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are helping to shape Saudi
Arabia's sustainable future**

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Contents



Featured

- 08 stc's emerging technologies are helping to shape Saudi Arabia's sustainable future

Articles

- 15 Towards excellence in the Digital Economy
- 20 Measuring and Mitigating Cyber Risk
- 21 The 3 Key IT Trends to look out for in 2022
- 24 Is Eco-SIM unnecessary step in Telco Sustainability?

Reports

- 17 Huawei showcased Secure-by-design Safety and Security Solutions
- 18 OIC-CERT 5G Security Working Group announces new 5G Security Framework
- 22 SAMENA Council emphasized on re-energizing Sustainable Development and Universal Connectivity Drives at WTPF
- 39 Euroconsult estimates Global Space Economy totaled \$370b in 2021
- 47 Axon Technologies turns spotlight on Cyber Hygiene at Intersec
- 48 What awards did Moscow receive in 2021



Telecommunications

- 38 **Infinet Wireless PtP solutions used to interconnect Coca-Cola offices in Egypt**
- 41 **du deploys Ericsson's new radio to reduce network carbon footprint**
- 44 **Ooredoo Group and CK Hutchison create Indonesia's Second Largest Mobile Telecoms Company**
- 45 **Etisalat to offer first of its kind Digital Insurance Services Platform in UAE**

Satellite Communications

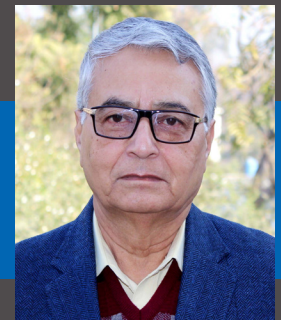
- 30 **ND SATCOM's SKYWAN 5G is continuously enhanced with new features**
- 31 **Total solution combining satellite and IP-based technologies from AsiaSat and OCGL**
- 33 **Intelsat and Partners Bring Emergency Connectivity to Tonga**

Events

- 26 **Aruba to turn spotlight on building 'Your Journey. Your Edge' at LEAP'22**
- 27 **Intersec 2022 concludes on a high note with strong international participation**
- 33 **4th Grand Blockchain Event to be held in Dubai**

... and much more

Editor's Note



Dear Readers,

This edition features a report on stc's emerging technologies and innovative ventures that are aligned with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and are helping to shape Saudi Arabia's sustainable future. Something which means a lot to me personally is stc's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint and become a green network operator - many of their initiatives are directly pointed towards a Net Zero outcome which is something that I really hope other operators will pick up. It's about time that our environment becomes the top priority for everyone in every sector.

The month of February brings our attention to LEAP Saudi Arabia - the ground-breaking event which is bringing together the world's greatest minds; from leading technology corporations, inspiring pioneers from global start-ups and venture capitalists with the means to make it all happen. LEAP is at the moment one of the Most talked-about events around the world and the excitement around it is simply unmatched. I cannot wait to participate in the disruptive discussions that will take place and I welcome you all to join the industry leaders in Riyadh from February 1-3.

Moving on, I would definitely recommend reading through the editorial "Towards excellence in the Digital Economy" by Safder Nazir, SVP of Digital Industries, Huawei Middle East. The article talks about the implications of digital technologies in the Middle East and how tech-focused thought leadership can help organizations benefit from these capabilities.

As always, you will find the latest news and updates from all major players in the ICT space in this edition. Your feedback is welcome on info@teletimesinternational.com

Enjoy Reading!

Khalid Athar

Chief Editor



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stc's emerging technologies are helping to shape Saudi Arabia's sustainable future



stc, with its partners, is now the MENA region's hub for digital goods and services and is the national enabler in KSA for the government's Vision 2030 – a revolutionary transformation that will see the country depend less on its oil by developing and diversifying its economy.

As we hurtle toward a more technologically advanced future the sands of the world's digital landscape are shifting faster than ever before. The way we use smart devices and consume digital content is continually evolving - NFTs are changing the way we buy products, the Metaverse will impact the way we communicate with each other and Web 3.0 will utilize ledger blockchain technology to decentralize the Internet as it enters a new phase.

By spearheading the globe's digital revolution, technology companies are some of the fastest growing in the world and

in the Middle East, it's Saudi Arabia's leading digital enabler in the telecommunications industry, stc that is paving the way, having been the fastest-growing brand in the region in 2021 after reaching a market value of \$9.2 billion . The company, with its partners, is now the MENA region's hub for digital goods and services and is the national enabler in KSA for the government's Vision 2030 – a revolutionary transformation that will see the country depend less on its oil by developing and diversifying its economy. To ensure the nation remains a thriving one and enriches lives for generations to come, sustainability has been placed at the heart of the Vision, and



Emerging technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence and augmented reality are already being used in innovative stc products and services while new tech such as IoT and cloud technology are proving to be accelerants in achieving sustainability goals.

given its crucial role in the development of Saudi's digital framework, stc has placed great onus on not only operating sustainably but evolving sustainability with the use of emerging technologies. The company is leading the charge in stimulating innovation and creativity through a range of important domains such as energy management and financial services, all of which contribute to sustainable living.

One of the emerging technologies from the firm is stcpay, which has allowed users to spend and manage their finances from their digital device was downloaded by over a million people in its first year

and enabled transactions to take place more sustainably. This was highlighted further in June last year when stc signed an agreement with Huawei to advance sustainable development and green initiatives in the KSA. Emerging technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence and augmented reality are already being used in innovative stc products and services while new tech such as IoT and cloud technology are proving to be accelerants in achieving sustainability goals. A host of companies in various industries are now adopting digitalized operations, which are proving effective in reducing emissions and waste. Apps are now a go-to for millions

of people around the world as a way of accessing essential goods and services, while giving the companies behind them a sustainable growth.

Digital products and services have the ability to change people's lives for the better, stc Group CEO Eng. Olayan M. Alwetaid stated:

"stc is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and become a green network operator, and we have taken several steps to achieve this goal and reach Net Zero. We have developed a Sustainable Energy Framework designed to take us through 2030."



"These steps will reduce our energy consumption and will include better energy management, monitoring, and reporting with clear benchmarks and KPIs. We will also develop renewable energy generation at our campus and facilities throughout Saudi Arabia.

He added: "Saudi Arabia has committed

our strategic approach and in our reporting. "We have made excellent progress in aligning our disclosures with international standards such as GRI, SASB, national standards, and the requirements of sustainability indices and rating agencies."

He went on to say, "First and foremost, mobile communications are the key

The urge to be sustainable has never been greater as our planet faces climate and environmental issues on a never-been-seen scale that has led to a fifth of the world's companies, including stc, to committing to being net zero by 2050.

Caring for the environment is just one of stc's seventh sustainability pillar, others

stc is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and become a green network operator, and we have taken several steps to achieve this goal and reach Net Zero.

to generating 50% of electricity through renewable resources by 2030 and reaching the environmental targets organizations are expected to collaborate and work together to achieve within KSA's sustainability goals."

He elaborated "Stakeholder engagement is an integral part of our approach. By engaging with our key stakeholders, we make sure that we address the issues of most importance to the business, both in

enabling factor in SMART technologies and applications; it enables IoT and AI-based infrastructures through high-speed connectivity and low-latency, real-time edge-computing applications.

"At STC, we also plan to reduce emissions through a combination of engagements with our partners in the value chain and by developing e-services that reduce carbon emissions by providing services over the mobile network."

include doing business with integrity, enhancing economic impacts, enriching lives and experiences, expanding access to technology and connectivity, advancing innovative digital opportunities, and empowering its people. The use of emerging technologies and the early integration of these in Saudi Arabia is already helping to shape the country's digital future into one that not only enhances humanity but also allows our planet to thrive once more. ■

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stc Contributes to Supporting Innovation and Promoting the Digital Economy Within the InspireU Program in the Kingdom

In the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed K. Al Faisal, Chairman of the Board of stc, and a group of government officials and investors, as well as the GCEO of stc Group, Eng. Olayan Alwetaid, stc celebrated the graduation of the seventh and eighth batches of the Entrepreneurs Support Program which carried the slogan "To go further" for this year, as it announced that the support of entrepreneurs in the program had reached the roof of 500 million riyals. This came as a part of its endeavor to support and develop entrepreneurship in the Kingdom with the aim of contributing to supporting innovation and promoting the digital economy in the entire technical fields. This occurred at a ceremony held at the King Abdulaziz Communications Complex in Riyadh to showcase the 20 incubated projects and highlight their achievements.

The GCEO of stc Group, Eng. Olayan Alwetaid, emphasized the role of the InspireU program in supporting entrepreneurs, creative youth, and their emerging projects in the field of digital transformation which is considered an essential part of stc's strategy in this field. He indicated that this year has seen a doubling in the number of projects incubated by the InspireU program while incubating two additional batches for the



first time in the same year, adding that the program has been able, since its launch in 2015, to support 75 start-up projects in various fields, which contributed to scoring a volume of financial transactions worth more than SAR 10 billion. As a result, InspireU projects benefited more than 40 million users and provided more than 600,000 participatory jobs in the local market.

The InspireU program is one of the most important business incubators in the Kingdom which provides many services to emerging projects through an intensive, high-quality training program provided by experts and consultants from Silicon Valley in several fields, including meetings with many entrepreneurs and mentors.

The program also provides office space for entrepreneurs to promote their projects with an opportunity to be present and participate in many events starting from workshops, national and international exhibitions, and helping projects to reach the best investors and investment funds in the market.

stc, through its work strategy within the social responsibility and sustainable development sector, focuses on activating the advantages offered by the InspireU program that aim at supporting entrepreneurs represented by small and medium enterprises, facilitating financing opportunities and providing administrative and technical support to develop the capabilities of these companies. ■

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As part of its Strategy for Sustainability **stc announces its accession to the UN Global Compact**

stc's announcement of its accession to the UN Global Compact aims to encourage companies around the world to adopt sustainability and social responsibility, to be one of the local networks of the UN Global Compact worldwide.

stc's accession to the UN Global Compact emphasizes of the sustainability strategy that stc adopts in all its businesses, to be one of the leading global companies that support the global movement towards a more sustainable future for the benefit of stakeholders in achieving the SDGs, and the success of the companies' future plans on the long run.

The UN Global Compact operates under a principles-based framework for businesses by aligning its strategies and operational processes with global principles including human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. This will take place by taking strategic actions to enforce broader societal goals like those of the UN sustainable development while focusing on cooperation and innovation, in addition to creating a local network and a platform for discussion and exchange of information regarding the UN Global Compact.

This is the outcome of the stc's commitment to sustainability in its comprehensive and

applying responsible business practices since it established a sustainability program in 2019 to ensure the continuity of business management using the most sustainable methods. stc's sustainable strategy, identified 9 goals that were effective in implementing a deeper level of conformity of its action strategy with sustainable development goals of global compatible priority including health, education, decent work, climate action and others. These goals were effectively achieved due to integrating the mentioned social, economic and environmental goals with stc's administrative systems, actions and strategy management so it can contribute positively to ensuring a positive future for all. **■**

Towards excellence in the Digital Economy

Safder Nazir, SVP of Digital Industries, Huawei Middle East

Over the last two decades, digital technologies have transformed our societies at unprecedented scale, changing the ways we live, work, and interact. The COVID-19 pandemic has only reminded us of this fact, teaching the world that it must build digital resiliency to prepare itself to better handle unforeseen, disruptive events. Overall, the digital economy as a share of the total economy has, in general, been growing and those countries with larger digital economies, relative to the whole, have proven to be more resilient.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the digital economy encompasses all economic activities reliant on, or significantly enhanced by, digital inputs, including digital technologies, digital infrastructure, digital services, and data. This can be taken as a broad definition. As such, the emergence and evolution of the digital economy is characterized by the dominance of digital business models and digital-native companies such as Careem and Noon. There has also been a clear shift, from providing mere services to creating experiences, allied to the rise of industry ecosystems that are scaled-up and integrated, using software platforms to deliver value.

Today, the impact of digital is visible everywhere, from accessing essential services and purchasing products through digital platforms, to the shift to virtual methods of learning and working. Indeed, the digital economy is vital to national



leadership because of its positive impact on national economies and job creation and the boost it gives to inclusion.

The Implications for the Middle East

The Middle East has made significant progress in adopting digital technologies over the last decade. Mobile broadband penetration across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is now at 100% and more than 50% of consumers in the region already shop online. In the UAE, 80% of digital payments are contactless.

Similarly, government-to-consumer interactions in the UAE, to take one example, are now predominantly digital, and there are plans in place to close half of the existing government service centers by the end of 2022. Indeed, the number of bank branches in the country has already fallen, by 34% between 2016 and 2020, coinciding with the launch of several digital banks, such as Liv., E2o., NEO, NEOBiz, and CBD Now.

Every GCC country currently has a national vision focusing on the development of non-oil sectors for economic growth, local value and employment creation, and social development. National leaders have recognized the importance of the digital economy in achieving such visions. For example, Saudi Arabia has launched a Digital Economy Policy that aims to have the digital economy's GDP share on par with other leading global economies. A little further east, the UAE plans to double the size of its digital economy in just 10 years. Indeed, all of the countries of the region have undertaken initiatives to realize ambitious policy goals, focusing on data, Artificial Intelligence (AI), the cloud, and 5G-enabled services.

Thriving in the Digital Economy

Organizations need to transition into digital enterprises to thrive in a digital-first world. Fueled by data, a digital enterprise provides personalized experiences to customers through digital platforms, backed by constantly evolving and expanding digital infrastructure. However, 62% of enterprises in the Middle East are yet to reach sufficient digital transformation maturity to take advantage of the digital economy. To get there, they must re-invent business models, create new customer experiences, reimagine work models, and innovate with partners. Such efforts often face significant internal challenges, which organizations must overcome through well-executed change management.

To start with, it's vital to recognize that success in the new economic paradigm will depend on an organization's capacity to collect, synthesize, and analyze data, along with the ability to apply resulting insights at scale. However, most organizations struggle to achieve such success due to the large volume and variety of available data. AI-based automation can enhance each step in the business intelligence and analytics process, from finding and preparing to exploring, analyzing, and acting on data. Such solutions can also help businesses re-architect into data-native enterprises, creating superior customer experiences and making more informed decisions.

Next, organizations must prioritize automation to address the global skills shortage. In the digital economy, organizations have to grapple with skills issues as digital technologies proliferate

in the workplace. To tackle the issue and improve organizational agility, digital enterprises are increasingly investing in technologies such as Robotic Process Automation (RPA), AI, and Machine Learning (ML). Organizations that effectively use AI-augmented automation to boost efficiency and contain costs will gain a significant competitive advantage as the digital economy evolves.

