

CommsWire

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FIRST STANDALONE 5G CALL MADE SAYS TELSTRA



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TELSTRA, ERICSSON CLAIM FIRST 5G STANDALONE AUSTRALIAN CALL

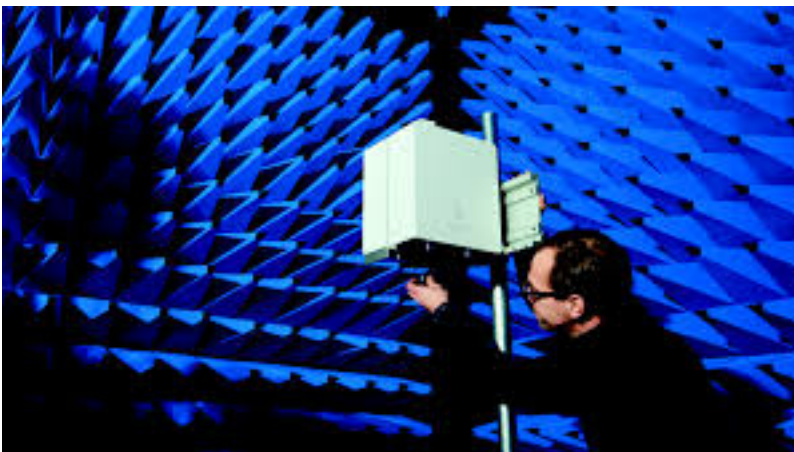
Telstra and Ericsson have completed Australia's first end-to-end 5G standalone call at the 5G Innovation Centre on the Gold Coast, over the 3.6GHz spectrum and using Ericsson's Baseband 6630, Radio AIR6488 and a 5G SA device based on a MediaTek chipset.

A statement from Ericsson said the achievement, last weekend, came in the wake of the company's announcement of standalone new radio software that enabled faster response times and new capabilities to extend 5G coverage.

Ericsson's head of Australia and New Zealand, Emilio Romeo, said: "Successfully completing Australia's and the southern hemisphere's first 5G standalone call is a vital step in driving industrial productivity and bringing Industry 4.0 to life.

"5G is not just another incremental upgrade, but a platform for innovation marking a new era of intelligent connectivity.

"Together with Telstra — one of the world's first operators to launch 5G commercially on 5G non-standalone — we continue to lead and drive innovation to ensure Australia remains at the forefront of telecommunications technology."



Channa Seneviratne, Network and Infrastructure Engineering executive, Telstra, said: "Telstra has achieved a number of world and Australian milestones on our 5G journey and the successful completion of Australia's first 5G end-to-end standalone call on Telstra's network is the latest entry.

"This continues Telstra's ongoing participation in global 5G leadership

whilst simultaneously driving the deployment of 5G in Australia.

"To date we've already launched 5G in 10 cities, and this will increase to at least 35 cities over the next 12 months.

"Making this stand-alone 5G call at our 5G Innovation Centre contributes to our ongoing end-to-end 5G ecosystem learnings.

"This is another example of the ongoing industry collaboration working within the 5G ecosystem and technology partners like Ericsson to pave the way for 5G advancements, and the benefits it will bring all Australians."

Sam Varghese

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MORE THAN 10 MILLION USERS NOW ABLE TO CONNECT TO NBN

More than 10 million homes and businesses are now able to connect to the NBN with less than twelve months of the build remaining, according to the network provider NBN Co.

Earlier this month NBN Co, the company building the broadband access network, says it had achieved trial download speeds of 994Mbps — or 1Gbps — in technology trials on its hybrid-fibre coaxial access network.

NBN Co said 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 – with the trial providing “new insights to guide future technical development and planning”.



And NBN Co said the in-field trial, in Templestowe in outer Melbourne, demonstrated 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.

The Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, Paul Fletcher, said NBN connections achieved is a "significant milestone in the rollout of NBN's fast and affordable internet for all Australians" and the rollout was on track for 2020 completion.

“The NBN is the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken in this country and it is on track for completion by mid-2020,” Minister Fletcher said.

He added that “NBN Co is constantly improving its services so that connections are fast and reliable”.

Coinciding with today's release of its latest report on progress with the network rollout, NBN Co has released a guide, following research, for Australians offering tips to help households and businesses get the most out of their NBN internet connection.

The research, commissioned by NBN Co, reveals that although 86% of Australians understand at least one factor that can impact their broadband experience (such as Wi-Fi quality and location in the home), just 42% say they are very confident that their home set-up is optimised to deliver the best speed and performance.

And the research also reveals that 68% of Australians said they managed their own internet set-up, while 26% enlist the help of their family and friends.

And, given the option of technical assistance to optimise their internet connections, 90% of Australians said that they would be likely to use this.

NBN Co says it is helping Australians understand the top things they can do in their home to help get the most out of their experience:

- Amplify your connection – Thick walls are great at keeping noise out but do the same to your Wi-Fi signal. Consider purchasing a Wi-Fi repeater to amplify your signal and help get faster speeds throughout your house.
- Your internet signal is weak? - Check for objects that interfere with your Wi-Fi signal such as microwave ovens, televisions, hot water systems, ovens and even your fish tank. Place your Wi-Fi router/modem in a central location – free from obstructions.
- Check your plan- There are a range of speed plans NBN makes available to internet providers on the network, so chat to your retailer about your internet habits, the number of devices in the home and how many people will be online, particularly during the peak usage times between 7pm-9pm.

NBN Co says it is important Australians always contact their retailer in the first instance for anything related to the in-home experience.



“With 10 million homes and business now able to connect to the NBN access network, now is the time to ensure your household internet set-up is optimised to help deliver faster internet speeds,” NBN Chief Customer Officer - Residential, Brad Whitcomb said.

