AI infrastructure, computing capacity, and digital services.

Thomas Pramotedham, CEO of Presight, said: "I'm truly humbled to receive this distinguished honour and share my sincere gratitude to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for this recognition. This award reflects the hard work and innovation demonstrated by the Presight teams in Kazakhstan and the UAE, and recognises the wise and visionary leadership of the Governments of Kazakhstan and the UAE, whose guidance has made this collaboration between both nations possible. The work we have done in Kazakhstan, from the Astana Smart City platform to the country's first national supercomputer, demonstrates that applied AI can drive meaningful, measurable change. I am proud of what we have accomplished, and I look forward to expanding this collaboration, including through projects like the Data Center Valley and the replication of the Smart City solutions to Almaty."





# Media City Qatar and Es'hailSat partner to strengthen infrastructure supporting Qatar's media sector

Media City Qatar and Es'hailSat – Qatar Satellite Company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly expand satellite broadcasting capabilities and strengthen digital media infrastructure for licensed companies within Media City Qatar. The agreement supports Media City Qatar's ongoing efforts to build the infrastructure required for the growth of the media and creative industries, enabling reliable content distribution, uninterrupted broadcasting, and global connectivity, while supporting Qatar's position as a primary hub for media.

Under the agreement, Es'hailSat will explore contributing its expertise in satellite communications and content distribution to support Media City Qatar's licensed companies through tailored broadcast, playout and content distribution services, including satellite capacity, signal transmission, and backup and disaster recovery solutions, as well as supporting content distribution across regional and international markets, subject to mutual agreement and technical feasibility.

**Hamad Omar A. Al-Mannai, CEO of Media City Qatar, said: "Reliable distribution is the backbone of any media ecosystem. Strong infrastructure determines how far content can travel. Through our collaboration with Es'hailSat, we are strengthening the capabilities available to our licensed companies, enabling them to distribute content more reliably, scale their reach, and operate with greater resilience across regional and global markets."**

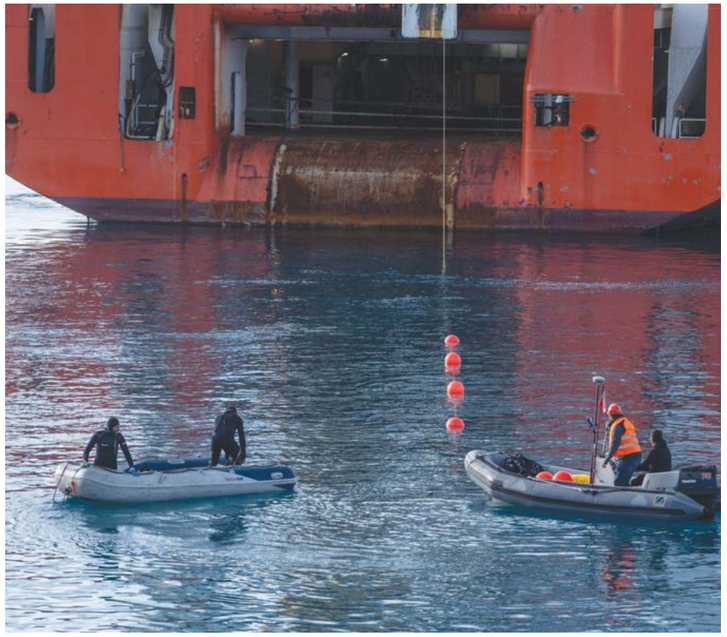
Media City Qatar may support Es'hailSat's engagement with licensed companies through licensing engagement and market access, regulatory and onboarding support, and joint marketing and visibility initiatives. Both parties will also collaborate across marketing, technical, and business development initiatives, including hosting events, cross-promotion, talent development, and knowledge exchange programs. This includes opportunities in areas such as OTT services, media and esports hubs, and emerging media technologies, including satellite broadcasting and artificial intelligence, supporting the delivery of high-quality Arabic and international content, enhancing broadcast reach and resilience, and the exchange of expertise across the sector.

**Ali Al Kuwari, President & CEO at Es'hailSat, added: "Content is only as powerful as the infrastructure behind it and its ability to reach audiences effectively. Through this strategic collaboration with Media City Qatar, Es'hailSat is extending its latest broadcast and satellite communications capabilities and expertise to support a growing ecosystem of creators and regional and international broadcasters. We are committed to providing an advanced and sustainable platform that enables our partners to deliver content with the highest standards of reliability, broader reach, and the resilience and flexibility to adapt across markets."**

Media City Qatar is committed to strengthening the infrastructure supporting its 500+ licensed companies, building on initiatives that shape a more connected and competitive media industry in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030.

# Grid Telecom to construct Artemis, a new subsea optical fiber cable system connecting Crete with Attica

Grid Telecom has announced the construction of ARTEMIS, an ultra-high-capacity subsea optical fiber cable system that will link Crete with mainland Greece. As a new strategic digital corridor in the Eastern Mediterranean, ARTEMIS is set to strengthen decisively regional connectivity, enhance Greece's geopolitical footprint, and accelerate the country's ongoing digital transformation.



The ARTEMIS system will be equipped with subsea repeaters and will span approximately 280 kilometres, including its terrestrial segments linking the cable landing stations. It will interconnect all landing stations and data centers in Crete and Attica region, enabling data transmission rates of up to 30 Tbps per fiber-pair. With a minimum of 24 fiber-pairs, ARTEMIS will deliver an overall design capacity of at least 720 Tbps, more than meeting all medium- and long-term digital infrastructure needs.

Engineered to support the next generation of cutting-edge technologies, ARTEMIS will take full advantage of the relatively short transmission distance and the capability to expand the optical spectrum. As a result, the system is poised to become the first petabit-class subsea cable in Greece and the Mediterranean, with a potential total capacity exceeding 1 petabit per second, pushing well beyond the performance limits of today's subsea optical fiber systems, setting a new benchmark for regional and international digital connectivity.

Grid Telecom continues to invest in state-of-the-art infrastructure with the goal of transforming Crete into a strategic digital hub, delivering network reliability, flexibility and diversity. Grid Telecom will leverage the synergies between the new ARTEMIS system and its existing Minoas East-West and Apollo East-West systems, which already connect the island to mainland Greece through four independent routes and a total of 96 fiber-pairs. The Minoas East-West system links Chania to the Peloponnese, providing a low-latency alternative route, while the Apollo East-West system provides a direct connection between Heraklion and Attica, with no intermediate cable landing stations, adding another critical alternative path.

In line with its commitment to advancing next-generation telecommunications services, Grid Telecom is proceeding with the immediate construction of new cable landing stations in Chania and Attica. These facilities will serve both as landing points for the ARTEMIS cable system and as critical gateways for international subsea fiber cables traversing the Eastern Mediterranean, linking Greece with the Middle East and Western Europe. ARTEMIS will incorporate Open Cable Interface Equipment (OCIE), enabling seamless integration with all international cable systems, eliminating the need for additional transmission terminal equipment and providing direct, cost-efficient backhaul access to all data centers.

With these infrastructures in place, Grid Telecom as the premier neutral provider of wholesale telecom services in Greece, will deliver secure, open-access landings and highly resilient connectivity through diversified fiber routes to both existing and emerging data centers in Crete, mainland Greece, and neighbouring countries. By fully leveraging its integrated terrestrial and subsea network assets, the company will ensure robust, scalable, and carrier-grade connectivity across the region and provide comprehensive technical support and maintenance services at both infrastructure and operational levels. T





# Zain Group Q1'2026 revenue up 6% to USD 1.86 billion

## Net profit soars 51% to USD 260 million, a 15-year high

Zain Group has announced its consolidated financial results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2026, with customer base reaching 51.2 million customers.

Zain Group recorded consolidated revenue growth of 6% to reach KD 569 million (USD 1.86 billion) for Q1' 2026. EBITDA for the quarter jumped 6% to reach KD 182 million (USD 594 million), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 32%. Net income for the quarter soared 51% to reach KD 80 million (USD 260 million), a 15 year high and reflecting an Earnings Per Share of 18 Fils (USD 6 Cents).

**Key Operational Notes for Q1 2026**

***1. Kuwait's 5.5G network supports the nation during crisis and drives market leadership on all major KPIs***

***2. Strong revenue growth in Sudan (+34%), Iraq (+14%), and Jordan (+5%)***

***3. Robust net profit increases of 116% in Zain KSA and 12% in Zain Iraq***

***4. Groupwide CAPEX reached USD 129 million representing 7% of revenue***

***5. New growth verticals revenue grew 16% to reach USD 227 million representing 12% of total revenues***

***6. Zain Ventures strategic investments record notable gains of USD 123 million for the quarter***

***7. Data revenue grew 18% to reach USD 751 million, representing 40% of the Group's overall revenue***

***8. Kuwait, KSA, Bahrain, and Jordan 5G networks enhance customer experience and 5G customer base***

***9. Fintech services (Bede in Kuwait, Bahrain and Sudan; Tamam in KSA and Zain Cash in Jordan and Iraq) witnessed revenue growth of 28% and customer increase of 38%***

***10. ZainTECH revenue grew 7%, contributing to the 9% YoY overall increase in groupwide enterprise revenue***

***11. Zain Omantel International (ZOI) wholesale carrier achieved healthy revenue growth of 16% YoY***

***12. Zain Group publishes 2025 Sustainability Report entitled 'Grounded in Purpose, Growing Sustainably'***

***13. Zain brand valuation up 16% YoY, to reach a milestone of USD 4 billion, highest in Kuwait's private sector***

***Nour Al-Jassim,***
*Zain Group Chair of the Board*

***Bader Al-Kharafi,***
***Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO***

Nour Al-Jassim, Zain Group Chair of the Board said, "I extend my sincere appreciation to the previous Board of Directors for their dedicated efforts in advancing the company's strategic agenda and strengthening the Group's position as a leading regional TechCo. The Board will build on this solid foundation, enhance strategic partnerships and continue to deliver sustainable value for our shareholders."

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO commented, "Despite ongoing regional challenges, we delivered a prosperous first-quarter performance on multiple fronts. This was underpinned by strong operational execution across our key markets and growing contributions from our new business verticals and profitable investment strategy. We remain focused on elevating customer experience through innovative, AI-driven solutions, while actively pursuing value accretive opportunities. This strong momentum behind the Group's '4WARD–Progress with Purpose' strategy signals an exceptional year ahead."

"Our robust and diversified business model, coupled with the agility of our teams, enabled us to maintain critical connectivity across all markets during the recent crisis. I am immensely proud of the resilience and dedication demonstrated by our teams. Their unwavering commitment ensured uninterrupted network connectivity and customer support, enabling the continuity of remote work, education, and essential services under highly challenging circumstances. These efforts have been truly inspiring."