Finally, digital organizations must embrace the cloud. A digital enterprise's capacity to generate revenue depends on the responsiveness, scalability, and resiliency of its infrastructure, applications, and data resources. Cloud-centric digital infrastructure and applications are essential for any organization's transition into a digital enterprise. Many features needed for the digital economy are now only available

in cloud-based applications, requiring organizations to rapidly modernize legacy applications into cloud-native versions, to support new customer and operational use cases.

Embrace the Future

Today, a nation's future heavily depends on advancements in science, knowledge, innovation, and technology. Many countries in the Middle East are nurturing such advances by developing foundational elements — such as infrastructure, data, and skills — through investments in critical technology enablers like 5G, the cloud, and AI. For digitally determined enterprises in the region that have embarked on their digital journey, renewed focus on these foundational elements and technology enablers will reveal significant opportunities to thrive in the new world. **T**

UK banned Huawei because US told us to: Former minister



The UK government's decision to ban Huawei 5G equipment and services "had nothing to do with national security," and was because of American pressure, a former business and industry minister has said. Speaking at an event, Vince Cable, who served as Business and Industry Minister for five years in the coalition

government led by David Cameron, said that the decision against the Chinese tech giant was taken "because the Americans told us we should do it."

In July 2020, Boris Johnson's government announced that Huawei products would be removed entirely from the UK's 5G networks by the end of 2027, citing new advice produced by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

The move came just months after the United States imposed sanctions against Huawei on the grounds that it was acting contrary to US national security or foreign policy interests. The US barred Huawei from acquiring crucial components such as microchips and forced it to create its own operating system.

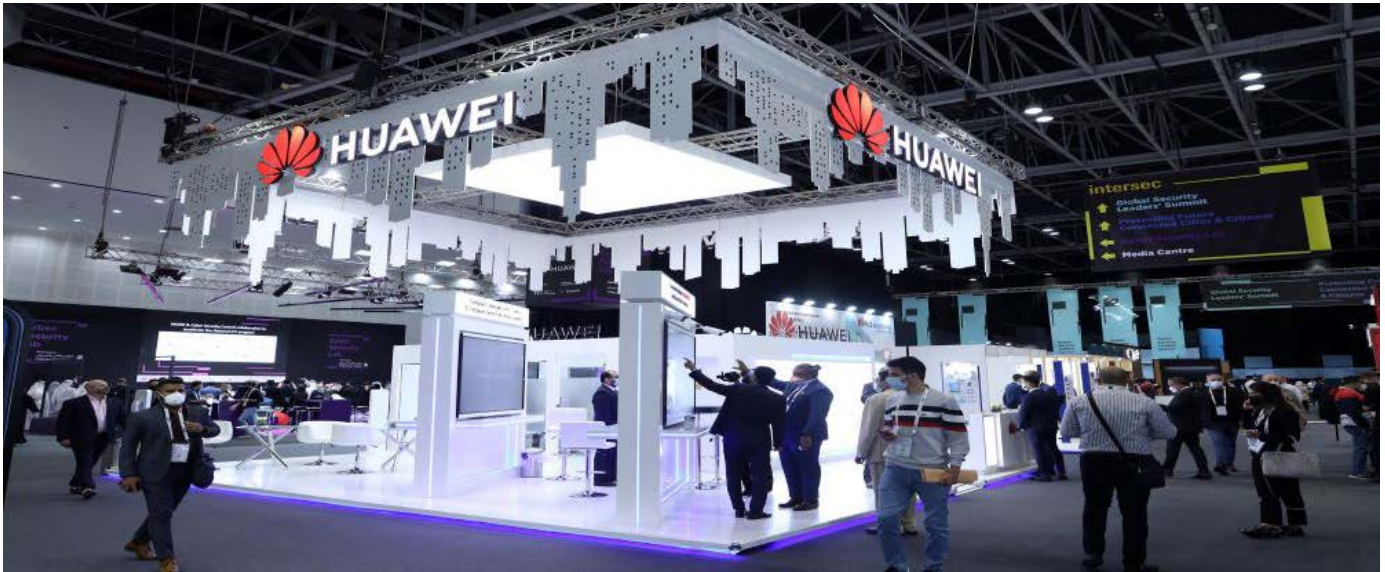
Cable, who has a reputation for being more sympathetic towards China than most UK officials, added that during his tenure as minister, the intelligence and security services gave repeated assurances that there was no risk posed by using Huawei services.

"If Britain had kept with 5G, we would now be at the forefront of countries using the most advanced technologies. And we're not," said Cable. **T**

(With compliments from euractive)

Intersec 2022

Huawei showcased Secure-by-design Safety and Security Solutions



Huawei, a leading global provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices, has showcased at Intersec 2022 the next generation of cybersecurity solutions, standards, and strategies to help organizations in the Middle East be secure from the ground. As part of the region's leading emergency services, security, and safety conference, Huawei is highlighted how it enabled customers to meet their digital transformation goals securely and resiliently under the theme of 'Safeguarding the Digital Future'.

The 22nd edition of Intersec took place between January 16 - 18 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, with participants from 120 countries, governments, and industry leaders discussing the latest security advances.

During the event, Huawei regional and global experts participated in various panel discussions as well as delivering keynotes on trending security topics. On the first day of the event, Gong Xiaoxin, Senior Cyber Security Expert at the

Huawei Global Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection Office, took part in a panel discussion on moving from cybersecurity to cyber-resilience, and the importance of deploying ecosystem-wide resilience plans. Additionally, Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer of Huawei UAE, has spoken on policing the "Metaverse" and addressing the challenges of securing a world where the boundaries between the virtual and physical domains are yet to be defined. Nadim Abdulrahim, Government Industry Expert at Huawei Middle East, has given a keynote speech on the second day highlighting how cybersecurity can serve as the foundation for tomorrow's smart cities, including innovative solutions that can help build safe, secure, and resilient cities.

Aloysius Cheang, Chief Security Officer at Huawei UAE, said: "The boundaries that existed between the physical and cyber world are rapidly disappearing. Therefore, all connected devices should be built on a robust cybersecurity foundation. We look forward to fruitful discussions with our peers on creating a secure, trustworthy,

and intelligent ecosystem to safeguard connected societies."

To further demonstrate its commitment to raising cybersecurity standards, Huawei has partnered with the Cybersecurity Lab at Intersec. The Cybersecurity Lab provides a platform where information security, emergency response, and safety professionals can collaborate around shared cybersecurity needs and objectives. Experts are networking, discussing, and evaluating best practice approaches and tactics to manage evolving cyber threats.

Huawei has long worked with organizations like the GSMA, 3GPP, OIC-CERT, and other industry stakeholders to examine emerging cybersecurity threats and promote independent certifications and standards such as the NESAS Security Assurance Specifications. In addition, Huawei is now driving the development of the OIC-CERT 5G Security Working Group (WG) aiming at enhancing cybersecurity measures proportionate to the threats emerging from digital technology advances. ■

OIC-CERT 5G Security Working Group announces new 5G Security Framework



In a significant milestone, the OIC-CERT 5G Security Working Group (WG) has announced the completion of the core OIC-CERT 5G Security Framework in less than eight months after the initiative was launched. The Framework, now in the hands of the OIC-CERT, consists of a 5G security risk repository, a 5G security baseline technical specification, and a cross-recognition assurance methodology.

The Organization of the Islamic Cooperation- Computer Emergency Response Team (OIC-CERT) is a platform for information sharing and developing cybersecurity capabilities for the members mainly among the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) community. It is an Affiliate Institution of the OIC. The OIC-CERT 5G Security WG is jointly led by Cybersecurity Malaysia, the OIC-CERT permanent secretariat, and Huawei UAE, an OIC-CERT commercial member.

Eng. Badar Ali Al-Salehi, Chairman OIC-CERT said, "It has been eluded on many platforms and occasions that the only way to solve the ever increasing cybersecurity challenge is through collaboration. The OIC-CERT 5G Security working group affirms this viewpoint and we are seeing

remarkable progress in addressing some of the security concerns around 5G in general." Meanwhile, Ts Dato Dr Amiruddin Abdul Wahab, CEO of CyberSecurity Malaysia, was of the opinion that, "5G is another disruptive technology that all parties have no choice but to embrace it. The OIC-CERT has overcome a major hurdle by defining the requirements in this framework for the OIC community and could not have come at a more opportune time as 5G matures worldwide".

Ts Mohd Shamir bin Hashim, SVP for International & Government Engagement Division of Cybersecurity Malaysia and Co-chair of OIC-CERT 5G Security Working Group said: "Our objective was to develop a set of guiding principles for the OIC-CERT members on how to address the emerging 5G security threat. Thanks to the support of the WG members and my co-chair, Huawei Dubai, we have delivered."

A meeting between the co-chairs and the OIC-CERT secretariat team is planned for February 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where the WG work plan for the year 2022 will be announced immediately after it is finalized in the meeting. The work plan shall address promotion and adoption of the 5G

Security Framework within OIC community and outline additional technical work needed to enhance the Framework. The document remains a work in progress due to 5G evolving technological improvements and new application scenarios and there are plans to give a technical presentation of the OIC 5G Security Framework during the GISEC in Dubai in March 2022, bringing the initiative to a full circle as the formation of the WG was also announced at the same event in 2021.

The 5G heralds a new era of digital transformation. But with this progress comes new threats and vulnerabilities because of the vastly expanded attack surface. Adopting IoT, for example, will add a new set of challenges such as the security, safety, and robustness of cyber and physical systems. Therefore, there's an urgent need to enhance cybersecurity measures proportionate to the threats emerging from digital technology advances. More than ever, cross-border collaboration is key to mitigating cyber threats and that is so true for OIC whose 57 member states are spread over 4 continents, a challenge that is exacerbated by the contrasting maturity of ICT adoption within the countries. ■

ISNR partners with Huawei for upcoming edition



The Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) will host and organize the International Exhibition of National Security and Resilience (ISNR Abu Dhabi). The upcoming edition of the event will see Huawei join as technology partner, offering their insights and expertise as a leading global ICT solutions provider.

The exhibition, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, will take place at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from February 21-23, 2022.

ISNR Abu Dhabi will highlight the latest innovations and solutions, strengthen commercial and business relations, as well as foster partnerships in the fields of National Security, Cyber Security, Policing and Law Enforcement and Critical Infrastructure Protection.

Saeed Al Mansoori, Executive Director of Capital Events, said: "We are thrilled to have the support of Huawei as Technology sponsor and partner for the upcoming

edition of ISNR Abu Dhabi. As an event where thought leaders, experts, and change makers in national and cyber security communities convene, ISNR Abu Dhabi is truly the perfect platform to identify avenues in which we can safeguard our communities and countries, as well as spark meaningful change in the industry. With the continued support of Huawei UAE, we are looking forward to witnessing the success and excellence that the upcoming edition of ISNR Abu Dhabi will bring."

Jiawei Liu, CEO of Huawei UAE said: "We are again pleased to be partnering with ADNEC for this year's International Exhibition of National Security and Resilience 2022. ISNR will bring the global cyber security community together to accelerate public-private collaboration for a safer, connected world. This mission aligns with Huawei's vision around cybersecurity. We regard cybersecurity as a shared concern and have long advocated for lasting partnerships to tackle a common threat."

He added: "The continuous digitalisation efforts across the world has led to a rise in cyberattacks, therefore, we firmly believe that in order to achieve a greater defense, we need strengthened global cooperation. It is not the responsibility of one company or country. We need to cooperate on unified regulations to protect the cyber space and ensure the digital economy is safely guarded."

Co-located alongside the Unmanned Systems Exhibition & Conference (UMEX) and the Simulation and Training Exhibition and Conference (SimTEX) for the first time, ISNR Abu Dhabi will attract several official delegations, consisting of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, police and security leaders, as well as a large number of visitors, officials, and decision makers – reinforcing the event's status as the most trusted regional platform.

ISNR Abu Dhabi is expected to see participation from 20 countries from around the world, welcoming more than 26,000 visitors. ■

Measuring and Mitigating Cyber Risk

Saket Modi, Co-Founder and CEO at Safe Security



As businesses continue to invest in digital transformation and base their business models on technology, cyber threats only become more imminent. Cyber Risk is no longer an IT problem, but a board-room concern. With cyberattacks disrupting business continuity, they pose a direct impact on the top and bottom line of an organization's balance sheet. Thus, making cybersecurity one of the top priorities of every organization.

Challenges with traditional cybersecurity approach

The evolving breach trends verify that complying to frameworks alone can no longer holistically safeguard organizations. Frameworks such as ISO, NIST, PCI DSS and others are used as reference checklists for cybersecurity and risk management practices, however, they provide limited visibility. Cybersecurity must be aligned in every organization; threats and mission-critical business needs, provided by products that deliver holistic and actionable insights. The Frameworks approach to risk-posture assessments is subjective, labor-intensive, and only offers point-in-time snapshots/assessments. They rely on a qualitative scale without any objective and quantitative measure to assess the security posture of an organization.

Similarly, Security Rating Services represent an independent source of publicly accessible data to support some use cases. However, these services don't provide a complete assessment of security controls, as their information is primarily sourced from publicly accessing internet IP addresses, honeypots, analyzing Deep and Dark web content, and individual proprietary data warehouses.

New approach to cybersecurity

Today, the delegation of risk decisions to the IT team cannot be the only solution and has to be a shared responsibility. The board and business executives are expected to incorporate the management of cyber risk as part of their business strategy since they are accountable to stakeholders, regulators and customers. For the CROs, CISOs, and Security and Risk Management Professionals to be on the same page, there has to be a single source of truth for communicating the impact that cyber risk has on business outcomes, in a language that everyone can understand.

This is where Cyber Risk Quantification becomes a game-changer. There is a need for a solution which integrates with the entire security stack and gives a measurable analysis that supplements decision making. This comprehensive information empowers CISOs and executives to make informed and timely data backed decisions to ensure the cybersecurity of the organization.

Continuous Assessment of Cyber Security is the need of the hour

Compliance and government guidelines mandate the move to go beyond periodic assessments and into continuous monitoring of sensitive and critical information. In such situations, a CISO may often be unable to quantify the maturity of the Information Security measures deployed in the organization. Continuous Assessment of cybersecurity risk posture lets an organization prioritize the key focus areas across their Critical Assets and most vulnerable technology, third parties or employees. This ensures that adequate measures towards holistic Cyber Security maturity are adopted throughout the organization.

Objectivity and simplicity should be at the core of a cybersecurity strategy

Cybersecurity posture cannot be represented by lengthy reports anymore. It needs to become objective and help decision makers across the organization truly understand the risk posture and the financial value of risk that the organization faces. It also needs to be free from IT jargons to enable the boardroom to have a clearer view of the risk posture, thereby facilitating data driven and informed decisions. Executives can get overwhelmed with excruciating details from multiple tools or people. They can now rely on all the data that has been collected and converted from these sources into a simple yet comprehensive risk metric that they can use to track and build their trust on.

