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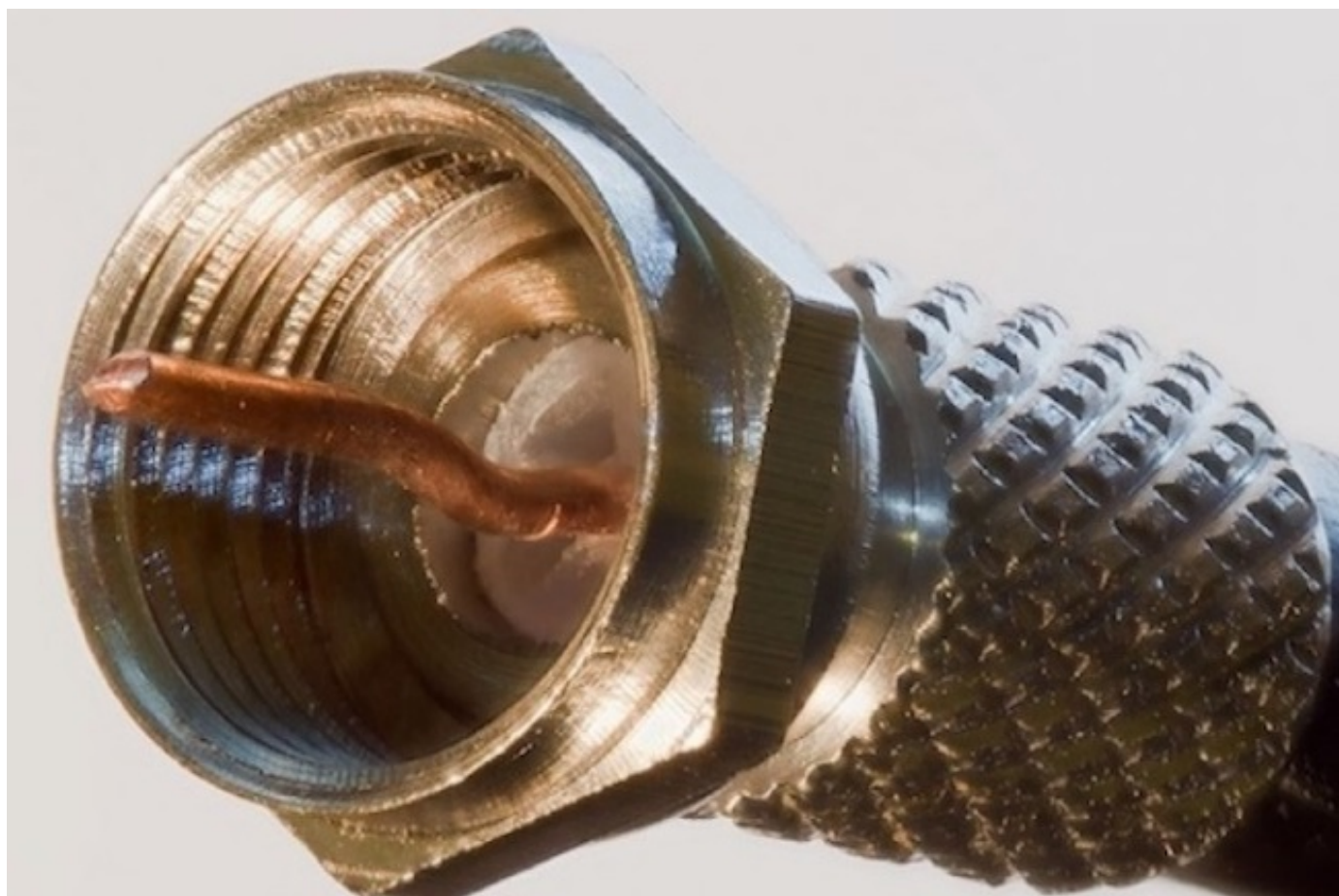
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NBN CO TOUTS GIGABIT FUTURE OF HFC IN TRIAL