"Our operations in Kuwait, KSA, Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, and Bahrain performed in line with expectations despite a challenging and highly competitive environment. In parallel, our strategic verticals, ZainTECH and Zain Omantel International, continued to deliver healthy growth, playing a vital role in sustaining essential services across the region and beyond."

"Our strategic partnership with Ooredoo to establish the region's largest tower company continues to progress well. Following recent regulatory approvals in Qatar, the TASC Towers team is finalizing operational readiness ahead of the first tower closing, expected during June 2026. Upon completion, we will focus on expanding into additional markets in line with our infrastructure optimization strategy."

Al Kharafi concluded, "I look forward to working closely with the new Board and Chair, Mrs. Nour Al Jassim, as we take Zain to new heights to enhance shareholder value."

Since its inception, Zain Ventures has made a series of strategic investments across venture capital funds and the regional and global startup ecosystem. The portfolio includes high-growth, globally recognized companies such as Revolut, SpaceX, and xAI, that are proving very profitable. Zain Ventures will continue to pursue disciplined investments that enhance long-term shareholder returns.

Zain's fintech ecosystem continues to deliver impressive growth in both revenue and customer base. The Group remains focused on scaling this fast-growing ecosystem by strengthening financial inclusion, increasing wallet engagement, and supporting SME digitization across our markets.

The Group recently published its 2025 Sustainability Report, 'Grounded in Purpose, Growing Sustainably,' marking a significant milestone in communicating its long-term value creation. This is the first report of its kind in Kuwait prepared in accordance with the International Integrated Reporting Framework. In addition, Zain achieved an 'A' score in the CDP Climate Change 2025 disclosure cycle, placing the company among the top performers globally and making us the only Kuwait-based company to attain leadership level.

The strength of the Zain brand continues to grow. According to Brand Finance's 2026 rankings, the brand value increased by 16.1% year-on-year to USD 4.04 billion, placing it as the highest valued brand in Kuwait's private sector and among the top 25 telecom brands globally. Nineteen years since its launch, this sustained growth reflects the success of the 4WARD strategy, investment in differentiated customer experiences, and the strength of its networks and services. Today, with more than 26 million social media followers and over 4 billion views generating 1.5 billion annual interactions, Zain stands as one of the region's most recognized and engaging corporate brands, and the ICT provider of choice for individuals, businesses, and governments.

**Financial KPIs of key markets for first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2026**

**Kuwait:** Maintaining its market leadership, the flagship operation's customer base stood at 2.6 million. Revenue for the period reached KD 92 million (USD 301 million), EBITDA stood at KD 31.4 million (USD 103 million), representing an EBITDA margin of 34%. Net income for the quarter reached KD 16 million (USD 53 million). Data revenue grew 8%, representing 40% of total revenue. The operator continued to develop and monetize its resilient 5.5G Advanced network that supported the nation during the recent regional crisis empowering digital enablement through dynamic customer-facing platforms.

**Saudi Arabia:** Revenue reached USD 708 million, EBITDA for the period reached USD 214 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 30%. Net income for the quarter soared 116% to reach USD 54 million, inclusive of SAR 98 million (USD 26 million) from the Kingdom's Universal Service Fund. Data revenue grew by 8%, representing 43% of total revenue, while active customers reached 8.3 million. The operator witnessed continued growth in 5G and B2B revenue, with Yaqoot, Zain KSA's digital arm, witnessing stable revenue YoY, while Tamam, the consumer microfinance arm, witnessed healthy revenue growth, all of which contributed towards the increase in top-line.

**Iraq:** Revenue grew 14% YoY to reach USD 325 million, while EBITDA reached USD 110 million, up 5% YoY. Net profit grew 12% YoY to reach USD 29 million. The operator's customer base reached 20.7 million customers, sustaining market leadership in Iraq. This growth was fueled by strong commercial strategy execution, continued network deployment, and a robust contribution from its subsidiaries Horizon and Next Generation, all achieved despite a challenging macroeconomic environment.

**Sudan:** Revenue for the quarter soared 34% YoY to reach USD 157 million, with EBITDA reaching USD 90 million, an increase of 35% YoY, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 58%. Net income reached USD 56 million. Customer base expanded 13% YoY to 12.4 million, supported by the restoration of coverage, service availability and return of population to affected areas. Data revenue grew 70% YoY, accounting for 37% of total revenue.

**Jordan:** Revenue grew 5% YoY to reach USD 148 million, EBITDA increased by 4% to reach USD 57 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 38%, with net income up 1.4% to reach USD 19 million. Data revenue grew 15% on the back of its continually expanding 5G network, representing 58% of total revenue. Customer base grew by 2% to reach 4.2 million, maintaining a market leading position.

**Bahrain:** Revenue remained stable YoY at USD 56 million, EBITDA reached USD 14.5 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 26%. Net income increased by 1% to reach USD 3.1 million, with data revenue growing 4% YoY to represent 45% of total revenue. T





# Liquid C2 launches Africa's first cloud-powered experience centre to accelerate AI adoption

Liquid C2, a business of Cassava Technologies, has launched Africa's first Partner Experience Centre powered by Google Cloud in Johannesburg, South Africa. The state-of-the-art facility is designed to empower partners and resellers to move beyond traditional distribution, providing the immersive, hands-on environment needed to architect and deploy cloud and AI solutions tailored specifically to African market needs.

Through the Centre, partners will be onboarded to a structured journey that guides them in securing official Google Cloud accreditation and certification. Beyond technical training provided by both Liquid C2 and Google, the centre will also serve as a collaborative hub, allowing them to work alongside specialist engineers to architect bespoke solutions. Once finalised, these solutions will be brought to market through Liquid's robust distribution network. This expansion not only opens new commercial avenues for partners but also acts as a catalyst for high-value job creation and the rapid maturation of Africa's technology ecosystem.

The Partner Experience Centre provides the partner and reseller ecosystem in Africa with direct access to enterprise-grade technologies such as Gemini Enterprise, and the "Gemini Playspace" for rapid AI experimentation. It also provides specialist expertise to prototype, test, and scale digital solutions in real-world environments. The centre is a testament to Liquid C2's commitment to strengthening its role within the partner ecosystem in Africa, as it supports partners in overcoming infrastructure constraints, skills gaps, and complexity barriers that often slow digital transformation efforts across the continent.

As demand for advanced digital capabilities grows, the Partner Experience Centre serves as an innovation hub where enterprises, startups, academic institutions, developers, and public-sector stakeholders can co-create locally-relevant solutions, fostering a sense of shared progress and community across Africa.

The facility also provides industry-specific platforms tailored to sectors including financial services, healthcare, and retail. These platforms demonstrate how AI-enabled solutions can reduce operational risk, improve efficiency, enhance customer engagement, and unlock new growth opportunities across African markets.

"At Cassava Technologies, we believe the future of Africa's digital transformation will be shaped through strong ecosystems that combine global innovation with local infrastructure and expertise," said Ziaad Suleman, Senior Vice President, Cassava Technologies and CEO, South Africa & Botswana. "The Partner Experience Centre powered by Google Cloud creates a practical environment where organisations can explore, test, and scale solutions that deliver real business value. By combining our infrastructure, expertise, and continental reach with Google Cloud's advanced technologies, we are helping to democratise access to AI and cloud capabilities for enterprises across Africa."

"This is a pivotal moment in our commitment to Africa's digital future," said Tara Brady, President, Google Cloud EMEA. "The Partner Experience Centre is a testament to our belief in the power of a strong partner ecosystem. By combining our advanced AI capabilities, including our Gemini models, with Liquid C2's localised expertise, we are not just building a facility; we are building a hub for innovation that will empower businesses, create jobs, and deliver the benefits of digital transformation to every corner of the continent."

**The collaboration will focus on three core pillars of transformation:**

**Accelerated Partner Enablement:** The centre acts as a dedicated Proof-of-Concept (PoC) hub designed to dismantle historical market barriers. It provides localised training, hands-on technology interaction, and business support, leveraging Liquid's capabilities to offer local currency billing and credit to manage financial complexity for resellers.

**AI and Technology Innovation:** A primary focus is empowering partners to build and deploy advanced AI solutions. The facility features a dedicated "Gemini Playspace & AI Solutions" to certify technical staff, alongside integrated "Solutions Pods" where partners can demonstrate complete technology stacks to win complex enterprise bids.

**Economic Growth and Job Creation:** The partnership is a direct investment in Africa's tech workforce. By strategically broadening the partner network, the initiative will foster deep, localised expertise and act as a catalyst for new economic opportunities, creating a significant ripple effect of job creation for certified engineers and other tech professionals across the continent.

As a business of Cassava Technologies, Liquid C2 has always been at the forefront of bringing cutting-edge digital technologies to African businesses, both directly and through its partner ecosystem. This first-of-its-kind Partner Experience Centre is yet another milestone that reflects the company's commitment to partnerships that leverage its continental footprint to serve a broader base of organisations.

Aligned with this, Cassava continues to expand digital inclusion across Africa through its integrated portfolio of connectivity, cloud, cyber security, and digital solutions, ensuring that a broad spectrum of organisations, regardless of size or sector, can access and benefit from advanced technologies, thereby enabling more inclusive participation in Africa's digital economy. T

# Africa Data Centres partner with Oni-Tel to enhance data centre connectivity in South Africa

Africa Data Centres has partnered with fibre optic cable infrastructure provider Oni-Tel Fibre Networks to strengthen connectivity across its Gauteng facilities. Under the agreement, Oni-Tel will deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity to Africa Data Centres' Midrand and Samrand campuses through its Infinity fibre interconnection platform.

Purpose-built for data centre interconnectivity on a resilient network with direct access to Gauteng's key data centre hubs, this provides customers with fast, high-capacity bandwidth and secure, carrier-grade performance, supporting the levels of uptime required in today's data-driven environments.

"As enterprises accelerate cloud adoption, AI deployment, and data-intensive workloads, they need dependable, scalable connectivity within trusted local data centres. By partnering with Oni-Tel, we're giving our customers access to enhanced fibre infrastructure that supports their growth and innovation, while maintaining secure, enterprise-grade environments for businesses navigating South Africa's digital economy," said Adil El Youssefi, CEO of Africa Data Centres.

For Africa Data Centres, which operates the continent's largest interconnected, vendor- and cloud-neutral data centre platform, the collaboration strengthens its service portfolio by enhancing performance and expanding connectivity options within its facilities. Customers gain greater interconnection choice, high-availability architecture, seamless bandwidth, and the ability to scale efficiently as their infrastructure requirements grow.