Benefits of Cyber Risk Quantification

With quantified cybersecurity risk management practices, organizations have:

1. A unified cybersecurity strategy: Cybersecurity that is presently siloed, will have a single pane of glass view for security leaders to make quicker, data-driven decisions.
2. An objective metric of communication: The potential financial impact of a cyber attack converts its risks to a direct business threat. It becomes a simple and effective means to communicate risks to all internal and external stakeholders.
3. Real-time visibility: Dynamic visibility of what is going well and what needs improvement is enabled by a real-time cohesive output - breach-likelihood across people, process, technology, and third-party. ■

The 3 Key IT Trends to look out for in 2022

Sherifa Hady, VP Channel, Europe Middle East & Africa at Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company

The huge changes brought about by the pandemic were the catalyst for a faster pace of digital transformation across every industry sector. Now it's time for businesses to go from surviving to thriving.

Businesses have been made fully aware of how crucial digital transformation is to their future success and are looking to invest in IT services, support and solutions that match their new needs - distributed workforces, agile IT and all things cloud. Channel partners who can tap into these trends and offer guidance, services, and solutions, will be the ones to succeed within this rapidly changing IT landscape.

Here's our pick of the top three trends driving market demand in 2022:

#1 Network simplification

Distributed workforces and hybrid-working have led to complexity in IT systems and infrastructure. Applications and workloads are distributed across data centres and the cloud and at the same time, businesses have pivoted to meet new customer expectations within stores, such as touchless interactions. The combination of fragmented networks and unyielding demands puts businesses at risk of jeopardising the key benefits of new IoT and cloud technologies.

In 2022, IT teams will need to focus on network simplification, and channel partners can get a step ahead by offering a unified network operating system. A unified infrastructure, centrally managed via a single point of control, will help IT teams to effectively manage distributed network environments, while also delivering a high-quality user experience within a single architecture.



Network simplification is even more crucial since the pandemic has shrunk many business budgets making it crucial for IT teams to have capacity to manage distributed environments without damaging wider operations. By offering a unified infrastructure, channel partners can provide customers with new levels of operational simplicity so that IT teams can redirect precious resources to more business-critical areas.

#2 Cloud transition support

There is no doubt that the outlook for 2022 is for plenty of cloud. Recent Aruba research found that 83% of IT decision makers were looking to increase their investments in cloud-based networking over the next 12 months and data from Canalys reveals that the channel helped fuel a 33% increase in cloud spend in 2020.

Upgrading to the cloud is a complex journey and there is opportunity for channel partners to step in with new product offerings - and it's important to understand the deep need that customers

have for trusted advisors to help them with this transition. The process can be overwhelming - particularly if customers don't have the skills to understand the benefits of the cloud or whether it's more cost-effective for them to deploy a hybrid cloud model.

To take full advantage of the increased interest in cloud, channel partners need to differentiate themselves - guiding customers through the process, and helping them maximise the benefits of the cloud - perhaps via a support offering. This means developing a comprehensive cloud-based strategy to ensure they have the best tools and management software available to support customers.

#3 Shift to flexible subscription models

The rapid uptake of cloud technologies has prompted a widespread re-think of IT consumption models and we have now moved from hardware-driven revenue to a software-first market - essentially an SaaS-based economy. In 2022, we can expect to see heightened demand for flexible subscription models.

Recent research from Aruba found that customers are becoming more open to exploring flexible models of consumption. Only 8% of IT decision-makers said they would continue with solely Capex investments in light of the pandemic, compared to 55% who said they would look at SaaS models. With many key services such as deployment and decommissioning included in subscription offerings, these models give IT staff more time to carry out the more complex, value-add business tasks. It's vital that channel partners broaden their own offerings to reflect this new demand. **T**

SAMENA Council emphasized on re-energizing Sustainable Development and Universal Connectivity Drives at WTPF

SAMENA Council, represented by its CEO - Bocar BA, who also delivered a keynote in support of the Private Sector, participated and contributed to the Opinions adopted during the Sixth World Telecom/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21), held virtually in December 2021. The Forum brought together representatives from all stakeholder groups belonging to 90 ITU Member States, 40 Sector Members, including SAMENA Council, and various Observers.

Deliberations at the WTPF-21 delved into identifying actions that can be taken to mobilize new and emerging technologies and ICTs for sustainable development, as well as practical measures to boost universal, affordable and secure connectivity. Delegates recognized the need to re-energize sustainable development and drive faster and more inclusive connectivity, and to ramp up digital skills. The essential requirement for setting best policies and practices for adopting and utilizing new and emerging technologies and services to facilitate the use of ICTs for sustainable development was recognized as being crucial. It was also agreed that an enabling environment for the development and deployment of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies to advance sustainable development is critical for a sustainable digital future. (SAMENA Council noted that this was in accordance with the earlier acknowledgement by the global community of the role that the Telecom/ICT industry, especially the Telecom Operator community, has been playing in digital development worldwide and more so throughout the 2020-to-date pandemic response and future preparedness processes.)

Aligned with the Report presented by



the ITU Secretary General, Houlin Zhao, and Opinions 3 & 4 agreed to during the WTPF-21 regarding the need to adopt effective future-oriented policy approaches for building the digital future, SAMENA Council stressed upon two particularly important aspects for future policymaking and governance: One, adopting innovative and sustainable funding, financing and investment models that need to be much broader and include contributors apart from Telecom Operators alone and predictable and sustainable contributions from all those that benefit from infrastructure investments. Two, understanding and meaningfully utilizing the vast data flow landscape that now exists, and for which Policymakers and Regulators should help in the harmonization of data categorizations such as global definitions and data-related concepts; developing common technical data-related standards; exploring emerging forms of data governance, and agreeing on digital and data-related rights and principles

at the top of their data-centric policy and regulatory approaches.

Bocar BA, in his keynoted, stated, "Focusing on these two aspects will help establish a foundation on which the future of connectivity can be built. SAMENA Council suggests that the Policymakers and Regulators consider extending the regulatory sandbox approach to understand and address new challenges associated with cross-border data flows, which are an integral part of the global connectivity system we have recognized today for building a sustainable digital future for all."

BA also reiterated, "In the age of collaborative regulation, policy and regulatory approaches should aim to more effectively address the needs of the Private Sector, in particular of Telecom Operators. The success of the Governments and the success and sustainability of the Private Sector are closely interlinked. Consequently, in support of the Opinions adopted regarding future-oriented policy approaches, it is almost inevitable that we'd also need to focus specifically on the need for reducing Taxation and incentives in investment, adopting future-friendly Spectrum allocation approaches and rectification of Spectrum Interference issues and supporting innovation in the creation, adoption, and championing by the government sector of the adoption of new digital services."

WTPF-21 brought together policy-makers from across the globe, providing a venue for exchanging views and knowledge to create shared vision on issues arising from the emergence of new telecommunication/ICT services and technologies. It is the sixth such Forum, previous having taken place in 1996, 1998, 2001, 2009 and 2013. The Forum was convened at the request of ITU Membership to discuss new and emerging technologies. The Sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF-21) was due to be held on 16-18 December 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland. However, given the deterioration of the epidemiological situation and the announcement of travel restrictions and quarantine requirements in Switzerland and many other countries, WTPF-21 was only held as a fully virtual event. ■

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Is Eco-SIM unnecessary step in Telco Sustainability?

Shifting straight to eSIMs is a more strategic choice



Hamish White, CEO eSIM

In October 2021, telecom giant and leading global mobile network operator (MNO) Vodafone announced its new Eco-SIM — made from recycled plastic. Any sustainability feat is positive for the telecommunications industry, which contributes two percent of the global emissions in total. But why stop at recycled plastic SIM cards, when there is an entirely digital solution available? In this article, Hamish White, CEO of eSIM as a Service provider Mobilise, explains why it isn't too early to adopt an eSIM strategy.

Vodafone claims that by adopting Eco-SIMs across Europe, Egypt, Turkey and South Africa, it can save 1,280 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year. That's the equivalent CO₂ emissions of flying from London, United Kingdom, to Sydney, Australia — 427 times.

Striving for sustainability

Sustainability's importance continues to grow across all countries and industries. At the landmark climate event COP26 in November 2021, over 140 countries pledged to reach net zero carbon emissions. Telecoms will help other

industries reach net zero targets by facilitating the avoidance of carbon emissions and enabling the use of SMART technology. That is, devices connected to the internet that use sensors and software to improve performance and efficiency.

But telcos are also part of the problem. When it comes to sustainability, their own operations are not carbon-free, and a key emission contribution is SIM cards. Despite their small size, SIM cards' impact on the environment is huge. Manufacturing SIM cards requires large amounts of virgin plastic, and distributing the cards to customers globally creates even more emissions.

In 2020, 4.5 billion plastic SIM cards were produced. If they were to be placed in a line, they'd measure 11,250 kilometres — the distance between Delhi, India and Montreal, Canada. So, even though recycled plastic Eco-SIMs eliminate the need for virgin raw materials, the emissions related to the delivery of such a large quantity of components means that telcos using Eco-SIMs cannot call themselves green just yet.

eSIMs enter the chat

Eco-SIMs are a step in the right direction, but why stop with a temporary fix when there is already a permanent, digital solution? Embedded SIMs, or eSIMs, remove the need for a physical SIM card by downloading network authentication credentials that are usually stored on the plastic SIM digitally.

A McKinsey survey revealed that across the United Kingdom, 25 per cent of people tried a new brand for purpose-driven reasons, like being more sustainable than their competitors. So, for telcos looking to offer eSIMs now, they present not only an opportunity to keep ahead of the innovation curve but also drive their own economic growth.

For small and medium-sized telcos, making

the eSIM shift could be challenging, since a lack of expertise, technological inaccessibility and bulky processes continually act as roadblocks. However, Mobilise's eSIM as a Service solution simplifies the process and empowers telcos of all sizes to overcome these barriers and launch their eSIM capabilities quickly and easily.

Staying ahead of the curve

Widespread adoption of eSIMs is inevitable and at some point — all telcos will need to adopt the technology to remain relevant and retain their customer base. But, besides from being more sustainable, what are the benefits of becoming an early adopter of eSIM technology?

In terms of boosting brand reputation, being an early adopter enables a company to influence how the technology develops and have a say in its progression. It also helps telcos to establish a lasting name for themselves as a pioneer for new technology within the industry and presents them with an opportunity to develop their image as a thought leader that should be listened to among their peers.

From an economic perspective, being quick to market also corresponds to greater growth — according to Harvard Business Review, one in five 'pioneers' report growth rates of more than 30 per cent, where just ten per cent of technology 'followers' could match that. Launching early presents a window of opportunity for telcos to use eSIMs as a unique selling point, facilitating market differentiation.

While Eco-SIMs will temporarily improve telco sustainability, other SIM technologies can make a bigger impact. Eco-SIM adopters will inevitably have to shift to eSIM anyway, without the benefits of doing so as an early adopter. With financial, economic and environmental benefits abundant, is it time to take the plunge into the era of the eSIM? ■



Indonesian Telecoms provider installs long distance ViaLiteHD RF over Fiber System

One of the largest telecommunications providers in Indonesia now benefits from the ViaLiteHD Long Distance DWDM Link System. ViaLite Communications was chosen due to the company's ability to supply a reliable system with guaranteed performance.

The system was designed to meet specific requirements provided by the customer that matched the predicted results generated by ViaLite's software design tool.

Having teleports tens or hundreds of kilometers apart, in regions where rain fade and diversity operations are key considerations, allows the telecommunications provider to maintain satellite connectivity from either of their sites. With High Throughput Satellite (HTS) connectivity becoming a prerequisite where 500 MHz and 800 MHz bandwidths are necessary, ViaLite was able to exceed HTS bandwidth requirements using their long distance links.

Some of the key features of this



deployment include switchable fiber routes to allow for optical fiber redundancy and SNMP monitoring of both sides of the link from a single control room, enabling remote changes to be made easily without the need to travel between sites.

"Despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our team was able to support the installation using remote logins and by providing guidance with local engineers on site. The fully operational diverse system was installed across a

long distance with redundant switchable paths, and was tuned to meet performance specifications remotely," said Amair Khan, ViaLite's Business Development Manager. "We managed to not only assist installation of the system remotely but also train staff in the operation of the system at the same time," he added.

The customer said that the equipment was straightforward to implement and easily fine-tuned to improve performance as required on site. **T**

Aruba to turn spotlight on building 'Your Journey. Your Edge' at LEAP'22

Aruba, a Hewlett Packard Enterprise company, has announced its participation at LEAP, the global platform for the most disruptive technology professionals, taking place in Riyadh in February. Exhibiting under the theme 'Your Journey. Your Edge', the company will demonstrate how regional organizations in the Middle East can lay the foundations for hybrid working, digital-first experiences, and hyper-aware facilities by leveraging the power of Aruba ESP (Edge Services Platform).

Jacob Chacko, Regional Director - Middle East, Saudi & South Africa at Aruba says, "Saudi Arabia's intention behind hosting LEAP is to help the region lead and leapfrog with technology and innovation. According to Saudi Vision 2030, the Kingdom 'aims to increase its investments in, and lead, the digital economy'. Aruba shares the government's vision and is committed to enlarging its footprint in the country and offering solutions that will help government and private enterprises leverage data securely, increase efficiency in operations and services, and encourage innovation for a better future. LEAP is the ideal platform for us to showcase our 'game-changing' technology in simple, yet innovative ways."

At the event, Aruba will demonstrate its latest technologies addressing the digital transformation needs of regional enterprises including:

- Edge transformation in action: New Aruba ESP use cases will be demonstrated across healthcare, education, hospitality, finance, manufacturing and retail.
- Unified Infrastructure: The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transformation but created operational complexity for businesses. The company will showcase how its unified network simplifies network operations and boosts IT agility.
- Edge-to-cloud security: More remote workers means more applications in the cloud. Aruba will discuss starting a SASE (Secure Access Service Edge) journey with WAN and security transformation.

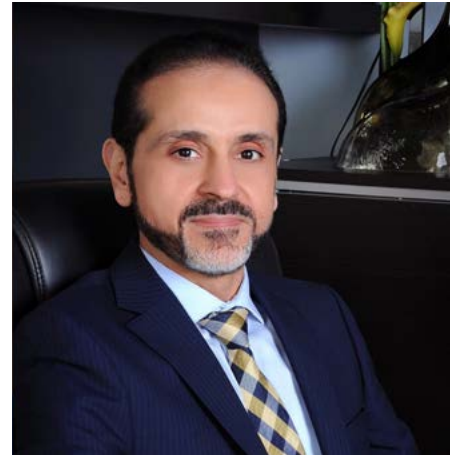


Jacob Chacko
Regional Director, ME Saudi & SA Aruba

- AI Ops: Event attendees can discover Aruba network's sixth sense – one that automatically monitors and fixes Wi-Fi, wired and SD-WAN environments.
- As-a-service: Aruba executives will explain the company's flexible consumption and financing options, to easily deploy new networking technologies in times of change.