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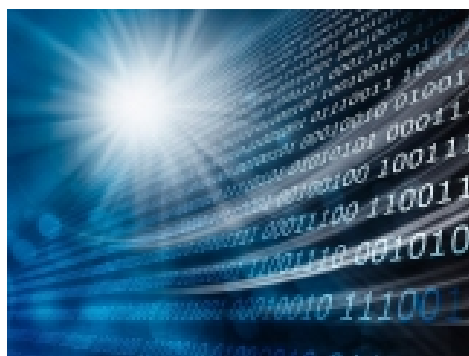
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NBN CO SAYS TRIALS DEMONSTRATE ‘GIGABIT FUTURE’ OF HFC

National broadband provider NBN Co is setting itself for the Gigabit era using a major component of the MTM network. NBN Co says it has achieved trial download speeds of 994Mbps in technology trials on its Hybrid-Fibre Coaxial cablenetwork.

The company says the in-field trial, in Templestowe in outer Melbourne, demonstrates the potential for around 2.5 million homes and businesses that use or are due to be connected to the HFC access network across Australia.

NBN Co says that during the trial, next generation DOCSIS 3.1 technology demonstrated its capability over an expanded spectrum range to support future wholesale speed upgrades using a standard NBN HFC connection box in the home.



The trials will provide “new insights to guide future technical development and planning”.

A related lab test with DOCSIS 3.1 demonstrated trial upload speeds of 988Mbps, and both trials used the expanded spectrum range inside the coaxial cable that NBN says it will progressively start using as part of the introduction of DOCSIS 3.1 technology.

NBN Co says these latest demonstrations build on an ongoing program to improve customer experience on the HFC network.

These include technology upgrades and infrastructure improvements geared towards providing an HFC network that delivers “on customer expectations today and into the future”.

NBN Chief Technology Officer, Ray Owen said: “This is an important day for NBN. It shows how a specific technology – HFC – is evolving to meet customer demand for greater capacity from their broadband connection over time.

“It’s good news for both residential and business customers using HFC as we have demonstrated both the wholesale download and upload capacity of this technology.

“As we work to complete our network rollout, we’re constantly looking at what’s over the horizon for all of our technology assets and how we can evolve our network as demand grows,” Owen concluded.

Peter Dinham

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TELSTRA-BACKED NEAR RAISES \$143 MILLION FOR EXPANSION

Telstra-backed location intelligence platform Near announced that the company has raised \$143 million in a series D funding round, with the funds to be used for further expansion and to support the rollout of new platform offerings.

The Telstra Ventures and Sequoia Capital backed data company has secured its latest capital injection from private equity firm, Greater Pacific Capital (GPC).

Near counts News Corp Australia, MCN and Telstra as key customers and claims the “largest data-set of people’s behaviour in the real-world, with over 1.6 billion users worldwide”.

“We are humbled that we were able to close one of the largest rounds in our industry. It is a testament to our offering backed by unique data-sets and powerful science,” said Anil Mathews, founder & CEO, Near.

“With the new funds, we will be investing heavily in data and engineering to launch a suite of new products, that’ll help strengthen our position in existing markets such as Australia and the US, and open up key strategic markets.”

According to Mathews, Near has seen unprecedented traction and growth since the launch of its flagship SaaS product, Allspark, “the first of its kind in the industry”.

Mathews said Allspark enables end-to-end marketing automation for clients and partners across more than 20 countries.

“We are the only company aggregating this quality and scale of data at a global level, and are the number one source of intelligence on human mobility in Asia-Pacific,” Mathews said.

“No other player has invested as much into the Australian market as we have over the past five years, so we have a lot of legacy data here, making our data science models work more effectively.

“Australia is one of our core markets and we’ll be investing heavily in expanding our partnerships here.”

“Our strategic partnership with Near has helped us take News Connect to new levels,” said Suzie Cardwell, General Manager of Data Commercialisation, News Corp Australia.