"Our partnership with Africa Data Centres enables us to deliver our premium fibre interconnection solution into some of the most strategically important data centre hubs in Gauteng. Through Infinity, customers benefit from ultra-low latency connectivity, scalable capacity, and secure, carrier-grade infrastructure designed to keep their businesses ahead in an extremely competitive digital landscape," said Ellisha Gobind, Chief Commercial Officer at Oni-Tel.

Africa Data Centres' facilities across the continent serve as key interconnection hubs, supporting enterprises, cloud service providers, financial institutions, mobile network operators, fixed network operators, and other users. Oni-Tel's dark fibre solution further expands the range of carrier-neutral options available to Gauteng customers, enabling improved network speed and performance.

As demand for secure, high-performance digital infrastructure continues to rise, Africa Data Centres remains focused on building a robust, interconnected ecosystem that supports enterprise innovation and long-term growth across South Africa and the wider region. T





# Intersputnik: Human resource as a key factor for SatCom development


The largest regional conference on space technologies in Central Asia took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 30 March to 1 April 2026. Andrey Kirillovich, Intersputnik's Director of Strategy, Marketing and Business Development, moderated the satellite communications session: "Connecting Central Eurasia: The power of satellite technologies". He also presented a report on joint projects with international organizations and initiatives of Intersputnik to support young professionals and develop human resources in the satellite communications industry.

The STC 2026 forum traditionally brought together representatives from government institutions, space agencies, national and commercial satellite operators, software developers, satellite and ground equipment manufacturers, as well as experts in cloud technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) applications. The key issues discussed at the STC 2026 international conference were the implementation of space technologies and the promotion of space projects aimed at improving the lives of people in Central Asia, and the overall socio-economic development of the region.

In an era of rapid technological advancement, very quick adoption of innovation, use of AI in all areas of human activity and growing role of broadband reliable communications, one of the most serious challenges facing the satellite communications industry is the shortage of qualified personnel. As an international organisation, Intersputnik actively implements projects to strengthen the human resources of the satellite industry and promote young professionals in high-tech industries. The development of these industries contributes to universal connectivity and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

At STC 2026, Intersputnik's Director of Strategy, Marketing and Business Development Andrey Kirillovich presented the Youth Far Beyond Borders initiative. This programme provides regular seminars, an opportunity for young professionals from the Organization's Member States to work at leading international space forums, and creation of online educational platforms. Meanwhile, Intersputnik and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are organising a series of regional training seminars on the advanced satellite technologies. This collaboration implements the agreement for the development of human resources in the satellite communications industry, signed between Intersputnik and ITU in Baku, Azerbaijan, at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in November 2025.

Backed by over half a century of experience in implementing satellite projects around the world, Intersputnik has a clear understanding of the role that space technology plays in the socio-economic development of countries in Central Asia and the Caspian Basin. As six of the Organization's Member States are located here, Intersputnik focuses its activities on this dynamically developing region in the ICT and high-tech sectors. T

# Zain Group holds AGM with quorum of 77.7%; Assembly approves all items on agenda and elects new Board of Directors for three years

The Zain Group Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Zain Group's headquarters in Kuwait, attended with a quorum of 77.67% of shareholders whereby they were presented with the Zain Group's 2025 annual report which highlights the financial statements, Governance and Auditors reports and the major achievements of Zain Group and its operations and subsidiaries across Middle East and Africa, for the year ended December 31, 2025. Additionally, Zain Group released its 2025 Sustainability Report. Notably, the shareholders approved all 12 items on the AGM agenda.

**New Board elected for three years**

Furthermore, the AGM elected the Zain Group Board of Directors for the next three years. The incoming Board members now constitute the following: Mrs Nour Nael Ahmed Al-Jassim (appointed by the KIA);

Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi; Mishari Asi Al-Hajri; Atef bin Saeed bin Rashid Al Siyabi; Nasser bin Sulaiman bin Hamad Al-Harthy; Alaa El-Din bin Abdallah Bait Fadel; Ghassan Khamees Ali-Hashar; Ibrahim Said Al-Eisri; Abdulrahman Mohammad Al-Asfour; and Dr Saad Ahmed Alnahedh. The Board meet immediately after the AGM and elected Nour Nael Ahmed Al-Jassim as Chair of the Board of Directors and Bader Al-Kharafi as Vice-Chairman and Group CEO.

**Strong financial performance and shareholder returns**

During the AGM, Zain Group presented its financial results for the full-year 2025, whereby the company served 50.9 million customers, an annual increase of 4%.

In 2025, Zain Group delivered a solid financial performance, with consolidated revenue rising 14% year-on-year to KD 2.3 billion (USD 7.44 billion), the highest level in 16 years. Consolidated EBITDA reached KD 780 million (USD 2.54 billion), an increase of 11%, reflecting a healthy 34% EBITDA margin, while consolidated net income soared 103% to KD 239 million (USD 777 million), a 13-year high. Earnings per share amounted to 55 fils (USD 0.18).

These results supported attractive shareholder returns. The 2025 annual cash dividend totaled 35 fils per share, representing a payout ratio of 63%, while total dividends distributed during the 2025 calendar year reached 60 fils per share. This performance underscores the strength of the company's balance sheet and financial position as Zain grows the business and advances its transformation into a TechCo. T





# du and Al Gharbia Pipe Company to advance industrial AI Vision technology across UAE manufacturing sector


du has announced a partnership with Al Gharbia Pipe Company (AGPC), an Abu Dhabi-based producer of longitudinally submerged arc welded (LSAW) steel pipes, to deploy cutting-edge Industrial AI Vision technology across manufacturing operations in the UAE. Attended by Fahad Al Hassawi, CEO of du and Noritsugu Mifune, CEO of AGPC, the collaboration was showcased at Make it in the Emirates 2026, where du Tech is a strategic partner of the Intelligence Hub.

The partnership centres on the co-developed Industrial AI Vision Platform, an advanced solution designed to enable more intelligent and automated manufacturing operations. The platform enables AI-based quality inspection, enhanced traceability, and optimised decision-making across manufacturing operations. Key capabilities include real-time dashboards, visual analytics, AI-driven insights, and operational monitoring across fleet, logistics, and infrastructure functions. The showcase will feature an interactive offline demonstration using synthetic, non-confidential data, allowing attendees to explore the platform's capabilities in improving operational visibility across the manufacturing value chain.

Jasim Alawadi, CICTO at du, said: "du's partnership with AGPC represents our commitment to driving the UAE's industrial evolution through technology that delivers tangible outcomes. We are reimagining how manufacturing operates in service of the UAE's vision for economic diversification and technological sovereignty. Combining our expertise in digital infrastructure and AI deployment with Al Gharbia's deep understanding of manufacturing excellence, we aim to create solutions that will define the future of intelligent industry in our region."

Noritsugu Mifune, CEO of AGPC, said: "Our collaboration with du Tech is an investment in the technologies that will shape tomorrow's manufacturing landscape. The Industrial AI Vision Platform enables us to achieve new standards in quality inspection and traceability while optimising our operations in ways that were previously difficult to achieve at scale. Together, we are demonstrating that UAE-based partnerships can lead the world in industrial innovation."

du Tech showcased the platform's capabilities to senior government officials, international delegations, and C-suite industry leaders. Attendees experienced an interactive demonstration illustrating how the Industrial AI Vision Platform empowers manufacturers to achieve unprecedented levels of operational intelligence and automation.

Through the deployment of sovereign AI infrastructure and locally developed solutions, the collaboration supports the UAE's manufacturing transformation agenda while establishing new benchmarks for operational excellence in the manufacturing sector. T

# AI and employment mapping new frontiers of automation

More than three years after the launch of ChatGPT, the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on employment remains largely invisible in aggregate statistics. However, it is beginning to emerge on the fringes in certain segments of the labor market, particularly in entry-level roles within the most vulnerable sectors. By providing a unique mapping of the exposure to AI-driven automation of the tasks that make up different occupations, this joint study by Coface and the Observatory of Threatened and Emerging Jobs (OEM) highlights a shift in the frontier of automation: with AI, it is now cognitive, complex and skilled tasks that are appearing increasingly at risk, posing a risk of upheaval in the structure of employment.

**1. An innovative methodology for measuring the potential for automation of tasks and occupations**

The aim of this study is to provide a detailed mapping of the areas where the spread of AI is most likely to transform work. This granular analysis reveals vulnerabilities that are still largely overlooked by aggregated statistics, as exposure varies significantly across tasks, occupations, sectors, countries and regions.

The methodology developed by the OEM addresses three limitations frequently observed in existing analyses: a lack of granularity in the analysis of occupations, low reproducibility of assessments based on expert judgements or evaluations produced by AI and the absence of a genuine forward-looking dimension regarding the various phases of AI development.

Each of the 923 professions analyzed is broken down into tasks, which are themselves subdivided into elementary actions described as triplets (verb, object, context). This breakdown allows for a more precise assessment of the degree to which each task is exposed to automation. The elementary actions are then scored using explicit and reproducible rules.

This method provides a concrete response to the three identified limitations. Firstly, it significantly refines the analysis of occupations by distinguishing the rating by generic basic action, regardless of the occupation in question. Secondly, it improves the reproducibility of assessments through explicit and auditable rules. Finally, it introduces a genuine forward-looking dimension, enabling the exposure of tasks to be projected across several phases of AI development – five in the context of this study – rather than merely providing a snapshot at a single point in time.

Alongside the OEM, Coface has helped to expand this framework by developing a method for weighting tasks based on their importance and frequency, refining the forward-looking scenarios and scoring rules, and broadening the empirical scope of the analysis to nearly thirty countries.

This assessment of exposure to automation is deliberately rough and supply-side focused: it measures the technical exposure of tasks to automation, and thus in no way prejudges the volume of net job losses.

Indeed, by design, it does not take into account demand dynamics, the potential creation of new tasks, or the frictions that may slow down or limit the actual deployment of AI.

**2. Varying exposure across occupational groups: AI primarily targets cognitive and information-related activities**

The study highlights a major break with previous waves of automation: AI does not represent a continuation of technologies such as robotics or software but shifts the focus towards cognitive tasks that are complex and non-repetitive. Its impact is profoundly varied: it is felt first at the task

***Mohamad Jomaa**, CEO and Country Manager for GCC and Egypt at Coface*

level, before having an uneven impact on occupations, occupational groups and, beyond that, on the sectors in which they are concentrated.

In the main scenario studied, concerning the deployment of agent-based AI, approximately one in eight occupations crosses the 30% threshold of automatable tasks, which the study identifies as a threshold for profound transformation of the profession, paving the way for potentially significant redeployment of staff, without necessarily signifying its disappearance. The most exposed professions are concentrated in fields that are highly cognitive and information-intensive: engineering, IT, administrative roles, finance, law, and certain creative and analytical professions.

