



The Korea Herald

SE Entertainment
 HD **SK Telecom's digital remastering technology Supernova going global**
 WC 218 words
 PD 19 April 2022
 SN The Korea Herald
 SC KORHER
 LA English
 CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald
 LP

SK Telecom's artificial intelligence-powered digital remastering technology Supernova is going global in a new partnership with France's Verimatrix, a leading provider of **content** security solutions, the Korean telecom giant said Monday.

Supernova aims to recreate digital **content** by using **AI**-powered colorization tool, called DeOldify. The technology has already been widely used in remastering classic **content** or restoring historic records here. Its smartphone app made its global debut at the MWC trade show in February.

TD

Verimatrix, listed on Amsterdam's Euronext exchange, is one of the top security solutions providers for digital content and connected devices that supplies its solutions to more than 1,000 telecom carriers and content creators around the world.

Under the partnership, SK Telecom will recreate classic content owned by broadcasting stations or content producers, while Verimatrix will enhance the security of the remastered content. Their target markets include Latin America, Europe and Asia.

"Through this partnership, we hope to introduce Supernova's competitiveness around the world," said Kim Hyuk, SK Telecom's global media support lead. "We will speed up our global expansion, contributing to the spread of K-content."

[Click here to see image](#)

Supernova's mobile version is displayed at the MWC trade show in Barcelona in February. (SK Telecom)

CO insdet : Verimatrix S.A. | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
 IN i8395463 : Digital Content Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i8395465 : Multimedia Content Services | idistr : Media Content Distribution | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | itech : Technology | i34531 : Semiconductors | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods
 NS gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcac : Political/General News | gcsci : Computer Science | gsci : Sciences/Humanities
 RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia
 PUB Herald Corporation
 AN Document KORHER0020220418ei4j0002t

HD SK Telecom partners with French company to sell video tech

WC 271 words

PD 18 April 2022

SN Korea JoongAng Daily

SC JOONAI

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SK Telecom signed an agreement with French media security company Verimatrix to market its video remastering technology overseas. Supernova is an artificial intelligence (AI) program created by SK that uses machine learning to increase the ...

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SK Telecom signed an agreement with French media security company Verimatrix to market its video remastering technology overseas.

Supernova is an artificial intelligence (AI) program created by SK that uses machine learning to increase the resolution of old video or audio files.

It has been used in various ways such as improving the quality of old videos for TV channel MBC and restoring old data for the Independence Hall of Korea, according to SK. The company introduced a mobile app version of Supernova at MWC 2022 in February.

Verimatrix is a content and app security provider that has over 1,000 clients in 120 countries, mainly in the content and telecommunications fields.

The two companies will combine Supernova with Verimatrix's security service and offer a package deal to companies in South America, Europe and Asia.

They will also launch a cloud service that will allow video resolutions to be increased in real-time.

"SK Telecom will expand the presence of its media technology across the world and also contribute to the spread of Hallyu [Korean wave] content," said Kim Hyuk, head of SK Telecom's Global Media Support unit.

BY YOON SO-YEON [yoon.soyeon@joongang.co.kr]

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SK Telecom signed an agreement with French media security company Verimatrix to sell its video remastering technology, Supernova, in overseas markets. [SK TELECOM]

CO insdet : Verimatrix S.A. | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | itech : Technology | i34531 : Semiconductors | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods

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RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.

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SE Companies
HD **SK Telecom steps up metaverse push with Morph Interactive purchase**
WC 269 words
PD 14 April 2022
SN The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
SC ECODEN
LA English
CY Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network
LP

SK Telecom Co., South Korea's top mobile carrier, has made an equity investment in Morph Interactive Co., a local three-dimensional graphics company, to accelerate its metaverse push.

SK Telecom said on Wednesday it has purchased an unspecified stake in Morph Interactive to jointly develop new functions for SK's metaverseplatform ifland. The value of the deal wasn't disclosed.

TD

"Morph Interactive has been our key partner since the launch of ifland. With this strategic investment, our partnership in the metaverse business has been further strengthened," said an SK Telecom official.

[SK Telecom's metaverse platform ifland](#)

The signing ceremony was held on ifland, where avatars of the two companies' executives participated.

Morph Interactive specializes in producing augmented reality, virtual reality and motion graphics services based on game developer Unity's game engine.

The two companies plan to add new features to ifland to allow users to play games as well as create and sell in-game items, including avatar costumes, by the end of this year.

[SK Telecom](#)

With the creation of the so-called create-to-earn (C2E) platform, SK Telecom also plans to launch a non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace to allow clients to trade their creations on ifland.

Launched in July 2021, ifland is one of the two major metaverse platforms in Korea, along with Naver Corp.'s Zepeto.

SK Telecom eventually hopes to take ifland to the global market.

By Han-Gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

In-Soo Nam edited this article.

[SK Telecom is in a strategic partnership with Morph Interactive](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN ivrealt : Virtual Reality Technologies | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
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HD SK Telecom signs contract with Morph Interactive to implement new **metaverse** functions

BY posted by Ellie McGonagle-Foy, Total Telecom

WC 433 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN Total Telecom Plus

SC TOTEL

LA English

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SK Telecom has invested in Morph Interactive to speed up the development of new features for their **metaverseplatform**, 'Ifland'

Last year, South Korean mobile operator SK Telecom announced the launch of its **metaverseplatform**, Ifland, aiming to deliver diverse virtual spaces with customisable and expressive user avatars.

TD

Ifland is considered one of the two major metaverse platforms in Korea, along with Naver's Zepeto.

Now, SK Telecom has announced a new partnership with Morph Interactive, a Seoul-based company that specialises in computer systems design and three-dimensional motion graphics.

The two companies have entered into a strategic cooperation agreement that will see SK Telecom buy an undisclosed stake in Morph Interactive, as well as collaborating to develop new functions the Ifland platform.

These new functions will include allowing user avatars to interact with props and introduce minigames that can be played individually or with other users in the same virtual space.

Yang Maeng-seok, head of SK Telecom's metaverse business, described the investment as the foundation for "providing Ifland users with more fun factors".

By the end of the year, other features added to the platform will include the inception of Ifland's own digital economy in the form of crypto currency and the launch of a virtual shop, which will allow users to purchase outfits for their avatars.

"We will do our best to make Ifland a means of communication that gets closer to the daily lives of many users and can be actively used in corporate business," commented Morph Interactive CEO, Kim Jung-youul.

In a demonstration of Ifland's viability as a medium for business, the contract between SK Telecom and Morph was itself enacted through a virtual ceremony held on Ifland platform, with the two companies' executives signing this contact with their virtual avatars.

In related news this week, SK Telecom continues to enhance its own multimedia capabilities, announcing the development of an AI Post Production platform that uses AI technology to detect and remove subtitles, copyrighted music, and embedded graphics from video content. This will help the content to meet the distribution standards of global platforms like Netflix and Amazon, thereby making it easier for companies to export Korean content overseas. Want to keep up to date with the latest developments in the world of telecoms? Subscriber to receive Total Telecom's daily newsletter hereAlso in the news:Orange talks flattening the energy curveNokia pulls out of Russia entirelyTelekom Srbija eyes acquisitions as it issues €500m bond

RF 513059

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WC 268 words

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[SK Telecom's metaverse platform ifland](#)

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[SK Telecom](#)

With the creation of the so-called create-to-earn (C2E) platform, SK Telecom also plans to launch a non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace to allow clients to trade their creations on ifland.

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SK Telecom eventually hopes to take ifland to the global market.

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[SK Telecom in a strategic partnership with Morph Interactive](#)

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HD SK Telecom: Expect Healthy Earnings Growth

WC 382 words

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The author is an analyst of NH **Investment** & Securities. He can be reached at jaemin.ahn@nhqv.com. -- Ed.

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Prospects look bright for SKT, with its 5G subscriber number exceeding 10mn, 5G handset penetration rate surpassing 45%, and wireless sales climbing steadily. With major costs stabilizing for the firm, we anticipate significant OP growth moving ahead.

Earnings ramping up strongly on improving wireless profitability

- Adhering to a Buy rating, we raise our TP on SK Telecom (SKT) from W70,000 to W73,000. Sales at the wireless business are rising on the back of 5G subscriber growth and ARPU increase, amid an easing in market competition and decline in expenses (eg, marketing expenses and depreciation costs). We expect SKT to log solid earnings growth in 2022, foreseeing annual sales of W17.8tn (+6.4% y-y) and OP of W1.61tn (+16.4% y-y). Taking into account expectations for earnings expansion, 2022 DPS is estimated at W3,400 (W850 per quarter) and DY at around 5.5%. We raise our TP on upwards adjustments to our earnings estimates from 2022 onwards.

1Q22 preview: To log solid earnings

- SKT is predicted to post 1Q22 sales of W4.35tn (+5.7% y-y, +1.2% q-q) and OP of W439.1bn (+17.3% y-y, +93.7% q-q), with OP exceeding both our previous estimate of W412.1bn and the consensus of W393.1bn. With 5G subscriber numbers continuing on a stable uptrend, MNO sales likely climbed to W3.1tn (+5.5% y-y, +2.3% q-q). Moving ahead, SKT should enjoy both cost stabilization and significant OP growth. In 1Q22, wireless ARPU likely expanded steadily to W30,724 (+1.7% y-y, -0.1% q-q).

- For 1Q22, marketing expenses are projected at W755.1bn (-1.7% y-y, +0.2% q-q), similar to the 4Q21 level, amid weak replacement demand for handsets and stable market competition despite the release of the Galaxy S22. Estimated depreciation costs of W930.4bn (-1.4% y-y, -3.3% q-q) should prove manageable, with capex stabilizing downward and 28GHz investment likely remaining some time away.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=90875>

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SE international
HD **SK Telecom buys stake in 3D motion graphics firm in **metaverse** push**

WC 345 words

PD 14 April 2022

SN The Nation

SC THENAT

LA English

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LP

South Korean telecommunications giant SK Telecom said Wednesday it has agreed to buy a stake in Morph Interactive, a Seoul-based three-dimensional motion graphics company, in a move to bolster a strategic partnership for accelerating its **metaverse** push.

The deal terms, such as acquisition cost and the amount of Morph Interactive's stake, was undisclosed upon the consent of the two companies.

TD

Morph Interactive has been dedicated to real-time 3D visual effects on Unity's game engine, as well as technologies for virtual reality and augmented reality. It has worked with Korean telecom firms SK Telecom and KT.

SK Telecom said the new strategic investment will accelerate the speed of advancing ifland, a fledgling metaverse platform where users and clients can make digital interactions in a virtual world.

By the end of 2022, ifland aims to adopt gamification, issue its own digital asset for crypto economy, and launch a shop that allows users to custom design outfits for their avatars.

Morph Interactive has been a longtime partner and played a critical role in developing ifland metaverse platform at its early stage, SK Telecom added.

The strategic investment will lay a cornerstone for "providing ifland users with more fun factors," Yang Maeng-seok, head of SK Telecom's metaverse business, said in a statement.

Launched in July 2021, ifland is considered one of the two major metaverse platforms in Korea, along with Naver's Zepeto. The global version of ifland was unveiled in the Mobile World Congress 2022 in Barcelona in March.

By Son Ji-hyoung

Asia News Network: The Nation (Thailand), The Korea Herald, The Straits Times (Singapore), China Daily, Jakarta Post, The Star and Sin Chew Daily (Malaysia), The Statesman (India), Philippine Daily Inquirer, Yomiuri Shimbun and The Japan News, Gogo Mongolia, Dawn (Pakistan), The Island (Sri Lanka), Kuensel (Bhutan), Kathmandu Post (Nepal), Daily Star (Bangladesh), Eleven Media (Myanmar), the Phnom Penh Post and Rasmei Kampuchea (Cambodia), The Borneo Bulletin (Brunei), Vietnam News, and Vientiane Times (Laos).

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SE Companies
HD **SK Telecom invests in Morph Interactive in stepped-up **metaverse** push**
WC 270 words
PD 14 April 2022
SN The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
SC ECODEN
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SK Telecom Co., South Korea's top mobile carrier, has made an equity **investment** in Morph Interactive Co., a local three-dimensional graphics company, to accelerate its **metaverse** push.

SK Telecom said on Wednesday it has purchased an unspecified stake in Morph Interactive to jointly develop new functions for SK's **metaverseplatform** ifland. The value of the deal wasn't disclosed.

TD

"Morph Interactive has been our key partner since the launch of ifland. With this strategic investment, our partnership in the metaverse business has further strengthened," said an SK Telecom official.

[SK Telecom's metaverse platform ifland](#)

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[SK Telecom](#)

With the creation of the so-called create-to-earn (C2E) platform, SK Telecom also plans to launch a non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace to let clients trade created items on ifland.

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SK Telecom eventually hopes to take its metaverse platform ifland to the global market.

By Han-Gyeol Seon

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[SK Telecom in a strategic partnership with Morph Interactive](#)

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SE , Tech
HD **SKT invests in Morph Interactive to add games, market place to ifland**
BY Woo Soo-min and Susan Lee
WC 275 words
PD 14 April 2022
SN Maeil Business Newspaper
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LP

South Korea's top wireless carrier SK Telecom Co. has made a strategic **investment** in Morph Interactive, a Seoul-based 3D motion graphics company, to upgrade its **metaverseplatform** 'ifland' to a place where users can play games and trade their non-fungible token (**NFT**) items to earn money.

SK Telecom announced on Wednesday that it signed a contract to strengthen its strategic alliance with Morph Interactive through equity **investment**. Details regarding the value of the **investment** or the stake were not disclosed.

TD

Morph Interactive, which produces 3D visual effects using game developer Unity's engine, has been one of SK Telecom's key partners since ifland's launch.

With Morph Interactive's help, SK Telecom plans to add game and market place features to its metaverse platform that currently focuses on its flagship group meeting like large community events that allow more than 130 people to communicate in real-time in a single virtual space.

The first games to be added to ifland would be "mini games" like dice or dart games that community event participants can enjoy together.

The telecommunications giant also plans to open market places where users can trade their NFT items like avatars, costumes and accessories to make a profit before the end of this year.

SK Square Co., which was spun off from SK Telecom as an investment entity in 2021, previously announced that it will issue its own cryptocurrency as early as the third quarter of this year to help bolster SK Telecom's metaverse platform.

[\[Source: SK Telecom Co.\]](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN i4941 : Dolls/Toys/Games | icnp : Consumer Goods | ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
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SE Entertainment

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LP

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TD

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SK Telecom said the new strategic investment will accelerate the speed of advancing ifland, a fledgling metaverse platform where users and clients can make digital interactions in a virtual world.

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Avatars of SK Telecom officials and Morph Interactive representatives pose for a photo at a signing ceremony held virtually on SK Telecom’s ifland metaverse platform Wednesday. (SK Telecom)

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HD SK Telecom to add game features to its ifland platform

WC 348 words

PD 13 April 2022

SN Korea JoongAng Daily

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LA English

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LP

SK Telecom will add new features in its metaverse platform ifland that will let users play games and create and sell in-game items within this year. The company said on Wednesday that it has bought an unspecified stake in local 3-D graphic ...

TD

SK Telecom will add new features in its metaverse platform ifland that will let users play games and create and sell in-game items within this year.

The company said on Wednesday that it has bought an unspecified stake in local 3-D graphic developer Morph Interactive to jointly develop the new functions for ifland. The investment volume was also undisclosed.

The signing ceremony was held through ifland, where the two companies' executives took part with their virtual avatars.

Morph Interactive has been cooperating with SK Telecom since the beginning stages of ifland's launch and has expertise in mobile game development, the telecom company said.

With the new functions, users will be able to play games with each other and create their own items and maps that can be used or bought by other users.

SK Telecom will also let users issue non-fungible tokens (NFT) of avatars and other digital merchandise and trade them through ifland. Users will be able to cash their cyber money into real money.

"We will collaborate with more companies with technology in the metaverse so that ifland is accepted globally," said Yang Maeng-seog, head of the SK Telecom metaverse unit, in a press release.

BY YOON SO-YEON [yoon.soyeon@joongang.co.kr]

[Click here to see image](#)

Executives from SK Telecom and Morph Interactive take part in an online ceremony on the telecom company's metaverse platform ifland on Wednesday with their virtual avatars. From left are: Cho Ik-hwan, vice president of the Metaverser development division at SK Telecom's Metaverse unit; Yang Maeong-seog, vice president of SK Telecom's Metaverse unit; Kim Jung-yeol, CEO of Morph Interactive; and Yoo Jae-ho, vice president of portfolio management office at SK Telecom. [SK TELECOM]

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HD

NEW ID Partners with SK Telecom to Develop AI Post Production Platform to Export Korean Content

WC

562 words

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13 April 2022

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SEOUL, South Korea, April 13, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- NEW ID announced on April 10, 2022 that the company has completed the development of its AI-based Post Production that opens the door for more content to be enjoyed on global OTT platforms.

-- Under an exclusive partnership, NEW ID uses SK Telecom (SKT)'s AI technology to detect and remove subtitles, music, and other embedded graphics to meet the content distribution standards of global platforms.

-- NEW ID provides an all-in-one post production solution necessary for content localization, including specialized AI solution, translation and subtitle generation.

TD

NEW ID, digital content & media platform business subsidiary of Next Entertainment World (NEW), commercializes SKT's AI-based Post Production (AIPP) technology. NEW ID signed an exclusive contract with SKT to commercialize its AI-based post production technology used to remove subtitles, TV rating labels, music, and completed the development of an automated AIPP platform.

The biggest obstacle to exportation of Korean entertainment content is not only the language but also music copyright issues when finalized content is distributed globally. From removing copyright music, burned-in Korean subtitles, TV rating labels, and to PPL images, it is important for global OTT services to remove subtitles including speech captions used in entertainment content and Korean subtitles that are increasing in number due to frequent use of English in Korean dramas. As global OTT platforms show more interest in Korean content, media localization enables both the globalization and localization of Korean content, which is also growing in high demand.

NEW ID focuses on commercializing SKT's original technology in removing subtitles, removing graphics such as logo, recognizing and removing audio sources without losing voice. Also, NEW ID will collaborate with SKT to enhance the quality and efficiency of global localization process with its video remastering technology '5GX Supernova' and subtitles auto-generation technology. NEW ID will use SKT's AI-based technology to eliminate obstacles impeding broadcasting K-content on global streaming platforms and widen global distribution channels.

SKT Global Media Support Manager Hyuk Kim said "I look forward to seeing Korean entertainment content push the Korean Wave to greater heights in the media content industry with the help of AIPP solutions that solve difficulties in exportation due to Korean subtitles and unlicensed music. We will continue to develop media localization technology that makes it easier to export K-content." NEW ID CEO June Park said, "Collaborating with leading content platforms across the world helped us better understand global platforms' service architecture. We are excited to work alongside SK Telecom to enhance viewing experiences for global content fans and strengthen the media post production ecosystem."

NEW ID is the only Korean media company which has launched and is operating premium Asian entertainment channels on more than 20 global streaming platforms including Amazon, Roku, Plex and Tubi. Through AIPP technology, NEW ID has quickly expanded its services in post production by working with broadcast networks to enhance content quality and post production efficiency in order to help their content move worldwide to global OTT platforms.

Media Contact:

marketing@its-newid.com

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<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-id-partners-with-sk-telecom-to-develop-ai-post-production-platform-to-export-korean-content-301524578.html>

SOURCE NEW ID

(END)

CO

kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN

i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | imsoft : Streaming Services | idistr : Media Content Distribution | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS

gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | gcsci : Computer Science | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | npres : Press Releases | c23 : Research/Development | gmusic : Music | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment | gsci : Sciences/Humanities | ncat : Content Types

RE

skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia
| easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB

PR Newswire Association, Inc.

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Document PRN0000020220413ei4d0001n

SE World
HD **SKT works with Morph Interactive for quick introduction of new functions for Ifland metaverseplatform**
BY Lim Chang-won
WC 508 words
PD 13 April 2022
SN AJU NEWS
SC AJUENG
LA English
CY Copyright 2022. AJU NEWS CORPORATION

LP

[Courtesy of SK Telecom]SEOUL -- SK Telecom, a top mobile carrier in South Korea, will work with Morph Interactive, a 3D graphics platform developer, to speed up the development and introduction of new functions for a tolerant metaverseplatform called "Ifland" that would maximize user experience through diverse virtual spaces and avatars.SK Telecom (SKT) will make equity investments in Morph Interactive under a strategic cooperation agreement, but financial terms were not disclosed. Morph Interactive with experience leading a number of game projects based on mobile game development capabilities has been SKT's key partner since Ifland was launched in July 2021.

TD

SKT would nurture Ifland into a leading metaverse platform by enhancing user convenience, especially among Millennial and Z generations."We will continue to expand cooperation with leading Metabus-related companies and establish ourselves as a global service," SKT's metaverse platform head Yang Maeng-seok said in a statement on April 13.

Through cooperation with Morph Interactive, SKT said it would expand game elements by allowing users to use props such as dice and darts, and introducing mini-games that many can participate in. In an open environment, users can produce avatar costumes and lands (space) to freely decorate avatars by producing costumes or items they want.

A non-fungible fund (NFT) marketplace will allow individuals to make profits by producing props, avatars, costumes, and spaces that can be used in Ifland. SKT will cooperate with famous intellectual properties to purchase or use premium avatars, costumes, and spaces. "We will do our best to make Ifland a means of communication that gets closer to the daily lives of many users and can be actively used in corporate business," said Morph Interactive CEO Kim Jung-you.

SKT plans to boost the popularization of Ifland by running special programs and providing content that meets the needs of users. The company will hold large-scale events such as forums, lectures, festivals, concerts and fan meetings in Ifland, and provide diverse content and businesses with new and innovative ways of marketing by enabling them to meet customers in Ifland.

SKT is a key member of an alliance of private companies, broadcasting networks, research organizations and state bodies that was launched in May to cultivate a metaverse ecosystem based on extended reality and media in a government-sponsored event aimed at supporting the establishment of an open platform so that companies can utilize data and develop new services.

The alliance is aimed at opening a metaverse hub for the development of an ecosystem, based on media and extended reality (XR) encompassing a wide spectrum of hardware and software that enable content creation for virtual reality, mixed reality and cinematic reality. It supports the production, testing and demonstration of services in the fields of manufacturing, healthcare, construction, education, distribution and defense.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwlim34@ajunews.com

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/04/13/20220413134838485936.jpg>

CT cwlim34@ajunews.com

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services

NS c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB AJU NEWS CORPORATION

AN Document AJUENG0020220413ei4d0008d

SE #Digital Currency
 HD SKT invests in XR tech company for metaverse expansion
 BY Yeran Kim
 WC 135 words
 PD 13 April 2022
 SN Smart Times
 SC SMTIME
 LA English
 CY Copyright 2022. PRIME MEDIA GROUP Inc.
 LP

South Korea's largest telecommunications company SK Telecom (SKT) has made a strategic investment in Morph Interactive, a company specializing in extended reality (XR) technologies, to further develop its metaverseplatform, the company announced Wednesday.

The size of the investment and stake in the XR company has not been disclosed.

TD

Morph Interactive has been one of SKT's initial partners for the building of the telecommunications company's metaverse platform Ifland.

SKT plans to introduce gamification, user community and crypto economy to Ifland by the end of this year. It is also looking to launch a non-fungible token (NFT) marketplace so that users can generate profit by creating and selling digital goods that can be used in the virtual world.