Jamil Ahmad, Country Manager, KSA at Aruba, comments, "The Saudi economy is on a steep growth trajectory. The various government-backed smart city initiatives and mega projects like NEOM, King Salman Park and others are transforming the Kingdom into a commercial, financial and cultural powerhouse. Technology is the backbone of these projects and we see Aruba's solutions playing a very important role in contributing to the success of these initiatives."

"Different vertical industries have different technological needs. Our solutions are designed to address these specific imperatives and create value through transformed customer experiences and accelerated financial outcomes. We are excited to showcase some great demos and use cases in hospitality, education and retail to trade visitors at LEAP."



Jamil Ahmad
Country Manager, KSA Aruba

The focus of Aruba's participation at the event will be on Aruba ESP. It is the industry's first platform with an AI-powered 'sixth sense'. The solution is designed to unify, automate, and secure the Intelligent Edge and help organizations harness its immense potential. Event attendees will also be given an opportunity to discover Aruba's new EdgeConnect Microbranch solution, an industry-leading home office and small office networking solution for hybrid work environments that securely provides remote personnel all of the traditional services workers receive in-office via a single Wi-Fi access point (AP) – with no gateway, agent or additional hardware required at the remote site.

Aruba is keen to showcase the company's 630 Series Access Points (APs) – the industry's first enterprise-grade Wi-Fi 6E solution that enables businesses to become more connected than ever before. With organizations looking to lower their risk during uncertain times, Aruba executives will be educating attendees about Aruba as-a-service and Aruba network as a service (NaaS) options that offer business and IT leaders greater visibility, control, and flexibility across hardware, software, and management operations. ■

Intersec 2022 concludes on a high note with strong international participation



The 23rd edition of Intersec concluded on a high note with strong international participation from exhibitors, visitors, speakers and delegates re-establishing Intersec as the most important calendar event for the security, emergency services, fire and rescue, health and safety professionals.

The three-day event attracted thousands of attendees from over 100 countries, multiple MOUs signed on the show floor, six conference programmes running parallel, live demonstrations, business exchange & much more...

Security Solutions, Demos, Thought Leadership, Business Networking & more

Day 2 of Intersec opened with a breakfast

panel discussion with headline speakers Sir Alex Younger - Former Chief of Secret Intelligence Service, FC - Ethical Hacker & Social Engineer and Howard Leedham MBE - Former Royal Navy pilot and UK Special Forces Officer. The second day of the show received an overwhelming response from thousands of industry buyers across the region and the UAE.

Foresight Session - The Way forward in Homeland Security

With the ongoing support of Dubai Police and Security Industry Regulatory Agency (SIRA), Intersec's Homeland Security & Policing section dedicated itself to products and solutions for homeland security, law enforcement, airport and aviation security. Products presented at

Intersec included government solutions, detection, disposal, surveillance, control rooms, armoured vehicles, apparel, security consulting & training equipment, forensic solutions, laboratory equipment, drones, electronics, special forces equipment, armour, mine clearance and bomb disposal.

Cybersecurity in focus: How will your company be hacked? Secrets of an Ethical Hacker

Cybersecurity is an integral part of all modern security systems and forms the back bone of the safety and security of a nation. The cybersecurity lab is an international village of expertise, best practice and solutions that caters to those working in and managing cyber defence.



The 3 day comprehensive program of high level content, workshops and live demonstrations covered current challenges, future trends and the latest developments within the cybersecurity sector and also included the newly introduced Cybersecurity Lab, supported by the UAE Cybersecurity Council and Dubai Electronic Security Centre. The visitors got a chance to meet with global CTO's CISO's, Heads of Cybersecurity and System Integrators with real purchasing power.

MOUs signed on Intersec day 2

Numerous MOUs were signed on Intersec day 2, the notable among which are MOUs between Cybersecurity Council and Immersive Labs, Cybersecurity Council and Mandiant, Cybersecurity Council and CyberArrow (formerly EBDAA)

Featuring Hundreds of expert speakers | 6 conference pillars | attracting global and government leaders

As the world went quiet during global lockdowns the emergency services, safety and security professionals stepped up to protect and safeguard the wellbeing of millions of people. The Intersec community demonstrated agility, resilience, innovation, and a sense of ownership as they responded to unprecedented demands.

Every challenge presents an opportunity to innovate and ideate – evolving smart cities, increased cybercrime, population growth, technology transformation, environmental change and post pandemic response have an impact on public safety and security. Intersec 2022's theme is "Uniting For The Safety And Wellbeing of Future Generations" and is uniquely placed as the only event in the region bringing the entire ecosystem of emergency services, security and safety together at one time.

In this ground-breaking conference, an outstanding program addressing the sector's most vital discussions will be delivered by six action packed content pillars based around market challenges and opportunities to provide a place to benchmark, innovate, collaborate, ideate, and be inspired. Exclusive international headliners, unique discussions between regional and global leaders, technical breakthroughs, proven strategies and a focus on providing productive spaces for meaningful and productive learning, in addition to networking and collaboration.

Protecting Future Connected Cities and Citizens

Safety and well-being at work and in the wider environment has never been so critical. This was reflected with the changing and dynamic supply chains

where suppliers of the latest Protective clothing, PPE, air quality, ergonomics, occupational hygiene, occupational health, sanitizers, protective flooring – slip and trip, environmental and waste management, workplace safety, cleaning and general sanitisation, safety signage and equipment, staff wellbeing and regulations is rapidly evolving. Professionals responsible for keeping us and our environment safe whether at work or at leisure use Intersec to source the very latest products solutions and services; from building safety and facility managers to those responsible for cities, malls, and the workplace.

Perimeter & Physical Security

The section catered the need of governments and the private sectors, which are increasingly focused on security products and solutions such as border control, protective barriers, locks, access control protocols, security guards and many other techniques. Products presented at Intersec included: physical access, entrance control, electronic access, mechanical access, perimeter security, physical security, critical infrastructure protection, PSIM, gates, barriers, turnstiles, bollards, gate and door opening systems, roller blinds and related security devices, and electronic perimeter security systems. ■



New L-Band RF over Fiber Solution for Air Force Satcom Telemetry

The Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), in the USA, is a scientific research organization that is responsible for planning and executing the US Air Force (USAF) science and technology program in order to improve and develop new products and services.

The AFRL approached RF over fiber manufacturers, ViaLite Communications, to deliver a solution for a satellite communications downlink, transferring the L-Band signals through the ground station complex.

ViaLite's L-Band HTS links, in the standalone Blue OEM module format, were selected by AFRL for integration into their system. Compact, single link and available in RF bands up to 6 GHz, the links were an ideal fit. They can be operated as either transmitters or receivers and are easily mounted into existing equipment. AFRL explained that they'd decided on the links based on their performance, best in class quality and reliability.

Craig Somach, ViaLite Director of Sales, said: "We are pleased to continue supporting AFRL; helping with the advanced satellite and terrestrial infrastructure they operate across multiple satellite transponders and locations."

Craig and the team were also on hand to provide service and support to AFRL during the equipment installation process.



As well as OEM module format, the links are available as rack chassis cards (for use in ViaLite 3U and 1U rack chassis units), as Yellow OEM modules (designed for system integrators and equipment manufacturers to build into their own designs) and in the ViaLite Blue2 module which houses two links and can be setup to be a dual transmitter, dual receiver or transceiver. ■

ND SATCOM's SKYWAN 5G is continuously enhanced with new features

With release 2.1, SKYWAN 5G expands its capabilities with direct control of the ND SATCOM MFT 1500. Moreover, it provides automated over-the-air multicast distribution of software updates and customized dashboards to combine several monitoring parameters in a single chart. This facilitates analysis and troubleshooting and the preferred master option gives the operator full control in assigning the network control function to a specific site.

Change is ever-present. From climate to conflicts, pandemics to politics, ND SATCOM stand behind its customers to deliver on its reliability promise time and again, while pushing engineering boundaries to continually transform satellite communication. The SKYWAN 5G all-in-one solution represents such excellence by flexibly fitting all topologies, providing any-to-all full mesh connection, transmitting with single-hop efficiency, and scaling as business grows while keeping costs in check. This MF-TDMA modem with integrated DVB-S2 receiver supports both fixed and mobile satcom applications and remains the premium standard for satellite communication.

ND SATCOM continues to distinguish itself through its commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction. The launch of the ND SATCOM FLYAWAY terminal underscores the company's competitive advantage. One advancement that sets this new terminal apart is its operational wind resilience: it can withstand and function in very high wind speeds and during severe storms. Carbon was used wherever possible to reduce weight, enhance durability, and provide the extreme stiffness required for Ka-Band in high wind conditions.

For the motorized FLYAWAY version, engineers integrated the ACU into the SKYWAN 5G modem, thus minimizing equipment and enabling automatic pointing on SKYWAN or DVB signals. SKYWAN 5G is designed as an all-in-one



unit having all features on board. Hub, terminal, satellite network control, star, hybrid, mesh, or router – SKYWAN 5G has the capability to implement it. Functions are enabled on the fly by means of configuration and licence keys in a matter of seconds.

Changes are made failsafe thanks to the transaction-based change set, ensuring the network is always in a consistent state. Operators get assistance for software roll-outs by an automated distribution process now including multicast transfer, thus minimising effort for maintenance tasks.

Multi-Band FLYAWAY Terminal MFT 1500 ACU Support

ROBUST, COMPACT, MIL QUALIFIED
ND SATCOM incorporated another clear advantage: the latest version of the premier SKYWAN 5G technology. Customers value the proven high reliability and security that SKYWAN represents. The bar was raised here, too, by integrating the pioneering innovation of Adaptive Coding and Modulation (ACM) for TDMA, thus permitting transmission during heavy rains with adaptive bandwidth control.

For the motorized FLYAWAY version, our engineers integrated the ACU into the SKYWAN 5G with Release 2.1, thus minimizing equipment and enabling pointing on SKYWAN or DVB signals.

ND SATCOM pushed the engineering boundaries further by optimizing portability and product longevity for this new FLYAWAY. Carbon was used wherever possible to reduce weight, enhance durability, and provide the extreme

stiffness required for Ka-Band in high wind conditions. Both the unique 180° azimuth range and integrated feed-booms for various bands expedite setup and use. For an extremely fast setup, this terminal was designed for easy deployment and dismantling – time and again – while maintaining structural integrity throughout. The in-house R&D team in Germany designed and developed the new terminal, rigorously field testing the finished product as well as testing against stringent standards for military products. The ND SATCOM FLYAWAY is ready to go: whenever, wherever you are. The MFT 1500 terminal platform is designed for most demanding environmental requirements. With its modular design and rapid band switching capability with feeds for X-, Ku and Ka-band RF transmissions and integrated SKYWAN 5G Outdoor unit, it provides utmost versatility and flexibility and can meet almost all network requirements.

Assign Network Control Function to preferred location SKYWAN provides an integrated geographical network redundancy for the network control station (master) with automatic switchover between master and backup master in case of equipment failure or severe signal degradation caused by the atmosphere (i.e. heavy rain, snow, ice, sandstorms). The active master is assigned first come first serve and so far only switched in case of a failure. The optional preferred master setting gives now precedence to one or several specific ground stations to become active master in prioritized order taking into account administrative aspects e.g. location with optimized infrastructure or an operation center. ■

Total solution combining satellite and IP-based technologies from AsiaSat and OCGL

CTM, leading telecom service provider in Macau, has selected Asia's premier satellite solutions provider, Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat) and its subsidiary One Click Go Live (OCGL, formerly known as HERMES Live Technology Limited) to provide a satellite and IP-based total solution that will support CTM's initiative in creating a 'Digital Macau', one of the world's leading smart cities.

The complete, end-to-end solution comprises AsiaSat's global satellite contribution and distribution services and a terrestrial IP distribution to viewers' devices through OCGL's live streaming platform.

In a recent effort to bring live coverage of sports and events to global audiences, AsiaSat, CTM and OCGL have worked together to distribute live telecast and live streaming of the 68th Macau Grand Prix, ingested with commentary in real-time to achieve a macro and micro market coverage through low-latency live streaming on the event's digital platform and social media channel to audiences anywhere, any device.

"CTM is pleased to have cooperated with AsiaSat to set up a live streaming platform to deliver the Macau Grand Prix car race event to audiences worldwide. CTM is committed to providing a communications



Eunice Cheang
Vice President, Strategic Programs

infrastructure that responds to the explosive demand for communications and entertainment needs of Macau's tourist industry. This collaboration will mark a step forward for CTM in ushering the 'Digital Macau' and further fulfilling customers' needs for high quality live streaming services," said Eunice Cheang, Vice President of Strategic Programs of CTM.

"We are delighted that CTM has selected AsiaSat and our subsidiary One Click Go Live for delivering the live coverage of this world famous motorsport event. This was



Ina Lui
Senior Vice President Business, AsiaSat

a perfect occasion to demonstrate our capabilities in providing customised, total video transmission solution – from satellite-based contribution and distribution service through terrestrial IP connectivity and other value-added services provided by One Click Go Live for live streaming to a global audience anywhere and on any device. We look forward to more collaboration in the year ahead while we set the new trend of distribution solution for our customers," said Ina Lui, Senior Vice President, Commercial, Business Development & Strategy of AsiaSat. **T**

Satcoms Innovation Group announces plans for 2022 Workshop

The Satcoms Innovation Group (SIG) has announced details for its upcoming 2022 Workshop, which will be hosted in Florida in partnership with Micro-Ant, LLC. The workshop brings together people working at the operational level of satellite communications to discuss current and future challenges.

The workshop agenda will address the role of innovation in the future of the

satellite industry, bringing together industry professionals to explore themes such as flat panel antennas, the cloud, and 5G. It will deliver a range of presentations detailing the latest innovations as well as case studies and open discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing the satellite industry.

Helen Weedon, Managing Director, SIG, commented: "Industry events such as the

SIG technical forums and working groups are crucial in keeping the conversations around operational challenges going. Our workshops provide members with an additional opportunity to discuss the challenges and explore possible solutions for the sector."

The 2022 SIG Workshop will be held both in-person in Jacksonville, FL and virtually between 29th - 30th of March. **T**

Beam Budget release, special DoD enhancement

INTEGRASYS has releases the Beam Budget 2022 release, of its link budget tool bringing new capabilities for US DoD providers.

The new capability is focused on the DoD guidelines when calculating link budgets. Now the tool enables the users to obtain a tailor-made report which includes the required information, mandatory by the US Government Agencies, just by clicking one button.

This release includes the simple scenario, the full duplex (forward and return link), the network scenario (up to several 1000s of links simultaneously), and the full network duplex. The reports can be downloaded with the specific DoD format instantaneously.