Conversely, the least vulnerable occupations remain largely manual or involve human interactions that are difficult to standardize: manufacturing, construction, maintenance, transport, catering, cleaning, and certain care and support activities.

The study also measures the actual content of work at risk in each labor market examined by comparing the proportion of automatable tasks in each of the 923 occupations to its employment volume. By grouping them into eight broad categories, it identifies the occupational groups most at risk.

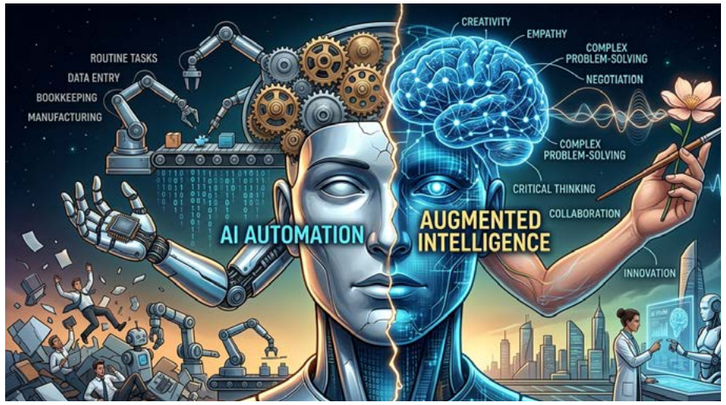
The main findings are clear: more than a quarter of the work content could be automated in the management and administration, creative professions, law and finance, as well as engineering and IT sectors. Conversely, face-to-face services and technical, craft and industrial production occupations remain below the 10% threshold. Jobs in care, education, sales and, more broadly, people-facing professions occupy an intermediate position: some of their tasks are at risk, but their human dimension continues to act as a protective factor.

**3. Significant disparities between countries**

The study highlights that countries' exposure to AI-driven automation varies significantly, ranging from around 12% of work content exposed to automation ((defined as the proportion of automatable tasks relative to total employment) in Turkey to nearly 20% in the United Kingdom. These differences are largely explained by the structure of the economies, which largely determines the structure of employment and, consequently, the proportion of tasks that can potentially be automated.

The wealthiest economies and those most oriented towards cognitive services thus appear to be the most exposed to automation. In addition to the UK, the Netherlands, Ireland and Luxembourg have a higher concentration of information-intensive occupations, whilst countries where employment remains more oriented towards trade, personal services, construction, transport or other more physically intensive activities show a more moderate exposure. The study identifies five groups of countries with similar profiles.

Mohamad Jomaa, CEO and Country Manager for GCC and Egypt at Coface said: "The UAE and Saudi Arabia are moving decisively to position themselves as global AI and compute hubs. Commitments measured in the tens of billions of dollars including multi-gigawatt data center campuses, advanced GPU capacity, and national AI platforms. Such investments signal a clear understanding that AI




competitiveness starts with infrastructure. These are not pilot initiatives; they are long-term, sovereign-level investments designed to anchor economic diversification and global relevance in a data-driven world."

**4. Beyond employment: value sharing, social protection, education, new dependencies… many questions currently without answers.**

The potential effects of the roll-out of AI extend beyond the issue of employment alone. Because it targets skilled and well-paid occupations, the roll-out of AI could ultimately disrupt economic and social balances.

By automating some of the tasks performed in the most skilled professions, it could notably shift a significant portion of the value added from labor to capital. For countries whose tax systems rely heavily on direct and/or indirect taxation of labor, this development would pose a dual budgetary challenge, reducing tax revenue (social security contributions, income tax, VAT, etc.) whilst at the same time increasing public expenditure (unemployment insurance, training).

The study also invites us to consider more broadly the value of education and the qualifications currently awarded at the end of various educational pathways. If some of the tasks for which long courses of study prepare become more easily automatable, the link between educational attainment, pay and job security could weaken. Without (yet) concluding that higher education is no longer necessary, these findings suggest that employers may place less emphasis on qualifications alone, and instead focus on skills that remain complementary to AI, such as judgement, adaptability or the ability to oversee its use.

Finally, the rise of AI could give rise to new geopolitical, logistical and operational vulnerabilities due to the concentration of its most critical assets (semiconductors, language models, data centers) amongst a limited number of companies and countries that control the technologies.

**Conclusion: a transformation capable of reshaping work**

Whilst the exact trajectory of these transformations remains uncertain, and whilst the transition from the technical exposure of tasks to their net effects on employment is by no means automatic, one point nevertheless stands out clearly: AI is not being deployed on the fringes of work, but across a section of its cognitive, non-routine and skilled functions, long perceived as the most secure. Because these functions form part of occupations that play a major role in generating income, added value and tax revenue, it seems unlikely that such a transformation could take place without reshaping, to varying degrees, the nature of jobs and the balances that underpin them. T

# China Mobile hosts 2026 Cooperative Conference on Digital and Intelligent Empowerment for Chinese Enterprises Going Global

China Mobile hosted the 2026 China Mobile Digital Empowerment Cooperation Conference for Chinese Enterprises Going Global in Beijing. The conference focused on the needs for digital and intelligent development of Chinese enterprises going global, jointly exploring new trends in digital and intelligent empowerment for the global development of Chinese enterprises, and it was broadcast live simultaneously around the world. Zhang Feng, Secretary of the CPC Chinese Institute of Electronics Committee, and Guo Hao, President of the China Association of Communications Enterprises, attended the event, among others. Li Huidi, Executive Vice President of China Mobile attended the conference and delivered a speech.

Li Huidi pointed out that artificial intelligence is currently reshaping the ways of production and life with unprecedented speed and breadth, deeply restructuring the competitive landscape of global industries. AI is already the core engine driving the leap in social productivity and leading the transformation of the global industrial system. The overseas development of Chinese enterprises is undergoing a comprehensive upgrade from the traditional export of products and production capacity to the synergistic development of digital capabilities and industrial chains driven by AI.

Li Huidi stated that, in the face of a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, China Mobile is accelerating the transition from a "telecommunications operator" to a "technology services enterprise." With the vision of building a world-class technology services enterprise, it comprehensively promotes the integrated innovation of communication technologies, information technologies, and AI technologies, in order to strengthen, optimize, and expand the three major businesses of "communications services, computing services, and AI services." China Mobile will deeply integrate its AI capabilities into the entire chain of its three core businesses, paving a digital and intelligent highway for globalization, featuring the integration of networks and intelligence, safety and reliability, and universal access across all domains for Chinese enterprises going global:

China Mobile will strengthen communications services and empower "AI connectivity", weaving a dense network of global intelligent interconnection. The scale of China Mobile's international information infrastructure continues to grow. China Mobile have expanded the capacity of submarine and terrestrial cables, bringing total international transmission bandwidth to 406T and Points of Presence (PoPs) to 446. Notably, the eastern section of 2Africa, the largest submarine cable system in the world circling Africa, has been activated. The sections are expected to be completed and put into operation in the first half of this year. Spanning a total length of approximately 45,000 kilometers, this submarine cable is laid along the coastline of the African continent. It connects 33 countries and regions across the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, providing high-quality, low-latency international communication services for a population of roughly 3 billion along its route. This major information artery, which connects six continents and four oceans, provides safe and reliable guarantees for end-to-end connections. It supports the scheduling of transnational AI applications and the integration of global business for enterprises going global. Global roaming is now available in 268 destinations, and the total number of users for the JegoTrip app has exceeded 90 million. China Mobile's international ecological cooperation continues to expand, and the "Hand-in-Hand Program" covers over 3 billion users worldwide. China Mobile have consecutively hosted events such as the Southeast Asia Cooperation Conference and the China Mobile Digital Empowerment Cooperation Conferences for Chinese Enterprises Going Global. These events have been widely praised and have strengthened China Mobile's influence within the global ecosystem. In recent years, China Mobile's revenue from international business has consistently maintained a trend of high-speed, double-digit growth.

China Mobile will optimize computing services and drive "AI Computing", building a globally integrated computing network across the world.As a builder of computing infrastructure, China Mobile will comprehensively increase its investment in Artificial Intelligence Data Centers (AIDC), accelerate the supply of computing, and enhance its operational capabilities for Tokens. China Mobile's 100-megawatt-level Global Intelligent Center (GIC) in Hong Kong has officially opened, and China Mobile will deploy more nodes for AI computing along the "Belt and Road" initiative in the future. China Mobile have already established a cluster for AI computing with a capacity of 92.5 EFLOPS in China. By linking this with over 1,300 resources from self-owned and cooperative data centers overseas, China Mobile are constructing a global network for computing. China Mobile will promote Mobile Cloud to integrate high-quality global models and streamline the service chain where "Agents use Tokens, Tokens drive Computing, and Computing consumes Electricity." This will forge a solid foundation of computing for Chinese enterprises going global.

China Mobile will expand AI services and reshape digital services, stimulating new momentum across all domains for enterprises going global.As a promoter of applications for artificial intelligence, China Mobile continuously iterates the capabilities of its "Jiutian" large model. China Mobile have accumulated industrial data exceeding 20 trillion Tokens and independently developed more than 50 industrial large models. This promotes the deep integration of AI agents into the entire process of production and operations for enterprises. Overseas, China Mobile translate its leading domestic AI capabilities into a "smart engine" for Chinese enterprises expanding abroad. Targeting the pain points of enterprises going global,






China Mobile have tailored a "1+8" system of products and solutions for all scenarios, which has already served tens of thousands of Chinese enterprises in their global layout. By combining the advantages of Chinese manufacturing and 5G solutions, China Mobile achieve deep integration with local ecosystems overseas. In regions including Europe, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific, and have successfully established over a thousand benchmark cases of "AI+" digital and intelligent transformation, such as smart factories, smart ports, and smart IoV. This makes the fruits of China's innovation in AI benefit the global market.

**Looking toward the vast blue ocean of the AI era, Li Huidi proposed four initiatives:**

**First,** China Mobile will jointly build AI infrastructure to forge a solid "new foundation" for AI+ global development. China Mobile will join hands with global industry partners to accelerate the construction of global communication networks, computing networks, and intelligent networks. China Mobile will jointly optimize the layout of global submarine and terrestrial cables as well as hubs for computing, achieving mutually beneficial cooperation along the "Belt and Road" initiative and around the world. By building more high-standard Artificial Intelligence Data Centers, China Mobile will provide low-latency, highly reliable, high-performance, and widely covered infrastructure of computing networks for Chinese enterprises marching into the world.

**Second,** China Mobile will jointly establish AI standards to build a "new consensus" on intelligence within the industry. China Mobile will continue to promote China's full-stack AI technologies and standards to the world, covering the entire chain of computing foundations, large models, and industrial applications. This will contribute Chinese wisdom, Chinese solutions, and Chinese standards to the construction of an open, inclusive, and interoperable system of global rules for AI technology.