Source: SKT

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
 IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
 NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ccapex : Capital Expenditure | nimage : Images | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | ncat : Content Types
 RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia
 IPD #Digital Currency
 PUB Prime Media Group Inc.
 AN Document SMTIME0020220413ei4d00001

SE World
HD SK Telecom develops AI post-production technology for media localization
BY Kim Joo-heon
WC 445 words
PD 11 April 2022
SN AJU NEWS
SC AJUENG
LA English
CY Copyright 2022. AJU NEWS CORPORATION
LP

[Courtesy of SK Telecom]SEOUL -- SK Telecom has developed artificial intelligence-based post-production technology to remove Korean subtitles and speech balloons in video content through collaboration with New ID, a domestic digital content distribution company. The technology will help expand the global distribution of South Korean content. Post-production is a process of editing films and video content before their release. AI-based post-production technology (AIPP) can remove subtitles, rating guides and copyrighted sound sources. SK Telecom (SKT) said that AIPP would boost exports of K-content by overcoming the limitations of post-production technologies that have required high costs and manual work.

TD

Data released by the Korea Creative Content Agency (KOCCA), a government agency governing cultural content, showed that annual exports of K-content exceeded \$10 billion in 2021, up 6.3 percent from a year ago. Squid Game, a Netflix drama series, became one of the most viewed series in the world.

SKT has tied up with NEW ID to develop and commercialize an AIPP automation platform as the global popularity of K-content raised the importance of media localization, which is the process of adapting a product or service from one language to another target language, and from one culture to another in order to reach international audiences.

The task of delivering content in different languages and other cultural factors becomes harder as globalization transforms into a competitive race. Media localization can be as simple as translating subtitles for a TV show or as complex as creating an entirely new version of a video game for international distribution.

"The commercialization of AIPP will boost exports of excellent domestic entertainment content, which had difficulties in localization due to problems such as Korean subtitles and music copyrights, and strengthen the competitiveness of K-content," SKT's global media business head Kim Hyuk said in a statement on April 11.

SKT would utilize AI technology to remove Korean subtitles and broadcasters' logos embedded in video content, remove background sound sources without losing voice, and support an upscaling technology to convert low-definition images into high-definition. New ID would export reprocessed domestic content to global markets.

New ID distributes content to global platforms including Amazon and Discovery Channel. "Based on our cooperation with SKT, we will try to improve the viewing experience of global K-content fans and contribute to the expansion of the domestic media ecosystem," New ID CEO June Park was quoted as saying.

Kim Joo-heon Reporter jhkim123@ajunews.com

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/04/11/20220411113114492987.jpg>

CT jhkim123@ajunews.com

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ciexp : International Expansion (Facilities) | c23 : Research/Development | c24 : Capacity/Facilities | cprdop : Facility Openings

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB AJU NEWS CORPORATION

AN Document AJUENG0020220411ei4b0008d

HD SK Telecom Develops Post-production Platform to Facilitate K-content Exports

WC 338 words

PD 11 April 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

CY Copyright 2022 Business Korea Co., Ltd.

LP

SK Telecom announced on April 10 that it has completed the development of an artificial intelligence-based post-production (AIPP) platform to facilitate exports of Korean content.

The platform was developed in collaboration with New ID, a digital content and platform distribution company in Korea.

TD

The platform automatically removes subtitles, rating guides, and copyrighted sound sources embedded in video content such as movies and TV shows.

The importance of media localization technology is growing for the globalization and localization of K-content, which is increasingly loved by fans around the world.

SK Telecom and New ID have recently completed the development of an AI-powered post-production automation platform that combines SK Telecom's AI-based media element technology with New ID's media content distribution and platform capabilities. They signed a technology commercialization contract in October 2021 following a business agreement in May 2020.

Previously, most post-production work had been done manually. The new automatic post-production platform will cut the required costs and long lead time.

The platform can remove in-content Korean subtitles, broadcaster logos, and product placement images, eliminate field and background sound sources without loss of human voices, and support Supernova upscaling technology that converts low-quality images to high-definition ones.

New ID, which directly supplies and operates content and broadcasting channels to more than 20 global platforms such as Amazon, Discovery Channel, Roku, Pluto TV, and Tubi, plans to export K content reprocessed through SK Telecom's AI technology to the global market.

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<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=90590>

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

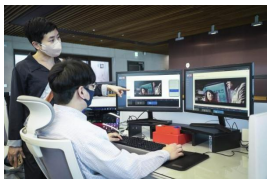
IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gtvrad : Television/Radio | c312 : Corporate/Industry Exports | c23 : Research/Development | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cdom : Domestic/Foreign Markets | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Business Korea Co., Ltd.

AN Document BKORDN0020220411ei4b00005

SE	#AI
HD	SKT develops AI technology to erase subtitles and sound sources
BY	jinyong lee
WC	200 words
PD	11 April 2022
SN	Smart Times
SC	SMTIME
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022. PRIME MEDIA GROUP Inc.
LP	<p>SK Telecom announced that it will complete the development of 'AI Post Production (AIPP)' technology in collaboration with 'New ID', a digital content distribution company, and start commercializing it.</p> <p>SKT uses AI technology to support △Removal of Korean subtitles and broadcaster logos in content △Removal of field and background sound sources without loss of voice △Upscaling technology that converts low-quality images to high-definition, 'Supernova'.</p>
TD	<p>New ID, which supplies content to more than 20 global platforms such as Amazon, Discovery Channel, Roku, Pluto TV, and 2B, plans to export domestic content reprocessed through SKT's AI technology to the global market.</p> <p>Both companies anticipate that AIPP technology will be particularly helpful in exporting domestic entertainment contents, where subtitles, speech bubbles and background sound sources are frequently used.</p> <p>Kim Hyuk, head of global media support at SKT, said, "We expect that the export of excellent entertainment contents in Korea, which has been difficult to localize due to problems such as Korean subtitles and music copyrights, will expand, and will further strengthen the content Korean wave." We will do our best to develop 'media localization' technology for.</p>
	
	SK Telecom
CO	kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN	i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies itech : Technology i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS	nimage : Images c23 : Research/Development ccat : Corporate/Industrial News ncat : Content Types
RE	skorea : South Korea apacz : Asia Pacific asiaz : Asia easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD	#AI
PUB	Prime Media Group Inc.
AN	Document SMTIME0020220411ei4b00002

SE , Photos
HD SKT to hold virtual cherry blossom festival on **metaverse** Ifland

WC 98 words

PD 7 April 2022

SN Maeil Business Newspaper

SC MAEIL

LA English

CY Copyright 2022 MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

LP

South Korea's top wireless carrier SK Telecom will hold a virtual cherry blossom festival on its **metaverseplatform** Ifland to enable people to enjoy the spring flower season online amid the ongoing pandemic, the company said Wednesday. The "Cherry Blossom Ending" land on Ifland based on the motif of the country's largest Jinhae Cherry Blossom Festival in South Gyeongsang Province will take people on journeys with different themes like a walking trail along the lake, railway, wish zone, hanok café, and picnic zone.

[\[Source: SK Telecom\]](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gfesti : Festivals | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

AN Document MAEIL00020220407ei470008i

HD SK Telecom Set to Launch AI Semiconductor Business in Earnest

WC 410 words

PD 6 April 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

CY Copyright 2022 Business Korea Co., Ltd.

LP

SK Telecom has recently completed the establishment of Sapeon's U.S. and Korean corporations, making itself ready to promote its artificial intelligence (AI) semiconductor globally.

The company launched Sapeon Korea, a company established by spinning off its AI semiconductor business unit. It also established Sapeon Headquarters in Silicon Valley.

TD

Sapeon is a non-memory semiconductor that can execute large-scale calculations required to implement AI services at high speed and with low power consumption.

The 50 or so officials in charge of the Sapeon chip business at SK Telecom changed their affiliation to Sapeon Korea beginning from April. The U.S. headquarters of Sapeon was established by SK ICT Alliance, which was jointly set up by SK Telecom, SK Hynix, and SK Square in January, with a total investment of 80 billion won.

The Sapeon headquarters will promote the Sapeon AI semiconductor to global big tech giants. It will also be used for attracting human resources and investment. Sapeon Korea, a subsidiary of Sapeon in the U.S., will be in charge of business in Korea and Asia.

SK ICT Alliance plans to grow Sapeon's U.S. and Korean corporations so that they attain 2 trillion won in cumulative sales and 10 trillion won in corporate value by 2027.

SK Telecom's Sapeon X220 is the first AI semiconductor developed in Korea and features 1.5 times faster operation speed, 80 percent power consumption and half a price compared to graphic processing units (GPUs) of similar specifications. Next year, the X330 will come out as an upgrade model of the X220. Sapeon will develop the X330 by adding a real-time learning function to the X220, which is optimized for inference.

Sapeon is also planning to launch the AI as a Service (AlaaS) business, which provides integrated solutions ranging from hardware based on AI semiconductors to software such as AI algorithms and application program interfaces (APIs).

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=90354>

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i34531 : Semiconductors | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gcsci : Computer Science | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Business Korea Co., Ltd.

AN Document BKORDN0020220406ei460002w

HD SK Telecom and KT Vying for Bigger Share of In-car Voice Recognition Market

WC 497 words

PD 5 April 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

CY Copyright 2022 Business Korea Co., Ltd.

LP

SK Telecom and KT are competing for supremacy in artificial intelligence (AI) voice recognition services for vehicles. SK Telecom expanded its territory last year by joining hands with Volvo. Then, KT partnered with Mercedes-Benz, which ranks first in the Korean imported car market. SK Telecom responded to KT's move by agreeing to collaborate with BMW in 2023.

KT said on April 4 that it has begun to provide an AI voice recognition service to some of Mercedes-Benz models. Currently, the service is compatible with Mercedes-Benz flagship models such as the S-Class and the EV EQA and the scope of compatible models may increase.

TD

KT provides location information and online content through the AI voice recognition service for Mercedes-Benz models. The German company applies KT's AI voice recognition service to models that carry hefty price tags exceeding 100 million won. In 2021, Mercedes-Benz's market share reached 27.6 percent in the Korean imported car market.

It was SK Telecom that first launched an AI voice recognition service for imported cars. In September 2021, Volvo introduced 'NUGU', a voice recognition service by SK Telecom, to the new model Volvo XC60. The service allows drivers to set destinations, control room temperature and send text messages while driving. Moreover, SK Telecom collaborated with Jaguar Land Rover and Jeep. However, the combined market share of these brands in the imported car market stood at only 10 percent in 2021.

SK Telecom is planning to compete with the KT-Mercedes-Benz alliance through collaboration with BMW in 2023. T Map will be loaded into BMW vehicles to be produced next year. Experts expect that T Map will be loaded with a voice recognition service like Volvo. BMW's market share in 2021 stood at about 24 percent, second only to Mercedes-Benz.

SK Telecom and KT have been engaged in a war of nerves over partnering with Amazon of the United States in 2021. Both companies were developing an AI speaker with "two brains" that can recognize both Korean and English with Amazon, but they pondered the timing of the launch. At first, experts forecast that KT would dominate the market, but SK Telecom made a surprise announcement of its service at the end of 2021 and got ahead of KT in the AI speaker market. After that, KT released the results of its collaboration with Amazon only in February 2022.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=90292>

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | damb : Mercedes-Benz Group AG | kortel : KT Corp

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | ivoicr : Voice Recognition Software | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | icomp : Computing | itech : Technology | i351 : Motor Vehicles | i35101 : Passenger Cars | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i79026 : Integrated Communications Providers | iaui : Automotive

NS gcsci : Computer Science | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Business Korea Co., Ltd.

AN Document BKORDN0020220405ei450002t

HD YouTube Music Threatens Melon's Top Spot in Korea**WC** 233 words**PD** 1 April 2022**SN** Chosun Ilbo**SC** DIGCHO**LA** English**CY** Copyright 2022 The Chosun Ilbo Co., Ltd.**LP**

Online music streaming **platform** Melon, which is owned by Kakao, is under threat of losing its top spot in the Korean market to omnipresent YouTube. According to app tracker Wiseapp, YouTube Music had 4.97 million paid monthly users in February, second after Melon's 6.41 million. In third place was KT's Genie Music (3.14 million users), followed by SK Telecom's Flo (2.22 million) and Naver's Vibe (1.48 million). As recently as February 2021, Melon outpaced YouTube by 2.49 million users, but now the gap has narrowed to 1.44 million. YouTube Music users surged from just 640,000 when it was launched here in February 2019 to 4.97 million this year, so it is only a matter of time till it claims the top spot. Streaming companies are not happy with YouTube, which they accuse of stealing their customers by offering free services. YouTube Music does charge a W8,000 monthly fee, but the streaming service is free for YouTube Premium subscribers who pay W10,000 a month (US\$1=W1,213).

TD

One industry insider said, "It could be a good thing to see a new player in the market, but YouTube is viewed as 'public enemy No. 1' by the industry."

(By Kim Bong-kee)

englishnews@chosun.com /

April 01, 2022 12:45

CO blucrd : Genie Music Corporation | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | kortel : KT Corp**IN** imsoft : Streaming Services | idistr : Media Content Distribution | iint : Online Service Providers | imed : Media/Entertainment | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | isound : Sound/Music Recording/Publishing**NS** gmusic : Music | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment**RE** skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia**PUB** Digital Chosun Inc.**AN** Document DIGCHO0020220401ei4100001

HD SK Hynix Is Now Looking Acquire Armn Through A Consortium**BY** Siddha Dhar**CR** Distributed by Contify.com**WC** 279 words**PD** 31 March 2022**SN** Electronics Bazaar**SC** ATELBZ**LA** English**CY** Copyright © 2022. EFY Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.**LP**

In February, Nvidia scrapped the \$40 billion deal — the biggest ever in the world of semiconductors — to acquire Arm, amid anti-**trust** probes in the US and Europe

Months after the fallout of the highly-anticipated Nvidia-Arm deal, South Korean chipmaker SK hynix is looking to form a consortium to acquire British semiconductor company Arm.

TD

"We are reviewing possibly forming a consortium, together with strategic partners, to jointly acquire it," Park Jung-ho, vice chairman and CEO of SK hynix, told reporters after the company's annual shareholders meeting. The idea of a possible acquisition of Arm is said to be at a very early stage.

"I don't believe Arm is a company that could be bought by one company," he added, reports Yonhap news agency.

In Februray, Nvidia scrapped the \$40 billion deal — the biggest ever in the world of semiconductors — to acquire Arm, amid anti-trust probes in the US and Europe.

Park, who is also CEO of SK Square Co., the investment spinoff of SK Telecom, made it clear his company has been eyeing a potential merger in the semiconductor industry.

"I want to buy Arm, if not entirely. It doesn't have to be buying a majority of its shares to be able to control the company," he said during SK Square's annual shareholders meeting.

Earlier, SK hynix was approved by South Korea's antitrust regulator to go ahead with its acquisition of local chipmaker Key Foundry. The deal was aimed at revving up its contract chip manufacturing capacity, which takes up a small portion of its business.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | hylec : SK Hynix Inc**IN** i34531 : Semiconductors | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications**NS** cacqu : Acquisitions/Mergers | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | c34 : Anti-Competition Issues | c184 : Joint Ventures/Consortia | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter**RE** usa : United States | namz : North America**PUB** EFY Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.**AN** Document ATELBZ0020220402ei3v00006

SE International
HD **SK hynix now seeks to buy British chip designer Arm**

WC 308 words

PD 30 March 2022

SN Indo-Asian News Service

SC HNIANS

LA English

CY Copyright 2022. Indo-Asian News Service

LP

Seoul, March 30 (IANS) SK hynix, the world's second largest memory chip maker, is reviewing to acquire British semiconductor company Arm with strategic partners, its top executive said on Wednesday.

In a massive blow to Big Tech, graphics chip giant Nvidia in February scrapped the \$40 billion deal -- the biggest ever in the world of semiconductors -- to acquire Arm, amid anti-**trust** probes in the US and Europe.

TD

"We are reviewing possibly forming a consortium, together with strategic partners, to jointly acquire it," Park Jung-ho, vice chairman and CEO of SK hynix, told reporters after the company's annual shareholders meeting.

"I don't believe Arm is a company that could be bought by one company," he added, reports Yonhap news agency.

The idea of a possible acquisition of Arm, a British chip designer that was acquired by Japan's SoftBank in 2016, is said to be at a very early stage.

Park, who is also CEO of SK Square Co., the investment spinoff of SK Telecom, made it clear his company has been eyeing a potential merger in the semiconductor industry.

"I want to buy Arm, if not entirely. It doesn't have to be buying a majority of its shares to be able to control the company," he said during SK Square's annual shareholders meeting.

Earlier, SK hynix was approved by South Korea's antitrust regulator to go ahead with its acquisition of local chipmaker Key Foundry.

The deal was aimed at revving up its contract chip manufacturing capacity, which takes up a small portion of its business.

"We will build an R&D center in Silicon Valley and use it as a key base to enhance partnership with big tech companies and improve competitiveness," Park also said at Wednesday's event.

--IANS

na/

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | hylec : SK Hynix Inc

IN i34531 : Semiconductors | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS cacqu : Acquisitions/Mergers | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | c34 : Anti-Competition Issues | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB	IANIS India Pvt. Ltd.
AN	Document HNIANS0020220330ei3u0089a

SE Companies
HD **Dell, SK team up for 5G mobile edge computing market**
WC 409 words
PD 29 March 2022
SN The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
SC ECODEN
LA English
CY Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network
LP

South Korea's top mobile carrier SK Telecom Co. (SKT) has joined hands with Dell Technologies Inc. to launch a 5G mobile edge computing (MEC) **platform** designed to reduce delays in data transmission, targeting global enterprise customers.

Their joint MEC **platform**, Petasus, will be provided for both general purpose and customized applications. Later SK will link Petasus to public clouds so that it can be widely adopted by companies.

TD

"The Petasus 5G MEC solution combines SKT's 5G MEC solution and Dell PowerEdge servers," SK said in a statement on Monday. Petasus is the name of a hat worn by ancient Greeks.

"Going forward, the solution will support integration with MEC solutions of other telecom companies and provide an app store-like feature for MEC services applications."

MEC is emerging as a key technology for specialized 5G services such as smart factories, autonomous driving and immersive media using virtual and augmented technologies.

By installing small-scale data centers at base stations closer to mobile users, a 5G MEC platform reduces network congestion and thereby improves the speed and reliability of data transmission of applications.

For instance, by setting up a 5G MEC within a factory, data that travels to and from the factory can be processed onsite instead of having to go through the central data center located hundreds of kilometers away.

"The two companies plan to provide the Petasus solution not only to global telecom companies, but also to businesses and public institutions throughout the globe that plan to adopt private 5G networks," SK added.

In particular, they will strengthen their cooperation in 5G end-to-end business, which includes consulting, infrastructure deployment and maintenance services.

SK Telecom expects its 5G MEC technology to boost the adoption of 5G services, which boast a much faster speed of data downloads than 4G networks, around the globe.

Down the road, the Korean mobile carrier will further expand into the software-as-a-service business in partnership with Dell and other domestic and overseas companies.

Driven by telecom operators' advance into MEC services to promote 5G networks, the MEC market is projected to grow to \$23.4 billion won by 2028 from an estimated 2.4 trillion won in 2021, according to Grand View Research.

By Sung-Soo Bae

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Yeonhee Kim edited this article.

[SK Telecom's exhibition booth at the Mobile World Conference 2022 in Barcelona](#)

CO fmncaz : Dell Technologies Inc. | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN iedco : Edge Computing | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i8394 : Computer Services | iappsp : Cloud Computing | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | idserv : Data Services | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | icomp : Computing

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IPD Companies

PUB KED Global News Network

AN Document ECODEN0020220329ei3t00032

HD Three telecom companies establish ESG investment fund

WC 412 words

PD 29 March 2022

SN Korea JoongAng Daily

SC JOONAI

LA English

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LP

Korea's three telecom companies will establish a joint fund to invest in start-ups with technologies in environmental, social and governance (ESG) management, the companies said in a joint statement Tuesday. Heads of SK Telecom, KT and LG U+ ...

TD

Korea's three telecom companies will establish a joint fund to invest in start-ups with technologies in environmental, social and governance (ESG) management, the companies said in a joint statement Tuesday.

Heads of SK Telecom, KT and LG U+ signed an agreement to co-establish a 40-billion-won (\$32.8 million) ESG fund to invest in start-ups focusing on developing socially-conscious technologies, especially in the environment field.

SK Telecom President Ryu Young-sang, KT President Park Jong-ook and LG U+ CEO Hwang Hyeon-sik were present at the signing ceremony.

Each telecom company will invest 10 billion won and the fund manager, KB Investment, will also pitch in 10 billion. KB Investment will review possible candidates and start making investments within the first half of this year.

"This is the first case in which the leading companies of a specific industry are coming together to form a joint fund," the companies said in a press release.

"The reason for putting all the funds into the ESG field is because the need for innovative technologies in the ICT field is increasing at a time where the move toward environmentally-friendly, low-carbon and fair economy accelerates."

In addition to funding, the three companies will also connect the selected start-ups to their respective venture nurturing programs.

The companies will put together an advisory board to make sure that the project does not stop with a one-time investment, they said.

"The CEOs of the three companies will take part in the advisory board to ensure a quick decision-making process," read the statement. "We look forward to the rapid growth of start-ups with the full support from the three companies and our CEOs."

BY YOON SO-YEON [yoon.soyeon@joongang.co.kr]

[Click here to see image](#)

SK Telecom President Ryu Young-sang (center), KT President Park Jong-ook (right) and LG U+ CEO Hwang Hyeon-sik (left) pose for photo after signing an agreement to co-establish a 40-billion-won (\$32.8 million) ESG fund to invest in start-ups focusing on developing socially-conscious technologies Tuesday. [SK TELECOM, KT, LG U+]

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | lgtele : LG Uplus Corp. | kortel : KT Corp | luchem : LG Corp

IN iresinv : Sustainable Investment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i81502 : Trusts/Funds/Financial Vehicles | ialtinv : Alternative Investments | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv :

Investing/Securities | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i79026 : Integrated Communications Providers

NS cesg : Environmental/Social/Governance | csbsup : Small Business Start-up Capital | ccapex : Capital Expenditure | ccpgyn : Corporate Governance | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | c17 : Corporate Funding | c41 : Management | centrp : Entrepreneurs/Startups | csmlbs : Small/Medium Businesses | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.

AN Document JOONAI0020220329ei3t001jl

SE , Biz&Company
HD **SK Square to invest over \$1.6bn in semiconductor, blockchain sectors**
BY Woo Soo-min and Sookyung Seo
WC 395 words
PD 29 March 2022
SN Mael Business Newspaper
SC MAEIL
LA English
CY Copyright 2022 MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.
LP

SK Square Co., separated from SK Telecom as an **investment** entity responsible for finding new growth for SK Group, will finance more than 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) over the next three years to invest in semiconductor and blockchain technologies.

SK Square will strive to enhance its value "through investments in semiconductor and blockchain businesses with great growth potential" this year, Park Jung-ho, SK Square CEO, said during the company's first general shareholders' meeting on Monday.

TD

The investment targets will be mostly key U.S. and Japanese players in chip value chain.

Park expects to seize great investment opportunities in the global M&A market this year despite the lingering global economic uncertainty.

The company has ambition to go after Cambridge-based chip designing company Arm whose sale by Softbank Group Corp. recently collapsed.

"Arm could be one (of the candidates). SK Square does not need to go after a controlling stake as investment is the primary function of the company," he said in answering reporter's question.