Addressing The Challenges: Nowadays, one of the biggest challenges of the new LEO/MEO constellation penetrating US DoD market has been providing their services in a format that DoD could ingest, thanks to Beam Budget now Government integrators can simply quote LEO/MEO as GEO.

The Software company is committed to serving the DoD integrators with the latest Satellite technology, and in the following year, the main aim is to strengthen the relationship with integrators that supply the DoD needs, so that INTEGRASYS can provide them with the most accurate link budget technology available in the market. **T**

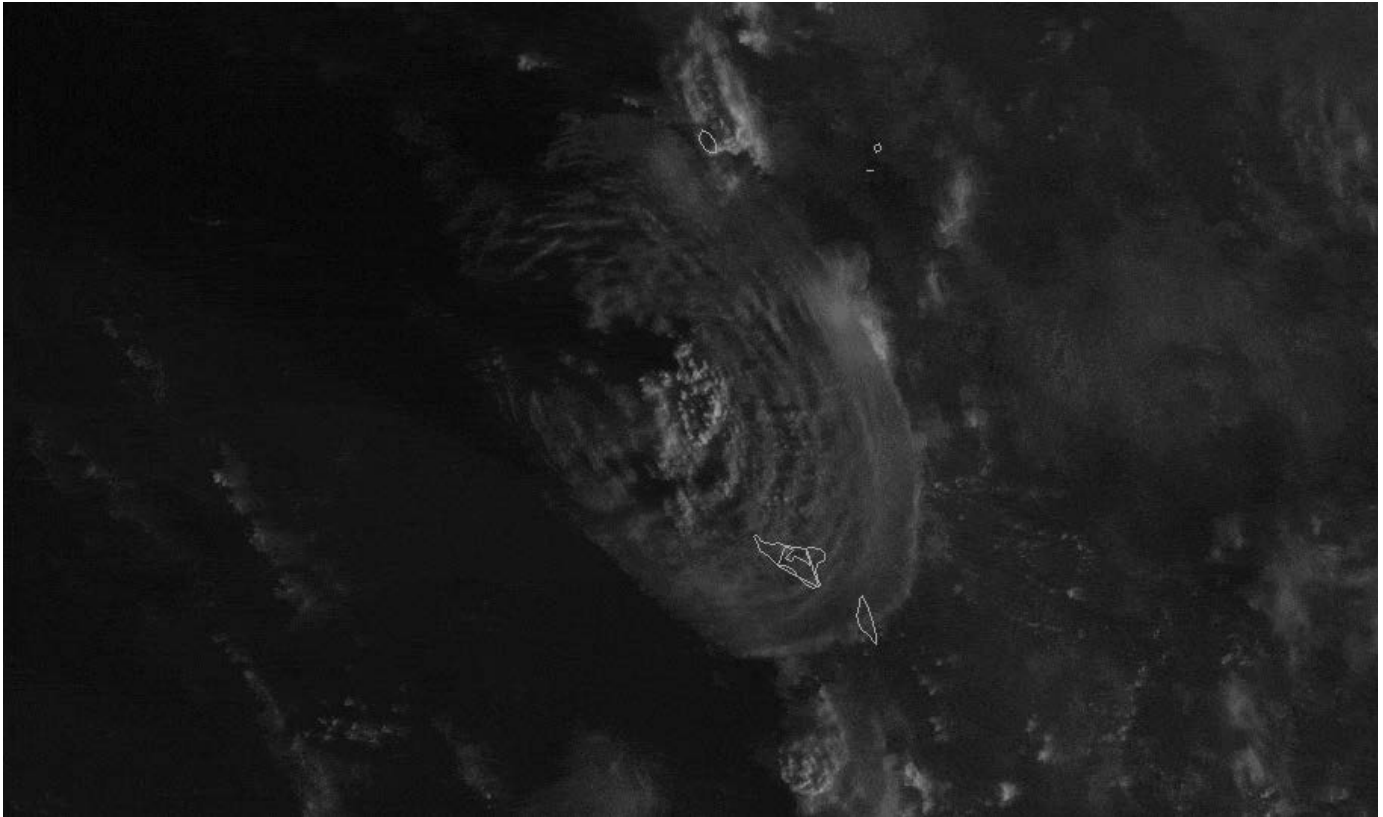
Link Name		Sample Task Order #	10-Jan-22
Satellite & Characteristics			
1. Satellite Characteristics		2. Carrier Parameters	
1a. Satellite Name	Galaxy 18	2a. Data Rate (including "Overhead") [Mbps]	1122.8
1b. Satellite Longitude [deg]	123.0 W	2b. Modulation Scheme (BPSK, QPSK, 8PSK ... others)	32APSK
1c. Uplink/Downlink Beam	my_2_G-18_KVUL/my_2_G-18_KHDL	2c. Coding Type (Conv., ConvRS, TPC, LDPC)	
1d. Transponder Id	Transponder 1	2d. Inner Code Rate (FEC Rate/Code Rate)	0.8906
1e. Type of Band (C,Ku,C/Ku,Ku/C,X)	Ku/X	2e. Outer Code Rate (e.g. Reed/Solomon)	
1f. Xpdr Total Bandwidth [MHz]	36.00	2f. Rolloff Factor/Spacing Factor	1.2
1g. UL Beam Polarization (V,H,L,R)	L	2g. Required Eb/No Threshold [dB]	2.6
1h. DL Beam Polarization (V,H,L,R)	L	2h. Bit Error Rate (BER)	
1i. Xpdr SFDR @ 0.05%K/G/T3 [dBW/m2]	-107.00		
Terminal Characteristics			
3. Transmitting Terminal Tx		4. Receiving Terminal Rx	
3a. Location Name		4a. Location Name	BEST location
3b. Terminal Id (Name/Number)		4b. Terminal Id (Name/Number)	
3c. Uplink Frequency [GHz]	14.20	4c. Downlink Frequency [GHz]	11.5
3d. Latitude [deg]	33.75	4d. Latitude [deg]	34.6
3e. Longitude [deg]	84.40	4e. Longitude [deg]	-83.6
3f. Elevation Angle [deg]	33.26	4f. Elevation Angle [deg]	31.7
3g. Tx Dish Size [m]	2.00	4g. Rx Dish Size [m]	2.6
3h. Uplink Tx EIRP @ Tx [dBW]	42.59	4h. G/T of Rx [dB/K]	23.4
3i. Satellite Footprint G/T @ Tx [dB/K]	14.67	4i. Satellite Footprint EIRP @ Rx [dBW]	53.5
Link Budgets (Including Rain Statistics)			
5. Uplink & Intermod		6. Downlink & Intermod	
5.a. Carrier Output Backoff at Tx Earth Station [db]		2.00	6.a. Carrier Output Backoff at Transmitter Transponder [db]
			6.6

DoD Excel Report some fields example

The screenshot displays the Beam Budget software interface. On the left, there are navigation panels for 'Link Scenario', 'Satellite, Transponder & Antenna Selection', and 'Input Parameters'. The main area shows a satellite footprint map over the Earth. Below the map is an 'Executive Summary' section with a table of 'DOWNLINK LINK' metrics. At the bottom, there are two detailed performance comparison tables for 'Scenario 1' and 'Scenario 2', each with columns for 'Clear Sky', 'Rain Up', and 'Rain Down' for various metrics like Predicted Eb/No, Excess Link Margin, and Power Spectral Density.

Beam Budget New Release Network Full Duplex Scenario Interface

Intelsat and Partners bring Emergency Connectivity to Tonga



McLean, Va. – Intelsat, operator of the world’s largest integrated satellite and terrestrial network, in cooperation with Telstra and Spark deployed emergency communications services to support humanitarian aid to Tonga and the archipelago for Digicel Tonga and Tonga Communications Corporation.

The undersea volcano, Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha’apai, erupted on Jan. 15, 40 miles north of Tonga’s capital, Nuku’alofa. The volcanic explosion and subsequent tsunami knocked out the undersea internet cables, disconnecting the region of 100,000 as residents sought higher ground with the onslaught of rising water and dangerously high waves.

Intelsat is providing space-based broadband connectivity on Horizons 3e

and Intelsat 18, while partners, Telstra and Spark, are providing the ground infrastructure, including VSAT hubs at their teleports, uplink, internet access and remote kits.

The services provided are now fully provisioned expanding broadband and voice services.

Additionally, Intelsat is providing services in conjunction with Optus to the New Zealand Defence Force, who will provide humanitarian support in Tonga.

“Communications infrastructure is essential to assisting the residents, coordinating medical staff and providing supplies, clean food and water and basic human needs,” said Intelsat CEO Stephen Spengler. “Our hearts go out to the

residents of Tonga and all impacted by this devastation, and we’re working with our partners to play a role in supporting the community in their time of need.”

Intelsat’s swift response is a testament to its communications infrastructure over the Pacific Islands, operational efficiencies, and longstanding commitment to serving the region. It is the quintessential demonstration of satellite solutions’ near-instantaneous communications activation in areas where disasters have crippled terrestrial networks.

In 2019, Tonga lost internet access for nearly two weeks when a fiber-optic cable was severed. Intelsat played a significant role in restoring the island’s restoration connectivity by providing satellite capacity on Horizons 3e and Intelsat18 at that time. ■

Skyline heralds innovations culminating into a new generation of DataMiner solutions



Skyline Communications, the world's leading provider of end-to-end vendor- and domain-agnostic digital transformation platforms, is rolling out a wealth of new DataMiner solutions. These will enable operators within the ICT media and broadband industry to increase their value proposition in a new data-driven and cloudified future.

The key ingredients for this new generation of DataMiner solutions are collaboration, cloud, artificial intelligence, orchestration, and process automation. Moreover, all these features are built on a sophisticated data acquisition and control plane. This fundamental layer ensures that you can easily integrate with new data sources and products at any point in time, and that you can do this in a scalable manner, without any impact on the entire software stack on top.

"While there's a lot to be said about the very exciting features and capabilities of each of these solutions individually, the real power and value comes when you

combine them. Each solution amplifies the value of the others because of the way they have been integrated by design," commented Ben Vandenberghe, CEO at Skyline Communications. "This mirrors the transformation we see in the world around us, where there is also a culmination of various individual technology innovations."

The need for innovation

Like many other industries, the media and broadband industry is constantly evolving because of changing business models, changing working habits, changing consumer behavior and expectations, and, of course, changing technologies. However, these new, transformational technologies aren't only part of the solution, they also pose many new challenges to data-driven businesses.

"The redefining nature of the technology evolutions emerging across the industry over the past years made it clear

that our users would soon be facing an entirely new set of challenges, and they would crave innovative solutions to deal with this," continued Ben Vandenberghe. "Just look at the ever-growing underlying complexity of an operation, the indispensable need to continuously evolve workflows, the far more distributed makeup of a typical operation, the ever-increasing risks related to cyber security, and the strategic need to run an operation across multiple cloud platforms and technology domains."

That's why, for several years now, Skyline has been meticulously designing and developing the foundations for some very ambitious innovations that can ensure DataMiner users will deliver exceptional ICT media and broadband services to their customers. "These innovations will truly redefine how our users manage their next-gen operation end to end, straight across all vendor, domain and technology boundaries, and across resources on the ground and in the cloud," according to Ben Vandenberghe.

The need for innovation

Over the past years, Skyline has earned a strong reputation of being innovative. And now, as a culmination of all these efforts, the company can boast a truly transformational platform. Out of the box and by design, DataMiner addresses key challenges, such as security, complexity, and multi-cloud architecture. At the same time, it also provides a pronounced open architecture with powerful enabling capabilities that empower users to evolve easily and continuously.

"In that sense, DataMiner has become one of the most valuable strategic assets for our users, as it enables them to tap into the full potential of all the other underlying transformational technologies, such as cloud, virtualized products, all-IP, and much more," concluded Ben. ■

WorkSmart for Events Management organizes 10th edition of the “MEET ICT Conference and BITEX Exhibition” in Bahrain



WorkSmart for Events Management in cooperation with Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH), will organize the tenth edition of the Information and Communication Technology Conference “MEET ICT” and the Bahrain International Technology Exhibition for “BITEX”, from 29 to 31 March 2022, at the Gulf Convention Center, Gulf Hotel.

Today, “digital economy” is a term being used for all those economic processes, transactions and activities that are based on digital technologies. Digital economy comprises of many digital tools used in today’s economic world which needs to be identified and addressed especially in the region. The next edition of this technical event will primarily highlight the critical role played by the ICT sector in economic recovery through the fields of health, education, transportation, and everything related to digital transformation, as well as the sector’s role in supporting economic diversification and increasing its contribution to the Kingdom’s GDP.

In MEET ICT and BITEX, participants will be able to view technology and disruption as an opportunity that opens the market and inspires innovative thinking. Participants can explore and analyze the world’s innovative organizations as well as getting first-hand exposure to how companies evolved into today’s industry giants. MEET ICT and BITEX is designed to help embrace technology to drive performance and productivity. Exposure to global markets will give its delegates and exhibitors a holistic perspective and an

opportunity to compare their landscapes, strategies, economies, and industries with leading organizations, as it happens.

The organizers extend their thanks to all the supporters of this event during the past nine years, especially the Minister of Transportation and Communications, His Excellency Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, the Labor Fund “Tamkeen”, and all public and private sector partners that continue to assist it in a way that adds to its long-term growth and helps accomplish the goals that everyone aims to enhance the performance of Bahrain’s ICT sector.

The next edition of the “MEET ICT” conference and “BITEX” exhibition will see a qualitative leap in terms of organization and program of events, as well as the keynote speaker. The organizers’ goal of attracting the widest possible participation from local, regional, and international companies to achieve the maximum possible benefit for Bahrain’s ICT sector, in addition to enhancing the ICT sector’s contribution to the GDP and supporting the policy of diversifying sources of income. We strongly encourage everyone that is working in the ICT sector to attend this event, as it will provide an excellent opportunity to expand their business in the MENA region, as well as to learn about the latest ICT trends by interacting with the conference’s elite speakers and monitoring potential business opportunities.

Interested companies can visit WorkSmart website and get more information and instructions about the event. ■

4th Grand Blockchain Event to be held in Dubai

The 3-day Blockchain Summit & NOORNFT & Art Show will be held on 15th, 16th & 17th February 2022 at Grand Hayat, Dubai.

This summit is a gathering of senior decision-makers discussing the impact of Blockchain and associated technologies on financial services. The summit brings together a carefully curated agenda of industry's leading voices to discuss and accelerate the development of Blockchain Technologies, DeFi, NTF, GameFi & Metaverse at the Blockchain Summit 2022.

Vertex Events CEO Pushkin Agha has said, "We are expecting projects, speakers, distinguished guests, sponsors and visitors from Europe, Asia Middle East, Africa, Russia, China and USA. This is due to the

importance of Dubai in the Crypto world, and the reputation that Blockchain Dubai has acquired during the past years."