**Third,** China Mobile will jointly expand AI scenarios to release "new quality productive forces" across thousands of industries. China Mobile will continuously open up China Mobile's technological foundation and experience in various scenarios, collaborating with enterprises going global to unearth high-value industrial scenarios. By providing exclusive resources for AI computing and support for Tokens, China Mobile will empower the accelerated release of new quality productive forces through AI innovation. In key regions along the "Belt and Road" initiative, China Mobile will create more replicable and promotable benchmark projects of "AI+" digital and intelligent transformation for overseas development.

**Fourth,** China Mobile will jointly cultivate a win-win AI ecosystem to expand the "new circle of friends" for global cooperation. China Mobile will continuously upgrade the cooperative ecological system of the "iSTAR Program. Relying on the three core pillars of "AI+ applications, cloud and AI computing, and connectivity," China Mobile will unite the strengths of global industries, academia, research, and application. This will help build a more open, inclusive, and mutually beneficial globalized digital and intelligent ecosystem. China Mobile will jointly incubate "AI+" solutions for overseas development across more than 150 scenarios, providing intelligent escorts across the entire chain and full life cycle for Chinese enterprises going global.

At the conference, using full-stack digital and intelligent capabilities to escort Chinese enterprises going global, China Mobile released a series of "AI+" full-stack digital and intelligent infrastructure, products, and services. Together with its ecological partners, China Mobile jointly released the "White Paper on the Digital and Intelligent Ecosystem of the China Mobile International 'iSTAR Program' for Chinese Enterprises Going-Global," collaboratively building a new ecosystem for AI services. T

# Could your ISP becomes a mobile connectivity provider?

## Why eSIM is the next value-added service for ISPs

Consumers today expect to be connected at all times, whether at home, at work or on the move. While internet service providers (ISPs) have long been the backbone of home connectivity, the way people access and use the internet is evolving rapidly. Mobile connectivity now plays an equally important role in everyday life, creating an opportunity for ISPs to expand their offering beyond fixed broadband. Here, Hamish White, CEO of eSIM software provider Mobilise, explains why eSIM technology presents a valuable opportunity for ISPs to diversify their services and unlock new revenue streams.

Connectivity no longer stops at the front door. Consumers are constantly switching between Wi-Fi and mobile networks as they move through their day, from streaming content and working remotely to travelling and staying connected on the go. While ISPs have traditionally focused on delivering fast and reliable broadband in the home, mobile connectivity has become an essential extension of that experience.

This shift is reflected in the scale of the mobile economy. According to GSMA, "mobile technologies and services generated 7.6 trillion dollars in economic value in 2025, accounting for 6.4 per cent of global GDP." At the same time, around 70 per cent of the global population now subscribes to mobile services. These figures highlight a simple reality: connectivity is no longer tied to a single location and providers that fail to address this risk being left behind.

For ISPs, this presents a clear opportunity. By extending their services into mobile connectivity, they can remain relevant throughout the entire customer journey rather than just within the home.

**The rise of eSIM**

eSIM technology is at the heart of this shift. Unlike traditional SIM cards, which require physical installation and distribution, eSIMs are fully digital and can be remotely provisioned onto a device. This allows users to activate mobile services instantly, switch between providers with ease and manage multiple connectivity profiles on a single device.

Adoption of eSIM is accelerating quickly. Forecasts suggest there will be more than 3 billion eSIM-compatible smartphones in use by 2030, highlighting the rapid growth of the technology. At the same time, eSIM is expected to represent 42 per cent of all SIM technologies by the end of the decade. While still in a growth phase today, the trajectory is clear. According to CCS Insight research, 73 per cent of respondents are considering using a travel eSIM for their next international trip, including 86 per cent of those who have used one before, highlighting strong intent to adopt the technology as awareness and usage continue to grow.

For ISPs, the appeal of eSIM lies in its simplicity and its low barrier to entry. There is no need to manage physical inventory or build a new logistical layer to their infrastructure. Instead, connectivity can be delivered digitally, making it far easier to integrate eSIM services into existing platforms and customer experiences. Industry data presented at the eSIM Summit at MWC indicates that consumer use of eSIM services from non-telco providers while travelling abroad has grown by around 50 per cent year-on-year, highlighting a clear opportunity for ISPs to enter this space and launch their own eSIM offerings.

**A new revenue opportunity**

Offering eSIM as a value-added service allows ISPs to move beyond their core broadband offering and unlock new commercial opportunities. Mobile data plans can be introduced as an additional service, giving customers the option to stay connected wherever they are. This could include eSIM data packages, roaming alternatives or family plans that complement existing home broadband subscriptions.

Beyond revenue, eSIM can also play a key role in improving customer retention. By bundling home and mobile connectivity into a single offering, ISPs can create a more seamless and convenient experience. Customers are less likely to switch providers when multiple services are integrated into one platform, increasing overall lifetime value.

There is also a clear opportunity for differentiation. In a competitive market where many ISPs offer similar broadband speeds and pricing structures, adding mobile connectivity provides a tangible way to stand out. Rather than competing solely on price, providers can compete on experience, convenience and the value of services offered.

**From broadband provider to connectivity provider**

ISPs are well-positioned to take advantage of this shift. They already manage customer relationships, billing systems and digital platforms, which are essential for delivering mobile services. Adding eSIM connectivity is not a complete transformation but a natural extension of existing capabilities.

To make integration simpler, providers can look to partners that offer ready-built solutions. Mobilise offers two enablers to this revenue opportunity: its eSIM app for ISPs without existing app capabilities and eSIM SDK, which can be added to existing apps and portals. These solutions allow mobile services to be offered quickly and efficiently, without the need to build new infrastructure or manage complex provisioning processes themselves. Instead of lengthy development cycles, services can be launched in a matter of weeks, helping providers respond quickly to changing market demands.

As eSIM adoption continues to grow, the distinction between fixed and mobile connectivity will become less relevant. Customers will expect a single provider to meet all their connectivity needs, regardless of location. ISPs that embrace this shift early will be better positioned to strengthen customer relationships, unlock new revenue streams and remain competitive in an increasingly connected world. T

# 4iG Group and Grid Telecom sign MoU to strengthen digital connectivity in BalkanMed region

4iG Group International Digital Infrastructure Zrt. (4iG IDI) and Grid Telecom have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore strategic collaboration in wholesale telecommunications and cross-border digital infrastructure.

4iG IDI, business unit of 4iG Group, focuses on international digital infrastructure projects, and Grid Telecom — a wholly owned subsidiary of IPTO (Independent Power Transmission Operator) and a licensed wholesale telecommunications provider in Greece — intend to leverage their complementary capabilities. The parties plan to exchange specialized knowledge and best practices while pursuing joint development and operation of telecommunications assets to enhance connectivity between Albania, Greece and beyond.

The key focus of the discussions is the development of a high-capacity terrestrial optical fiber link between Albania and Greece. This initiative aims to create a resilient end-to-end digital corridor connecting both companies' networks and enabling enhanced cross-border and international connectivity from the Mediterranean Sea to major European Points of Presence.

Furthermore, the MoU provides potential collaboration with additional strategic partners for the joint design, procurement, implementation, operation, and marketing of a new high-fiber-count subsea optical fiber cable system in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas. The MoU formalizes the parties' intention to continue forward-thinking discussions and provides a framework for their anticipated collaboration.

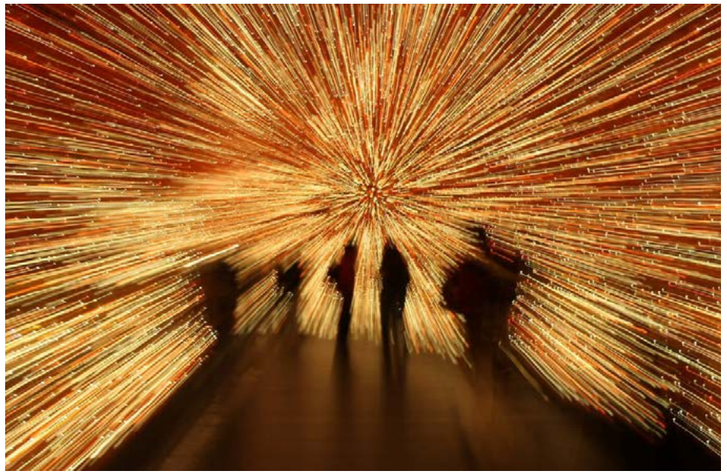
The Executive Chairman and General Director of Grid Telecom, Kostas Agathakis, said: "Our collaboration with 4iG in building new complementary terrestrial and subsea telecommunications assets between Albania and the Greek mainland, extending to Crete and beyond, will support the implementation of a new digital corridor, extending eastwards to the Middle East, and westwards to major European destinations. Moreover, it will enhance the strategic role of Greece as a regional open-access interconnection node in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans".

László Blénessy, Vice Chairman responsible for International Digital Infrastructure at 4iG, said: "This MoU with Grid Telecom represents a significant step forward in strengthening regional digital connectivity. By combining our complementary infrastructure and expertise, we aim to deliver resilient high-capacity links that will support businesses and economic growth across the region." T

# Ericsson tops Frost Radar™ 5G Network Infrastructure Market ranking for sixth year running

For the sixth consecutive year, Ericsson has been positioned as the clear leader in Growth and Innovation by Frost & Sullivan's "Frost Radar™: 5G Network Infrastructure, 2026" report. This recognition underscores Ericsson's position as a long-term partner for 5G evolution, setting the pace for AI-driven, open, and sustainable 5G networks.

The analysis places Ericsson at the forefront among the top 20 leading companies assessed in a field of more than 100 global industry participants.



The Frost Radar report identifies Ericsson as the leader in both the Growth axis and Innovation axis, highlighting the company's comprehensive 5G network infrastructure portfolio spanning radio access networks (RAN), transport, and core and edge networks, including traditional RAN, open and virtual RAN, AI-enabled RAN, and private networks, as well as its proven ability to scale innovation globally. It also notes the company's progress with network APIs as a road to new innovation around mobile networks and utilizing AI to automate its network offerings.

Ericsson's sustained leadership in both the Growth Index and the Innovation Index demonstrates the company's ongoing investment in a broad product portfolio, as well as its ability to turn innovation into large-scale, real-world solutions that customers can trust over time.

The report notes Ericsson's strong and sustained investment in research and development, with almost 21 percent of revenue invested in R&D in 2025. Frost & Sullivan also highlights Ericsson's role as a founding member of the AI RAN Alliance, and its continued focus on energy efficiency. Ericsson's target is to reduce energy consumption at new typical radio base station sites by 40 percent by 2025 compared with a 2021 baseline has already been achieved, now extended to 50 percent by 2027.