Japanese investment giant SoftBank signed a deal to sell Arm to U.S. chip company NVIDIA in 2020 but it shelved the sale due to regulatory hurdles in February. SoftBank is now seeking to list Arm in the U.S. Nasdaq market.

SK Square is also preparing a blockchain business that can create great synergy with the metaverse service of SK Telecom and the royalty program of SK Planet in partnership with Korbit, a major crypto exchange operator in Korea. SK Square has become the second largest stakeholder of Korbit after investing 90 billion won last year.

The company will issue its long-term digital currency business plan with an aim to issue its first crypto coin in the third quarter of this year.

SK Square was launched as a standalone investment company in November last year after it was spun off from SK Telecom.

The company will review various measures to maximize shareholders' value including special dividend payout and treasury share buyout in the latter half of this year, Park said.

SK Square shares were up 1.59 percent at 57,600 won in morning trade on Tuesday.

[Click here to view image](#)

[Park Jung-ho, SK Square CEO - Photo provided by SK Square](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | skskgp : SK Group

IN iblock : Blockchain Technology | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services

NS ccapex : Capital Expenditure | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

AN Document MAEIL00020220329ei3t0005p

SE Entertainment
HD **SK Square unveils W2tr bet on chips, blockchain**
WC 483 words
PD 29 March 2022
SN The Korea Herald
SC KORHER
LA English
CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald
LP

SK Square, an **investment** arm of South Korea's third-largest conglomerate, said Monday it plans to spend at least 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) over the next three years in the field of semiconductor chips and blockchain technology.

It is the first time SK Square unveiled its **investment** roadmap since November, when it spun off from telecommunication affiliate SK Telecom.

TD

Under the plan, announced during its shareholder meeting held Monday, SK Square will target chip companies in the United States and in Japan across the global semiconductor value chain.

Prior to the carveout, SK Square has already been dedicated to investing in semiconductor industry. It holds about a 20 percent stake in memory chip maker SK hynix.

Under SK's influence, SK hynix took part in Bain Capital-led deal to buy Toshiba's memory chip operation in 2018, and clinched a \$7 billion deal to acquire Intel's solid-state drive business assets and NAND flash operations in December.

SK Square's fresh investment will not be limited to chips, as it was seeking more aggressive investment in "Next Platform" including blockchain and digital assets.

On the sidelines, SK Square unveiled a plan to launch a white paper explaining the element and property of its new digital coins in the first half of and issue new cryptocurrency before the third quarter. The new digital asset will be building blocks of a new blockchain-based economic system across SK Telecom's metaverse platform and other SK Square affiliates' internet service.

SK Square added it is open to collaborating with investors at home and abroad for co-investment in chips, blockchain, among others.

"This will mark the first year when SK Square creates new shareholder value by investing in chips and blockchain, the fields that we are familiar with and we see a high growth potential," Park Jung-ho, chief executive officer and vice chairman of SK Square, said in a statement.

Since a spinoff, SK Square has invested a total of 130.3 billion won to pursue strategic collaboration, in digital asset exchange Korbit, Kakao-backed virtual human maker Onmind and agricultural technology firm Green Labs.

Other portfolio firms include e-commerce platform 11st, app store operator One Store, security device maker SK Shieldus, advertising company Incross and mobility service firm T Map Mobility, as well as SK hynix.

Of them, SK Shieldus and One Store aims to go public in the first half of this year. Proceeds from share sales of SK Square's portfolio firms will be used to buy back SK Square shares and cancel them, or implement an extraordinary dividend payout, Park said.

(consnow@heraldcorp.com)

[Click here to see image](#)

SK Square Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman Park Jung-ho delivers a speech at a general shareholder conference held in Seoul on Monday. (SK Square)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN iblock : Blockchain Technology | icph : Computer Hardware | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i34531 : Semiconductors | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | icomp : Computing | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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PUB Herald Corporation

AN Document KORHER0020220328ei3t000rt

HD S. Korea's SK Square to Spend \$1.6B on Semiconductors, Blockchain

BY Camomile Shumba

WC 212 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN CoinDesk.com

SC COINDSK

LA English

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LP

SK Square, the **investment** arm of South Korean conglomerate SK Group, will spend 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) in the next three years on semiconductors and blockchain, according to a report.

* "This will mark the first year when SK Square creates new shareholder value by investing in chips and blockchain, the fields that we are familiar with and we see a high growth potential," Park Jung-ho, CEO and vice chairman of SK Square, told [The Korean Herald](#) on Monday.

TD

* The firm plans to launch its own token before the end of the year, according to a [previous](#) report. The new digital asset will be part of a new blockchain economic system across SK Telecom's Ifland metaverse and its affiliates' internet services.

* SK Square was spun off from SK Telecom in November. It has already made investments in the crypto sector. In November, it [acquired](#) a 35% stake in crypto exchange Korbit worth 90 billion won (\$75 million).

* The latest news was first announced in the company's shareholder meeting on Monday.

* SK Square wasn't immediately available for further comment.

Read more: [S. Korea's SK Square to Launch Crypto Token by Year-End: Report](#)

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IN iblock : Blockchain Technology | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services

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IPD Business

PUB CoinDesk, Inc.

AN Document COINDSK020220328ei3s000jk

HD SK Square to invest big in semiconductors and blockchain

WC 200 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN Korea JoongAng Daily

SC JOONAI

LA English

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LP

SK Square, an **investment**-oriented affiliate of SK, vowed to invest at least 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) into semiconductors and blockchain, heralding mergers and acquisitions for the business sector.

TD

SK Square, an investment-oriented affiliate of SK, vowed to invest at least 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) into semiconductors and blockchain, heralding mergers and acquisitions for the business sector.

SK Square Vice Chairman Park Jung-ho outlined strategies during the first annual general meeting after the company spun off from SK Telecom last year.

"Despite uncertainties in the macroeconomic conditions, there will be good opportunities for investment into high-potential companies this year," Park told shareholders during the meeting.

The company is making a big push into cryptocurrency as it plans to issue its own token this year with an aim of using it as means of payment on digital platforms run by SK affiliates.

SK Square is currently the second-largest shareholder of Korbit, a local cryptocurrency exchange after investing 90 billion won last year.

[Click here to see image](#)

SK Square Vice Chairman Park Jung-ho speaks during an annual general meeting on Monday.
[SK SQUARE]

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

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NS c1511 : Annual/Shareholder/Board Meetings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c41 : Management | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

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PUB JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.

AN Document JOONAI0020220328ei3s002p9

HD S. Korea's SK Square Will Spend \$1.6B on Semiconductors, Blockchain

BY Camomile Shumba

WC 217 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN CoinDesk.com

SC COINDSK

LA English

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LP

SK Square, the **investment** arm of South Korean conglomerate SK Group, will spend some 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) across three years on semiconductors and blockchain, according to a report.

* "This will mark the first year when SK Square creates new shareholder value by investing in chips and blockchain, the fields that we are familiar with and we see a high growth potential," Park Jung-ho, chief executive officer and vice chairman of SK Square told [The Korean Herald](#) on Monday.

TD

* The firm plans to launch its own token before the year-end, according to a [previous](#) report. The new digital asset will be part of a new blockchain economic system across SK Telecom's metaverse 'Ifland' and its affiliates' internet service.

* SK Square was spun off from SK Telecom in November last year. It has already made investments in the crypto space. In November 2021 SK Square [acquired](#) a 35% stake in crypto exchange Korbit worth 90 billion won (\$75 million).

* This news was first announced in the company's shareholder meeting on Monday.

* SK Square was not immediately available for comment when contacted by CoinDesk.

Read more: [S. Korea's SK Square to Launch Crypto Token by Year-End: Report](#)

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IPD Business

PUB CoinDesk, Inc.

AN Document COINDSK020220328ei3s0008e

HD SK Telecom, Dell introduce Petasus 5G MEC **platform**

WC 159 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

LA English

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LP

South Korean operator SK Telecom, in collaboration with Dell Technologies, has launched an enterprise 5G mobile edge computing (MEC) service dubbed 'Petasus'. The Petasus 5G MEC **platform** combines SK Telecom's 5G MEC service with Dell PowerEdge servers. It is designed to provide network virtualization features specialized for MEC and operational tools.

Going forward, the **platform** will support integration with MEC services of other telecom operators and provide an app store-like feature for MEC services applications. The **platform** can be provided in a customized manner. Going forward, it will enable enterprises to deploy MEC by supporting interworking with public clouds, SK Telecom also said.

TD

The two companies plan to provide the Petasus platform for global telcos, as well as to businesses and public institutions throughout the globe that plan to adopt private 5G networks. In particular, they intend to strengthen their cooperation in 5G business, which includes consulting, infrastructure deployment and maintenance services.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | fmncaz : Dell Technologies Inc.

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | i3302021 : Applications Software | icomp : Computing | itech : Technology

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c22 : New Products/Services | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELASI0020220328ei3s0002t

SE World
HD SKT partners with Dell Technologies to release 5G MEC **platform** targeting global market
BY Park Sae-jin
WC 403 words
PD 28 March 2022
SN AJU NEWS
SC AJUENG
LA English
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LP

[Courtesy of SKT]SEOUL --South Korea's top mobile carrier SK Telecom has partnered with American information technology company Dell Technologies to release a 5G-based mobile edge computing (MEC) **platform** targeting the global market. The **platform** can be provided in a customized manner and will enable enterprises to deploy MEC in a prompt and stable manner by supporting interworking with public clouds. The MEC technique uses small-sized data centers set up around the edge of a physical 5G wireless network. Instead of communicating with base stations or communication hubs that are kilometers away, a MEC system creates a data shortcut between a mobile device and the nearest base station to reduce latency.

TD

Maintaining a low-latency state is vital for any wireless communication system because if the latency is high, it may cause data lag and slow down the network. A MEC system distributes computing load to data centers and speeds up the data processing speed of networks. It is vital for smart factories, smart farms and other smart facilities hooked onto a 5G network to utilize the MEC technique to ensure fast data transferring speed.

The global market for MEC is projected to reach \$2.8 billion in 2027, according to global market research firm Meticulous Research.

SK Telecom (SKT) and Dell Technologies collaborated to release "Petasus," a 5G MEC solution. Petasus is a hybrid of SKT and Dell's technologies and uses SKT's MEC technique through Dell's servers. SKT said that the new MEC solution can be integrated with other MEC solutions created by different companies.

While targeting global telecom companies as their main customer group, the two companies will also seek individual businesses and institutions that require private 5G networks. Normally, smart factories and smart farms do not use commercial 5G networks for the operation and management of equipment. Such facilities use a dedicated 5G network that provides just enough coverage to connect equipment to their control tower.

"Our collaboration with SKT gives enterprises the capability to quickly act on data at where it resides, at the edge, to deliver better business outcomes," Dell Technology's senior vice president Dennis Hoffman said in a statement on March 28.

Park Sae-jin Reporter swatchsjp@ajunews.com

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/03/28/20220328134248878000.jpg>

CT swatchsjp@ajunews.com
CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | fmncaz : Dell Technologies Inc.
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NS cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB AJU NEWS CORPORATION

AN Document AJUENG0020220328ei3s000dx

SE Entertainment
HD **Korean conglomerates delve into digital asset market**

WC 718 words

PD 28 March 2022

SN The Korea Herald

SC KORHER

LA English

CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald

LP

South Korean business giants are **venturing** into the fledgling digital asset market and blockchain-related operations as they seek new business opportunities.

On Friday, Ryu Young-sang, chief executive of SK Telecom, said in a shareholders meeting that the company plans to “adopt an economic system” to its own **metaverseplatform** called ifland, a sign that digital currency tradable in the virtual world **ecosystem** could play a role.

TD

The news is in line with an announcement earlier this week from SK Square, SK Telecom’s investment affiliate. SK Square said it was working with partners to build a blockchain-based service and would communicate with the market as its plan to issue digital currency materializes.

SK Telecom is Korea’s largest carrier by mobile subscribers in Korea. SK Square, an SK Telecom spinoff, is the second-largest shareholder of Korean digital asset exchange Korbit, with a 35 percent stake.

This comes against the backdrop of “compartmentalized” metaverse platforms by telecommunication firms across the world.

Ryu told shareholders that metaverse platforms around the world “could be potentially standardized under SK Telecom’s ifland platform,” the international version of which was first introduced at Mobile World Congress 2022. He added that SK Telecom is in talks with telco firms in Europe, Asia and the Middle East for such collaboration.

Also, on Thursday, LG Electronics shareholders approved their articles of incorporation revisions to add blockchain and virtual assets business to the objectives of the company.

The revision will open the doors to new businesses for LG Electronics, ranging from development and sales of blockchain-based software to transactions and brokerage of virtual assets. LG has yet to further explain ways to achieve the long-term business goal.

LG has been considered one of the players in nonfungible tokens. LG’s signage played a role in displaying digital artwork through a subscription service, as data related to digitally minted art is stored in the form of NFTs. LG has worked with Florida-based digital art platform Blackdove for the service.

To broaden its NFT horizon, LG has partnered with Korean internet giant Kakao’s blockchain arm Ground X to offer NFT storage service via a digital wallet, as well as Seoul Auction’s online arm.

LG Electronics’ plan did not come about overnight. In 2020, LG Electronics launched in-house blockchain research arm iLab. LG then also joined the Hedera Governing Council as a sole home appliance manufacturer, with a role of exploring use cases of the Hedera Hashgraph distributed ledger platform.

Samsung Electronics, LG’s global TV rival, also unveiled an app during the Consumer Electronics Show 2022 in Las Vegas, where its TV users would be able to purchase and trade units of digital art.

Experts say such digital asset announcements by Korean conglomerates might change the way the public thinks about virtual assets in Korea.

“Korean business conglomerates’ foray into virtual assets will not only liven up the market, but also contribute to building public trust toward virtual assets,” said Oh Jong-wook, chief executive officer of Seoul-based cryptocurrency market index provider Wavebridge.

“In the past, virtual assets were considered a means of speculative investment, but more real-world use cases in the field of art and games show virtual assets could become a means of storing value.”

As of end-2021, all 1,257 virtual assets listed on Korea-based cryptocurrency exchange houses saw their combined market cap at 55.2 trillion won (\$45 billion), according to data from the Financial Services Commission. Virtual asset transactions came to 11.3 trillion won on a daily average during the second half of 2021. These are the first government estimates related to the virtual asset market.

Korea’s crypto asset market is expected to see annual growth of 20 percent a year to 2026, according to a projection from Boston Consulting Group Korea.

[Click here to see image](#)

In this photo provided by LG Electronics on March 16, a model is seen walking past a digitally minted version of artist Kim Whan-ki’s “Universe” displayed on LG Electronics’ organic light-emitting diode TV screen. Nonfungible tokens for three versions of “Universe” fetched 194 ether (\$609,600) combined at an auction earlier this week, according to Seoul Auction Saturday. (LG Electronics)

CO	kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN	ivicu : Virtual Currencies/Cryptocurrencies i7902 : Telecommunication Services iblock : Blockchain Technology ibnk : Banking/Credit ifinal : Financial Services ifmsoft : Financial Technology itech : Technology i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS	ccat : Corporate/Industrial News cdbus : Digitalization
RE	skorea : South Korea apacz : Asia Pacific asiaz : Asia easiaz : Eastern Asia
PUB	Herald Corporation
AN	Document KORHER0020220327ei3s0002t

HD To pay or not to pay — Netflix, SK enter phase two of legal battle

WC 2,165 words

PD 26 March 2022

SN Korea JoongAng Daily

SC JOONAI

LA English

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LP

Netflix and SK Broadband entered into the second phase of the legal battle over the **payment** of network usage fees after the U.S. streaming giant appealed the court decision last year that sided with the Korean internet provider. The first hearing ...

TD

Netflix and SK Broadband entered into the second phase of the legal battle over the payment of network usage fees after the U.S. streaming giant appealed the court decision last year that sided with the Korean internet provider.

The first hearing of the appeals court, brought on by Netflix against the internet company, took place on March 16.

This comes eight months after the video streaming service appealed in July a court decision made last June that it has to negotiate with SK Broadband over paying for server maintenance.

Netflix reiterated that it has no reason to pay SK Broadband for network usage because it's the internet operator's job to manage its network quality, whereas the internet company said that the huge traffic that Netflix generates makes it just as responsible to pay as any other internet services that fork out network usage fees.

As of the fourth quarter last year, Netflix took up 7.2 percent of all internet traffic in Korea, according to the Korea Communications Commission (KCC). It has more than 5 million subscribers in Korea, according to Media Partners Asia.

Naver and Kakao, who each take up 2 and 1 percent of Korea's internet traffic, reportedly pay around 70 to 100 billion won (\$57 million to \$82 million) every year to local broadband providers.

Bill-and-keep vs. unjust profit

While both companies maintain their stances from last year, new arguments have been brought to the table to back their respective claims.

During the latest hearing, Netflix said that internet services balance out each other's costs for the transaction that occurs between their users through a practice called "bill-and-keep," which SK Broadband then claimed only applies to the relationship between internet providers.

The pricing technique is where internet service providers (ISPs) do not charge each other for the traffic made through the interconnection of each other's customers. For instance, SK Broadband will not charge KT and vice versa if their customers call or text each other using their respective networks, because the costs will ultimately be covered by the end users' subscription fees.

Netflix argued that the bill-and-keep rule applies to the relationship between content providers (CPs) and ISPs as well.

"It is one of the basics of the internet ecosystem that companies and services do not charge each other when they are connected for the benefit of each other," Netflix said.

"Just as the ISPs do not charge each other, it is the order of the internet world that CPs and ISPs each pay for their own costs when they connect."

However, SK Broadband refuted that bill-and-keep is a pricing method exclusively between ISPs, not between a streaming platform and an internet provider.

“Not only is the bill-and-keep rule not applicable to a CP, which does not give an ISP any internet connection back, it is not a written rule that can give legal backing in a case like this one,” SK Broadband’s legal attorney Shin & Kim LLC said.

SK Broadband further claimed that Netflix is generating unjust profit by freeriding on its service and therefore must compensate the company.

Netflix made 415.4 billion won (\$340.7 million) in 2020 while SK Broadband lost 27.2 billion won due to the two companies’ transaction, SK Broadband said. The company did not specify an amount it sought for compensation, but explained that it will be decided as the trial proceeds.

“As an ISP, SK Broadband invests 700 to 800 billion won every year to establish and manage networks,” the company said. “Through this network, we provide a special internet network for CPs, which means there is no reason for us to allow Netflix to use it for free.”

Netflix repeated that SK Broadband can use Open Connect Appliances (OCA) instead of charging it for internet access. But SK Broadband, according to Netflix, is refusing to use the OCA and demanding money “using monopoly power.”

Instead of paying SK Broadband, Netflix has been insisting that it offers the technology called OCA that lessens the traffic burden for internet companies.

The OCA as an alternative was brought up last year during court and once again by Dean Garfield, Netflix vice president of public policy, when he visited Korea in November to talk to the local lawmakers and press.

It is a type of content delivery network (CDN) that sets up storage spaces within an internet service provider’s networks so that content — here, Netflix’s content — can be delivered faster to local users.

“Netflix is connected to over 7,200 ISPs around the world, none of which have filed a suit demanding a network usage fee, except for SK Broadband,” Netflix said.

“SK Broadband is refusing the free option of installing the OCA [in Korea] and only demanding money. In a situation where we cannot deliver our content to SK Broadband users without going through SK Broadband, the company is using its monopolist position as a gatekeeper to collect a toll.”

SK Broadband said that it is willing to use the OCA as long as Netflix agrees to pay for the network maintenance fee that will “inevitably” occur even after paying for the installation of the technology.

There are currently two OCA networks set up in Asia — Japan and Hong Kong — and the data from Netflix, in Seattle, to Korea is essentially stored in and transmitted from those two regions, for a cheaper cost than if it were to come directly from the United States. Bringing an OCA into Korea would further reduce, though not completely eliminate, these costs.

“Even with the OCA, Netflix has to deliver its traffic through the backbone network to SK Broadband’s customers,” SK Broadband said. “We are not saying no to installing the OCA, but requiring Netflix to negotiate on the cost that will incur in the process of delivering the traffic after the OCA is installed.”

Two charges, not double

Lying at the core of the case is the question of whether or not it is fair for an internet provider to charge both consumers as well as content companies, which Netflix argues is double-charging but SK Broadband says is fair.

Netflix argues that SK Broadband is double-charging Netflix, because the internet provider is already receiving money from end users who pay their subscription fees, which needs to go to maintaining its network quality.

The broadband company opposes this idea, saying that it provides a different service to CPs than to consumers and therefore it is fair for it to charge different prices to different customers.

This notion was supported by Roslyn Layton, a senior columnist at Forbes and a visiting researcher at Aalborg University Center for Communication, Media, and Information Technologies, who held an online interview with the local press Wednesday.

Layton wrote a column titled "Should 23 Million South Koreans Pay More for Broadband When Only 5 Million View Netflix?" for Forbes on Feb. 23.

"It's an established fact that the internet is a two-sided market," Layton said. "Netflix might not like it, but that's the way it is."

A two-sided market is where a company can charge fees from both its business customers and its individual consumers.

"We can take the example of the newspaper industry," she continued.

"On the one side, there are advertisers who make adverts and the other side are readers who buy subscriptions. The advertisers will be charged for different sizes and prices for their adverts and the paper will sell subscriptions to end users. There are different sets of fees and therefore it's not double charging."

Like a newspaper, SK Broadband has both corporate customers and end users and provides them with different services. To only receive subscription fees "would make newspapers go out of business" and the results would be "disastrous," according to Layton.

Installing the OCA will also be unfair to internet users, because it means that all internet subscribers would have to divide the increased traffic load and pay for the cost that went into installing the OCA in Korea in their subscription fees, Layton argued.

"It's not fair to charge all cost to broadband users for Netflix, when only some of them subscribe to Netflix," Layton said.

"There are 23 million broadband users in Korea and only 5 million people who actually watch Netflix. It isn't fair to make all customers pay for Netflix when only some of them are watching it."

A fight for the future

The outcome of the case will echo loudly in the global tech industry and help back other countries trying to put forward legislations regarding network fees, according to Layton.

"There is no doubt that the pressure is growing globally for Netflix to pay its fair share of using networks," she said.

"There is a movement in the United States Congress, and the Federal Communications Commission is studying this presently. And the European Parliament and the European Commission will take up this issue from a policy perspective."

Should SK Broadband win this case, it would act as a good support material for policy makers to make new laws to regulate CPs instead of seeing companies go through litigations, the columnist said.

Korea also has lawmakers trying to push for regulation against Netflix and other large content companies, to spell out the price they need to pay to network companies.

The so-called "Netflix law," a revision to the Telecommunications Business Act, went into effect in December 2020 mandating big tech companies to "provide users with convenient and stable telecommunications services." However, it has not been largely effective, hence the ongoing trial.

The Seoul High Court will rule whether or not Netflix has to negotiate with SK Broadband, and also whether it needs to pay up.

The Seoul Central District Court had ruled against Netflix last year. The streaming giant had asked the court to confirm that it has no obligation to pay network usage fees to the broadband company, but the case was dismissed.

"It is up to related parties, not the court, to negotiate on whether a contract has been signed and what payment will be made as a part of the deal," the ruling said.

"It can be said that Netflix is receiving a service from SK Broadband that allows Netflix to access, or at least connect or stay connected to, SK Broadband's internet network and therefore must pay."

Netflix appealed in August and SK Broadband filed a counter-suit, demanding payment from the video streaming service.