“We’ve been able to unlock greater potential in our data by enriching it with the real-world data from the Near platform, helping us uncover new audience characteristics.

“This has helped us enhance our capability to deliver 1,900 customer segments to our clients. It is a true game-changer for Australian marketers.”

Peter Dinham



John de Ridder

Telecommunications Economist

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NZ TELCOS GOING TO COURT OVER CUSTOMER BILLING ACTIONS

New Zealand telecommunications providers are facing charges for billing customers after contracts finished, with the country's competition regulator The Commerce Commission laying 13 charges against three of the telcos.

The Commission has filed charges in the Auckland District Court under the Fair Trading Act against retail telecommunications providers CallPlus Services Limited trading as Slingshot, Flip Services Limited and Orcon Limited, alleging they made false representations in invoices sent to their customers.



The Commission alleges that the companies issued invoices which included charges to customers for the period after the agreed termination date for their contracts.

And, the Commission alleges that, by doing this, the companies misrepresented their rights to payments because their customers only owed payment for the services provided prior to the agreed termination date.

The charges relate to conduct during the period 2 January 2012 to 1 March 2018, and the case will be called in the Auckland District Court on 23 July.

The three companies charged - CallPlus Services, Flip Services and Orcon - are each subsidiaries of parent company Vocus, a major provider of mobile and broadband services to New Zealand consumers and businesses.

Peter Dinham



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BICS ENABLES ‘WORLD FIRST’ INTERCONTINENTAL 5G ROAMING

International data roaming provider Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills is claiming a world first with the “major milestone” establishment of an intercontinental live 5G data roaming service between Swiss operator Swisscom and South Korean carrier SK Telecom.

Set up on 15 July, the 5G roaming service provides high-speed, ultra-low latency 5G data connectivity between the two continents, with the operators leveraging BICS’ 5G global IPX network.

The announcement follows a surge in demand for data roaming, which increased by 95% in 2018 according to data from [BICS](#).



BICS says that, as subscriber appetite for seamless international connectivity continues to grow, 5G roaming is set to become an integral part of operators’ offerings, “enabling users to access data-rich services and high-speed data roaming wherever they are in the world”.

Mikaël Schachne, chief marketing officer and vice-president Mobility & IoT Business, BICS, said, “With over 50% of global data traffic exchanged over our global IPX network, BICS offers an unrivalled roaming coverage and quality to communication service providers around the world.

“Today’s successful implementation of a trans-continental 5G data roaming relation further endorses our position at the forefront of global mobility for people, applications and things.”

Peter Dinham

MOTOROLA AIMS FOR SWEET SPOT WITH \$499 SMARTPHONE

Mobile industry pioneer Motorola has released its latest smartphone, the motorola one vision, that will sell for \$499 at JB Hi-Fi, its exclusive retail partner.

A statement from the company said the device could be bought right away on the Web and would be available at the bricks-and-mortar outlets from 22 July. It is available in a single colour: bronze gradient.

The motorola one vision has a 48MP rear camera with quad-pixel technology, optical image stabilisation and night vision mode.

The display is 6.3" CinemaVision Full HD+ and has an in-screen punch-hole camera. While it is water-resistant, the device is not water-proof.



Danny Adamopoulos, general manager of Sales, APAC for Mature Markets, Motorola, said, "We are excited to continue Motorola's legacy of delivering meaningful products alongside the latest smartphone innovations with the launch of the highly anticipated motorola one vision in Australia.

"The device delivers a best-in-class night-time photography and

superior viewing experience with Motorola's unique night vision imaging technology at an unbeatable price point for consumers."

The motorola one vision runs on Android One.

Adamopoulos added, "From advanced AI camera features to improved security bolstered by Android One, we are delighted to be welcoming the motorola one vision family to Australian customers through our retail partner JB Hi-Fi."

At an aggressively priced \$499, Motorola's new phone may well throw the proverbial vat among the pigeons in an era where vendors are selling flagship phones for as much as \$2000 with not too many features.

Sam Varghese and Stan Beer

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