Energy performance improvements are achieved through a combination of network evolution and innovation across Ericsson's portfolio — from RAN modernization with high performing, energy efficient hardware to software innovations that embed intent driven and AI enabled energy saving features for intelligent network operation, and the continuous optimization of Ericsson's dual-mode 5G Core and Cloud Native Infrastructure Solution for the market's latest processors to reduce energy consumption, while improving performance.

"Being recognized once again by Frost & Sullivan as the leader for both growth and innovation reflect our continued investment in research and development and our focus on building technology that is scalable", says Per Narvinger, Executive Vice President and Head of Business Area Networks at Ericsson. "We apply AI throughout our full portfolio — from Massive MIMO and Remote Radios, to network management, Transport, OSS/BSS, and Core — and we already see major AI gains, enabling more open, automated, and energy-efficient 5G networks, supporting our customers' long-term network evolution."

Troy Morley, Industry Principal analyst, Frost & Sullivan Information, Communications and Technologies, says: "Ericsson significantly stands out in the 2026 Frost Radar analysis for its ability to combine innovation leadership with strong growth execution. Ericsson's strength lies in its ability to scale innovation globally across generations of mobile technology, supported by significant and sustained investment in R&D. The company's comprehensive 5G portfolio, leadership in open and virtual RAN, and progress in energy efficiency position Ericsson strongly as the market continues to evolve."

The Frost Radar measures growth rates in addition to absolute revenue and combines them with several other factors to measure companies' performance on the Growth Index. The Frost Radar measures innovation for each company by assessing its product portfolio, the scalability of its innovations, the efficacy of its R&D strategy, and several other factors. T





# Azercosmos and Viasat sign partnership agreement for in-flight connectivity services in the aviation sector

Azercosmos and Viasat have signed an agreement to deliver in-flight connectivity (IFC) services.

The parties will work together to provide modern, high-speed, and reliable in-flight connectivity services for airlines in territory of Azerbaijan.

The arrangement will contribute to the expansion of digital services, enhance connectivity capabilities in air transport, and further improve the passenger experience.

This cooperation also reflects the shared commitment of Azercosmos and Viasat to expanding advanced satellite-enabled connectivity solutions and strengthening aviation connectivity across Azerbaijan and the wider region.

Additionally, a business meeting between the partners was held within the framework of the Space Technology Conference ("STC 2026") in Tashkent, where the details of the agreement and future areas of cooperation were thoroughly discussed. T

# ThinKom unveils space-optimized ThinAir Nexus aircraft antenna

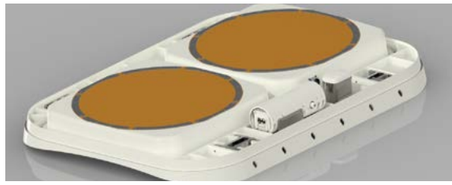
A new generation of multi-orbit inflight connectivity is ready to fly, with the introduction of the ThinKom ThinAir® Nexus, a compact antenna rewriting what is possible for airlines. Sitting at the crossroads of efficiency, size, power, and flexibility, Nexus offers industry-leading, flight-proven performance in a package size similar to single-orbit electronically steered antenna (ESA) solutions.

Nexus matches the size and installation simplicity of ESAs, while besting them in performance and capabilities. Multi-orbit, multi-constellation, multi-provider flexibility is built in. Airlines can confidently choose Nexus knowing that it supports gigabit performance for GEO, MEO, and LEO constellations today, with flexibility to add new networks in the future with a simple modem swap.

ThinKom's patented VICTS technology allows for an open network architecture design, supporting satellite constellations in every orbit and delivering the most efficient communications available. This allows service providers to deliver guaranteed SLAs across high-density hubs and sovereign regions where single-constellation solutions might struggle or simply be unavailable.

The company's VICTS hardware already supports existing GEO and NGSO constellations, including SES Open Orbits, Hughes JUPITER In-Flight, Telesat Lightspeed, and multiple sovereign networks. The orbit-agnostic Nexus provides a future-proof hardware solution that ensures long-term flexibility as satellite constellations evolve.

Airlines can choose from multiple modem options, depending on network needs. An integrated modem can join the KANDU and KRFU integrated on the antenna outside the fuselage for maximum simplicity and minimum interior impact. Alternatively, ThinAir Nexus supports a multi-modem



MODMAN as interior equipment, boosting constellation compatibility and network redundancy.

Nexus also offers a simplified approach to installation, with just four lugs on the fuselage. ThinKom continues to work with both Airbus and Boeing to ensure compliance with current and next-generation line-fit and retrofit installation requirements.

The low power draw enables Nexus to operate continuously gate-to-gate, even in the most extreme climates. As the coolest antenna on the market, it avoids thermal failure pitfalls seen more frequently in ESA designs. T

## IBM and Aramco explore collaboration to accelerate AI and innovation across Saudi Arabia

Aramco and IBM have announced their intended collaboration on opportunities to advance artificial intelligence, agentic AI, automation, material science and other mutually agreed domains in the industrial sector. The collaboration builds on a longstanding relationship and strong alignment around innovation, operational excellence, and solving complex, large-scale challenges.

The announcement was made at THINK Boston, IBM's global flagship event, in the presence of Arvind Krishna, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of IBM, Sami Al Ajmi, Senior Vice President of Digital & Information Technology at Aramco, along with senior executives and other distinguished guests from industry, the public sector, and academia.

The collaboration will focus on exploring the creation of practical, high-impact solutions, combining IBM's enterprise-grade technology platforms, consulting industry expertise and research innovation capabilities with Aramco's vast scale of industrial operations, extensive data assets, and energy-specific expertise and knowledge built over 90 years. Together, the organizations will explore applications of AI, hybrid cloud, and advanced technologies across industrial and energy systems, including industrial AI use cases in mission-critical environments. These efforts aim to leverage the organizations' complementary strengths to unlock greater value and accelerate innovation at scale.

Sami Al Ajmi, Senior Vice President of Digital & Information Technology, Aramco said: "Technology and innovation are central to Aramco's long-term strategy. This collaboration with IBM enables us to assess how industrial AI and other mutually-agreed domains can further enhance operational excellence and resilience, while reinforcing our leadership in Industrial AI—particularly in reliability, safety, and mission-critical environments."

"Combining Innovation and advanced technology represents the next frontier in enterprise transformation," said, Saad Toma, General Manager, IBM Middle East and Africa. "By collaborating with Aramco, we are exploring how emerging technologies are addressing some of the world's most complex industrial challenges, while reinforcing our shared commitment to continuous investment in innovation."

## Aramco Digital partners with Cumulocity to jointly deliver industrial AIoT solutions across GCC

Cumulocity has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Aramco Digital to expand the deployment of its enterprise-grade platform across the region. By combining a mature, scalable industrial AIoT platform with strong regional integration capabilities, the partnership is designed to accelerate production-ready deployments across asset-intensive industries.

The partnership is already being operationalized through its first deployment, with Aramco Digital implementing Cumulocity as the core platform for an advanced fleet management program supporting Aramco's operations in the Kingdom. The deployment signals a broader acceleration of industrial digitalization across the region, enabling scalable, real-time visibility and intelligent management of connected vehicles and industrial assets to drive greater operational efficiency, reliability, and data-driven performance.

"This agreement reinforces Aramco Digital's focus on delivering scalable digital platforms that advance industrial transformation across the Kingdom and the wider region," said Nabil Al-Nuaim, CEO of Aramco Digital. "By combining a proven industrial AIoT platform with strong regional execution capabilities, we are enabling organizations to connect critical assets, enhance operational insight, and translate data into measurable business outcomes."

"Aramco Digital's regional expertise and proven ability to deliver complex industrial digital transformation projects make them an ideal partner for scaling advanced IoT solutions across the region," said Bernd Gross, CEO of Cumulocity. "Cumulocity's industrial AIoT technology is trusted in large-scale, asset-intensive environments worldwide. Together, we are enabling faster, more reliable enterprise-scale deployments across the GCC."

Across the GCC, industrial operators are modernizing large fleets of connected assets across sectors including transportation, logistics, energy, and infrastructure. These transformation programs require secure, scalable technologies supported by delivery teams with deep operational and regional expertise. Through this agreement, customers across the region will gain access to Cumulocity's advanced AIoT platform through Aramco Digital's local integration, engineering, and lifecycle support capabilities, accelerating enterprise-scale digital transformation across asset-intensive industries.





## Presight delivers 22.2% revenue increase and double-digit growth in EBITDA and profit after tax in Q1-2026

- Growth driven by continued execution of multi-year contract backlog, new domestic contract wins, and continued international momentum
- International revenue increased 62.9% year-on-year and contributed 30.0% of revenue in Q1-2026
- Current proforma backlog of AED 4.9 billion provides strong forward revenue coverage

Presight has announced its financial results for the three-month period ending 31 March 2026, delivering double-digit year-on-year growth across revenue, EBITDA, and profit after tax.

Presight reported revenue of AED 689.0 million in Q1-2026, up 22.2% year-on-year, with 95.7% derived from multi-year contracts. Revenue growth was driven by continued execution across Presight and AIQ's long-duration contract base, new domestic contract wins secured during the quarter, and sustained international momentum, including multi-year deployments in Jordan, Kazakhstan, and Albania. AIQ contributed AED 205.3 million, representing 29.8% of Group revenue.

EBITDA rose 12.7% year-on-year to AED 159.0 million, with an EBITDA margin of 23.1%, while profit after tax increased 11.5% to AED 133.8 million in Q1-2026.

International markets continued to be an important driver of growth. International revenue increased 62.9% year-on-year to AED 206.9 million, representing 30.0% of Group revenue, compared with 22.5% in Q1-2025. International orders accounted for 39.1% of total order intake during the quarter, supporting continued diversification of the order backlog.

The Company's balance sheet remained robust and debt-free, with cash and cash equivalents of AED 2.0 billion as at 31 March 2026. Order backlog stood at AED 3.1 billion at the end of March 2026, with current proforma backlog of AED 4.9 billion representing a 45.3% increase since 31 December 2025.