The second hearing will take place on May 18.

It is not very likely for the court to overturn the ruling of the first court, according to Lee Seong-yeob, a professor at the Graduate School of Management of Technology at Korea University.

But regardless of the decision, the case will have a global resonance among ISPs from other countries, which is why Netflix is trying to defend the case with all its might, he said.

"In the short-term, Netflix may have to face similar lawsuits in other countries if SK Broadband wins this one," Lee said.

"But in the long term, the case may also influence other similar cases in the future, especially when the metaverse becomes more commonplace. Virtual reality [VR] and augmented reality [AR] content require much more traffic than just videos, and they will naturally lead to similar network usage litigations."

BY YOON SO-YEON [yoon.soyeon@joongang.co.kr]

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Broken Ethernet cable is seen in front of Netflix logo in this illustration taken March 11, 2022. Netflix and SK Broadband entered into the second phase of the legal battle over the payment of network usage fees. [REUTERS/YONHAP]

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Dean Garfield, Netflix vice president of public policy, answers questions from local reporters during a press conference held in central Seoul on Nov. 4. [JOINT PRESS CORPS]

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Lawyer Kang Sin-seob of Shin & Kim LLC, center, the attorney for SK Broadband heads to the Seoul High Court to file a counter-suit against Netflix on Sept. 30 with his team. [SK BROADBAND]

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SK Broadband and Netflix logo

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Roslyn Layton, a senior columnist at Forbes and a visiting researcher at Aalborg University Center for Communication, Media, and Information Technologies [ROSLYN LATON]

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In this file photo taken on Oct. 19, 2021, the Netflix logo is seen on the Netflix, Inc. building on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, California. [AFP/YONHAP]

CO	hnrtel : SK Broadband Co Ltd netfli : Netflix, Inc. kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN	imssoft : Streaming Services idistr : Media Content Distribution iint : Online Service Providers imed : Media/Entertainment itech : Technology i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics i3303 : Networking i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment
NS	ccat : Corporate/Industrial News gcrim : Crime/Legal Action c12 : Corporate Crime/Legal Action gcat : Political/General News ncat : Content Types nfact : Factiva Filters nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
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HD Park Jung-ho: Korea's **Mr** M&A

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LP

Park Jung-ho is a key executive in three arms of the SK chaebol, Korea's third-largest. In more than 30 years he has developed a reputation as a dealmaker, whose key transactions – buying Hynix, Toshiba's memory business and a major division of Intel – are seen as corporate landmarks. He explains his approach to Euromoney in Seoul.

Meet Korea's **Mr** M&A. Park Jung-ho is vice chairman of SK Telecom and chief executive and vice chairman of both SK Hynix and SK Square. He also oversees the overall SK Group conglomerate's information and communications technology (ICT) activities. Park is a group veteran, whose more than three-decade tenure has included stewardship of a host of different group companies. But he's known for one thing in particular: acquisitions.

TD

Over the years he has spearheaded deals to buy Hynix, ADT Caps and Toshiba Memory, alongside internal mergers that have shaped the whole corporate structure of the group. And, over an extraordinary eight-course meal at the O'neul restaurant in the Itaewon district of Seoul, he tells his story for the first time to foreign media.

Park will forever be connected with SK's purchase of Hynix in 2011, but his story with SK Group starts much earlier, when he joined in 1989. From an early stage he was a close affiliate of SK chairman Chey Tae-won; the two rose in tandem. "Beginning my career with chairman Chey, I was 28, he was 31," Park says. "We were still very young, but we thought we were mature at that time."

Both had a strong and early interest in the possibilities of mobile telephony at a time when there was little clarity about how it would evolve. A few years earlier, Korea Telecom's subsidiary had launched mobile communications services through a car phone, but CDMA digital cellular technology was still years away.

Chey and Park teamed up and, after two years of effort, succeeded in winning a licence for mobile telecommunications. However, they gave it up in 1993, seeking to avoid political controversy because of SK Group's close relationship with the administration of the time. They had to wait four years to find another way, acquiring Korea Mobile Telecommunications Service in a privatization and spin-off from Korea Telecom in 1997. They rebranded it SK Telecom.

Along the way, Park set up an office for SK Group in New York in 1995 to pursue mobile telecommunications opportunities in the Americas, which led to SK's participation in the auction of mobile licences in Brazil. He put together a consortium that won one of the licences. But events intervened.

"To set up a second SK company in Brazil was my dream. It almost came through," Park says. "But then the IMF happened in Korea." The Asian financial crisis is known as the IMF crisis in Korea, which leaves no doubt where Koreans still feel the blame lay for it. SK, with a greater proportion of foreign currency lending than Hyundai or Samsung, suffered particularly badly since it was harder for the government to grant relief on debt that wasn't Korean. In the aftermath, all foreign investment was stopped and Park sold the Brazilian licence.

Still, his star was rising and he was called back by Chey to help with some new challenges: attacks from hedge funds. Buying the mobile business from Korea Telecom had taken a lot of SK Group's money and stock, and in the aftermath of the crisis the group only held 24% of SK Telecom's shares, 4% of it diluted through newly issued American depository receipts. Foreign investors held 33% and were agitating for further change, including the right to go up to 49%.

In particular, Julian Robertson's hedge fund, Tiger Management, was rallying minority shareholders to effect changes in the company, some of which were considered positive, such as the appointment of independent directors. Nevertheless, Chey wanted Park to come up with a defence strategy and after a year of negotiations, and, with the ceiling on foreign ownership due to be lifted to 49% on July 1, he took a different step, raising \$1.1 billion in new shares.

The action would dilute shareholders like Tiger, which challenged the share issue in court, arguing that the capital raised was not to upgrade the company's network but to protect itself from a hostile bid. But, once again, geopolitics had an impact: Tiger faced losses and margin calls in Russia that year, so could not participate in the new issuance.

"The stone I threw was legal," Park tells Euromoney. "But it was not simple theory. We had to think a lot to get out of the crisis."

New agitator

A few years later came a new agitator: Sovereign and the Chandler brothers, Richard and Christopher, who ran it. Sovereign had taken a stake in SK Corp, the holding company of the conglomerate and the one that housed much of the group's resources, and attacked its weakness in governance.

It did so after a new and significant problem had arisen. Chey was arrested and later jailed because of alleged accounting fraud within the trading company arm of the group. Chey, who was in some sense paying the price for the actions of a previous generation, ended up being pardoned by president Park Geun-hye in August 2005. (Incidences of chaebol chairmen and politicians being jailed and then pardoned are strikingly common in Korea.)

Park and Chey went to Kuwait to meet key figures in its sovereign wealth fund, the Kuwait Investment Authority, including the king. They asked the fund to buy a stake in SK, given their longstanding business partnership. The fund was convinced, bought a stake through its London subsidiary and helped in the battle against the Chandlers, who sold out in 2005 after twice failing to get Chey removed. They didn't do too badly: according to Euromoney's sister publication Institutional Investor, which published an interview with the Chandlers in 2006, they made \$728 million from their investment.

None of this looks like particularly shareholder-friendly corporate governance by today's standards, but from Park's perspective he had a job to do and he did it.

"I'm talking about how to fight back," he says. "It's not all about the money. It's about the story." By this he means the story he told the Kuwaitis in order to convince them to join his side and the story he told at home to raise questions of national security about ownership of resources.

Hynix opportunity

Next came a stint in Japan and then the global financial crisis. By 2011, Park was a key figure in SK Telecom's strategic development, when along came an opportunity: Hynix.

In Asian corporate circles, Hynix was for many years a byword for corporate disaster. Perennially in debt, it was placed under the Corporate Restructuring Promotion Act, emerging in 2005, only to be fined \$185 million for its involvement in a dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) price fixing cartel the same year. It shone for a few years, then was put up for sale by its own creditors after defaulting, first on loans and then on a debt-equity swap.

Initially, everything suggested it would be a terrible idea to get involved.

"The semiconductor memory market was going through a fierce chicken game, as chipmakers were cutting prices to grab a bigger market share," says Park. Semiconductors suffer a volatile business cycle, not helped by the fact that they need massive investment in equipment. "Hynix, under the creditors' management, fell victim to playing chicken twice, in 2007 and 2010."

In the process some of the biggest names in the sector, like Germany's Qimonda and Japan's Elpida, went bankrupt and Hynix was never far away from doing so itself, forever trying to appease creditors who would periodically take control of it.

Park and his project-based M&A team at SK Telecom had been looking for new businesses for some time, seeking a growth engine as the telecommunications market entered a phase of maturity. His team worked like modern venture capitalists looking for startups, exploring acquisition targets in the ICT industry.

The team had become convinced that semiconductors would be a key industry for SK Telecom's future and had actually looked at Hynix several times before: "But dropped its intention on concerns that such an investment could put SK Telecom on the verge of collapse. The team decided that overcoming such a prejudice would be a key to a successful deal."

Park set up a three-person team and instructed them to forget the past and review the deal from what he calls a zero base. "People talk about the past as if it is present information, but you have to pick it out," Park says now. "What is happening now?"

The team knew that if they couldn't convince themselves, they wouldn't be able to convince anybody else, so they spent a month of intensive study and risk analysis, concluding that the semiconductor industry would behave differently in the next decade than in the previous one. Weak players would be left behind and, despite its financial worries, Hynix was not a weak player in terms of manufacturing or in terms of its highly competitive technology. With new capital and stabilized management, it had a chance to grow, they concluded. I learned a lot about what's needed to develop of a new business from the Hynix deal Park Jung-ho, SK Group

Chey and the group had twice previously reviewed Hynix and abandoned the idea each time. So Park made the case to his chairman afresh.

"I asked him: 'What global number two do you have? Are Hyundai Motors a global number two? No, eight or nine. SK Telecom? One good company out of five different mobile companies. But Hynix is the number two company globally in DRAM.'"

Park didn't even spend his time talking about synergies. He just made his key selling points: that the business, on its own merits, should work and that Hynix was the world's number two DRAM producer. He even invoked a patriotic argument that reviving Hynix would be a matter of national interest. Finally, he was able to proceed with the deal.

"The acquisition process was never easy," he says. SK Telecom's share price fell 10% on the day it submitted a letter of intent in July 2011 in answer to a sale notice from Hynix. And it wasn't just the markets that disagreed: so did many people within SK Group, who thought that the extreme volatility of the semiconductor memory industry, plus the necessary injection of capital from SK Telecom, could threaten the company's survival.

One key to the deal was a structure where Hynix would issue new shares, meaning that the purchase price would go straight into the company. The deal was struck at a purchase price of ₩3.43 trillion (\$2.8 billion) in November 2011.

It took a long time before the acquisition delivered – the first year was "deficit, lots of red letters," Park says. But the injection of capital allowed SK Hynix to build its M14 fabrication plant in 2015, followed by M15 in 2018 and M16 in 2021. With a clear understanding of the industry cycle and the execution of more than ₩3 trillion of investment during the low point of that cycle through new share issuance, Hynix's vicious circle was turned into a more virtuous one. The three fabrication plants have elevated the company to leadership and profitability.

It had been a grueling process, but Park had learned a lot that he would apply elsewhere. "They say a top manager's time consists of two things: one to explore new business and another to manage the current business," he says. "I learned a lot about what's needed to develop of a new business from the Hynix deal."

One is the need for a corporate structure giving autonomy to the team that is there to explore the new businesses. Another is the willingness to have a corporate culture completely different from the one that operates the parent business. "We had a culture, just like today's startups, where we could communicate horizontally and openly, and proceed with flexibility and speed," he says. The team was kept small to preserve that.

Entrepreneurial leadership is important too, he says, and he looks back at the deal 10 years on with pride. "Our success story promoted other companies to make acquisition attempts in search for new growth engines and also paved the way for us to spin off SK Square from SK Telecom to seek new growth stories."

That was still to come because first there were more deals to do.

Attracting attention

Park was now known as a dealmaker and was beginning to attract wider attention. He got a sense of this when he was approached for dinner by Masayoshi Son, the Softbank founder, through the local president of Nomura, prior to the Hynix deal.

He remains somewhat puzzled about the whole thing. Park brought one of his staff along, Son had his number two, three, four and five with him, although none of them really spoke. There seemed to be no particular reason for the dinner, but, after a three-hour presentation, Son sang some Korean songs and, after a lot of wine, left again, without any particular pitch. They met three times; Park thinks it has something to do with the very high credit deposit rates in Japan at the time, which was dangerous to Son because of his level of bank debt, and perhaps Son wanted Park to be ready as a potential investor.

Park became chief executive of SK C&C in 2015, changing it from a system integrator into a digital technology ICT company and then merging it with the holding company, SK Holdings, in an effort to simplify the group's tangled ownership structure.

All Korean chaebol have complex cross-shareholding structures that have been the bane of activist shareholders for many years and the prevailing mood is towards simplifying structures, although it's not easy in a place like SK, which had 80 divisions at the time.

Then Park became chief executive of SK Telecom in January 2017, by which time it had become clear that Hynix needed a further injection of technology. It was time for another deal.

Through a series of knock-on effects, the devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan set in train consequences that would lead to the next key deal six years later. The earthquake and tsunami caused two nuclear fuel facilities run by Westinghouse, a Toshiba subsidiary, to be shut down and led to longer-term concerns about nuclear safety, which amplified further problems Westinghouse encountered in the US. That, in turn, damaged Toshiba, which had to sell assets: first Toshiba Medical and then its cherished memory business.

Park had held a dialogue with Toshiba for many years, just to build the relationship and keep them aware of Hynix, so as to be ready if the opportunity to buy the memory business – now called Kioxia – arose. He went to see the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Japanese investment agency. But, still, a Korean business buying something Japanese is more difficult than it might at first appear from outside.

"It's almost impossible for anyone to think about a Korean company investing in Japan because of the relationship between the two countries," says one banker in Seoul. "But he went and convinced the Japanese government to allow him to invest. That surprised me and all of the finance community. We thought the probability was zero."

There were further complications. Western Digital, a longstanding joint venture partner with Toshiba, considered the memory business "its fiancée," says Park, and threatened to sue. Park says he resolved matters with Western Digital chief executive Steve Milligan over golf (an abiding theme with deals involving Park) and dinner. He brought along Opus One wine, founded by Robert Mondavi and Baron Philippe de Rothschild; the symbolism of the partnership was deliberate. "Opus One was their baby," Park says. "I said: 'We can have Toshiba as a baby, a good one just like the Opus One.'" In the end Western Digital didn't sue.

SK Hynix formed a consortium with Bain & Company, among others, and invested around W4 trillion. They will gain when Kioxia eventually goes public. Park argues that the deal was not just about the business but also led the growth of the Korean semiconductor industry overall.

Another key deal was for the cybersecurity business ADT Caps, since renamed as SK Shieldus, in 2018 for W1.28 trillion, of which SK Telecom invested W702 billion for a 55% stake and management rights, with Macquarie Korea Infrastructure Fund, backed by the Australian bank, taking the rest to put into its listed vehicle. I've received a lot of help and support in promoting deals through partnerships with global investors, and the partnership with global companies is especially meaningful in terms of corporate culture and governance Park Jung-ho, SK Group

The partnership with Macquarie echoed that with Bain on the Toshiba deal. "I've received a lot of help and support in promoting deals through partnerships with global investors, and the partnership with global companies is especially meaningful in terms of corporate culture and governance," says Park. He argues that partnerships like these transplant global standards to domestic investee companies.

Furthermore, it's the right sector. "We forecast that the security area will be a new growth engine and through the acquisition of ADT Caps we could secure an important pillar for growth," he says. "We also

avoided unnecessary competition and seized the opportunity by proposing a strategy and bets that the markets didn't expect." SK Shieldus is one of many Korean companies preparing an IPO.

After that came another landmark, a \$9 billion deal for SK Hynix to acquire Intel's NAND flash memory chip business. At the time of writing the first phase, for \$7 billion, has been completed, over a year after originally being signed in 2020. It is SK Hynix's biggest-ever deal, making it one of the top players in the global NAND market.

More deals have followed – attracting \$150 million investment from Uber Technologies in 2020 in a business called T Map Mobility, which had been spun off from SK Telecom; and acquiring Key Foundry, a Korea-based eight-inch foundry company, in October 2021 for ₩575.8 billion.

But just as important through this time has been an effort to shake things up internally in the tech and communication businesses of the SK group. An example of this was the launch of SK Square, designed to manage the ICT businesses that had either grown within SK Telecom or been acquired by it.

"SK Square was launched so that SKT's ICT portfolio could be fairly evaluated and SK Square is different from other holding companies in Korea" that are limited to subsidiary management, he says. "It is a company specializing in investment that uses various strategies such as harvest and exit, while professionally managing the ICT growth businesses as subsidiaries. We haven't seen this type of holding company in Korea's corporate history."

Today Park oversees the three companies – SK Square, SK Hynix and SK Telecom – and has responsibility for increasing synergies between them. "As the person who spearheaded the acquisition process of SK Telecom and SK Hynix and helped found SK Square, I have a great deal of affection for the three companies. I also have enormous responsibilities to oversee the three companies and create synergies among them."

There is now a committee where the top executives of the three meet to discuss ways to cooperate. They also made a joint investment in Sapeon, an artificial intelligence (AI) accelerator company, a first practical cooperation. "Of course, this is just the first small step, but the one that will lead to more cooperation models."

Changing world

This should be seen in the context of the broader discussion about chaebol: that they should focus on what they are good at, drive synergies among portfolio companies and divest anything that's non-core.

"The time when conglomerates monopolized resources, particularly capital, is over," he says. "I think startups are now better positioned than conglomerates for an explosive growth due to their fast decision-making process in this rapidly changing world."

The idea, then, is to let conglomerate businesses behave as if they're not in conglomerates.

"In a bid to make up the weakness of a conglomerate, we aim to increasingly let business units operate as independent companies, while maintaining the same identity as part of the broader SK brand," he says.

Elsewhere in the group that means shifting from oil and petrochemicals to hydrogen and batteries; expanding into AI and big data services; and developing semiconductors from just being a component supplier to being a solution provider. We should expect to see SK expand in biotech and healthcare and to grow its core semiconductor and battery businesses in foreign markets including the US. I think startups are now better positioned than conglomerates for an explosive growth due to their fast decision-making process in this rapidly changing world Park Jung-ho, SK Group

Park calls this an unconstrained search approach: look for anything without preconceptions. "I will spread this lesson that an aggressive strategy with out-of-the-box thinking helps increase the corporate value to the broader SK Group," he says.

There's one more thing we want to cover before the vast and delicious lunch comes to an end. What about the deals he doesn't do?

Park says SK Square, as an investment company, strikes five or six deals out of 100 potential ones. SK Telecom and SK Hynix might look into 10 to 20 strategically important deals and proceed with only two or three. "The number of deals we decide not to pursue following reviews is overwhelmingly higher than that of the ones we finish."

“What’s important in reviewing potential deals is that you have to avoid any confirmation bias,” he says. “That’s because you easily get entrapped into the feeling that you have to strike the deal if you have reviewed it for a long time. You should be bold enough to think you can scrap the deal anytime.”

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | skskgp : SK Group | hylec : SK Hynix Inc | intl : Intel Corporation | tshba : Toshiba Corp

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i34531 : Semiconductors | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | icomp : Computing | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology

NS gprost : Prostitution | e52 : Euro Zone/Currency | c181 : Acquisitions/Mergers/Shareholdings | c18 : Ownership Changes | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ecat : Economic News | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community | gsoc : Social Issues | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | easiaz : Eastern Asia | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia

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HD S. Korea's SK Square to Launch **Crypto** Token by Year-End: Report

BY Eliza Gkritsi

WC 258 words

PD 24 March 2022

SN CoinDesk.com

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LA English

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SK Square, an affiliate of South Korea's third-largest conglomerate by revenue SK Group, plans to launch a **cryptocurrency** by the end of the year.

* SK Square, an IT **investment** arm that was [spun off](#) from SK Telecom in November 2021, has set up a blockchain task force that is responsible for the project, the Korea Economic Daily [reported](#) on Wednesday. The token will be the first of its kind launched by any company under the purview of South Korea's top 10 conglomerates.

TD

* The cryptocurrency is aimed at integrating virtual economies across the group's businesses, the newspaper reported. It will be used in SK Telecom's [metaverse platform Ifland](#), SK Planet's membership program and 11ST's e-commerce services.

* SK Inc, the group's holding company, is the largest shareholder of [SK Square](#) and [SK Telecom](#) with 30% stakes in both.

* SK Square has invested KRW 100 billion (US\$82 million) in blockchain and metaverse projects, the newspaper reported. It is also the largest shareholder of [SK Hynix](#), the world's second-largest memory chipmaker after Samsung.

* In November 2021, SK Telecom [spent](#) KRW 87.3 billion acquire a 35% stake in crypto exchange Korbit.

* SK Inc. (KRX), the corporate holding company, booked [KRW 98 trillion in revenue in 2021](#), which makes it the third-largest conglomerate in South Korea after [Samsung](#) and [Hyundai](#).

Read more: [Japanese Consortium Plans to Issue Bank Deposit-Like Stablecoin By End of 2022](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | skcacl : SK Inc. | skskgp : SK Group

IN ivicu : Virtual Currencies/Cryptocurrencies | iblock : Blockchain Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i8394 : Computer Services | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD Business

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SE South Korea
HD South Korea's second-largest conglomerate to issue own **cryptocurrency**
BY Danny Park
WC 199 words
PD 24 March 2022
SN Forkast News
SC FOKNEW
LA English
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LP

South Korean megacorporation SK Group's information technology-**investment** arm, SK Square, is preparing to launch a **cryptocurrency** this year to build a blockchain-based virtual economy that would link its group of information and communications technology (ICT) businesses.

Fast facts

TD

SK Square established a new task force to bring a blockchain-based economy to its Ifland metaverse, online commerce and other services, according to local reports.

The company will become the first subsidiary among the top 10 South Korean conglomerates to develop a native crypto token.

SK Group is South Korea's second-largest conglomerate in terms of the total amount of assets at about US\$226 billion.

Last year, SK Square became the second-largest shareholder of the local crypto exchange Korbit, owning 35% of its shares.

SK Telecom, SK Group's telecommunications company, operates the Ifland metaverse which has a user base of more than 4.5 million people.

South Korea's crypto market had a market capitalization of about US\$45.2 billion at the end of 2021, according to the country's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

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IPD South Korea

PUB Forkast Limited

AN Document FOKNEW0020220324ei3o00006

HD S. Korea's SK Square to Launch **Crypto** Token by Year-End: Report

BY Eliza Gkritsi

WC 252 words

PD 24 March 2022

SN CoinDesk.com

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LA English

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LP

SK Square, an affiliate of South Korea's third-largest conglomerate by revenue SK Group, plans to launch a **cryptocurrency** by the end of the year.

* SK Square, an IT **investment** arm that was [spun off](#) from SK Telecom in November 2021, has set up a blockchain task force that is responsible for the project, the Korea Economic Daily [reported](#) on Wednesday. The token will be the first of its kind launched by any company under the purview of South Korea's top 10 conglomerates.

TD

* The cryptocurrency is aimed at integrating virtual economies across the group's businesses, the newspaper reported: It will be used in SK Telecom's [metaverse platform Ifland](#), SK Planet's membership program and 11ST's e-commerce services.

* SK Inc, the group's holding company, is the largest shareholder of [SK Square](#) and [SK Telecom](#) with 30% stakes in both.