During 2020, Vertex Events organized 3 Blockchain events, with renowned International Blockchain experts and projects / sponsors like TDeFi, Lukka, Lbank & Cashaa etc, and developed a unique network and recognition in the crypto world, globally.

Elaborating further on the current series of Blockchain Events, he said, "It's the need of hour, and Dubai is a natural choice for many Blockchain whales, and projects. With no income or company tax, cutting edge infrastructure, and crypto friendly policies, Dubai will definitely emerge as the crypto capital of the world. Vertex

wants play its role in contributing to manifesting that vision."

The lead sponsor of the event is Majestic Coin, which is the leading platform from USA founded Solomon Mwamba.

The highlight of the event is NoorNFT and Art Show - is a collaborative venture between HiiZone FZ LLC UAE and Arthur J Goldman UK. It is being built to be an Augmented Marketplace for the NFT minting, sale and resale for high value Art Investments on the robust Cardano Blockchain. At the launch stage, it will feature ArtNoor's NFTs and Physical Assets. More NFTs of many other prominent artists will be added over coming months after the selection, minting and curation process. **IT**

BT selects Rackspace Technology as cloud partner

BT and Rackspace Technology® have announced a partnership agreement to transform BT's multinational customers' cloud services.

Under the terms of the agreement, BT hybrid cloud services will be based on Rackspace Technology's cutting-edge solutions, which the company will deploy in BT data centres along with its Rackspace Fabric management layer. Customers will benefit from the integration of Rackspace Technology's cloud management expertise and automation, analytics, and AI tools with BT's world-leading network and security capabilities.

This will enhance customer experience and enable BT to further evolve its managed cloud services.

Bas Burger, CEO of BT's Global unit, said: "This innovative partnership with Rackspace Technology accelerates our plans to build a world-class hybrid cloud portfolio. It will deliver outstanding experiences for our customers and ensure they benefit from the best services, backed by our partner's leadership in cloud."



Bas Burger
CEO, BT's Global unit

Kevin Jones, CEO of Rackspace Technology, said, "This exciting partnership with BT validates Rackspace Technology's expertise in helping large, multinational enterprises in their cloud transformation journey and provides both companies with unique industry positioning. It highlights the enduring long-term value of a hybrid cloud model, as BT customers will now have



Kevin Jones
CEO, Rackspace Technology

access to the best of public cloud, private cloud, and traditional hosted environments alongside the speed, security, and resilience of BT's worldwide networks."

The companies have also committed to extend their partnership in the future to create new joint cloud offerings for their customers. **IT**



Dubai Customs kicked off the 5th UAE Customs Week 2022 under the theme "Leading Customs Digital Transformation" in conjunction with the International Customs Day, which is observed on 26th January every year.

The UAE Customs week (24-28 January) aimed to spread knowledge about the major role of customs sector in facilitating trade and securing the borders.

The event started with a virtual ceremony in the presence of Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, Director General of Dubai Customs, who delivered the welcoming note, followed by notes and presentations for different customs and digital entities.

In the event, Dubai Customs launched 32 initiatives and activities organized by 13 customs centers and departments, as well as 4 major projects following the vision of Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai which calls for active involvement in the 4th industrial revolution.

The Customs Week events included the



organization of the International Customs Day Forum on 26th January, which hosted a panel to discuss future developments in customs digital transformation and witnessed the participation of representatives of international customs organizations and Dubai external trade and the role of global partners in it.

The panel included a presentation about the World Logistics Passport initiative and cooperation between government departments in the UAE in protecting the

society, and Dubai Customs' vision around the development of its digital customs services.

Over the 5th UAE Customs Week, customs centers and departments organized several activities including workshops, and meetings with clients and partners. At the end of the Week, there was a virtual ceremony and a media campaign to raise awareness around Dubai Customs' digital transformation journey.

"This year's event has gained special importance with the UAE proceeding into the next 50 years of its progress journey", said Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, CEO of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation, Director General of Dubai Customs.

"The country has recently celebrated its 50th Union Day, and our wise leadership launched the Projects of the 50 that aim to accelerate the UAE's development and transform it into a comprehensive hub in all sectors and establish its status as an ideal destination for talents and investors. To keep up with this, we work hard to maintain distinction in customs field, and our events at the Customs Week will be a reflection of that," he concluded. ■

Infinet Wireless PtP solutions used to interconnect Coca-Cola offices in Egypt

Infinet Wireless has helped Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt to proficiently interconnect its offices, having provided the reliability and steadiness of the links. The enterprise needed to interconnect 26 locations, so the Coca-Cola Bottling Company chose InfiLINK 2x2, a versatile and adaptable Point-to-Point solution, perfect for a range of applications. Infinet Wireless products caught the client's attention because of their scalability in terms of the distance, as well as capacity, compared to competitors and taking into account the price and total cost of ownership.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt is the largest soft drinks bottling company in the region, with more than 10,000 employees, executing manufacture and distribution operations for the Coca-Cola drinks in Egypt exclusively. The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt endeavors to enhance every aspect of the product and package quality through adapting and maintaining the highest standards, strengthening the production and distribution systems.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt is a joint venture multinational company, formed of more than 10,000 employees allocated among the Head Office, 5 manufacturing plants and 42 depot facilities all over Egypt. The employees are the most important asset of the company, as long as the business is built primarily on qualified people working as a team to achieve goals and maintain success and growth.

It was intended to set up a backbone scenario for the fiber and leased line connectivity. This backbone network was meant to be built with the aid of Telecom Egypt's, the primary telephone company in the country, and its Fiber Optic Network. Broadband wireless access should be utilized as a last mile connectivity mechanism. The goal was to obtain stable and reliable connectivity of the branches as well as the timely support.



Wael Kenaway, the IT Network and Communications Manager at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt, responsible for the entire project, explored available options from different vendors and finally selected Infinet Wireless products. NextGen Communications, a well-known local telecommunications system integrator, was an intermediary partner who conducted consultations, comparing products and reviewing key features as well as prices. The implementation process, with all the negotiations and calibration included, was carried on in a three months period.

In the scope of those three months, the probability of establishing the connectivity with the help of Telecom Egypt central offices was estimated. Bearing in mind heights of the buildings and the interference they cause, the engineers successfully completed the project, launching the network between all the branches, without any additional training. Radio links built with InfiLINK 2x2, 1 to 8 km long, were deployed between all the branches via Telecom Egypt central offices. Each central office was connected to another one via VPN.

It was vital to provide smooth transfer of the critical data, having established

the unalterable connectivity between all the branches of the company. Quickly deployable cost-effective solution was just the right thing to overcome the connectivity issue. Having it fixed, the client is planning to extend the current network infrastructure for better efficiency.

"Infinet Wireless offers products which, along with the design and support by NextGen Communications, succeeded to bring the magical blend of quality and cost-effective broadband wireless access connectivity that tackled all our requirements and met our expectations, helping have our branches interconnected across the whole country," Wael Kenaway, the IT Network and Communications Manager at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt, commented.

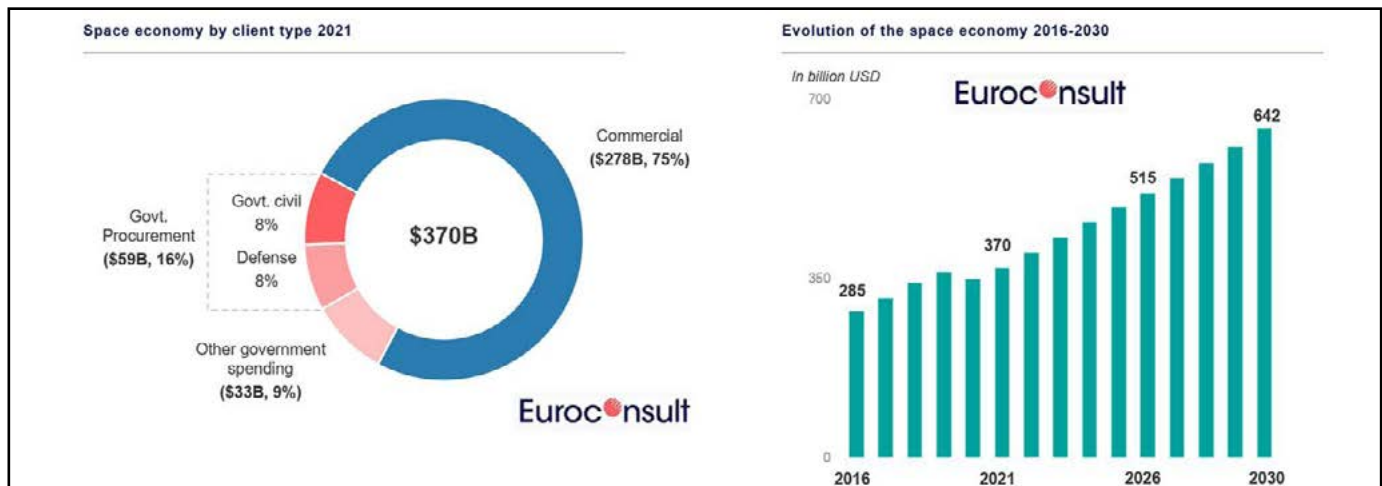
"As part of the huge infrastructure development, Coca-Cola Egypt has started the digital transformation journey for its 43 links across the country. Following a full assessment of a number of vendor options available in the market, Coca-Cola Egypt selected Infinet Wireless solutions as the most advantageous solution to meet their requirements," Sherif El-Shazly, Business Development Director at NextGen Communications, wrapped up. ■

Euroconsult estimates Global Space Economy totaled \$370b in 2021

Leading space consulting and market intelligence firm Euroconsult has released its annual "Space Economy Report" for 2021. In its latest edition, Euroconsult estimates that the global space economy totaled \$370 billion in 2021. This number consists of:

1. The space market (\$337B in 2021) which includes commercial space revenues and government procurement for their space activities contracted to the private sector.
2. Other spending from government organizations (\$33B) to conduct their space activities (internal costs and R&D).

The space economy is expected to grow by 74% by 2030 to reach \$642B (6.3% CAGR) renewing its strong growth pattern following a 4% decrease in 2020 under the effect of the covid crisis impact on commercial space services.



The global space market is valued at \$337B in 2021 up 6% v. 2020, i.e., a market value comparable to 2019 prior to covid crisis which impacted satellite service revenues in 2020. The largest revenue drivers remain satellite navigation and communications which account for 50% and 41% of the total market value respectively, driven by B2C applications. In comparison, EO still accounts for a marginal 5% of the total value but with a much higher proportion upstream. Satnav has surpassed satcom, growing from about 37% of the total revenues in 2016 to over 50% in 2021, largely due to services enabled by GNSS services and their related devices.



Key Impacts

The Space Economy Report 2021 covers the entire space value chain, with key facts and figures and concise analysis of upstream satellite manufacturing and launch services, as well as downstream satellite operations and satellite services. For the first time ever, Premium customers now benefit from the full range of KPI and all the data behind the graphs. In addition, the report is available on Euroconsult's Digital Platform to facilitate rapid access and clear data visualizations, allowing clients to get a detailed and comprehensive understanding of the space economy in 2021 including main trends, strategic analysis, and growth drivers. **■**

United Arab Bank implements Complete Data Protection for Data Backup, Replication, and Disaster Recovery with Commvault

Commvault, a recognized global enterprise software leader in the management of data across cloud and on-premise environments, has been selected by United Arab Bank (UAB) to implement Commvault Complete Data Protection, with built-in ransomware protection for all their workloads, across the whole organization.

United Arab Bank decided to partner with Commvault to install Complete Data Protection as a single, powerful backup software solution for data protection. UAB, a leading financial solutions provider in the UAE, will benefit from comprehensive on-prem, public cloud, and hybrid multi-cloud workload coverage from a single platform and user interface.

All backup, archive, replication, disaster recovery, across all the bank's environments will be covered including seamlessly integrating with IBM AS400 and AIX systems, Commvault will offer UAB support for legacy and modern workloads within a single solution.

Fady Richmany, Regional Vice President and General Manager at Commvault said, "We are proud to be working with one of the most respected banks in the region. Commvault Complete Data Protection will equip United Arab Bank with a single, unified solution for backup, archive, replication, disaster recovery, and built-in ransomware protection for all their workloads."

Ayman AlQudsi, Chief Information Officer at United Arab Bank commented: "We selected Commvault for its industry-leading unified data management offering. The solutions will play an important role in improving our operations and systems



Fady Richmany
Regional VP and GM, Commvault



Ayman AlQudsi
CIO, United Arab Bank



across our offices and branches. We have implemented Commvault's latest technologies to drive efficiencies and we look forward to seeing the results".

Commvault Complete Data Protection

helps ensure data availability and business continuity across on-premises and cloud environments. The solution is easily managed through a web-based user interface with role-based access control, enabling fully-permissioned self-service. **IT**

du deploys Ericsson's new radio to reduce network carbon footprint

Ericsson has partnered with du, from Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company (EITC) to deliver its latest generation of 5G radio solutions as part of du's network. The strategic partnership aims to reduce network energy consumption while du continues to deploy 5G aggressively in the UAE.

This collaboration is part of du's plan to simplify network rollout and efficiently manage the expected growth in data traffic over its 5G network and is aligned with the UAE's long-term sustainability strategy. As part of this partnership, Ericsson demonstrated reduced power consumption benefits using its ultralight Massive MIMO radios. This will also allow du to leverage their 5G spectral assets to roll out services quickly, efficiently, and deliver 5G user experiences for subscribers

Saleem AlBlooshi, Chief Technology Officer, du says: "At du, we seek to build modern networks that bring about positive transformations in sustainability and in enhancing the efficiency of operations, to meet the demands of our customers at present and in the future. Network modernization meets the long-term strategic goals of reducing the carbon footprint and implementing the best practices in sustainability through deploying modern technological features that meet the highest standards of sustainability in various operational aspects." he further said, "Our cooperation with Ericsson to deploy 5G MIMO and RAN solutions is a new step in the endless efforts to achieve the ambitions and goals for the future, as well as embodying the aspirations to enhance the sustainability of operational operations. This is achieved by modernizing the infrastructure to ensure the provision of higher capacity for the network and reducing the carbon footprint. We are confident that in cooperating with Ericsson, we will be able to bring about significant qualitative improvements and positive transformations of the network operations, thereby supporting the UAE



vision towards a more sustainable future."

Wojciech Bajda, Vice President and Head of Gulf Council Countries at Ericsson Middle East and Africa says: "With sustainability being at the core of our purpose, we constantly strive to develop products and solutions that meet exceptional network standards and at the same time lowers power consumption. Our industry-leading lightweight and energy-efficient 5G products and solutions



will massively help du meet the surge in traffic demands while simultaneously achieving sustainability with energy efficiency on their 5G networks."