*H.E. Mansoor Al Mansoori*

*Thomas Pramotedham*

***His Excellency Mansoor Al Mansoori, Chairman of Presight, commented: "The first quarter of 2026 marks another important step in Presight's evolution as a global applied AI company. Our performance reflects not only strong financial execution, but also the growing global relevance of sovereign, mission-critical AI infrastructure.***

***"What began in the UAE as a national commitment to intelligence-led transformation is increasingly becoming a blueprint for sovereign AI deployment at scale internationally. As governments and enterprises seek trusted systems that can operate securely, responsibly, and at scale, Presight is well positioned to deliver long-term value through intelligence that is actionable, resilient, and built to last."***

***Thomas Pramotedham, Chief Executive Officer of Presight, said: "Presight's ability to deliver strong, broad-based growth in a complex operating environment speaks to the resilience built into our delivery model from the ground up.***

***"As we look ahead, the fundamentals of our business remain compelling. Demand is growing for secure, sovereign, mission-critical AI systems, and Presight is well-placed to meet it. With a strong and growing pipeline, active pursuit of new domestic and international opportunities, and deepening sovereign partnerships, we are confident in our ability to deliver on our long-term growth ambitions."***

The Group has more than doubled its revenue over the past two years, with revenue growing at a compound annual rate of 62.1% since Q1-2024. This quarter's

growth was delivered against Presight's strongest-ever prior-year comparable, a period that included accelerated international deployments and a maiden first-quarter contribution from AIQ following its acquisition.

In Q1-2026, Presight signed nine new contracts and agreements with multiple UAE federal and state-owned entities, further reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in the delivery of AI-enabled government capabilities. Presight also expanded its presence across Africa during the quarter, building on existing partnerships and programmes across the continent.

Additionally, Presight's AI Accelerator Programme received 376 applications from 62 countries for its second cohort, more than three times the applicant pool for the inaugural cohort. By identifying and nurturing early-stage AI companies, Presight builds a pipeline of proprietary capabilities and solutions that can be integrated into its own platform and deployed across its sovereign and enterprise customer base.


The inaugural cohort demonstrated the commercial potential of this model, resulting in targeted equity investments through the Presight Shorooq Fund I in eight companies spanning sovereign AI infrastructure, vertical intelligence platforms, and secure edge-native agentic systems.

The Company's medium-term guidance remains unchanged, underpinned by a robust backlog, a high proportion of multi-year contracts, and continued momentum in international markets. For the 2025–2029 period, Presight targets organic revenue CAGR of 20%–25%, EBITDA CAGR of 23%–28%, and profit after tax CAGR of 21%–26%. T

## CMC Networks and AVANT Communications partner to accelerate enterprise expansion across EMEA with AI-powered networking

CMC Networks has partnered with AVANT Communications to support enterprises with connectivity across EMEA. The partnership provides AVANT's global partner network of advisors and enterprises with streamlined access to CMC's ecosystem of AI-powered network infrastructure and industry-leading customer support, with local operations in 64 MEA markets.

AVANT's enterprise customers can now leverage CMC's extensive coverage across a pan-regional network, supported by Africa's first AI-enabled core, to enhance service resiliency and simplify regional expansion. The partnership also empowers AVANT's Trusted Advisors to provide enterprise connectivity across the region at speed and scale with real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, faster issue resolution, and service delivery automation powered by CMC's AI operations (AIOps).

"We are thrilled to add CMC Networks to the AVANT portfolio. This partnership further strengthens our ability to meet customer demand across EMEA and reinforces our commitment to helping Trusted Advisors provide the most advanced and customer-centric technology solutions in the market," said Rob Merhej, VP of EMEA Sales at AVANT.

"Global enterprises are expanding into African and Middle Eastern growth markets, but they often face fragmented infrastructure, limited local support, and unpredictable service quality," said Mahesh Jaishankar, Managing Director at CMC Networks. "Our partnership with AVANT enables enterprises to use AIOps to improve performance, reduce downtime, and ensure superior user experience across MEA. CMC's thorough adoption of AIOps has reduced our customers' MTTR (Mean Time To Repair) by over 40%. This result keeps improving as the AI engine learns more and more about our customers and our network."

CMC Networks delivers networking solutions across some of the most complex and underserved markets in Africa and the Middle East, with more than 35 years of experience in the region. Its services include DIA, MPLS, SD-WAN, Ethernet, Satellite, IaaS and more, backed by on-the-ground presence in 64 MEA markets and 24/7 customer support. With AI-based operations, it uses real-time monitoring and predictive analytics to maximise uptime, control, and enhance user experiences. T





## Parkin collaborates with Glydways to integrate autonomous mobility into Dubai's parking network

Parkin has announced a strategic collaboration with Glydways Inc., "Glydways", the first company providing Flow Networks (AV2.0) to global cities, to deliver integrated parking and transport solutions across selected locations in Dubai.

The collaboration marks a significant step toward advancing first and last mile connectivity in support of Dubai's Smart City vision. By combining Parkin's extensive parking network with Glydways' Flow Networks that deliver direct to destination, on-demand, personal and non-stop rides, the partnership aims to redefine how people move across the city to support seamless end-to-end journeys.


As part of the initiative, select Parkin-managed sites will be transformed into multimodal mobility hubs, serving as convenient access points for Glydways' autonomous Glydcars that flow on dedicated guideways, creating high-capacity, on-demand flow networks that operate without congestion or stops and deliver passengers directly to their destination. This integration will enable seamless transition between key destinations, enhancing customer convenience, easing congestion and promoting more sustainable urban mobility. Focused on delivering advanced technology and introducing new value-added services, Parkin's new subsidiary, Parkin Mobility, will combine best-in-class multi-story parking solutions with Glydways' Flow Network, allowing for improved parking utilisation and location efficiency without compromising on access to destinations. Parkin Mobility will seek to introduce the next generation of dedicated parking solutions coupled with direct-to-destination mobility, delivering the ultimate in car mobility convenience.

The collaboration will also extend to digital integration, with Glydways' services including routes, real time availability, estimated arrival times and booking embedded directly into Parkin's mobile app and website. This unified platform will allow customers to plan, book and manage both parking and transport within a single interface. In parallel, both companies will align their customer support functions to ensure a consistent and seamless user experience.

Eng. Mohamed Abdulla Al Ali, CEO of Parkin, commented: "The future of urban mobility is integrated, seamless and sustainable. Through our collaboration with Glydways, we are transforming parking infrastructure into dynamic mobility hubs that directly support Dubai's vision for smarter, more efficient transportation. By bringing parking and autonomous travel together on a single digital platform, we are delivering a more convenient and connected experience for our customers."

Mark Seeger, CEO of Glydways, commented: "Parkin is one of the most recognized names in Dubai's urban infrastructure, and this partnership reflects exactly how Glydways is designed to work: embedded into the fabric of how a city already moves, not layered on top of it. Together, we are turning parking locations into entry points for on-demand, autonomous transit, giving Dubai residents and visitors a seamless connection between where they park and where they need to go, without congestion, without delays, and without compromise on experience."

As Dubai advances its Smart City ambitions under the 2040 Urban Master Plan, this collaboration positions Parkin at the forefront of integrated mobility, through its continued focus on enhancing customer experience through innovation. T

# Cintegral taps Taara's light-based connectivity to deliver real-time sports, broadcast and live media production

Taara has announced that its light-based wireless optical connectivity (WOC) technology will power Cintegral's ST 2110 Fiber-over-Air solution, enabling real-time TV and media production workflows on remote sets where cable-based infrastructure is unfeasible. In remote production environments, footage often has to be stored locally and physically carried to post for transfer, processing, and archive. Taara Lightbridge creates a high-capacity wireless bridge between those locations, allowing production teams to move data in real time across sites without laying an inch of cable.

Cintegral, a production technology specialist working with leading studios and streaming platforms such as Disney, Netflix, and Amazon Studios, has been validating Taara Lightbridge as part of the new ST 2110 Fiber over the Air offering. According to Cintegral, it seamlessly enables real-time streaming of high-resolution 4K JPEGXS and 8K RAW data between on location and production crews elsewhere on site, helping Directors, DOPs, DITs, Dailies, Editors, VFX, Broadcasters, and technical teams collaborate during a shoot rather than waiting until each shoot day has wrapped.

Taara will co-exhibit at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) Show 2026 alongside Cintegral, Cree8, and Lumen, demonstrating how wireless optical connectivity can support real-time media and entertainment production workflows. At the show, Taara and its partners will run a live Taara Lightbridge link from a nearby hotel rooftop into the exhibition booth, giving attendees a real-world look at how high-bandwidth, low-latency, light-based connectivity can be deployed quickly in environments where traditional infrastructure is difficult, slow, or impractical to extend.

"You shouldn't have to dig or lay miles of fiber just to tell a great story. With Taara, we aren't building networks - we're beaming them. We're giving production teams the power to deploy fiber-class connectivity out of thin air, exactly when and where the shoot demands it," said Mahesh Krishnaswamy, Founder and CEO of Taara.

The collaboration with Cintegral marks an important step in Taara's commercial story, showing how wireless optical connectivity can move beyond traditional telecom use cases and into enterprise environments with intense demands for throughput, mobility, and real-time collaboration. In this case, the focus is on media production, where teams

increasingly need to move large volumes of high-resolution video between locations quickly and reliably, without waiting for fixed-line buildouts or relying on physically transporting storage media.

"Our goal with ST 2110 Fiber-over-Air is to bring high-performance production workflows to any environment, without being limited by location," said Dane Brehm, CEO, at Cintegral. "What Taara's technology enables us to do is extend that capability to places where connectivity would normally be a bottleneck, allowing real-time collaboration between crews, directors, and editors on set." T

# euNetworks named as connectivity partner for the AWS European Sovereign Cloud

euNetworks, a pan-European digital infrastructure company, has been named as a connectivity partner for the AWS European Sovereign Cloud. euNetworks is one of the first connectivity partners announced for this new, independent cloud for Europe, and will play an important role providing private, direct, secure cloud access to customers.

Located entirely within the EU, the AWS European Sovereign Cloud is designed to meet evolving sovereignty needs within the region, including stringent data residency, operational autonomy and resiliency requirements. euNetworks is strategically positioned to support these capabilities through secure, direct connections that maintain data residency when connecting to the AWS European Sovereign Cloud. euNetworks is a specialist in data centre to data centre connectivity with a regional focus on Europe. Its Cloud Connect solution offers high availability with flexible options that enable security and resilience.

Marisa Trisolino, CEO of euNetworks said: "Data sovereignty is one of the most critical topics for businesses right now and this priority is only set to grow in strength, particularly in the EU and wider Europe where regulatory pressures continue to rise. euNetworks is perfectly placed to support organisations in keeping their data safe by providing secure access to sovereign cloud platforms. Our European focus, data centre to data centre connectivity leadership and high-performance, private connectivity mean customers can trust that their data is secure and compliant. We look forward to supporting AWS and their customers as a connectivity partner for the European Sovereign Cloud." T





# stc Group and ROSHN Group sign agreement to establish advanced fiber optic infrastructure in SEDRA Community in Saudi Arabia

stc Group has announced a partnership with ROSHN Group to establish a neutral fiber optic network infrastructure for the upcoming phases of the SEDRA community in Riyadh.

Under the terms of this agreement, stc Group will be responsible for the planning and implementation of the fiber optic network infrastructure. Meanwhile, ROSHN Group will oversee the approval of designs to ensure seamless integration with the community's urban fabric and the preservation of its aesthetic character.