* SK Square has invested KRW 100 billion (\$82 million) in blockchain and metaverse projects, the newspaper reported. It is also the largest shareholder of [SK Hynix](#), the world's second-largest memory chipmaker after Samsung.

* In November 2021, SK Telecom [spent](#) KRW 87.3 billion acquire a 35% stake in crypto exchange Korbit.

* SK Inc. booked [KRW 98 trillion in revenue in 2021](#), which makes it the third-largest conglomerate in South Korea after [Samsung](#) and [Hyundai](#).

Read more: [Japanese Consortium Plans to Issue Bank Deposit-Like Stablecoin By End of 2022](#)

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IPD Business

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HD SK Square Moving to Issue Its Own Cryptocurrency

WC 347 words

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SN Business Korea Daily News

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LA English

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LP

SK Square, an **investment** business arm of SK Group, is planning to issue its own **cryptocurrency**.

The company announced on March 23 that it is preparing an innovative blockchain service with its partners and will transparently communicate with the market when its plan to issue a **cryptocurrency** takes a more concrete shape.

TD

SK Square launched a blockchain task force (TF) in charge of the cryptocurrency business at the beginning of 2022. Earlier, the company invested 87.3 billion won in Korbit, one of Korea's top four cryptocurrency exchanges. Korbit was the company's first investment target after its split-off from SK Telecom at the end of 2021.

In addition, SK Planet, a subsidiary of SK Square, signed a business agreement with Korbit on March 23, to explore new blockchain projects.

SK Square's plan to issue a cryptocurrency is attracting attention as the company is the first among affiliates of Korea's top 10 Korean business groups to announce such an initiative. If it issues a cryptocurrency, it will enhance stability of cryptocurrencies as a whole in light of the high market value and credibility of SK Group.

In addition, if the cryptocurrency is used widely for projects promoted by the group's other ICT affiliates, its value will be enhanced.

"Unlike existing cryptocurrencies that have limited uses, the cryptocurrency to be issued by SK Group will be used widely for SK Telecom's metaverse platform Ifland, SK Planet's point and membership-based platform, e-commerce of 11ST, OTT service Wavve and T Map Mobility," said industry observer.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=89631>

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AN Document BKORDN0020220324ei3o0002t

SE Companies
HD **SK tipped to be Korea's 1st group to issue digital coins**
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SK Square Co., the **investment** arm of SK Group, is working on issuing its own digital currency within the year, according to people with knowledge of the matter on Wednesday.

The digital coin, once issued, will likely be exchangeable not only for **virtual goods** in SK Telecom Co.'s **metaverse** digital space, but also for real-life items on the group's e-commerce and streaming platforms.

TD

SK Square recently launched a task force to prepare its foray into the digital currency area and other blockchain-based businesses. It has completed its legal review of the virtual currency issuance, which will take place as early as this year, the sources said.

If the plan goes through, the country's third-largest conglomerate will become the first among South Korea's top 10 business groups to mint a cryptocurrency.

Unlike the existing cryptocurrencies, most of which circulate only in the virtual space such as play-to-earn games, SK Square's digital coins will likely be used for a broader range of real-life services provided by the group's units.

For example, a cyber character, or avatar, creates shoes on SK Telecom's metaverse platform eFriend in return for digital coins. The cryptocurrency can then be exchanged for real-life shoes on SK Group's e-commerce platform 11Street Co., video content on SK's over-the-top streaming platform Wavve, or navigation services from TMap Mobility Corp.

Further, its digital currency can be used for SK Telecom's subscription services, encompassing music downloads, home training and direct delivery of products sold by Amazon.

The company expects to build its cryptocurrency ecosystem within the group, which should build credibility and sustain demand for its digital coins, according to the sources.

SK Square will use SK Telecom's blockchain technology to create its digital coins.

[In 2021, 11Street launched a new subscription e-commerce market, T Universe](#)

GROUP-WIDE SUPPORT

At present, there is a de facto ban on the domestic issuance of cryptocurrencies.

But [Yoon Suk-yeol, who was elected South Korea's next president](#) earlier this month, promised deregulation on the cryptocurrency trade, including allowing the issuance of digital coins in the country.

South Korea's cryptocurrency trading market reached 55.2 trillion won (\$45 billion) as of end-2021, according to the Korea Financial Intelligence Unit. Its daily transaction value averaged 11.3 trillion won in the country, closer to the 11.9 trillion won in daily turnover on the junior Kosdaq market.

SK Square is the sub-holding company of SK Group and holds stakes in chipmaker SK Hynix Inc., 11Street, TMap Mobility and SK Planet Co., an online marketing platform.

Shortly after it was spun off from SK Telecom late last year, SK Square spent 90 billion won to [buy a 35% stake in Korbit](#), one of the country's top four cryptocurrency exchanges.

As the No. 2 shareholder in Korbit, SK Planet on Wednesday signed an agreement with the crypto exchange to join forces to develop blockchain-related services, including non-fungible tokens.

[SK Planet and Korbit's signing ceremony for business cooperation on March 23](#)

INITIAL COIN OFFERING

After issuing a virtual currency, SK Square will make an initial coin offering (ICO) either at home or abroad so that it can become a tradable asset.

"SK Square wants to create and grow its own cryptocurrency ecosystem within the group, rather than just introducing its crypto to be used for some of its services," a cryptocurrency industry source told The Korea Economic Daily.

"Since ICOs are banned in South Korea at present, SK will likely consider going abroad for an ICO, or taking a wait and see attitude to monitor domestic regulatory changes," he said.

By Han-Gyeol Seon and Sung-Soo Bae

always@hankyung.com

Yeonhee Kim edited this article.

[Park Jung-ho, vice chairman and co-CEO of SK Square and SK Hynix](#)

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SE Entertainment
HD **K-pop idols bond with Gen Z and Alpha fans on **metaverse** platforms**

WC 426 words

PD 21 March 2022

SN The Korea Herald

SC KORHER

LA English

CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald

LP

An increasing number of K-pop acts have jumped into the **metaverse**, a shared virtual world where people can interact with others via avatars, creating virtual spaces to build stronger and closer connections with their fans.

Girl group Billie met their fans on local telecommunication carrier SK Telecom's **metaverseplatform** ifland last week. The latest event is part of the girl group's effort to expand its presence in a three-dimensional virtual space.

TD

The seven-member group invites their fans to a virtual world featuring Billie's K-pop Guest House Land, where visitors are allowed to experience various types of content, from the group's pictures and music videos to members' statues made with holograms.

Fans can tour the metaverse space to look at Billie's stage costumes and observe the dance choreography as well.

Rookie girl group NMIXX also created a fandom space earlier this month on local tech giant Naver's metaverse platform Zepeto. Fans can view the members' costumes and accessories through their avatars.

In one of the virtual spaces closely resembling the girl group's practice studio at its agency, JYP Entertainment, visitors can practice dance moves and take selfies with the members using their own avatars.

About one million users visited NMIXX's virtual space in the first six days of its launch, and created more than 600,000 pieces of content on the platform, according to Zepeto.

Fans can make a choreography video of NMIXX's debut song "O.O." They can also team up with the girl group members to form a team to complete a quest in the virtual space.

Other K-pop idols have chosen to create opportunities for fans to communicate with them in the virtual world, aiming to attract Generation Z and Generation Alpha -- those born from the mid-1990s to the mid-2020s.

Another reason for opening metaverse platforms is to make up for the lack of opportunities to meet in person with fans, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues into its third year.

BTS has held a metaverse concert, while Blackpink invited their fans for a fan signing meeting in the virtual world. Girl group Itzy and singer Sunmi have also held fan meetings on metaverse platforms.

[Click here to see image](#)

Girl group Billie and the group members' avatars are seen in the group

[Click here to see image](#)

Rookie girl group NMIXX's metaverse avatars on Naver's Zepeto (Naver Z)

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AN	Document KORHER0020220320ei3l00001

HD

SK Telecom Co. Ltd. Patent Issued for Apparatus and method for applying artificial neural network to image encoding or decoding (USPTO 11265540)

WC

1,775 words

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18 March 2022

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2022 MAR 26 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at **Investment** Weekly News -- From Alexandria, Virginia, VerticalNews journalists report that a patent by the inventors Kim, Hyo Song (Seoul, KR), Lee, Sun Young (Seoul, KR), Lim, Jeong Yeon (Seoul, KR), Na, Tae Young (Seoul, KR), Shin, Jae Seob (Seoul, KR), Son, Se Hoon (Seoul, KR), filed on October 6, 2020, was published online on March 1, 2022.

The patent's assignee for patent number 11265540 is SK Telecom Co. Ltd. (Seoul, South Korea).

TD

News editors obtained the following quote from the background information supplied by the inventors: "The statements in this section merely provide background information related to the present disclosure and may not constitute prior art.

"The data volume of video data is larger than that of audio data or still image data. Accordingly, storing or transmitting original data as it is greatly consumes hardware resources such as a memory. For this reason, it is common that video data is stored or transmitted after being compressed using an encoder, and compressed video data is played after being decompressed using a decoder.

"Recently, with a rapidly increasing demand for video content such as high-capacity games and 360-degree video, the size, resolution, and frame rate of video are increasing. Accordingly, the amount of data to be compressed is also rapidly increasing, and there is an increasing need for a new high-efficiency compression technique.

"It has been found from recent experimental results that replacing the in-loop filter for the existing video encoding or decoding apparatus with a filter of convolutional neural network (CNN), which is a kind of artificial neural network, can achieve a BDBR (Bjonteggrad-delta bit rate) gain of about 3.57%. Accordingly, the video encoding/decoding technique using artificial neural

network technology is drawing attention as a solution to the above-described issue."

As a supplement to the background information on this patent, VerticalNews correspondents also obtained the inventors' summary information for this patent: "In the present disclosure, various techniques for applying artificial neural network technology to a video encoding or decoding operation are proposed.

"Some techniques of the present disclosure relate to mitigating quantization errors and blocking degradation using a CNN-based filter.

"In accordance with one aspect of the present disclosure, provided is a video decoding method using a convolutional neural network (CNN)-based filter, the method including providing the CNN-based filter with a first reconstructed picture and at least one of a quantization parameter map and a block partition map associated with the first reconstructed picture, and obtaining a second picture as a filtered picture of the first reconstructed picture from an output of the CNN-based filter, wherein the first reconstructed picture have been reconstructed from a bitstream of a video data, and the quantization parameter map represents information about a quantization parameter for each of coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture, and the block partition map represents information about a boundary of each of the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture.

"In accordance with another aspect of the present disclosure, provided is a video decoding apparatus using a convolutional neural network (CNN)-based filter, the apparatus including an input unit configured to receive a first reconstructed picture and at least one of a quantization parameter map and a block partition map associated with the first reconstructed picture, a filter unit configured to apply the CNN-based filter to the first reconstructed picture and the at least one of the quantization parameter map and the block partition map, and an output unit configured to output a second picture obtained from an output of the CNN-based filter, wherein the first reconstructed picture have been reconstructed from a bitstream of a video data, the second picture is a filtered picture of the first reconstructed picture, and the quantization parameter map represents a quantization parameter for each of coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture, and the block partition map represents information about a boundary of each of the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture.

"According to the method and apparatus described above, the reconstructed picture may be enhanced and the issue of quantization errors and blocking artifacts may be addressed using the filter trained through supervised learning."

The claims supplied by the inventors are:

"1. A video decoding method using a convolutional neural network (CNN)-based filter, the method comprising: obtaining an input data, the input data including pixel data of a first reconstructed picture region which is partitioned into a plurality of coding units, and a quantization parameter map and a block partition map

which are associated with the first reconstructed picture region, the first reconstructed picture region having been reconstructed from a bitstream of a video data, wherein the quantization parameter map is a two dimensional array for representing quantization parameters for the respective coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region, and the block partition map is a two dimensional array for representing boundaries between the coding units in the first reconstructed picture region; and providing the neural network based filter with the input data to obtain a second picture region that the first reconstructed picture region is filtered with the neural network based filter, wherein the neural network based filter has filter coefficients which have been trained with training data including pixel data of sample picture regions, and quantization parameter maps and block partition maps associated with the sample picture regions.

"2. The method of claim 1, wherein the quantization parameter map is constructed at the same resolution as the first reconstructed picture region, and is filled with quantization parameters for the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region.

"3. The method of claim 1, wherein the input data includes a block mode map which indicates an encoding mode for each of the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region.

"4. The method of claim 1, wherein the block partition map represents pixels indicating boundary of the coding block and pixels indicating an inner region of the coding block as different values.

"5. The method of claim 4, wherein, in the block partition map, a number of pixels indicating the boundary of the coding block is depending on at least one of a size of the coding block, a value of a quantization parameter, an encoding mode, a number of pixels to be updated, and a number of pixels to be referred to for filtering.

"6. The method of claim 4, wherein, in the block partition map, the pixels indicating the boundary of the coding block have different values depending on at least one of a size of the coding block, a value of a quantization parameter, a coding mode, a number of pixels to be updated, and a number of pixels to be referred to for filtering.

"7. The method of claim 1, wherein the filter coefficients of the neural network based filter are received from a video encoding apparatus.

"8. A video decoding apparatus using a neural network based filter, the apparatus comprising: an input unit configured to receive an input data, the input data including pixel data of a first reconstructed picture region, and a quantization parameter map and a block partition map which are associated with the first reconstructed picture region, the first reconstructed picture region having been reconstructed from a bitstream of a video data, wherein the quantization parameter map is a two dimensional array for representing quantization parameters for the respective coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region, and the block partition map is a two dimensional

array for representing boundaries between the coding units in the first reconstructed picture region; a filter unit configured to apply the neural network based filter to the input data; and an output unit configured to output a second picture region obtained from an output of the neural network based filter, the second picture region being a filtered picture region of the first reconstructed picture region, wherein the neural network based filter has filter coefficients which have been trained with training data including pixel data of sample picture regions, and quantization parameter maps and block partition maps associated with the sample picture regions.

"9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the quantization parameter map is constructed at the same resolution as the first reconstructed picture, and is filled with quantization parameters for the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region.

"10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the input data includes a block mode map which indicates an encoding mode for each of the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region.

"11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the training data includes block mode maps associated with the sample picture regions.

"12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the block partition map represents pixels indicating a boundary of a coding block and pixels indicating an inner region of the coding block with different values.

"13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein, in the block partition map, a number of pixels indicating the boundary of the coding block is depending on at least one of a size of the coding block, a value of a quantization parameter, an encoding mode, a number of pixels to be updated, and a number of pixels to be referred to for filtering.

"14. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein, in the block partition map, the pixels indicating the boundary of the coding block have different values depending on at least one of a size of the coding block, a value of a quantization parameter, a coding mode, a number of pixels to be updated, and a number of pixels to be referred to for filtering.

"15. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the filter coefficients of the neural network based filter are received from a video encoding apparatus."

For additional information on this patent, see: Kim, Hyo Song. Apparatus and method for applying artificial neural network to image encoding or decoding. U.S. Patent Number 11265540, filed October 6, 2020, and published online on March 1, 2022. Patent URL:
[http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetachtml%2FPTO%2FSrchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s=11265540.PN.&OS=PN/11265540RS=PN/11265540](http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetachtml%2FPTO%2FSrchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s=11265540.PN.&OS=PN/11265540RS=PN/11265540)

Keywords for this news article include: Business, Machine Learning, SK Telecom Co. Ltd., Network

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RE	seoul : Seoul skorea : South Korea apacz : Asia Pacific asiaz : Asia easiaz : Eastern Asia
IPD	Expanded Reporting
PUB	NewsRX, LLC
AN	Document INVWK00020220318ei3i000dy

HD Deutsche Telekom, Telefonica, Vodafone, and KPN are Leaders in ABI Research's Telco Operators Sustainability Index

WC 926 words

PD 17 March 2022

SN ENP Newswire

SC ENPNEW

LA English

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LP

Release date - 16032022

The **Sustainability** Index Telco Operators by global technology intelligence firm ABI Research provides an unbiased examination and ranking of ten leading telecommunications operators for **sustainability**.

TD

The in-depth study assesses, compares, and ranks the operators across 30 different action items for their sustainability efforts in six categories: renewable energy, network upgrades, energy efficiency, waste disposal and circular economy, green buildings and vehicles, and reporting and governance. Ranking criteria are split between present-day implementation, including the global roll-out of renewable energy and technologies such as 5G and fiber, and forward-looking impact potential, evaluating the innovation and quality of platforms and programs the operators are using to reach climate targets. The companies evaluated and ranked include:

Market Leaders: Deutsche Telekom, Telefonica, Vodafone, KPN

Mainstream: AT&T, Verizon, Orange

Followers: SK Telecom, NTT DoCoMo, Singtel

Companies around the globe have created climate-related targets for reaching net zero carbon emissions, and telecommunications providers are leading the charge. 'These telco operators are at the intersection of communications and information technology, putting them in a unique position to offer connectivity and technological solutions that are not only lowering their own carbon emissions but also the emissions of their customers,' says Kim Johnson, Principal Analyst at ABI Research.

Each of the leaders in the index has transitioned to using more than 50 percent renewable energy for global purchased electricity and two have reached 100 percent. The use of renewable energy has reduced the leaders' total carbon emissions by 8.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂e), which is equivalent to removing the CO₂ emissions of 1.8 million passenger vehicles for one year, or 19.4 million barrels of oil consumed. Johnson advises, 'All operators need to focus on the largest source of carbon emissions, which is energy consumption of their networks. The most sustainable companies, though, have a comprehensive strategy, including the deployment of technologies such as 5G, AI, and automation, an in-depth waste recycling program, employee compensation tied to climate targets, and active engagement with suppliers and customers, upstream and downstream from the company's own operations.'

Deutsche Telekom finished first overall in the assessment, followed by Telefonica, Vodafone, and KPN. Deutsche Telekom has received numerous awards globally and regionally for its sustainability reporting. The company also emerged as a leader in European 5G and fiber, while its subsidiary, T-Mobile US, also a leader in 5G, announced in early 2022 that it had become the first U.S. provider to source 100 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources, helping the global Deutsche Telekom Group reach 100 percent renewables worldwide. T-Mobile reported zero percent renewable energy use just a few years ago in 2017, and this transition to 100 percent occurred during a historic merger with Sprint.

Telefonica led the index in several areas, such as energy efficiency, waste recycled, eco-design, and green bonds, while Vodafone had strong performances in energy efficiency, waste recycled, overall sustainability reporting, and conversion of fleet vehicles to electric vehicles. KPN, an over achiever in sustainability, has been using green electricity since 2011 and has been carbon neutral since 2015. KPN

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The mainstream selections, such as AT&T, Verizon, and Orange, were all very strong in 5G and fiber deployment, and these companies led the index, along with SK Telecom, for network upgrades. However, the mainstream companies lagged the leaders in global percent use of renewable energy for the networks. SK Telecom, NTT DoCoMo, and Singtel emerged as followers, primarily due to challenges in their regions for sourcing renewable energy (the companies are still close to zero percent for renewable energy use, despite future pledges), and for less breadth and depth in overall sustainability tracking and reporting.

'We acknowledged in the index that different regions face different geo-political, cost, and infrastructure barriers for sourcing renewable energy. For example, Korea is the fourth largest importer of coal, after China, India, and Japan. This makes early mover advances, such as SK Group in Korea joining the RE100 coalition and pledging 100 percent renewable energy use by 2050 and NTT DoCoMo pledging 100 percent renewable energy by 2030 even more critical to global climate efforts. The big picture in producing the Sustainability Index is to highlight the sustainability best practices across the telecommunications industry with the goal of further reducing carbon emissions for all,' concludes Johnson.

These findings are from ABI Research's Sustainability Index: Telco Operators report. This report is part of the company's Sustainable Technologies research service, which provides actionable research and data designed to help companies go from sustainability pledges to sustainability execution by identifying technologies, suppliers, and programs that accelerate sustainability efforts, such as reducing carbon emissions. Sustainability Index reports offer comprehensive analysis of implementation strategies and environmental impact, coupled with analysis of both market-driven and regulatory-driven shifts in sustainability, to offer unparalleled insight into a company's sustainability efforts and standing in comparison to its competitors.

About ABI Research

ABI Research is a global technology intelligence firm delivering actionable research and strategic guidance to technology leaders, innovators, and decision makers around the world. Our research focuses on the transformative technologies that are dramatically reshaping industries, economies, and workforces today.

[Editorial queries for this story should be sent to newsware@enpublishing.co.uk]

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | nttmcn : NTT DOCOMO, INC. | dbptel : Deutsche Telekom AG | pttntn : Koninklijke KPN NV | ratel : Vodafone Group Plc | comtn : Telefonica SA | ntt : Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation

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PUB Electronic News Publishing Ltd.

AN Document ENPNEW0020220317ei3h0002x

HD SK telecom: Worthwhile Investment amid Changing Media Landscape

WC 306 words

PD 17 March 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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The author is an analyst of KB Securities. He can be reached at joonsop.analyst@kbfg.com. -- Ed.

TD

Maintain BUY, target price of KRW75,000

We maintain BUY and TP of KRW75,000 on SKT. Our investment points include:

(1) the company's bolstered dividend policy;

(2) high growth for SKT's five businesses coming to the fore; and

(3) MNO profitability improvement amid easing marketing competition alongside Media bolstered by the changing media landscape.

We view concerns over the absence of growth drivers post-spin-off to be excessive. Enterprise and Media (each 8% of company revenue) should grow at annual rates of 32% and 15%, respectively, according to SKT.

Media platform strategy to drive growth

Our focus is on SKT's recent change in media platform strategy amid changes in the set-top box market. With a slew of OTT services recently launched, we see STB value growing as an integrated platform. With subsidiary SK broadband's launch of STB PlayZ giving users access to various OTT services (e.g., Wavve, Apple TV+) on top of B tv content, SKT has essentially paved the way to secure future media platform subscribers and expansion into T-commerce (via subsidiary SK stoa) and advertisements (T deal). In its February CEO presentation, the company announced that it would increase media platform revenue to KRW1.8tn in 2025 (2021 B tv revenue at KRW1.3tn; 2025 PlayZ revenue at KRW200bn, T-commerce at KRW400bn, T deal at KRW370bn).

Bolstered dividend policy

We forecast 2023 dividend payout at KRW720-880bn (vs. pre-spin-off fixed dividend payout of KRW700bn/year). Assuming this year's mid-term payout policy (35% of EBITDA-capex), we estimate 2022 DPS of KRW3,367.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=89145>

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

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NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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AN Document BKORDN0020220317ei3h0000b

HD Deutsche Telekom, Telefónica, Vodafone, and KPN are Leaders in ABI Research's Telco Operators **Sustainability** Index

WC 988 words

PD 16 March 2022

SN M2 Presswire

SC MTPW

LA English

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ABI Research is a global technology intelligence firm delivering actionable research and strategic guidance to technology leaders, innovators, and decision makers around the world. Our research focuses on the transformative technologies that are dramatically reshaping industries, economies, and workforces today.

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RE uk : United Kingdom | eurz : Europe | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Normans Media Ltd

AN Document MTPW000020220316ei3g007hi

HD SK Telecom Invests USD8.15 Million in CMES Robotics

WC 120 words

PD 14 March 2022

SN MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker

SC FDTRA

LA English

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LP

Deal In Brief

SK Telecom Co Ltd (SK Telecom), a South Korea-based provider of wireless telecommunications services, has invested KRW10 billion (USD8.15 million) in CMES Robotics Inc, a US-based **AI** vision robotics company.