Ericsson's 5G solutions will not only help du overcome the deployment challenges of 5G like power consumption increase and tower loading but also ensure its network is ready to support the influx of devices, data and technologies as the UAE enters the digital age.

Mastercard builds on its Diversity Commitment to accelerate Gender Balance in the UAE Private Sector



As part of its ongoing commitment to advance diversity and gender balance across its own operations, the technology industry, and the wider ecosystem, Mastercard has jointly signed an official pledge to meaningfully advance gender balance in the UAE. The payments technology leader is one of several private sector companies supporting the initiative, spearheaded by the UAE Gender Balance Council.

The signing ceremony took place in Dubai and was attended by UAE government leaders, as well as private sector business leaders, who agreed to collectively pursue ambitious targets to increase women's representation in senior and middle management roles before 2025. As an enabler of Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), this initiative is a partnership that will have a lasting impact on the public and private sectors in the UAE.

"An equal world is a more inclusive world, and Mastercard remains wholeheartedly committed to support the journey to gender balance with all our resources, technology, and the power of our network. Over the past decade, we have delivered on this

commitment through various initiatives, and are proud of the public-private partnerships that enable us to accelerate this goal. No economy can ever truly reach its full potential for prosperity unless it activates the contributions of all its citizens, and while great progress has been made – it's imperative that we continue our focus on achieving gender equity," said Carys Richards, Senior Vice President, Human Resources EEMEA, Mastercard.

Gender equality is a key pillar of Mastercard's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiatives, which it considers central to its success and organizational DNA. Globally, the company has already tied executive compensation to strategic ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) goals and priorities, including gender pay parity – as well as carbon neutrality and financial inclusion.

On a global stage, the organization is leading the 30% Club and Financial Alliance for Women, and partnering to advance gender equality with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and USAID. Internally, Mastercard has grown an extensive women's leadership network locally and globally and unified

its parental leave. In 2021 Mastercard was listed among DiversityInc's Top 50 Companies for Diversity and 2021 Bloomberg's Gender Equality Index.

Leading the efforts to attain gender balance in the technology sector and innovation industries, Mastercard also launched its Girls4Tech initiative in 2014. This award-winning program aims to give girls exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects, and therefore encourage young women to pursue studies in these fields, which ultimately builds a strong pipeline of women contributing their skills and perspectives. The program has reached almost two million girls in 45 countries, and in the UAE, a milestone of 2,020 girls in honor of Mastercard's partnership with Expo 2020 Dubai, has been achieved.

In 2020, Mastercard pledged to connect 25 million women entrepreneurs globally by 2025, to the technology, training, digital tools, insights and solutions that will enable them to grow their businesses. This is in support of the company's goal of building a more sustainable and inclusive digital economy. ■

AVEVA signs long-term Strategic Deal to transform EDF's Nuclear Engineering Capabilities

AVEVA, a global leader in industrial software, driving digital transformation and sustainability, has signed a long-term partnership with EDF, the world leader in power generation, to elevate its 3D nuclear engineering program and deliver leading-edge energy-efficient performance. AVEVA will help drive EDF's SWITCH digital transformation program with its AVEVA™ E3D Design solution and other components of the AVEVA TM Unified Engineering solution. EDF will strengthen its engineering design

portfolio by way of faster design and delivery of its nuclear plants as well as advanced safety and performance standards.

By streamlining data from different design disciplines – including mechanical, electrical and civil works – several hundred users across different global locations will be able to work together within a digital twin repository, eliminating siloed engineering design approaches, avoiding data inconsistencies, and removing duplication. AVEVA technology will enable users to collaborate on shared 3D models simultaneously, thus improving the competitiveness of EDF's nuclear engineering design processes.

This partnership builds on a long-term relationship between AVEVA and EDF. AVEVA has supported EDF with 3D digital engineering solutions at its N4 nuclear plants since the 1980s. To date, AVEVA's capabilities have enabled EDF to drive its sustainable nuclear vision by reducing operational work-hours and by enhancing data consistency.

The new partnership between AVEVA and EDF is expected to generate the following results:

- Reduction in design work times and in engineering work times.
- Decrease in the need for re-work due to consistently accurate and high-quality deliverables.
- Faster development rate of 3D models.
- Greater project visibility for all project stakeholders.
- Greater collaboration between design and engineering teams.
- Extended asset lifespans and the ability to reduce CO₂ emissions.

The new agreement will see AVEVA digital design systems implemented as the gold standard for all new EDF nuclear projects.

EDF Group Executive Director – Engineering and New Nuclear Project,



Peter Herweck, CEO AVEVA

Xavier Ursat commented, "The SWITCH digital transformation program is critical to reinforce EDF's ambition of producing low-carbon electricity and achieving our carbon neutrality objective by 2050 across our portfolio. AVEVA has been a trusted partner for EDF for more than 30 years, helping us to accomplish our digital transformation. AVEVA understands our requirements and we trust them to enable us to accelerate our clean energy goals. This extended long-term partnership supports our engineering design and operations teams and empowers them to optimize operational performance and to exploit nuclear energy efficiently."

AVEVA CEO Peter Herweck said, "We are proud to have built a trusted partnership with EDF that serves as the foundation stone of its digital transformation vision and sustainability program. Our market-leading digital engineering design enables us to support EDF in driving their net-zero energy strategy for the benefit of end consumers throughout the world. With our new agreement, AVEVA will help EDF accelerate engineering collaboration, connect teams and unlock higher performance through shared contextual data and intelligence. We look forward to assisting EDF's expert engineers to cut design time, improve collaboration and accelerate efficient decision-making to develop the nuclear industry of the future." ■

The SWITCH digital transformation program is critical to reinforce EDF's ambition of producing low-carbon electricity and achieving our carbon neutrality objective by 2050 across our portfolio. AVEVA has been a trusted partner for EDF for more than 30 years, helping us to accomplish our digital transformation. AVEVA understands our requirements and we trust them to enable us to accelerate our clean energy goals. This extended long-term partnership supports our engineering design and operations teams and empowers them to optimize operational performance and to exploit nuclear energy efficiently.

Ooredoo Group and CK Hutchison create Indonesia's Second Largest Mobile Telecom Company



Aziz Aluthman Fakhro



Canning Fok



Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Neama



Vikram Sinha



Eyas Naif Assaf

Ooredoo and CK Hutchison Holdings Limited have announced the completion of the proposed merger of their respective telecommunications businesses in Indonesia, PT Indosat Tbk ("Indosat Ooredoo") and PT Hutchison 3 Indonesia ("H3I"), after receiving all required shareholder and regulatory approvals. The newly merged company will do business as PT Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison Tbk ("Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison", "the Company"), effective 4 January 2022.

The completed merger combines two highly

complementary businesses to create a new world-class digital telecoms and internet company in Indonesia. The new second largest mobile telecoms company in the country, with an estimated annual revenue of approximately US\$3 billion, will be able to compete and create additional value for all shareholders, customers and for Indonesia.

Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison has the enhanced scale, financial strength and capabilities needed to accelerate Indonesia's economic growth and transformation into a digital society. The merger realises significant

operational synergies that will deliver cost efficiencies and facilitate deeper innovation and network enhancements, including the rollout of 5G in Indonesia.

Aziz Aluthman Fakhro, Managing Director of Ooredoo Group, said: "We are pleased to combine two of Indonesia's leading telecoms brands to create a stronger number two player in Indonesia, backed by two highly committed partners in Ooredoo Group and CK Hutchison. Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison is well placed to achieve exciting long-term growth under the leadership of Vikram and his experienced management team with a proven track record in Indonesia.

Vikram Sinha, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Indosat Ooredoo since 2019, will lead Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Nicky Lee has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison. Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Neama and Eyas Assaf have joined Ooredoo Group.

"The merger's timely completion reflects the recognition of the significant value and benefits that the company will deliver for all stakeholders including Indosat Ooredoo and Ooredoo Group shareholders, customers, employees, partners and Indonesia. This

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Etisalat to offer first of its kind Digital Insurance Services Platform in UAE

Etisalat has announced Easy Insurance, the latest addition to its insurance programme offering and a new innovative insurance platform hosting various digital insurance products, providing a state-of-the-art experience and instant policy issuance.

Both Etisalat and non-Etisalat customers can use Easy Insurance through partnerships with key local and global insurance leaders. In addition, they can enjoy a seamless experience by accessing the product through Etisalat's digital channels, My Etisalat app or the official website.

Khaled ElKhouly, Chief Consumer Officer of Etisalat, said: "Etisalat's Easy Insurance programme is heralding a new era of insurance offerings for the country. Customers will now have full control to select and customise their insurance product of choice conveniently and subscribe to plans that start from AED25 per week. This sets a benchmark in the way conventional insurance products are offered today. The latest addition to our insurance programme offering ensures a secure and seamless transition towards a fully empowered digital society in line with the vision of the UAE government." Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic



Khaled ElKhouly
Chief Consumer Officer, Etisalat

in early 2019, customers have preferred to conduct all their transactions online, with the majority moving to use various digital platforms for their purchases. With its insurance partners, Etisalat aims to meet the growing requirement in the insurance sector by digitalising the insurance buying journey via its website and My Etisalat app.

Easy Insurance's offering through the

application of AI, machine learning and Intelligent Automation enables UAE citizens and residents to obtain insurance services for health, auto and travel in the most convenient, fast and efficient manner. It is an extension of the company's current insurance offerings of device insurance, home protection and Takaful accidental starting at AED1 a month.

Etisalat's suite of insurance products aims to meet customers' daily needs ranging from health insurance to auto insurance and travel insurance. They can choose customised health insurance plans for essential and comprehensive coverage for themselves, their family members and domestic helpers. For auto insurance, car owners have access to third-party or comprehensive insurance coverage for either new car registration or renewal of existing car registration. Customers and their families can also get coverage of up to AED734,600 (or USD200,000) for a single trip or an annual multi-trip whenever they purchase an insurance policy before travelling abroad or visiting the UAE. The travel insurance product also includes COVID-19 coverage for inbound and outbound travellers, starting from AED25 per week. ■

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landmark transaction is closely aligned with the progression of Ooredoo Group's accelerated growth strategy."

"I look forward to a long, prosperous partnership with CK Hutchison and would again like to extend my sincere gratitude to our customers, employees, shareholders, partners, and the Government of Indonesia, who created an environment that enabled the merger to become a reality," he added.

Canning Fok, Group Co-Managing Director of CK Hutchison Holdings, said: "I have every confidence that this merger will be highly accretive for all stakeholders involved, including customers, shareholders, and for Indonesia. Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison is now a stronger, world-class digital telecoms and internet company with critical mass, well

positioned to build an even more powerful network that can benefit Indonesia's development and customers, who will receive improved services and an even broader product offering that would not have otherwise been possible.

"Now the number two operator in Indonesia, the merged company can harness its combined resources to drive the further roll out its network to enhance quality and speed and invest in 5G technology. We have faith in the strength and performance of the business and the strong growth prospects that Indonesia's market presents," he continued.

"I look forward to building a lasting and successful partnership with Ooredoo Group and thank them for their commitment during this merger, as well as our customers and industry partners for their continued support

and faith in our business." "I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Indonesia, for creating a policy environment in Indonesia that has encouraged deals like this one to take place. The foresight of the Indonesian Government will help to build a strong and sustainable mobile market in Indonesia, and will help support the Government's digital transformation agenda," he added.

Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison will be jointly controlled by Ooredoo Group and CK Hutchison with a 65.6% shareholding. It will remain listed on the Indonesian Stock Exchange under the ticker ORDS, with the Government of Indonesia retaining a 9.6% shareholding, PT Tiga Telekomunikasi Indonesia holding a 10.8% shareholding, and other public shareholders holding approximately 14.0%. ■

Ooredoo Group announces new executive appointments



Bilal Kazmi, Group Chief Commercial Officer



Eyas Assaf, Executive Director

Ooredoo has announced the appointment of Ahmad Al-Neema as Group Regional CEO, Bilal Kazmi as Group Chief Commercial Officer and Eyas Assaf as Executive Director, Performance Management effective 01 January 2022.

Ahmad Al-Neema has been with Ooredoo for almost two decades, taking up senior roles, most recently as the CEO of Indosat Ooredoo where he excelled and scored many major achievements for the company. Ahmad's most notable accomplishments include spearheading Indosat Ooredoo's business turnaround and signing strategic partnerships with global technology leaders and international organizations. Most importantly, he was behind the company's sale and leaseback agreement for more than 4,200 telecommunications towers – one of the largest deals of its kind in Asia – and he has seen the launch and roll-out of 5G in Indonesia. Ahmad has also led the landmark deal with CK Hutchison that resulted in the merger of the two entities, creating Indonesia's second largest mobile telecoms company. He brings a wealth of experience gained over a variety of leadership roles within the company.

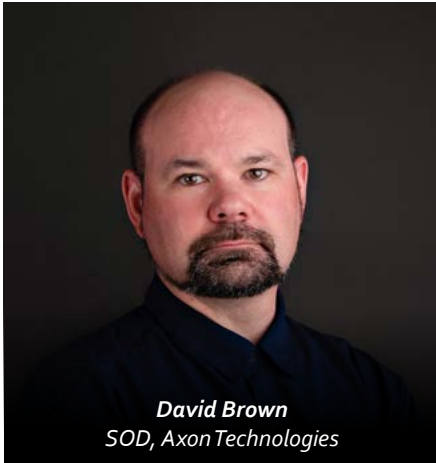
In his new role as Group Regional CEO, Ahmad will be responsible for the P&L of six markets, including Indonesia, Algeria, Tunisia, Palestine, Myanmar and Maldives, setting priorities to drive sustainable growth across key operations.

Bilal Kazmi was Acting Group Chief Commercial Officer since July 2021 and has over 25 years of international experience in leadership roles, including P&L accountability across the commercial value chain for a USD 1Bn turnover company. He has a strong track record of leading a wide range of commercial functions in the telco arena, such as sales & distribution, customer care, new product development, international business and the implementation of complex telecoms projects like digital transformation and large-scale structural changes.

As Group Chief Commercial Officer, Bilal will drive Ooredoo's commercial transformation to accelerate growth across key areas such as customer centricity, sales & distribution and digital leadership. Eyas Assaf has rejoined Ooredoo Group, being appointed as Executive Director, Performance Management at OG Finance. Prior to this, he was Indosat Ooredoo's CFO, a key member of the management team responsible for delivering outstanding business performance as well as the merger with CK Hutchison.