This model enables all telecommunications service providers to offer their services through a shared fiber optic infrastructure. This approach enhances quality, improves operational efficiency, and eliminates the need for deploying multiple overlapping networks within the SEDRA community.

To maintain the aesthetic identity of "SEDRA," the entire network will be installed underground. The project includes providing backup connections for facilities, towers, and telecommunication stations, ensuring the sustainability of various service systems and commercial activities. Furthermore, this advanced infrastructure will provide residents with high-speed and reliable data transfer.

This partnership reflects stc Group's leading position in digital infrastructure and highlights its pivotal role in supporting mega residential projects and urban development efforts in the Kingdom. Simultaneously, it reaffirms ROSHN Group's ongoing commitment to developing modern, integrated residential communities. T

# Cellular IoT antenna shipments grows 23 percent to reach 757 million in 2025

Berg Insight has released a new research report covering antennas for cellular IoT devices. Antennas are one of the key components of wireless devices and play a central role in determining wireless performance, coverage and power efficiency. In cellular IoT applications, antenna design is further complicated by the need to support multiple cellular frequency bands, regional variants and in many cases other technologies such as GNSS, Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. As a result, the cellular IoT antenna market is characterized by a fragmented vendor landscape, broad product portfolios and continuous demand for customisation and technical support services.

Berg Insight estimates that annual shipments of cellular IoT antennas, including internal and external antennas, amounted to 757 million units in 2025, up 23 percent from the previous year. Until 2030, cellular IoT antenna shipments are forecasted to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.9 percent to reach 1.1 billion at the end of the period.

Berg Insight divides the cellular IoT antenna market into three segments, including internal antennas, external antennas and OEM automotive antennas. There is generally limited overlap between the vendor landscapes across the segments. Overall, the cellular IoT antenna market is served by a broad range of players of different sizes, with distinct portfolio strategies and varying degrees of specialisation in antennas. Some of the largest players have built their presence in the space through acquisitions, using M&A to broaden their portfolios and strengthen channel reach. Despite this, the market remains fragmented due to the breadth of end markets served. Vendors therefore range from major electronic component manufacturers to specialists focused on selected form factors, technologies or vertical markets.

The internal antenna market is characterised by a mix of off-the-shelf products and custom antennas. Most major internal antenna vendors have focused on broadening their product portfolios over the past years through new product introductions or acquisitions to complement or replace their custom antenna offerings, enabling more scalable and resource-efficient growth. A growing trend is the introduction of software tools for the design and selection of antenna components. Important vendors include Taoglas, TE Connectivity, Sunnyway Technology, Kyocera AVX, Pulse Electronics, discoverIE (operating through 2J Antennas and Antenova), Quectel and Ignion.

Major external antenna vendors focus on providing robust, high-performance solutions that command a premium, while carefully balancing size and cost considerations. Key external antenna providers are Amphenol (primarily operating through Amphenol Procom and PCTEL), Huber+Suhner, Panorama Antennas, Taoglas, TE Connectivity, 2J Antennas, Airgain, Mobile Mark, Parsec Technologies, Poynting Antennas, Pulse Electronics and Sunnyway Technology.

External antennas for the OEM automotive segment are supplied by both major tier-1 automotive suppliers, as well as specialist vendors. Most cars sold with embedded cellular connectivity come with roof-mounted combination external antennas in the shark fin form factor, though various integrated antenna and antenna-TCU designs are gaining traction. Important vendors in the space are Yokowo, Harada, Aumovio and Hirschmann Car Communication. T

# Infobip brings more than 1,000 engineers and reaffirms strong focus on AI


Celebrating its 20th anniversary, Infobip's DevDays shows how the business is investing in its people and platform to build AI into daily decisions

Infobip celebrated its 20th anniversary this April, bringing over 1,000 of its engineers from across the world for DevDays 2026, with the goal of strengthening AI competencies and exploring what it means to be an AI-first business.

The event showcased how teams across the business are using AI in their daily work to build more conversational, personal customer experiences that drive loyalty for businesses and brands. Over the last 20 years, Infobip has focused on helping businesses communicate better with their customers, at scale, across every channel.

As highlighted at the event, for Infobip artificial intelligence is not merely a future strategic goal, but an ongoing process already taking place at all levels of the organisation. Within Infobip's global communications platform, and a reach of more than seven billion mobile devices globally, AI is becoming an inseparable part of the company's strategy and is built into the way it develops products and goes to market.

Infobip's DevDays 2026 was a celebration of engineering excellence and made it clear that AI products are only as good as the people behind them, highlighting why it's so important to invest in people, empowering them with the skills and knowledge to work confidently with AI.

Izabel Jelenić, co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Infobip, said: "We have always been innovators, it is part of our identity and our culture. The combination of who we are and the direction technology is evolving gives us the opportunity to move faster, build better, and continuously raise the bar. Artificial intelligence must be deeply embedded in the way we think, design, make decisions and execute. That is why we place particular focus on developing internal competencies and a deep understanding of artificial intelligence at all levels of the organisation - from engineering to business functions - in order to build a solid foundation for developing advanced AI solutions for the global market."

AgentOS, Infobip's intelligent foundation for autonomous customer communications, exemplifies its AI-first approach. AgentOS combines AI agents, people, data and channels into a single environment to help businesses choose the right channel, trigger the next action and bring in a human when needed, all on Infobip's global infrastructure. T



## GLOBAL ICT, TELECOM & SATCOM EVENTS 2026

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| 20-22 May 2026 — COMMUNIC ASIA — Singapore | 24-26 June 2026 — MWC Shanghai — Shanghai, China | 13-15 October 2026 — NETWORK X — Messe Wien Vienna, Austria |
| 20-22 May 2026 — SatelliteAsia — Singapore | 31-03 Aug - Sept. 2026 — LEAP — Riyadh, KSA | 27-28 October 2026 — TELECOMS WORLD Asia — Bangkok, Thailand |
| 01-03 June 2026 — MVNOs World by informa — Amsterdam, Netherlands | 11-14 September 2026 — ib — Amsterdam, Netherlands | 02-05 November 2026 — GLOBAL MILSATCOM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION — London, UK |
| 02-04 June 2026 — SPACE TECH EXPO USA — California, USA | 16-18 September 2026 — GISEC GLOBAL — Dubai, UAE | 09-10 November 2026 — CONNECTED WORLD — Riyadh, KSA |
| 08-10 June 2026 — MILSATCOM USA 2026 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION — Virginia, USA | 05-07 October 2026 — CABSAT — Dubai, UAE | 17-19 November 2026 — AFRICA TECH FESTIVAL |
| 16-18 June 2026 — MWC KIGALI — Kigali, Rawanda | 05-07 October 2026 — SATEXPO — Dubai, UAE | 08-11 December 2026 — GITEX GLOBAL — Dubai, UAE |

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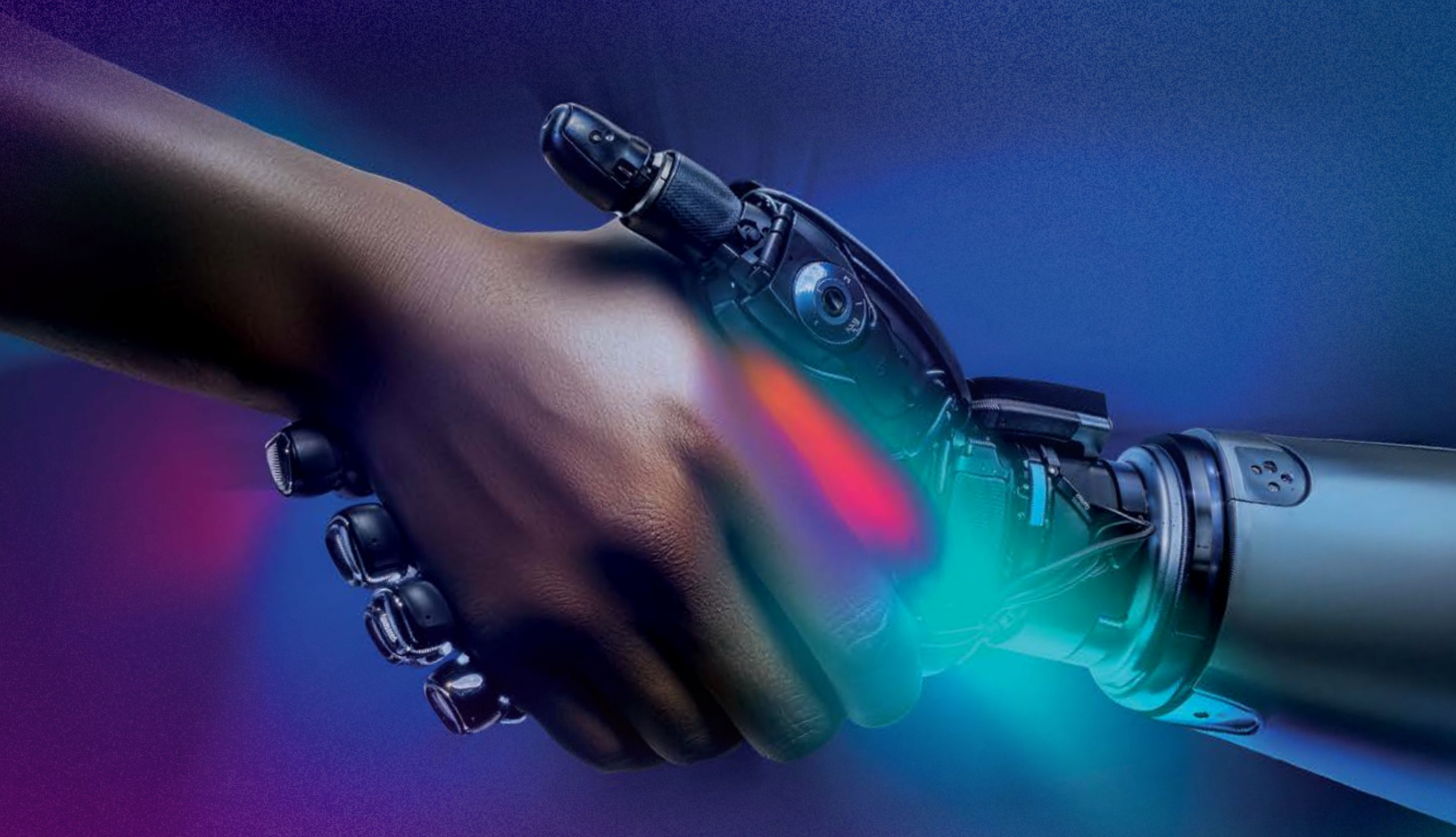

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