TD

Deal Value (US\$ Million)	8.2
Deal Type	Private Placement
Sub-Category	None
Deal Status	Completed: 2022-03-14

Deal Participants

Target (Company)	CMES Robotics Inc
Acquirer (Company)	SK Telecom Co., Ltd.

Deal Rationale

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CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccapex : Capital Expenditure | cprpla : Private Placements | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c171 : Share Capital | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | c17 : Corporate Funding | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE usa : United States | namz : North America

PUB Progressive Digital Media Ltd

AN Document FDTRA00020220329ei3e0004h

HD **Metaverse** Mainly An Idea At Mobile World Congress

WC 287 words

PD 7 March 2022

ET 12:00

SN MediaPost.com

SC MPC

LA English

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LP

The big news at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona last week was that the **metaverse** is here -- but mainly as a concept. That may be the case for several years.

At the show, South Korea's SK Telecom had a "4D **Metaverse**" ride where attendees sat down and wore virtual reality headsets. They were then "lifted up and carried around a digital representation of space," according to a report on CNBC.

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At the moment, the metaverse is still theoretical. Qualcomm said that chips will need to get faster and less power-hungry if the metaverse is going to work. Meanwhile, [CNBC noted](#) that what attendees saw this year at MWC was "a variation on the same 4D VR rides that Samsung and others have shown off at MWC in previous years."

For some proof of the metaverse in reality, there was Wunderman Thompson, which showed off a metaverse space at CES in January. "Imagine the mechanics of Grand Theft Auto but, like, at a conference," [wrote Morning Brew](#), describing the space.

Paolo Pescatore, tech, telecom and media analyst at PP Foresight, told CNBC that "It still feels very much far-fetched. And it does almost feel kind of 'Wild West' right now."

The metaverse, of course, got a huge boost in October, when Facebook announced it had changed its name to Meta and was committed to furthering the concept. However, as Denise Lee Yohn wrote in the Harvard Business Review, "With its rebranding effort, Facebook is making promises that it doesn't seem able to deliver right now. Until it shows that it's making real changes, Meta will just be the same old Facebook by another name."

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | thpjw : Wunderman Thompson | wirp : WPP plc

IN i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology | i838 : Advertising Services | iadv : Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | imark : Marketing

NS c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE barca : Barcelona | catal : Catalonia | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | spain : Spain | weurz : Western Europe

PUB MediaPost Communications

AN Document MPC0000020220307ei370008j

HD **Metaverse** Mainly An Idea At Mobile World Congress

WC 644 words

PD 7 March 2022

ET 12:00

SN MediaPost.com

SC MPC

LA English

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PUB MediaPost Communications

AN Document MPC0000020220307ei370002x

HD SK Telecom invests KRW 10 billion in AI robotics company CMES

WC 243 words

PD 7 March 2022

SN Telecompaper World

SC TELWOR

LA English

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South Korean operator SK Telecom has announced it invested KRW 10 billion in CMES and signed a business agreement with CMES to cooperate in the AI robot-based logistics business. CMES is an AI vision robotics company, which currently offers AI and 3D vision technologies.

With the additional investment of KRW 10 billion in CMES, which follow its initial investment of KRW 900 million in 2016, SK Telecom becomes the second largest shareholder of CMES. CMES has attracted a total of KRW 30 billion, including KRW 20 billion raised in November 2020.

TD

Through this agreement, SK telecom and CMES plan to jointly develop their AI robot-based logistics business. The two companies have been preparing for the 'AI-based loading and unloading robot' business since the second half of 2020. By combining SK Telecom's vision AI technology with vision guided robot software developed by CMES, the two partners developed an AI-based loading and unloading robot capable of sorting various shapes and sizes of irregular shaped products with 99.9 percent accuracy, SK said. Capable of processing more than 600 boxes per hour, the robot is designed to alleviate labor shortage in logistics and overwork of delivery workers.

Going forward, SK Telecom and CMES plan to set up a business cooperation council to develop other cooperation models in the logistics AI robot business and create opportunities in both South Korea and the US.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | icargo : Freight Transport/Logistics | itech : Technology | itsp : Transportation/Logistics | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | gcsci : Computer Science | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELWOR0020220307ei3700001

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AN Document TELASI0020220307ei370002t

HD Visitors Flock to SK Telecom's Metaverse World at MWC22

WC 330 words

PD 7 March 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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LP

SK Telecom announced on March 6 that it held a solo exhibition hall with leading global companies in the third hall of Fira Gran Via. In the hall, it presented future ICT changes through **metaverse**, artificial intelligence (AI) and urban air mobility (UAM). The Korean mobile carrier returned to the MWC22 stage for the first time in three years,

SK Telecom said 20,000 visitors visited its exhibition hall during the MWC period, more than 30 percent of the total number of MWC22 visitors announced by the GSMA. One out of every three MWC22 visitors from around 1,500 companies around the world visited the SK Telecom exhibition hall.

TD

SK Telecom metaverse technology and services received attention from domestic and foreign countries during the MWC22, with more than 200 major global media outlets and one-person media outlets covering the SK Telecom exhibition hall including MWC22 World Live, an official media outlet of MWC.

The item that received the most attention at the SK Telecom exhibition hall is a 4D metaverse, where visitors can experience UAM at the core of future mobility on a large robot arm. 4D metaverse has become the most notable exhibition item at MWC22. Visitors enjoyed traveling a future virtual world (meta-planet) through a UAM system.

"It was more valuable to ride a robot arm for 2 minutes than to look around other places for two hours," said a foreign visitor who experienced the 4D metaverse.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=88622>

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AN Document BKORDN0020220307ei370002t

SE #Digital Currency
HD SKT to gift bitcoin to clients using **crypto** exchange Korbit
BY Yeran Kim
WC 124 words
PD 7 March 2022
SN Smart Times
SC SMTIME
LA English
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LP

South Korea's largest telecommunications company SK Telecom (SKT) has decided to give out bitcoins to all of its T Membership clients using local **crypto** exchange Korbit, the company said Monday.

As a part of its monthly promotional event, SKT has posted a downloadable coupon on its website that can be redeemed on the Korbit app. The coupon will be available until Friday.

TD

Those who register the coupon will receive KRW 1,000 (US\$ 0.82) worth of bitcoin, but a lucky few will be given KRW 50,000 (\$40.8) worth to a whole bitcoin.

At press time, the price of bitcoin was about KRW 47 million (\$38,300).

CO

kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN

ivicu : Virtual Currencies/Cryptocurrencies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | icryxch : Cryptocurrency Exchanges | i831 : Financial Investment Services | i83106 : Securities/Commodity Exchange Activities | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iinv : Investing/Securities | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS

gptech : Personal Technology | gcat : Political/General News | glife : Living/Lifestyle

RE

skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD


#Digital Currency

PUB

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AN

Document SMTIME0020220307ei370002t

SE	#AI
HD	SKT awarded for AI service for the visually impaired for 3 consecutive years
BY	jinyong lee
WC	176 words
PD	3 March 2022
SN	Smart Times
SC	SMTIME
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022. PRIME MEDIA GROUP Inc.
LP	
	<p>SK Telecom, participating in the Mobile World Congress (MWC), the world's largest exhibition in the field of mobile communication technology, succeeded in winning the award for the third consecutive year with a smartphone app that assists the visually impaired.</p> <p>SKT announced on the 3rd (local time) that it succeeded in winning the GSMA's 'Global Mobile Awards (GLOMO) 2022' for 'Sullivan Plus x NUGU', a visual aid service introduced together with social venture 'To Art'</p>
TD	<p>'Sullivan Plus x NUGU' was awarded in the 'Best Mobile Use Case for Accessibility and Inclusion' category. It targets ESG-related technologies or services that help the socially disadvantaged based on ICT.</p> <p>SKT Yeoh Young ESG Alliance Manager said, "I am delighted to have won the world-famous GLOMO Award for 'Sullivan Plus x NUGU', which creatively and innovatively utilizes SKT's voice AI and vision AI." We will continue to introduce innovative services to help the underprivileged and lead ESG management."</p>
	
	SK Telecom
CO	kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN	i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications imobsoft : Mobile Applications Software i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics i330202 : Software i3302021 : Applications Software i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services icomp : Computing itech : Technology
NS	c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions nimage : Images ccat : Corporate/Industrial News ncat : Content Types
RE	barca : Barcelona catal : Catalonia eecz : European Union Countries eurz : Europe medz : Mediterranean spain : Spain weurz : Western Europe
IPD	#AI

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Document SMTIME0020220304ei33000ma

SE #AI
 HD SKT promotes AI robot logistics business in earnest and wins AI service GLOMO Award for 3 years in a row
 BY jinyong lee
 WC 240 words
 PD 3 March 2022
 SN Smart Times
 SC SMTIME
 LA English
 CY Copyright 2022. PRIME MEDIA GROUP Inc.
 LP

SK Telecom announced on the 3rd that it had signed a business agreement with Cimes, a company specializing in artificial intelligence (AI) robotics software development, for business cooperation in the field of AI robot logistics, including a new investment of 10 billion won.

Cimes is an AI robot vision startup that innovates robot automation processes through AI and 3D machine vision technology and is leading the popularization of robots in various industries.

TD

Through this agreement, SKT plans to launch an 'AI logistics robot joint project' by combining its vision AI technology with Cimes' 3D vision and robot control technology. The AI logistics moving and loading robot implemented by combining the technologies of the two companies has secured global competitiveness by showing an accuracy of 99.9% or more when classifying atypical products.

Choi Nak-hoon, SKT Smart Factory CO manager, said, "Through this investment, we will be able to collaborate more closely with Simes, which has competitiveness in the fields of 3D vision and robot precision control. We will do our best to help solve the difficult problem."

Seong-ho Lee, CEO of Seames, said, "Through the business agreement with SKT, which we have been with since the beginning of our founding, we are able to draw a bigger future." I will," he said.



Photo = SK Telecom

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
 IN i3435 : Industrial Electrical Equipment | i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | icargo : Freight Transport/Logistics | i3302021 : Applications Software | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i330202 : Software | icomp : Computing | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | itsp : Transportation/Logistics | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS gcsci : Computer Science | gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | ccawrd : Corporate Awards | nimage : Images | cautm : Automation | c24 : Capacity/Facilities | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities | ncat : Content Types

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IPD #AI

PUB Prime Media Group Inc.

AN Document SMTIME0020220304ei33000m9



SE CE Noticias Financieras English
HD **5G waiters, superchargers and other MWC highlights**

WC 518 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN CE NoticiasFinancieras

SC NFINCE

LA English

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LP

The Mobile World Congress (MWC), the industry's big showcase that ended this Thursday (3) in Barcelona, served for manufacturers and operators to present a series of gadgets and innovations in batteries, in the virtual universe of the **metaverse**, and in 5G.

5G Bartender

TD

It prepares cocktails, speaks a dozen languages, and recognizes the faces of its most loyal customers. The Kime robot, created by Spanish food technology company Macco Robotics, is presented as a "high value-added" bartender.

Even Joan Laporta, president of Barcelona Football Club, went to the booth of the Spanish operator Telefónica to meet one of the stars of the show.

This humanoid robot that works with 5G (fifth generation of telephone technologies) can "work 24 hours a day", boasts its creator, highlighting what he considers its advantages: it allows "avoiding unnecessary contacts" and guarantees a "contamination-free space".

Virtual Discotheque

At the stand of South Korean operator SK Telecom, visitors tasted a virtual disco, a festive appetizer of the metaverse, the immaterial universe presented as the future of the Internet and that arouses the interest of major technology brands.

Wearing virtual reality helmets, the "customer" is immersed in a nightclub with other avatars. It is one of the numerous applications of "Ifland," the South Korean operator's metaverse launched in 2021 and designed to "maximize the user experience through multiple virtual spaces and avatars."

Driving a car from a distance

Driving a car more than 1,000 km away thanks to 5G? That's one of the next-generation mobile network apps introduced by French operator Orange.

Named "Vrombr", this game made by Polyptik allows, through a smartphone, to drive a miniature car from Barcelona on a circuit near Paris.

Express recharge and ecological battery

Several manufacturers presented their 'express' device charging systems in Barcelona, one of the challenges of the smartphone sector, eager to improve the autonomy of chargers.

Chinese manufacturer Realme created a 150-watt charger that allows 50% of the battery to be replenished in 5 minutes. Its competitor Oppo promises a 100% recharge in just 9 minutes, thanks to its 240-watt "Supervooc" technology.

Japanese company PJP Eye has presented a prototype of an "organic" battery, which it claims is more sustainable and less dangerous, and which integrates a carbon made from a cotton base instead of the commonly used metals (nickel, manganese and cobalt).

This technology "allows extending the life" of the batteries and consequently reducing "CO2 emissions," explained PJP Eye director Inketsu Okina, who highlights another advantage: these batteries do not explode.

Robot dog

With its short legs and its body full of sensors and microphones, Xiaomi's robot dog, which was exhibited for the first time outside China, can trot close to its owner, bark, shake its paw, and even stand guard.

This robot, whose brain was developed in open source and is in the experimental phase, is guided with a cell phone. One thousand copies have already been put on sale on the Chinese market at a price of 1,500 euros per unit.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology

NS c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE spain : Spain | catal : Catalonia | barca : Barcelona | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | weurz : Western Europe

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AN Document NFINCE0020220303ei330095I

SE Entertainment

HD **SK Telecom's AI service for visually impaired wins award at MWC 2022**

WC 202 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN The Korea Herald

SC KORHER

LA English

CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald

LP

South Korean telecom giant SK Telecom Co. said Thursday its artificial intelligence service designed to help the visually impaired has won an award at the world's largest mobile show in Barcelona.

The wireless carrier said the AI-based virtual service co-developed with local social venture group Tuat has received an award for Best Use of Mobile for Accessibility & Inclusion at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022.

TD

The Sullivan Plus X NUGU applies both voice and visual-assistance AI to allow people with low vision and visual impairments to recognize words, objects and color with their smartphones, as well as receive information through voice.

This marks SK Telecom's third straight year clinching first place in the category, which recognizes services designed to improve accessibility and inclusivity for people with disabilities and impairments.

In 2020, the telecom operator won an award for a driving assistance solution for hearing-impaired taxi drivers. (Yonhap)

[Click here to see image](#)

This photo, provided by SK Telecom Co. on Feb. 20, 2022, shows an image of the company's planned exhibition booth at the Mobile World Congress 2022 in Spain. (SK Telecom Co.)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology

NS gsci : Sciences/Humanities | ccawrd : Corporate Awards | c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News

RE barca : Barcelona | catal : Catalonia | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | spain : Spain | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Herald Corporation

AN Document KORHER0020220303ei33000b5

HD SK Telecom-MWC; SK Telecom's **AI** service for visually impaired wins award at MWC 2022

CR YNA

WC 188 words

PD 3 March 2022

ET 02:45

SN Yonhap English News

SC YONH

LA English

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LP

SK Telecom's **AI** service for visually impaired wins award at MWC 2022

SEOUL, March 3 (Yonhap) -- South Korean telecom giant SK Telecom Co. said Thursday its artificial intelligence service designed to help the visually impaired has won an award at the world's largest mobile show in Barcelona.

TD

The wireless carrier said the AI-based virtual service co-developed with local social venture group Tuat has received an award for Best Use of Mobile for Accessibility & Inclusion at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022.

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In 2020, the telecom operator won an award for a driving assistance solution for hearing-impaired taxi drivers.

julesyi@yna.co.kr

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CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

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NS ccawrd : Corporate Awards | gsci : Sciences/Humanities | gcsci : Computer Science | gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD 0901001

PUB Yonhap News Agency

AN Document YONH000020220303ei330028I

HD SK Telecom Co. Ltd. - SKT to Promote AI Robot-based Logistics Business

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WC 449 words

PD 3 March 2022

SN Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

SC LCDVP

LA English

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* [Click here to view this document in its original format](#)

SKT to Promote AI Robot-based Logistics Business

TD

SK Telecom (NYSE:SKM, hereinafter referred to as "SKT") today announced that it invested KRW 10 billion in CMES* and signed a business agreement with CMES to cooperate in the AI robot-based logistics business.

* CMES is a leading AI vision robotics company. It has been innovating robotic process automation for many companies around the globe through advanced AI and 3D vision technologies.

At SKT's press conference held on February 28 at MWC Barcelona 2022, SKT CEO Ryu Young-sang stated that the company will actively promote AI-based robot business as part of its Connected Intelligence business.

With the additional investment of KRW 10 billion in CMES - following its initial investment of KRW 900 million in 2016, - SKT became the second largest shareholder of CMES. CMES has attracted a total of KRW 30 billion, including KRW 20 billion it raised in November last year.

Through this agreement, SKT and CMES will jointly promote AI robot-based logistics business in full swing.

The two companies have been preparing for the 'AI-based loading and unloading robot' business since the second half of 2020. By combining SKT's vision AI technology with vision guided robot software developed by CMES, they successfully developed an AI-based loading and unloading robot capable of sorting various shapes and sizes of irregular shaped products with 99.9% accuracy.

Capable of processing more than 600 boxes per hour, the robot is expected to help alleviate labor shortage in logistics and overwork of delivery workers, thereby creating social value.

Going forward, SKT and CMES will set up a business cooperation council to develop other cooperation models in the logistics AI robot business and create opportunities in both Korea and the U.S., the world's largest logistics market.

"Through this investment, we will strengthen our cooperation with CMES, which has competitiveness in 3D vision and robot control," said Choi Nak-hoon, Vice President and Head of Smart Factory CO. "We will continue to make efforts to contribute to the growth of the AI robot industry including the logistics sector, and help tackle pressing social issues."

* [Original Link](#)

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NS gcsci : Computer Science | ccapex : Capital Expenditure | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | npress : Press Releases | c11 : Corporate Strategy/Planning | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities | ncat : Content Types

RE apacz : Asia Pacific | skorea : South Korea | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB PUBT Inc

AN Document LCDVP00020220303ei330005q

HD	Barrier-free AI
WC	83 words
PD	2 March 2022
SN	Korea JoongAng Daily
SC	JOONAI
LA	English
CY	Copyright 2022 JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.
LP	SK Telecom introduced a barrier-free artificial intelligence (AI) for visually impaired people, which was co-developed with Korean AI company Tuat, on Mar. 1, at MWC in Barcelona, Spain.
TD	<p>Click here to see image</p> <p>SK Telecom introduced a barrier-free artificial intelligence (AI) for visually impaired people, which was co-developed with Korean AI company Tuat, on Mar. 1, at MWC in Barcelona, Spain. The voice-controlled service helps users with visual impairment identify objects and written words. [YONHAP]</p>
CO	kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
IN	i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies itech : Technology i7902 : Telecommunication Services i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
NS	gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning gcsci : Computer Science gcat : Political/General News gsci : Sciences/Humanities
RE	spain : Spain catal : Catalonia barca : Barcelona eecz : European Union Countries eurz : Europe medz : Mediterranean weurz : Western Europe
PUB	JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.
AN	Document JOONAI0020220302ei32002e5

HD SKT taking its **metaverseplatform** to the world

BY Robert Clark

WC 463 words

PD 2 March 2022

SN Light Reading

SC LITEREAD

LA English

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LP

MWC22 – SK Telecom (SKT) aims to launch its Ifland **metaverse** service in 80 countries this year as part of an effort to become a global leader in key next-gen technologies.

In addition, CEO Ryu Young-sang said that the company is taking its **AI** semiconductor and quantum cryptography tech to international markets.

TD

Ryu told an MWC press conference that Ifland has become a "major new communications platform," receiving more than 1,500 requests for partnership in Korea. He said SKT would open the platform to allow user-generated content and would soon introduce a blockchain-enabled virtual marketplace.

[Click here to view Figure 1.](#)

Ifland has been on a fast growth path since its launch last July, reaching 1.1 million monthly active users by the end of 2021, [according to SKT's Q4 filing](#). Time spent by users on the platform has more than doubled during the first six months.

Ifland had already become a popular social venue and a platform for businesses seeking new channels to customers, [SKT noted in a press release](#).

Ryu did not elaborate on Ifland's expansion plans. But Ik-hwan Cho, head of metaverse development, said that the telco plans "to strengthen cooperation" with global telcos.

Additional focus areas

SKT also has great expectations for AI chip subsidiary Sapeon Inc. With the AI semiconductor market growing at 44% annually and expected to be worth 40 trillion won (\$33.3 billion) by 2025, SKT believes that Sapeon could reach 2 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) in revenue by 2027.

Last month, [SKT established Sapeon in the US](#) in a joint investment with [SK Square](#), the SK Group portfolio manager, and memory chip player SK Hynix. SKT will work closely with Sapeon, targeting verticals such as manufacturing, security, media and the auto sector, Ryu said.

In the third key technology, quantum security, SKT was a market leader in Korea through subsidiary [ID Quantique](#), which had applied its technology to SKT's 5G backbone network and helped build a quantum-secured 5G smartphone with Samsung in 2020.

Want to know more? Sign up to get our [dedicated newsletters](#) direct to your inbox

Geneva-based ID Quantique will target the European, North American and Asian markets. It is also expanding its business to blockchain and other quantum solutions.

"With the launch of metaverse, AI semiconductor and quantum cryptography in overseas markets, we will expand our global presence to maintain leadership into the next-generation ICT market," said Ryu.

Related posts:

- * [The next telco worry is paying for the metaverse](#)
- * [MWC22 Day 2: To the metaverse and beyond](#)
- * [SKT cruises to \\$340M operating profit on mobile, media growth](#)

- Robert Clark, contributing editor, special to [Light Reading](#)

CT rclark@electricspeech.com

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS c22 : New Products/Services | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c312 : Corporate/Industry Exports | cdom : Domestic/Foreign Markets | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE asiaz : Asia

IPD Tradeshow

PUB Light Reading

AN Document LITEREAD20220302ei3200001

HD SK Telecom Aims to Expand into Global Market with 'Next Big Tech'

WC 497 words

PD 2 March 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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LP

SK Telecom (SKT) aims to enter the global market with 'Next Big Tech,' which refers to its three key future technologies, namely **metaverse**, **AI** semiconductor and quantum cryptography.

The company disclosed its new business plan at a news conference at MWC Barcelona 2022 on Feb. 28 (local time).

TD

SKT CEO Ryu Young-sang declared that 2022 will be the first year in which the company's 'Next Big Tech' makes inroads into the overseas markets.

Ryu said the company will launch its metaverse service Iland in 80 countries this year. He said the company will consider taking over companies with metaverse technology and intellectual property rights (IP) to increase its competitiveness.

He said SKT would build its own economic system by adding blockchain-based non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and marketplaces as early as the second half of 2022. In addition, it plans to open up the platform to allow users to provide diverse content. He also laid out a blueprint to evolve Iland and AI Agent into a single AIVERSE service by interconnecting content, economic system, and back-end infrastructure of the two services.

SK Telecom is also expected to promote cooperation with Samsung Electronics in the development of metaverse platform devices. Han Jong-hoe, vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, met with Korean reporters at the MWC exhibition hall and announced that he was preparing a metaverse platform device. Ryu hinted at the possibility of collaboration with Samsung Electronics, saying, "There were many cases where SK Telecom became a partner when Samsung Electronics released new products."

SKT unveiled its plans to become a global top-tier AI semiconductor company by releasing a follow-up model of its AI semiconductor Sapeon X220 late this year or early 2023. Ryu said SKT plans to grow Sapeon into a company with cumulative sales of 2 trillion won and corporate value of 10 trillion won by 2027.