Aziz Aluthman Fakhroo, Managing Director, Ooredoo Group, said: "I am delighted to announce the appointment of three of our stellar colleagues to lead the next phase of our company's success, along with the larger Ooredoo Group team. This is part of our strategy to invest in our greatest talents, as we move forward with our business transformation plan to create a faster, more agile, more inspiring company." ■

Axon Technologies turns spotlight on Cyber Hygiene at Intersec



David Brown
SOD, Axon Technologies

David Brown, Security Operations Director at Axon Technologies, has spoken on 'Cyber Hygiene: Beyond the Common Talk' at Intersec 2022 - The Cyber Security Lab, one of the six conferences at the event. Brown examined the importance of cyber hygiene, discussed what is currently lacking in the industry and how organizations can implement effective best practices for a safe and secure digital future. Cyber hygiene refers to habitual practices and steps to ensure the

safe and secure management of mission-critical data and networks. These actions help identify potential risks and vulnerabilities and implement strategies to address them. In an increasingly digital world, cyber hygiene is critical to strengthen the security posture of an organization. Most organizations follow some common best practices such as ensuring routers and firewalls are installed and configured accurately, updating the list of authorized and unauthorized users, enforcing strong password rules with two and multi-factor authentications, and so on. However, there are many other aspects that are neglected when it comes to deploying cyber hygiene practices, which are vital for holistic cybersecurity. This includes elements such as data encryption and classification, disaster recovery processes, and digital footprinting, among others.

Brown educated attendees on these areas and shared his unique insights on why cyber hygiene is paramount to a resilient security strategy.

"Intersec 2022 is a valuable platform for all stakeholders to come together and discuss

emerging trends and key issues. The high-profile event sets the tone for the security industry for the year," explained Brown. "The threat landscape is ever-changing, and therefore it is vital that organizations set up routine checks to stop cybercriminals. Deploying robust cyber hygiene habits allow organizations to have enhanced situational awareness, enabling early mitigation of threats in the attack lifecycle. We look forward to educating customers on how to implement healthy cyber hygiene practices to strengthen their digital security postures."

David Brown is a leading cybersecurity and cyber threat intelligence subject matter expert, with a proven track record for reducing risk and improving information system security. With 20 years of experience in intelligence-driven secure system design, security monitoring, threat intelligence, incident response, infrastructure architecture, and computer and network defense, Brown has created and operated defense-in-depth initiatives from government sectors within the US Department of Defense to highly targeted companies in the global oil and gas industry. ■

IBM appoints Wael Abdoush as GM for IBM Gulf, Levant and Pakistan

IBM has announced the appointment of Wael Abdoush as the new General Manager for IBM in the Gulf, Levant and Pakistan. Abdoush succeeds Hossam Seif El Din, who will lead strategic opportunities for Middle East and Africa.

Based in Dubai, Abdoush will oversee the company's overall business operations across the Gulf, Levant and Pakistan, in addition to his current role as the technology leader, driving business growth and client satisfaction.

"Wael is a seasoned executive with deep market and technical skills in areas like data, Automation, Security, and Hybrid cloud, which are key elements of IBM's growth strategy," said Saad Toma, General Manager, IBM Middle East and Africa. "I would like to

thank Hossam for his role in driving IBM's business and footprint in the region and I wish him success in his new position."

Abdoush brings extensive knowledge of the region, deep industry and technology expertise and over 30 years of diversified experience. Most recently, he was the general manager for IBM in Egypt since June 2018.

"I am honored to lead IBM in such a rapidly growing region where technology is key to advance national agendas," said Wael Abdoush, General Manager, IBM Gulf & Levant and Pakistan. "By leveraging IBM's AI and hybrid cloud solutions, consulting expertise and our ecosystem partners we can further accelerate the dynamic growth of our clients and contribute to the economic progress of the region," he concluded. ■





What awards did Moscow receive in 2021 in the field of technology and digitalization?

In 2021, Moscow has received several awards in the field of technology and digitalization. So, at the end of 2021, the capital received the Runet Prize. Among the laureates are the digital ecosystem of Moscow and the Russpass travel service.

In November, Moscow took first place in the ESG Governance category of the European Cities of the Future: ESG Innovation Index. The compilers of the rating assessed the city's higher education system, the introduction of innovations in various spheres of life and acceleration programs for startups in Moscow.

In addition, last year the capital also took second place among government agencies at the international competition Global

ICT Excellence Awards in the Startup Ecosystem nomination. Then the jury noted the city's programs for technology entrepreneurship.

In the summer, Moscow, thanks to technology development programs, took second place among cities in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index ranking of European ecosystems for startups. And at the end of June, the Moscow government received an award in the field of information technology to CIPR Digital in three nominations.

At the same time, Moscow took first place in the rating of innovative development of Russian regions in 2021. ■

Huawei Tech4Good Global competition 2022

Two teams from the Middle East are among ten finalists in Huawei's inaugural Tech4Good Global competition 2022. Tech4Good is a key part of Huawei's flagship CSR program, Seeds for the Future 2021, an initiative that aims to help cultivate young talent, equipping them with the skills and mindsets needed to be competitive in the workplaces of the future.

The two groups, "Spirit and Opportunity" from Iraq and "Intelligent Firefighting System" from Lebanon, were selected from 79 initial submissions globally through a competitive online voting process. The Iraqi team demonstrated an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)-based air pollution monitoring and tracking system that can replace costly and inadequate fixed stations monitoring stations. Meanwhile, the Lebanese representatives proposed a firefighting

solution that combines existing technologies with drones, using 5G, IoT and AI to react automatically to wildfires before they spread.

During the opening of the awards ceremony, Huawei Board member and President of Public Affairs and Communications Catherine Chen explained how this year's program was a particular success. "In addition to our existing virtual classes and expert exchanges, we also added a new section to the program – the Tech4Good Global Competition. In this competition, participants are encouraged to team up and find an ICT solution for a social issue of their choice," she added.

Chen also noted that more than half of the participants from over 20 countries in last year's Seeds for the Future program were women. "Tech has no gender. A diverse, inclusive, and innovative world needs the perspectives and strength of women. We look forward to seeing more women participate in science and technology in the coming years," she added. ■

Romance scams cost Americans almost \$350 million in 2021

Impersonators found the pandemic to be a treat - they have a legitimate excuse as to why they can not meet up in person, at least for now. This allowed fraudsters to carry out romance scams on a larger scale than ever before.

Atlas VPN analysis reveals that heartbroken victims lost upwards of \$343 million in the first three quarters of 2021.

As of yet, there is no data for Q4 2021. Based on the information that we do have, it is safe to assume that romance scams caused somewhere around \$500 million in damages throughout the entire year. The figures for the research were extracted from the official Federal Trade Commission's (FTC). Here, romance scam victims can submit their complaints and receive further help.

By glancing at the chart below, readers can clearly see that in six out of seven age groups, the losses to romance scams surpass those of 2020, even though we are comparing the first three quarters of 2021 to the entire 2020. In 2020, impersonators swindled \$268 million from victims of all age groups. In Q1/Q3 2021, monetary damages exceeded \$342 million, representing a 27.7% growth. Perhaps the most surprising finding is that elders ages 60-69 lost significantly more money than all other groups in 2020 and 2021. This was the case in 2019, as well.

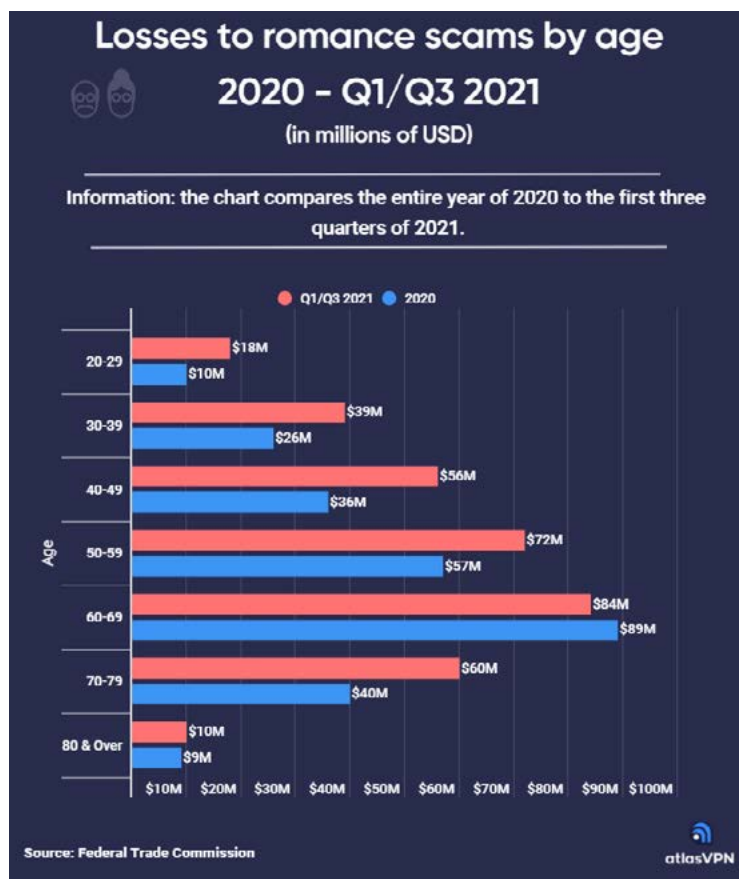
Romance scam losses among older individuals (ages 60 and over) climbed from roughly \$84 million in 2019 to around \$139 million in 2020. The 60-69 and 70-79 age groups were hit the heaviest among older persons, accounting for \$129 million of the total reported losses in 2020.

Cumulative losses of \$129 million in 2020 and \$145 million in Q1/Q3 2021 also mean that romance scams were the most financially damaging fraud category for seniors. However, younger Americans are not immune to romantic impersonators, far from it.

Individuals ages 20-59 lost \$130 million in 2020 and \$187 million in Q1/Q3 2021, a growth of 44% even without the data on losses in Q4. In short, all age groups are struggling with impersonator scams on dating sites or other social media platforms. Can we find the leading cause behind the upsurge in heartbreaks?

2021 is one of the loneliest years

For those who have been monitoring their emotional health, it might be obvious why there is a rise in romantic scams. People did not get used to being alone during 2020. On the contrary, people report that 2021 was even worse than 2020



in terms of their well-being. According to newly disclosed statistics from a recent government telephone survey of 11,000 Medicare members, 40% said they felt less socially connected to family and friends than they did in November 2020. Moreover, 28% of respondents said they were more stressed or anxious, and 22% said they felt lonely or depressed.

Telling people to avoid online dating in times of isolation is not going to work. However, all of us can do our best to educate ourselves and others about the dangers that lurk online. Having a single core principle of not sending money to anyone you have not met in person will keep most of the troubles away. If your romantic interest shows a negative reaction towards this principle - that's a huge red flag.

Another dead giveaway is when someone asks for money via gift cards, money transfers, or even worse - cryptocurrency. All of these are virtually untraceable, which makes them popular amongst impersonators.

In short - building relationships online is a wonderful way to stay connected. Our advice is to keep your heart open, but your wallet closed at least until you meet them in person. 🚫

Guyana undergoing major Digital Transformation to provide Online Government Services to citizens

The South American country of Guyana with a population of less than a million has started solving a distinct, geographical problem: accessibility to government services is vastly different in coastal, more densely populated areas from its hinterlands. To address the issue, as well as to continue pursuing its goal of becoming digitally driven by 2030, Guyana is taking urgent actions, needed to fill the gaps in public services in different regions.

One of the aims of authorities in Guyana is to develop an effective e-Governance system and move government services to digital platforms, to address the challenges of delivering services to citizens in rural communities.

The ICT Access and E-Services for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities project,

analysis of the country's ICT capabilities of more than 50 governmental institutions and 12 ministries. The results of the analysis became the basis for the ICT refinement strategy.

"Our assessment indicates that Guyana has massive potential for digital transformation. Unlocking it will be a crucial part of reaching the goals of digital governance by 2030," says Mindaugas Glodas, CEO at NRD Companies.

NRD Companies will also take part in the modernization of The Division of Social Protection and Health of Guyana, instrumental to ensure the social security of rural communities. NRD Companies will prepare the technical requirements for the creation of a better information management system.

distributed in remote communities and, thus, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public services to all, in particular those living in remote areas

According to the Prime Minister of Guyana, Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Phillips, the success of this project is crucial for the development of Guyana. "Eliminating the digital divide is a part of development in any country. COVID has forced accelerated digitization on the entire world and Guyana cannot afford to be left behind. This project has the potential of having us achieve the goal of connecting our hinterland, poor and remote communities. We have identified 200 of those communities to be connected and to benefit from everything that comes under the umbrella of e-governance," he noted during a meeting with Jairo Valverde, Guyana's Resident



Guyana, situated in South America's North Atlantic coast, aims to implement country-wide digital governance by the end of the decade. The transformation will ensure development, inclusiveness, and quality of life to all citizens around the country.

initiated by the Government of Guyana, encompasses four main elements: strengthening the e-government policy and legislation environment, improving access to ICT across the country, facilitating digital access to public services and information, and increasing the digital literacy of regional communities, enabling them to use e-services.

Under this project, a capacity-building strategy to address the identified gaps in ICT in the Government of Guyana was devised in partnership with NRD Companies, an international provider of gov-tech, IT solutions, and consulting services.

NRD Companies, which has experience leading similar digitization projects in 50 countries, has already conducted a thorough

Benefits for people

While the strategy devised by NRD Companies is primarily aimed at modernizing the organization of state ICT infrastructure, the infrastructure itself will become the basis for government e-services that will benefit every citizen, particularly those living in remote and underserved areas. The ability to provide online services will help the government better serve citizens in areas of social support, healthcare, education, and other critical services. In the long run, it will set foundations to contribute to UN Sustainable development goals, such as lower poverty, better health and well-being of the population, reduced inequalities, increased gender equality, and others. The Government of Guyana aims to provide e-Government services through 200 ICT hubs

Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, sponsoring the project, and Jose Eguren, Senior Advisor.

"The impact of the project will go beyond what we have been able to imagine because once those communities have the hubs, and once the Government's e-services are developed, it's going to improve the integration of all Guyana," Valverde said in the same meeting.

Other countries' experiences show that the introduction of digital public services not only increases their accessibility—it also drastically reduces the time and effort needed to reap their benefits. Digitization of government services also boosts the economy, as more foreign investments are attracted to modernized countries. ■

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Shanghai, China

28 Feb - 03 March 2022

MWC™
Barcelona

Barcelona, Spain

17 - 19 May 2022

CABSAT

Dubai, UAE

09 - 12 September 2022

ib

Amsterdam, Netherlands

21 - 23 March 2022

GISEC

Dubai, UAE

24 - 25 May 2022

TELECOMSWORLD
Middle East

Dubai, UAE

09 - 13 October 2022

GITEX
GLOBAL

Dubai, UAE

21 - 24 March 2022

SATELLITE

Washington DC, USA

30 May - 01 June 2022

**5G
MENA**

Dubai, UAE

18 - 20 October 2022

**5G
World**

Amsterdam, Netherlands

28 - 31 March 2022

capacity
MIDDLE EAST 2022

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