“Research shows one in four Australians are interested in making their homes ‘smarter’ so getting your set-up right will become increasingly important as we look

to power the homes of tomorrow.

“There are lots of factors that can impact your household broadband experience, such as Wi-Fi quality, modem placement and the number of devices connected.”

And Telsyte Managing Director, Foad Fadaghi, said, “Australian households are getting smarter every day with more devices like TVs, speakers, security and energy solutions all connected to the internet.

“There are plenty of things people can do to optimise the experience of their connected home, including finding the best location for their Wi-Fi routers and ensuring device software is always kept up-to-date.”

Peter Dinham



John de Ridder

Telecommunications Economist

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SPIRIT TELECOM BUYS PHOENIX AUSTEC IN \$1.6 MILLION DEAL

Australian-listed Internet service provider Spirit Telecom has acquired managed services provider Phoenix Austec, in a reported \$1.6 million deal.

The announcement comes less than a month after Spirit's acquisition of Arinda IT and the acquisition of Phoenix Austec is the company's fourth acquisition in as many months.

Spirit says it will continue to expand and strengthen its entry into the Managed IT Service Provider (MSP) sector, "while at the same time becoming a one-stop-shop for SMBs across Australia's East Coast for all their IT, internet and communications needs".

And Spirit says the acquisition of Phoenix Austec will enhance its existing product and service offering to its current SME customer base by providing a range of IT services, that can be powered by its super-fast, Sky-Speed Internet plans.

"Phoenix will add to the recently acquired Arinda IT managed services product range, which now represents circa 20% of Spirit's overall revenue," Spirit noted.

Established in 2007, Melbourne-based Phoenix provides small businesses with an outsourced managed IT solution including IT security, software as a service (SAAS) and IT consulting services, and Spirit says the company has been particularly successful in the real estate sector "but also boasts a broad range of SME customers".

Spirit managing director, Geoff Neate said, "We approached Phoenix a few months ago and were impressed by its strong competency in providing managed IT and SAAS solutions to a customer base that is typical of Spirit's target market".

"We now have a strong growing MSP IT product and customer portfolio and our team are already focused on integrating Phoenix and Arinda into a Spirit IT division."

"We have been growing Phoenix since 2007 and have been approached by other potential acquirers," said Phoenix managing director, Amelia Buchanan

"Once we understood the direction Spirit is headed and the growth opportunity that this delivers the Phoenix team, we became eager to be part of the journey.

"We were particularly impressed with the integration methodology that Spirit has created for MSP's inside its operations.

"We have met a lot of the Spirit team and we are already working on realising the potential that the newly formed Spirit IT will deliver."

Peter Dinham



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M2M CONNECTIONS FORECAST TO REACH 1.6 BILLION BY 2024

Global cellular M2M service connections will reach 1.6 billion over the next five years rising from 596 million in 2019, driven by embedded SIM adoption, says a new report.

Juniper Research says the forecast increase in M2M connections – a growth of 165% over the five years – is being driven by embedded SIM adoption.

And according to the Juniper forecast remote provisioning and innovative anti-fraud measures enabled by embedded SIM technologies (hardware modules built directly into M2M devices) will drive adoption of M2M services in key sectors including automotive, smart cities and connected agriculture.



The new research also found that adoption of eSIMs will grow 350% over the next 5 years, exceeding 1 billion eSIMs globally by 2024.

And eSIM vendors have been urged by Juniper to add modules that support emerging technologies, including 5G and low power M2M networks, “as soon as possible to increase adoption”.

Research author Elson Sutanto said “eSIMs will continue to be essential in accelerating the adoption of M2M services”

“Offering the eSIM standard across all cellular technologies will maximise the technology’s value across all M2M sectors,” Sutanto said.

The research also found that 5G’s impact on the M2M market will be limited over the next 5 years, forecasting that only 15 million 5G connections will be in use by 2024, after initial commercial network launches this year.

The research also anticipated that the automotive sector would be the primary industry adopter over the next 5 years; accounting for 70% of 5G M2M connections by 2024.

And the research forecasts that the high cost of 5G and end users’ familiarity with established cellular networks will lead to initial hesitancy in adoption.

In response, Juniper urged M2M service providers to ensure that their services fully exploit the advanced capabilities of 5G technology, such as network slicing, in order to migrate users to 5G networks.

Peter Dinham

HUAWEI'S DAVID SOLDANI ADDS CYBER SECURITY TO CTO DUTIES

Highlighting the increasing focus on security, Huawei Australia has expanded the role its chief technology officer David Soldani by adding the duties of cyber security officer.

The company's previous cyber security officer, Malcolm Shore, is retiring.

"We thank Malcolm Shore very much for the contribution he has made whilst working with us and wish him all the very best for his retirement – he has had a remarkable career spanning the UK, New Zealand and Australia," said Huawei Australia chairman John Lord.

"We look forward to David Soldani taking on an expanded role as Chief Technology and Cyber Security Officer and helping us deliver our innovative technology in a safe and secure manner by working with our partners and governments."



Soldani (left) joined Huawei Australia as CTO in 2018.

He previously worked for various vendors in Europe, with roles including head of 5G technology at Nokia and head of Huawei's Central Research Institute in Germany.

Soldani is also an adjunct professor at the University of New South Wales, and was previously a visiting professor at the University of Surrey (UK).

He holds a DSc in technology and an MSc in engineering, and has published or presented numerous international papers,

contributed to the publication of many books, the development of 3GPP standards and filed several international patents.

"Huawei has a fifteen year operating history here in Australia with no major cyber security breaches and I look forward to helping to maintaining that record in my expanded role," said Soldani.

Stephen Withers

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