SK Telecom's goal is to become a top global company in quantum cryptography communications as well. Since the mobile carrier acquired Swiss quantum cryptography communication company IDQ in 2018, it has secured more than 250 customers and partners, more than doubling its sales after the acquisition of IDQ.

CEO Ryu also talked about SKT's recent rearrangement of its business into five different groups, namely Mobile & Fixed Telecommunications, Media, Enterprise, AIVERSE (AI+Universe), and Connected Intelligence, targeted at accelerating its progress in global expansion while sustaining stable growth.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=88380>

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RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Business Korea Co., Ltd.

AN Document BKORDN0020220302ei320002w

SE , Biz&Company
HD **SK Telecom eyes M&As to bolster metaverse with quantum cryptography, AI chip**
BY Lim Young-shin and Susan Lee
WC 463 words
PD 2 March 2022
SN Maeil Business Newspaper
SC MAEIL
LA English
CY Copyright 2022 MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.
LP

South Korea's top wireless carrier SK Telecom Co. will actively seek to groom its metaverse business, one of its new pillar growth engines along with AI semiconductor and quantum cryptography technologies, as a global platform through active mergers and acquisitions, its chief announced on Monday.

"We will actively consider M&As with companies that have metaverse technologies and intellectual properties to enhance our competitiveness," SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang said at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 in Barcelona, Spain, on Monday (local time), adding that the company will strive to groom its metaverse service 'ifland' as a global platform with its launch in 80 countries around the world this year.

TD

SK Telecom will not spin off metaverse and the other two new growth engines – AI semiconductor and quantum cryptography technologies – and foster their growth inside the company to create greater synergy with the parent's communication service.

The company has had meetings with Global ICT companies such as Germany's Deutsche Telekom AG and Singapore's Singtel Group to discuss ifland business opportunities at the MWC, it said.

To support the global push of ifland, SK Telecom plans on launching its own transactions system with blockchain-based NFTs and marketplace functions as early as the latter half of the year, said Ryu. Users will also be able to create their own virtual lands in ifland. The wireless carrier's long-term goal is to turn ifland into an AI service platform through its AI technologies.

SK Telecom will also collaborate with Samsung Electronics to develop devices for metaverse platforms.

SK Telecom will release Sapeon X330, an AI chip, from its AI semiconductor unit Sapeon either at the end of this year or next year.

"We will build Sapeon into a company with a cumulative revenue of 2 trillion won (\$1.7 billion) and corporate value of 10 trillion won by 2027," said Ryu.

The Korean telecom giant also aims to become world's top in the quantum cryptography communication sector. Since it acquired ID Quantique (IDQ), a Swiss quantum cryptography company in 2018, revenue at its quantum cryptography communication has more than doubled to 26 billion won.

SK Telecom hopes overseas sales take up more than 10 percent of its total sales by 2025, and it would hinge on the success of its metaverse, AI semiconductor, and quantum cryptography businesses, Ryu said.

KT unveiled 'Dr. Wais', an artificial intelligence (AI) control solution during the MWC 2022 on Tuesday. 'Dr. Wais' provides customized monitoring and analysis of the quality of 5G wireless technology through deep learning and machine learning technologies.

[SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang. \[Photo provided by SK Telecom Co.\]](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i34411 : Mobile Communications Devices | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology

NS gcsci : Computer Science | c22 : New Products/Services | c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cexpro : Products/Services | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | barca : Barcelona | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | catal : Catalonia | easiaz : Eastern Asia | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | spain : Spain | weurz : Western Europe

PUB MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

AN Document MAEIL00020220302ei320008d

SE #AI
 HD SKT to showcase ICT barrier-free AI at MWC22
 BY jinyong lee
 WC 232 words
 PD 2 March 2022
 SN Smart Times
 SC SMTIME
 LA English
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 LP

SK Telecom announced on the 2nd that it would show the world the innovative ideas and technologies of various startups pursuing ESG under the slogan "Think Tomor-row, Do ESG!" at 4YFN (4 Years from Now), a side event of MWC22.

'4YFN (4 Years from Now)' is an exposition to discover promising start-ups with the potential to participate in the main MWC exhibition in the next four years, to provide a forum for exchange and help start-ups. (Fira Granvia) It was held for a total of 4 days from February 28 to March 3 in the 6th hole.

TD

SKT set up a stand-alone booth in the 4YFN exhibition hall and presented a way to solve ESG problems and create social values using ICT technologies of two of its ESG projects and 11 ESG innovative start-ups.

SKT and these 11 companies held an exhibition under the themes of Barrier Free, which means 'a world where disability is not a problem' and environment, energy, and social safety nets.

Park Yong-joo, SKT's ESG manager, said, "A digital inclusive society is an essential condition for leaping into an advanced Korea. SK Telecom will practice various efforts to strengthen ESG management, such as fostering ESG startups and expanding the ecosystem with ICT innovative technology." did.



made by smart times.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
 IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications
 NS cesg : Environmental/Social/Governance | c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | nimage : Images | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types

RE	skorea : South Korea apacz : Asia Pacific asiaz : Asia easiaz : Eastern Asia
IPD	#AI
PUB	Prime Media Group Inc.
AN	Document SMTIME0020220302ei3200001

SE Business
HD [MWC 2022] SKT CEO bets future on **metaverse**, **AI** chip, quantum cryptography
BY Son Ji-hyoung and Kim Byung-wook Korea Herald correspondents (consnow@heraldcorp.com)
(kbw@heraldcorp.com)
WC 513 words
PD 2 March 2022
SN The Korea Herald
SC KORHER
LA English
CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald

LP

BARCELONA, Spain -- SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang announced at World Mobile Congress 2022 on Monday, local time, that the firm has chosen three new technologies to seek future growths -- **metaverse**, artificial intelligence chips and quantum cryptography.

During a press conference, Ryu pledged to make a foray into those future technologies this year as the company has accumulated enough know-how on 5G, which was commercialized three years ago.

TD

Based on its 5G experience, SKT aims to introduce its metaverse platform dubbed "ifland" to 80 countries this year. Launched in July, ifland has received more than 1,500 partnership requests at home.

"Ifland will be combined with an 'AI agent,' which will go back and forth between the metaverse and reality to engage in new experiences on behalf of users and become intelligent on its own. The AI agent will allow us to live two lives simultaneously," the CEO said.

"SKT is considering a unique economic system inside ifland where AI agents can participate in economic activities."

The economic system will include an open market applied with cryptocurrency technologies such as NFTs and blockchain.

SKT further plans to evolve ifland into an "AI-verse" where AI agents, economy systems and backend infrastructure are all merged together.

On top of ifland, Ryu vowed to introduce the next model of its AI semiconductors by the end of this year or the start of 2023 to become the "top-tier" player in the market.

"The size of the AI chip market will grow 44 percent every year to reach 40 trillion won (\$33.3 billion) in 2025. As demand (for AI chips) spikes for mobile edge computing, machine learning and servers, we decided to enter the global market," the CEO said.

In 2016, SKT embarked on an AI chip development project and later introduced a prototype named "Sapeon" in 2020. The prototype, though cheaper than a GPU chip, can process images much more efficiently, roughly 6,700 images per second, with the amount of electricity required for lighting up a light bulb.

The company plans to "pour everything" into commercializing the Sapeon AI chips in the manufacturing, security, media and auto sectors.

Amid the growing importance for cybersecurity, SKT said it would become the top player in the quantum cryptography market.

SKT acquired the world's first quantum cryptography company IDQ in 2018 and the technology has been used several times in the telecommunications, financial and public networks in major North American and Asian countries.

The company also applied quantum cryptography technology to its 221-kilometer-long 5G network in 2019, which it claims it was the first to do so. In collaboration with Samsung Electronics, SKT rolled out the world's first quantum cryptography smartphone Galaxy A Quantum.

[Click here to see image](#)

SKT CEO Ryu Young-sang speaks to reporters during a press conference at MWC 2022 held in Barcelona, Spain, on Monday. (SKT)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i34531 : Semiconductors | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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HD Why 5G is uniquely ill-equipped to support the **metaverse**

BY Mike Dano

WC 1,363 words

PD 1 March 2022

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LP

One of the top executives at Meta (formerly Facebook) this week outlined exactly what the global mobile 5G industry will need to do to support the concept of the "**metaverse**."

That's important considering a growing number of companies in the mobile industry - from SK Telecom to Verizon to Qualcomm - [are pinning hopes of future growth on the rise of the **metaverse**](#).

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However, in many ways, the news for the mobile industry is not good. That's because some of the early requirements for the metaverse sit in areas where 5G has historically struggled, both in terms of technological capabilities and business approaches.

Whether the metaverse will change things remains to be seen.

Meta again setting the tone

[A blog post this week by Meta's Dan Rabinovitsj](#) is noteworthy for a number of reasons. First, Rabinovitsj heads up the "connectivity" efforts of Meta, which is the new corporate name that Facebook deployed late last year. Amid [a collapse in its share price](#), Facebook is hoping that a shift toward the metaverse will revive its fortunes. It also comes as little surprise given Facebook's early embrace of virtual reality technologies like the Oculus headset.

For his part, Rabinovitsj has long worked to flesh out Facebook's networking strategy. In the company's early days, that involved [expanding inexpensive Internet services across the globe](#) to increase the number of people using Facebook's social media services. That, of course, helped to generate more advertising revenues for the company, as the number of eyeballs on its site increased.

More recently, Facebook [has been driving the Telecom Infra Project \(TIP\)](#), in part to help push the software and virtualization technologies that Facebook pioneered in its own data centers for the telecom industry.

Now, though, Rabinovitsj is following Facebook's pivot toward the metaverse. In conjunction with the MWC trade show this week, he outlined some of the technologies that Facebook/Meta wants the global mobile networking industry to implement to support the company's view of the metaverse.

Specifically, he called for reductions in network latency, symmetrical bandwidth and a "common framework" that would support the sharing of networking metrics among various vendors, providers and network elements.

All three of these areas are undoubtedly going to be difficult for the mobile 5G industry to implement.

Network latency

As Rabinovitsj explained, latency is the time it takes for a request to travel between a user and a remote computer. The primary way to improve latency is to physically locate cloud computing resources nearer to where users are, [dubbed edge computing](#).

[Click here to view Figure 1.](#)

"We envision a future where remote rendering over edge cloud, or some form of hybrid between local and remote rendering, plays a greater role in the years to come," he wrote. "And enabling remote rendering will require both fixed and mobile networks to be rearchitected to create compute resources at a continuum of distances to end users."

Mobile network operators are well aware of this situation. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many had been hinting at making major investments in the development of edge computing services all over the globe. But the massive traffic spikes early on in the pandemic - when millions of people were working and schooling from home - [redirected those investments into core networking services](#).

Now, mobile network operators are watching Microsoft, Google and Amazon invest in edge computing in a way [that will likely relegate operators to the sidelines](#). Just as network operators [withdrew from the media and content industry](#), and [the data center market before that](#), so too will they likely cede most, if not all, of the edge computing marketplace to content delivery network operators [like Akamai](#) and cloud computing providers [like Amazon](#).

Symmetrical bandwidth

Another big metaverse item on Meta's networking checklist is symmetrical broadband speeds. After all, it wouldn't be much of an immersive experience if users couldn't quickly upload all their own content while concurrently downloading the content of others.

What's noteworthy, though, is that the US 5G industry [specifically lobbied against symmetrical Internet requirements](#) during negotiations over federal broadband stimulus spending. Indeed, executives from the Wireless Infrastructure Association made the topic a central part of their push in Washington, DC.

The reason is no secret: Mobile networks don't have as much capacity as wired networks, and as a result 5G providers generally devote the vast majority of their finite network capacity to download connections [instead of upload connections](#).

Although the capabilities of 5G will continue to improve every year, it's reasonable to assume that mobile networks will continue to struggle to support speedy, metaverse-capable upload connections for the foreseeable future.

A 'common framework'

But it's Rabinovitsj's final metaverse requirement - for a "common framework" that would support data sharing - that potentially poses the most difficult hurdle for mobile network operators.

"In today's networks, the protocols and algorithms operating at the application layer - such as adaptive bit rate control loops for streaming video - do not have access to metrics on link quality and congestion from the physical layer," Rabinovitsj wrote. "Similarly, protocols to optimize traffic congestion run mostly independent of one another, with some handled by content providers and others by network operators. We believe there's an opportunity to realize significant gains by moving past this kind of siloed optimization and toward open interfaces for sharing metrics between OSI layers as well as network domains."

The idea of mobile network operators sharing their core networking interfaces is a compelling one. And it's something that the industry has been working on for more than a decade - with virtually nothing to show for it.

In 2012, the GSMA acquired the Wholesale Application Community (WAC) and used it to introduce [the OneAPI Exchange](#). The goal was to allow network operators to create a set of standardized, web-friendly application programming interfaces (API) for developers.

However, it turned out that such information is difficult for mobile network operators to expose - and it's even more difficult for them to share it in a way that is easy for developers to use.

Why else would Twilio be valued at \$34 billion today? After all, "Twilio is a ten-year-old company with basically no physical assets, and it has managed to take the traditional telco services and make them programmable," explained Erlend Prestgard, a former Telenor executive [who's trying to build a similar service](#).

Indeed, aside from the basics like text messaging and voice calling, operators are notoriously bad at creating open, interoperable interfaces. Take, for example, Rich Communications Services (RCS), a GSMA effort that in part hoped to open text messaging services to business customers. The big operators in the US promised in 2019 to launch RCS services, but their alliance [fell apart just two years](#)

[later](#). Today, more than a decade after the first RCS specifications hit the market, the technology is still mostly absent in the US.

In conclusion

It's clear that Facebook, now Meta, is hoping to lead the world's move into the metaverse. After all, if the movie Ready Player One is any indication, the metaverse will ultimately develop into a necessary diversion from the pain and suffering of real life.

It's also clear why the 5G industry is so interested in the metaverse. After all, fixed wireless access (FWA) is so far the only real new service to arise from the introduction of 5G in the US - and the economics of FWA [are questionable at best](#). That's why the metaverse today is sort of like the pot of gold at the end of the 5G rainbow.

But to really support the metaverse, the 5G industry will need to move a lot faster than it has in the past. And, if history is any indication, that probably won't happen.

Related posts:

* [Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile kill RCS plans](#)

* [Did wireless win the battle over broadband symmetry?](#)

* [The metaverse will save 5G? That's so cute!](#)

- [Mike Dano](#), Editorial Director, 5G & Mobile Strategies, [Light Reading](#) | [@mikeddano](#)

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RE namz : North America

IPD Mobile World Congress

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HD SK Telecom to focus on **metaverse**, **AI** semiconductor, quantum cryptography

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South Korean operator SK Telecom held a press conference at MWC Barcelona 2022 to announce that the company will enter the global market with 'Next Big Tech', which refers to its [three key future technologies](#) namely **metaverse**, **AI** semiconductor and quantum cryptography.

Metaverse

TD

SK Telecom plans to expand its global presence by launching its metaverse service Ifland in 80 different countries this year. SK Telecom reports that, in South Korea, Ifland has become a popular venue for social gatherings as well as a platform for businesses seeking new ways to communicate with their customers.

To shape Ifland into an innovative global service, SK Telecom plans to enhance user convenience through service upgrades, including opening up its platform to enable users to provide diverse content, and creating a marketplace applied with crypto technologies (NFT/Blockchain).

Going forward, the company plans to evolve Ifland and AI Agent into a single AIVERSE service by interconnecting content, economic system, and back-end infrastructure of the two services.

AI semiconductor

SK Telecom plans to release a follow-up model of its AI semiconductor Sapeon X220 later this year or in early 2023. Growing by 44 percent per year, the global AI semiconductor market is expected to reach KRW 40 trillion by 2025.

SK Telecom recently secured a bridgehead to advance into the global market by establishing Sapeon in the US, through joint investment with SK Square and SK hynix. This year, SK Telecom will work closely with Sapeon to apply its semiconductor chip to many different industries including manufacturing, security, media and automotive.

Through these efforts, SK Telecom expects Sapeon to become a company with a cumulative revenue of KRW 2 trillion and an enterprise value of KRW 10 trillion by 2027.

Quantum cryptography

SK Telecom announced plans to expand in the field of quantum cryptography, which is being applied to wider areas due to the increased importance of security brought by the diversification of smart devices. Together with ID Quantique, a quantum technology company acquired by SK Telecom in 2018, the Korean operator has integrated security technologies and created various use cases in Europe, North America and Asia.

In addition, the company applied QKD to 221 kilometers of its 5G backbone network in 2019, and introduced a QRNG-powered 5G smartphone 'Galaxy A Quantum' with Samsung Electronics in 2020.

SK Telecom also reports it has secured over 250 customers and partners, more than doubling its sales after the acquisition of ID Quantique. This year, the company plans to increase sales of the existing products such as QRNG and QKD, while expanding into new areas such as blockchain and quantum cryptography solutions.

SK Telecom redefines five key business units

SK Telecom has decided to revamp its business into five different groups, namely Mobile & Fixed Telecommunications, Media, Enterprise, AIVERSE (AI+Universe), and Connected Intelligence.

SK Telecom plans to continue to expand operations in mobile & fixed telecommunications based on its 5G services, as well as grow its media business by expanding its platform to the overall value chain including content, T-commerce and advertising.

In the enterprise business, SK Telecom plans to keep expanding the scale of its data centers, while advancing 5G MEC-based cloud services, AI-based IoT and smart factory. It will also promote the growth of the AIVERSE business by evolving T Universe, metaverse and AI agent into new AI services that provide a new level of experience, while actively pursuing its Connected Intelligence business to realize connectivity for future devices like UAM vehicles, robots and self-driving cars.

In particular, SK Telecom will promote robot-related business in full swing by leveraging its rich stock of AI technologies. The company decided to invest in CMES, an AI vision robotics company, to jump into the AI robot-based logistics business. The operator plans to apply AI to its overall ESG activities under the 'Barrier Free AI' project, which aims to create a barrier-free society with AI.

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S. Korean telcos showcase **metaverse**, **AI** technologies at MWC 2022

SEOUL, March 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's three major mobile carriers have been showcasing their latest technologies from **metaverse** services to artificial intelligence robots at a global mobile technology trade fair held in Spain.

TD

The Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 kicked off in Barcelona on Monday (local time) and is set to run until Thursday. It is one of the top three annual tech events in the world, along with the Consumer Electronics Show in the United States and the IFA in Germany.

At the event, SK Telecom demonstrated a four-dimensional metaverse service that allows users to experience Meta Planet, a virtual world created by the company, on a robotic arm.

The wireless carrier also displayed its virtual meeting platform ifland, a metaverse platform that allows users to interact with others using personalized avatars in a range of online settings from stadiums to cafes.

SK Telecom said the company will launch ifland in around 80 overseas markets by the end of this year, although it did not elaborate on the exact countries.

"Ifland has developed into a new communication platform with over 1,500 requests for partnerships in the country," CEO Ryu Young-sang said at a press conference at the MWC. Ryu added that he has received requests for collaborations from global telecommunication companies at this year's MWC.

KT demonstrated the company's latest technology, including an AI sanitization robot that disinfects the floor and purifies air in indoor spaces.

Samsung Electronics also participated in the trade fair, showcasing its next-generation Galaxy Book laptop for the first time and other lineups of products, such as Galaxy S22 smartphones and Galaxy Tab S8 series.

This year's MWC marks its first offline event in three years as the trade fair was canceled in 2020 and held online last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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SE , Biz&Company
HD **SK Telecom's AI business to gain traction under direct command of chair**
BY Na Hyun-joon and Minu Kim
WC 386 words
PD 28 February 2022
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SK Telecom has been anticipated to break its stagnated growth as a wireless network player through businesses leveraging on artificial intelligence under the direct command of SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won who has joined the managing board of the company.

SK Telecom could gain impetus in M&A activities under Chey's direct spearhead.

TD

SK Telecom has been building on AI business for breakthrough from saturated telecom market. The drive however has been slow in the five AI-related initiatives (AI speaker, hyperscale AI, smart factory, AI semiconductor and AI-VERSE) despite its huge manpower strength where 20 percent of all 1,114 employees are developers and researchers.

AI speaker business is the sole area that has been making strides.

SK Telecom's AI speaker NUGU runs ahead of the pack with the weekly number of active users hitting 274,429 in Korea this month, according to Nielsen Koreanclick that tracks app audience trends.

Progress has been slow in other areas. The company already inked smart factory contracts with more than 100 clients, but many industrial sites have been slow in incorporating disruptive installations over their busy and continuous process.

SK Telecom aims to make a difference on two projects on the AI front.

It is betting high on AI chip Sapeon. In 2020, the company released Sapeon x220 that features a 1.5-times faster computing speed than general AI chips. The product is yet to be democratized in the market as potential customers still value compatibility with peripheral devices, and efficiency versus power consumption in addition to computing speed. SK Telecom is working to win market penetration with a follow-up x330 model equipped with learning function besides reasoning that requires a high level of performance. The company recently set up a new American entity for Sapeon business and this makes some predict that an M&A deal will follow like the company's acquisition of memory chip maker SK hynix in 2012.

SK Telecom is also planning to launch AI+VERSE (AI+metaverse), a new AI assistant designed to make life easier through voice recognition and personalization available in the metaverse interface.

[Click here to view image](#)

[\[Source: SK Telecom Co.\]](#)

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One of the world's largest tech events, Mobile World Congress, is returning to Barcelona, and South Korea's telecommunications firms this week are poised to showcase their future technologies for the next decade to come.

Extending their network and connected intelligence technology with respective industrial partners, SK Telecom is set to boast underlying technology to enable flying taxis, while KT brings disinfection robots and LG Uplus presents Korean media contents that run on extended reality.

TD

All three telecom carriers will be setting up the respective exhibitions at MWC 2022 venue Fira Gran Via, before some 60,000 onsite participants from around 2,000 different companies based in 183 countries.

SK Telecom, which has over 30 million subscribers in Korea, will set up a 792 square-meter exhibition booth located at the center of Hall 3.

The company said visitors at its exhibition are expected to get a glimpse of how its connected intelligence technology could power flying vehicles with the urban air mobility concept displayed there.

Moreover, its solutions for augmented reality car showroom and for virtual reality game boosting will be introduced as the use case of multiaccess edge computing on the 5G network. SK Telecom will also present Nugu Multiagent, the world's first smart speaker that communicates both in English and Korean.

Also, for the first time in Europe, visitors will also be given access to Sapeon, a low-power chip with artificial intelligence solution jointly by SK Telecom, its memory chip affiliate SK hynix and investment arm SK Square, as well as SK Telecom's metaverse platform ifland available in head-mounted display and in foreign languages.

Meanwhile, KT's exhibition will be located in Hall 4, home to MWC's newest feature GSMA Industry City, a special exhibit by the host of MWC.

KT, which has 22 million local subscribers, is the sole Korean company that employs a GSMA board member, KT Chief Executive Officer Ku Hyeon-mo.

KT is set to have its autonomous virus-killing robot make a public appearance for the first time. KT said the robot can run for 24 hours, and is capable of sterilizing airborne bacteria and viruses using air plasma, and of disinfecting floors with lamps that emit ultraviolet-C lights -- known to have the shortest wavelength but be most powerful for ultraviolet purification.

Developers of the smart robot is in the course of mounting AI technology to detect air quality real-time, the company added.

This will come along with a number of AI solutions by KT. Its so-called AI Contact Center features an automated customer service that interprets and responds to customer inquiry through an active communication, according to the company. The automated service was launched in Korea last year.

KT's AI use cases will also range from road traffic analysis for real-time traffic flow optimization, video analysis via closed-circuit cameras for faster emergency response, choreography analysis and automated management of 5G network quality, the company added.

In Hall 2, LG Uplus will showcase its 5G service at its exhibition space. Visitors there will have a taste of U+Dive, an app launched last year in Korea that offers up to some 3,000 media contents, with some of them providing an extended reality experience.

LG Uplus added that it expects to negotiate with over 20 counterparts primarily in Europe and the Middle East at the MWC venue to sell 5G services and contents. The company has so far achieved \$23 million in sales of 5G-related goods.

The South Korean telcos' role is not necessarily limited to showcasing their own futuristic technology, but to assist their partners with overseas market entry.

SK Telecom said it would install a separate booth in Hall 6 with 11 homegrown startups under the theme of sustainability. Also, KT's trip to Barcelona will be accompanied by its partners, such as metaverse platform provider Coarsoft and golf swing analysis service provider Idealink.

[Click here to see image](#)

Models are seen enjoying a metaverse-powered urban air mobility concept displayed at SK Telecom exhibition in Barcelona, Spain during Mobile World Congress 2022 (SK Telecom)

[Click here to see image](#)

Models pose for a photo with a robot at KT's exhibition in Barcelona, Spain during Mobile World Congress 2022 (KT)

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HD SK, KT, LG promote **metaverse**, robots, **AI** at Mobile World Congress

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Models pose at SK Telecom's booth, designed for attendees to experience its **metaverse** services, at the Mobile World Congress tech show in Barcelona, Sunday. Courtesy of SK Telecom

Samsung Electronics to unveil new Galaxy lap top

TD

By Baek Byung-yeul

SK Telecom, KT, LG Uplus, Samsung Electronics and other Korean companies will promote their latest technologies such as the metaverse, robots, artificial intelligence (AI) and other services at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) tech show, which will be held in Barcelona from Monday to Thursday.

The MWC event is the biggest annual gathering of the global mobile communication industry. The event, which was canceled in 2020 and held online in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will return to its normal schedule this year and will be held offline for the first time in three years.

Around 110 Korean companies including big ones as well as startups will take part in the show to market their technologies to the global market, especially for European consumers.

To seek more business opportunities, CEOs from Korea's three mobile carriers – SK, KT and LG – will attend the show. SK Telecom will focus on promoting its metaverse technology, which has emerged as key trend for mobile carriers. KT, which is transforming itself into a digital platform company, has put its focus on AI and robots while LG Uplus seeks to export its virtual reality content.

SK said it decorated its exhibition booth with a metaverse concept, enabling visitors to experience real and virtual convergence. The company is betting big on its metaverse or virtual meeting platform known as ifland, using the event as a chance to export it to other countries.

'Since the world's first 5G commercialization in 2019, ifland has been recognized as a successful case of a 5G service launched by a mobile carrier. Many leading global companies have been inquiring about the ifland service and we expect the service can enter the global market through this year's MWC,' the company said.

Models pose with KT's AI and robot services at the Mobile World Congress tech show in Barcelona, Sunday. Courtesy of KT

KT plans to introduce its AI and robot-related services. Its AI secretary service has been evaluated to have contributed greatly to reducing the workload of small business owners by offering a consultancy service, receiving preorders and informing potential customers about business hours or location.

In the robot zone, an AI quarantine robot that can measure indoor air pollution levels in real time and purify air will be also be introduced

LG Uplus will operate a demonstration zone, displaying its virtual reality content and 5G service for buyers. The company will introduce various content such as virtual reality and augmented reality-based movies and art performances as well as travel, online comics, games and education based content.

Samsung Electronics' models pose with the company's Galaxy S22 smartphones at its booth during the Mobile World Congress tech show in Barcelona, Sunday. Courtesy of Samsung Electronics

Samsung Electronics will also display its latest mobile devices at the event. The company said Sunday that visitors to its booth will be able to experience its latest premium smartphone Galaxy S22 and tablet PC Galaxy Tab S8 and smartwatch Galaxy Watch 4 as well as the latest edition of its Galaxy Book laptop.

'Samsung Electronics reflected new education and working culture trends such as remote classes and work from home in the exhibition booth. Visitors can experience the smooth connectivity, productivity and innovation of the Galaxy ecosystem that can be used in various places and spaces in everyday life,' the company said.

The tech giant will promote not only its gadgets but also its efforts to make the global environment greener. The company said visitors can see how it developed a new smartphone material using ocean plastics such as discarded fishing nets. These materials are used in the Galaxy S22 smartphones.

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NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c24 : Capacity/Facilities | c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions

RE spain : Spain | catal : Catalonia | barca : Barcelona | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | weurz : Western Europe

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HD Mobile World Congress returns to Barcelona with force

WC 239 words

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Barcelona, Spain, Feb 25 (EFE).- After two stripped back editions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mobile World Congress (MWC) returns to Barcelona, expecting up to 60,000 attendees, the GSMA, the mobile industry employers' association that organizes the fair, said Friday. Organizers are expecting the event to return with force featuring industry powerhouses like Samsung, Huawei, Ericsson, Deutsche Telekom, Google, Nokia, Oppo, Qualcomm, SK Telecom and ZTE. The CEO of GSM, John Hoffman, told Efe this edition would not be "transitional" but rather one of "growth", coming from the worst of the pandemic and moving towards a normal MWC. "It is much more than a transition: it is the future." This year's show theme, 'Connectivity Unleashed', will explore the development of 5G connection into 6G, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Everything, CloudNet, FinTech and Tech Horizon.

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Hosted at the Fira Gran Via in Barcelona from 28 February to 3 March, this year's edition includes more than 1000 speakers, over 1500 exhibitors and 37 country pavilions. Smartphones will be at center stage of the trade show, with foldable terminals and multiple rear cameras expected to be unveiled from major mobile companies Samsung, Honor, Huawei or Xiaomi. Other still emerging elements will also make an appearance, such as the possibilities offered by the metaverse or the NewSpace economy, in dispute between private companies and public administrations. EFE mpl/ch-mp

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NS c315 : Conferences/Exhibitions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE spain : Spain | catal : Catalonia | barca : Barcelona | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | weurz : Western Europe

IPD 55008154891

PUB EFE News Service

AN Document WEFE000020220225ei2p000e0

HD SK Telecom and Samsung complete industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC) Trial in 5G**BY** CT Bureau**CR** Distributed by Contify.com**WC** 670 words**PD** 25 February 2022**SN** Communications Today**SC** ATCOMT**LA** English**CY** Copyright © 2022. ADI Media Pvt. Ltd.**LP**

Samsung Electronics and SK Telecom (SKT) announced they have successfully completed the industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC, New Radio–E-UTRAN Dual **Connectivity**) trial in SKT's 5G Standalone (5G SA) commercial network. SA Option 4 is a dual **connectivity** technology that connects both 5G and 4G radios to a 5G Core in advanced 5G SA mode, enabling operators to increase reliability and maximize their current network resources.

The two companies verified the 5G Option 4 technology at the SKT R&D Center to achieve the equal data speed as the NSA, using 175MHz of bandwidth, and also completed the verification of SA's specialized functions. For this commercial field trial, SKT used Samsung's 5G SA Core, 5G radios and 4G radios, which are already deployed across SKT's 5G commercial networks.

TD

5G Option 4 is a more advanced option than the existing 5G Standalone mode (SA Option 2) and provides the equivalent level of speed and quality as the NSA while utilizing the specialized functions of the SA Option 2 such as network slicing and the evolved 5G Core network.

SA Option 4 helps operators deliver innovative services including Urban Air Mobility (UAM), automated vehicles, remote control for heavy equipment, remote control robots and more. Network slicing creates multiple virtual networks within a single physical network infrastructure, optimizing network resources to meet specific performance needs for various services.

"While we supported the launch of the world's first commercial 5G services in Korea, we are excited to continue spearheading the advancement of 5G through 5G SA technology, which will power innovative 5G services by leveraging the world-class LTE network that is well established in Korea," said Jong-Kwan Park, Vice President and Head of 5GX Technology Group at SKT. "We will continue to expand our collaboration with industry leaders to continue driving this advanced technology and in growing this 5G SA ecosystem, to demonstrate new ways to tap the full potential of next-generation networks."

"Through this commercial trial, Samsung is proud to collaborate with SKT to achieve another milestone in advancing 5G SA technology, demonstrating the equal performance as NSA with 5G Option 4 technology in 5G SA mode," said June Moon, Executive Vice President and Head of Technology Strategy, Networks Business at Samsung Electronics. "We look forward to continue collaborating with SKT for the development and commercialization of advanced 5G SA technology, to deliver market-leading services to consumers and diverse use cases across industry."

While in the early stages of 5G, operators used E-UTRAN New Radio Dual Connectivity (EN-DC) technology to combine 5G and 4G networks in 5G NSA mode, and now with 5G SA, they can leverage SA Option 4, which is a more advanced dual connectivity technology.

This latest milestone is a result of Samsung and SKT's continued commitment to developing cutting-edge network technologies that power innovative 5G use cases. As part of their ongoing collaboration, the companies have successfully completed the EN-DC test in 2019, following the world's first 5G Next-Generation Core (5G NC) trial in June 2018. In March 2021, SKT began delivering 5G SA commercial services to private networks using Samsung's advanced 5G end-to-end solutions. In a collaborative effort, the companies will continue delivering advanced network services to mobile users in Korea.

Visit SK Telecom's booth at MWC Barcelona 2022 for this Option 4 (NE-DC) demonstration and more.

Samsung has pioneered the successful delivery of 5G end-to-end solutions including chipsets, radios and core. Through ongoing research and development, Samsung drives the industry to advance 5G networks with its market-leading product portfolio from fully virtualized RAN and Core to private network solutions and AI-powered automation tools. The company is currently providing network solutions to mobile operators that deliver connectivity to hundreds of millions of users around the world.

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AN Document ATCOMT0020220225ei2p0002u

HD SK Telecom and Samsung to Showcase 5G-4G SA Option 4 at MWC 2022

WC 674 words

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SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Telecom (SKT) announced on Feb. 24 that they have successfully completed the industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC, New Radio-E-UTRAN Dual **Connectivity**) trial in SKT's 5G Standalone (5G SA) commercial network.

The two companies will showcase their new technology at Mobile World Congress 2022, which opens in Barcelona on Feb. 28.

TD

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AN Document BKORDN0020220225ei2p0005p

SE , Biz&Company
 HD **SK Square vows active M&A and IPO drive upon releasing first earnings report**
 BY Pulse
 WC 356 words
 PD 25 February 2022
 SN Mael Business Newspaper
 SC MAEIL
 LA English
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LP

SK Square Co. on Friday reporting its first earnings for the last two months in 2021 since its separation from SK telecom as a standalone **investment** entity Friday vowed to enhance corporate value through active M&As, collaborations, and initial public offerings of its units.

The company disclosed its consolidated operating profit for November-December period was 419.8 billion won (\$348.7 million) over sales of 1.14 trillion won. Net profit came to 363.2 billion won. The consolidated sales reflect figures of subsidiaries such as SK Shieldus, 11 Street., SK Planet, T Map Mobility, and One Store, as well as P&L from its equity holding in SK hynix.

TD

SK Square is scheduled to hold a shareholder meeting on Mar. 28.

SK Square said it expects more stable cash generation this year as SK hynix decided to increase dividend payouts as part of efforts to raise shareholder value. Earlier, SK hynix announced that it would pay a quarterly dividend and raise its fixed dividend payments from 1,000 won per share to 1,200 won.

SK Square has so far invested 130.3 billion won in total in three companies since its debut as a pureplay investment firm: cryptocurrency exchange Korbit (87.3 billion won), 3D digital human developer Onmind (8 billion won), and digital agriculture platform Greenlabs (35 billion won).

SK Square said it is preparing for new investments in promising companies in the semiconductor and ICT fields this year. It also plans to pursue an initial public offering of subsidiaries and expand business partnerships to increase their value.

SK Square's net asset value, the value of the company's assets minus liabilities and expenses, came to 26 trillion won at the end of last year.

SK Square is a unique investment company that has a diverse portfolio of semiconductor, security, e-commerce, and mobility, and will focus on increasing investment profitability and corporate value through active portfolio management, said the company's chief investment officer Yoon Poong-young.

[Click here to view image](#)

CO hylec : SK Hynix Inc | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd
 IN i34531 : Semiconductors | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | iindele : Industrial Electronics | iindstrls : Industrial Goods | itech : Technology
 NS c1711 : Initial Public Offerings | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c151 : Earnings | c02 : Corporate Changes | c14 : Stock Listings | c15 : Financial Performance | c17 : Corporate Funding | c171 : Share Capital | cactio : Corporate Actions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter
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HD SK Telecom, Samsung complete 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC) trial in 5G commercial network

WC 179 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

LA English

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PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELASI0020220225ei2p00003

HD MIL-OSI Economics: SK Telecom and Samsung Complete Industry's First 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC) Trial in 5G Commercial Network

WC 801 words

PD 25 February 2022

SN ForeignAffairs.co.nz

SC PARALL

LA English

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Source: Samsung

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About SK Telecom

SK Telecom (NYSE:SKM) is Korea's leading ICT company, driving innovations in fixed & wireless telecommunications, AI service, and digital infrastructure service. Armed with cutting-edge ICT including AI and 5G, the company is ushering in a new level of convergence to deliver unprecedented value to customers. As the global 5G pioneer, SKT is committed to realizing the full potential of 5G through ground-breaking services that can improve people's lives, transform businesses, and lead to a better society.

SKT boasts unrivaled leadership in the Korean mobile market with over 30 million subscribers, which account for nearly 50 percent of the market.

For more information, please contact skt_press@sk.com or visit our LinkedIn page www.linkedin.com/company/sk-telecom.

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PUB	Multimedia Investments Ltd
AN	Document PARALL0020220224ei2p001i1

SE Entertainment
HD [MWC 2022] SKT, Samsung to unveil advanced 5G tech at MWC
WC 355 words
PD 25 February 2022
SN The Korea Herald
SC KORHER
LA English
CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald
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South Korea's telecommunication carrier SK Telecom and wireless network equipment maker Samsung Electronics will unveil the test results of their **5G network** architecture "Option 4" for enhanced **connectivity** at the upcoming Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

The two firms recently tested the advanced 5G **connectivity** on a commercial network infrastructure for the first time within the industry. SK Telecom plans to commercialize the technology by 2023 in order to support urban air mobility systems and remote control of robots and heavy equipment.

TD

Option 4 uses Samsung's 5G core, meaning the 5G radio frequencies are connected directly and independently. Under the architecture, the 5G core is anchored with 5G base stations, which acts as the master cell, while allowing a smoother interworking with 4G base stations.

The architecture differentiates itself from Option 2, which provides a standalone connectivity to the 5G core, as well as from the conventional non-standalone architecture, where the control signaling of 5G radio runs on the 4G core that is anchored with 4G base stations.

Option 4 was defined as one of the standards for 5G architecture by the Third Generation Partnership Project in 2019. It is considered one of the alternatives beyond Option 2. SK Telecom claimed that Option 4 falls in a category of 5G standalone technology.

SK Telecom said in a statement that the technology, if deployed commercially, would combine the advantages of both a more stable 4G-based non-standalone architecture and Option 2 5G standalone architecture.

The architecture will offer 5G network users, via smartphones, vehicles and the like, a more stable wireless network operation than conventional 5G standalone architecture. At the same time, it also provides benefits of 5G cores through the support of capabilities such as network slicing -- which divides single network connections into multiple virtual connections -- and the cloud-native 5G network deployment.

The detailed test results will be unveiled at SK Telecom's exhibition at MWC 2022, the company said.

[Click here to see image](#)

SK Telecom technicians are seen testing 5G technologies in this undated photo. (SK Telecom)

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PUB Herald Corporation

AN Document KORHER0020220224ei2p0015p

HD SK Telecom's Support for ESG Startups Bears Fruit

WC 226 words

PD 23 February 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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SK Telecom announced on Feb. 22 the results of ESG Korea 2021, an ESG startup support program launched last year in cooperation with domestic and foreign partners.

A total of 14 ESG startups were selected for support in 2021. These startups took home 23 major competition prizes, six companies attracted a combined total of 10 billion won in investment, three companies commercialized their business ideas.

TD

Among the startups, Marvelous, a company focusing on AI and immersive content such as VR, AR and MR, was recognized for its expertise in developing solutions for learning deficits and educational inequality.

Based on these achievements, the ESG Korea Alliance will select up to 15 teams in 2022. The six-month program will start in May.

The number of companies and institutions participating in the ESG Korea Alliance will soar from 11 to 21 this year.

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AN Document BKORDN0020220223ei2n0005r

SE Entertainment
HD [MWC 2022] Korean telcos set sight on groundbreaking 5G network tech
WC 518 words
PD 23 February 2022
SN The Korea Herald
SC KORHER
LA English
CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald
LP

The chiefs of all three major telecommunication firms in South Korea -- KT, SK Telecom and LG Uplus -- are poised to attend the forthcoming tech event Mobile World Congress 2022 onsite in Barcelona, Spain, where next-generation network technologies are set to take center stage.

At the MWC 2022, which runs from Feb. 28 to March 3, Korean telcos will showcase how they have shifted gears in their radio access network technology. This shift has enabled mobile handsets to be connected with a core network to improve flexibility, reduce costs and allow seeking of vendor diversity in an ecosystem. These are all considered key elements in their 5G roadmaps.

TD

SK Telecom will present its use cases and collaborations for its virtual radio access network (vRAN) with partners such as Korea-based Samsung Electronics, as well as Nordic telcos Ericsson and Nokia. Its exhibit will be located in the Fira Gran Via, an MWC venue.

The vRAN virtualizes the baseband unit, a device transporting a baseband frequency through optical fibers composed of central units and distributed units. Under the new infrastructure, the baseband unit is no longer hardware-based. A multi-vendor environment will be supported by increased equipment interoperability.

There will be more room for Korean small- and mid-sized network equipment providers to join the 5G ecosystem once vRAN technology becomes mainstream, Park Jong-kwan, vice president and head of Infra Tech, SK Telecom, said in a statement.

SK Telecom Chief Executive Officer Ryu Young-sang will attend the 792 square-meter exhibition booth, which would also give visitors a glimpse of Korea's first homegrown artificial intelligence chip Sapeon. It will also showcase the firm's connected intelligence-powered urban air mobility vessels and metaverse functionalities.

Alongside SK Telecom, LG Uplus CEO Hwang Hyeon-sik will also attend the MWC 2022 venue to meet representatives of Amazon, Qualcomm, Samsung Electronics and Nokia to explore 5G collaboration opportunities.

LG Uplus said in a statement that their main focus lies in the open radio access network (O-RAN) ecosystem and 5G infrastructure migration to cloud. In particular, O-RAN architecture will allow telecom carriers to deploy the fully open and interoperable nature of the RAN by embracing different vendors in the ecosystem.

Meanwhile, KT's exhibition at MWC 2022 will focus on its AI solutions and robot technologies.

One of KT's AI use cases will be designed to monitor fibic base stations to detect abnormalities or failures and respond to them automatically. Also, KT will showcase how AI is applied to calculate traffic conditions and timing for traffic signals, analyze closed-circuit camera clips, and dissect choreography.

KT CEO Ku Hyeon-mo will attend MWC 2022 as a board member of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), a host of the event.

All three major telco carriers SK Telecom, LG Uplus and KT are operator members of the O-RAN Alliance.

[Click here to see image](#)

SK Telecom employees pose for a photo while conducting research on virtual radio access network technologies. (SK Telecom)

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PUB Herald Corporation

AN Document KORHER0020220222ei2n0008d

HD South Korea delays 5G spectrum auction amid dispute among operators

WC 330 words

PD 22 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

LA English

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South Korea has postponed its planned bidding for additional 5G spectrum, as three major domestic operators failed to come up with a compromise over the planned auction Yonhap news agency reports, citing unnamed officials. Back in January, South Korea's ICT ministry said it would launch an [auction in February](#) for more **5G network** frequency bands for use by mobile operators.

SK Telecom and KT have reportedly complained about the ministry's decision. They claim LG Uplus is at a relative advantage as the spectrum requested by it is closest to the company's current frequency and would cost considerably less for LG Uplus to use it.

TD

ICT Minister Lim Hye-sook recently held a meeting with representatives of the three mobile operators to address the dispute over the bidding, but the companies failed to solve their conflict. "The auction will not open in February. It's true the schedule is being slightly delayed from what we had initially announced", an ICT ministry official said.

In January this year, SK Telecom proposed that the ministry auction an additional 40 MHz band in the 3.7 GHz spectrum, along with the frequency requested by LG Uplus. SK Telecom argued that the move would help ensure fair competition, adding that it and KT can each acquire a 20 MHz band if the additional 40 MHz band is put up for auction. The ICT ministry reports it has not yet decided whether to launch a separate auction for the additional 40 MHz band requested by SK Telecom.

In 2018, South Korean auctioned 5G spectrum used by the country's three mobile operators. SK Telecom and KT each won 100 MHz in the 3.5 GHz frequency band, while LG Uplus secured 80 MHz. The total bidding price for the 280 MHz at the 2018 auction reached KRW 3.68 trillion (approximately USD 3 billion). These 10-year licenses are valid until November 2028.

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RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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AN Document TELASI0020220222ei2m0008f

HD SK Group chairman Chey to take up chairman position at SK Telecom

WC 205 words

PD 22 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

LA English

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LP

SK Group chairman Chey Tae-won will also take up the role of chairman of the conglomerate's mobile unit SK Telecom, Yonhap news agency reports. His appointment is expected to help accelerate SK Telecom's digital innovation efforts focused on artificial intelligence technologies, SK said.

The board of SK Telecom has endorsed Chey as an unpaid and unregistered board member to lead the mobile operator, as the company plans to advance its **AI** chip business as a future growth driver.

TD

In January this year, SK unveiled a [joint investment plan](#) among the group's chip-making unit SK hynix, and mobile unit SK Telecom and its investment spinoff SK Square, to set up an independent entity in the US to enter the AI chip business with its [self-developed AI semiconductor chip Sapeon](#).

SK Telecom also plans to introduce a new AI assistance, tentatively named 'Apollo', and an AI-based avatar service for smartphones.

"We expect Chairman Chey's support will help accelerate not only SK Telecom but the overall innovation for SK Group, as he has been successful in expanding our business portfolio into battery, bio and hydrogen areas", said an unnamed SK official representative.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | skskgp : SK Group

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | itech : Technology | i8396 : Diversified Holding Companies | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services

NS gcsci : Computer Science | gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELASI0020220222ei2m0008d

SE Companies
HD **SK Group head Chey to assume chair post at SK Telecom**
WC 537 words
PD 22 February 2022
SN The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
SC ECODEN
LA English
CY Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network
LP

SK Group chairman Chey Tae-won will assume an additional post as a chairman of SK Telecom Co.

The conglomerate's holding company SK Inc. announced on Monday that the decision is aimed at accelerating the telecom arm's digital innovation efforts, particularly in developing artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

TD

In the new role, Chey will not be paid nor hold any voting rights in board meetings.

"The chairman will not attend board of director meetings," the announcement detailed. "Instead, he will take the role of a facilitator to help the management and the board in leading fundamental innovations."

The announcement stressed that the board of directors will remain as the decision makers.

The day-to-day operations will be managed by the current SK Telecom leadership headed by CEO Ryu Young-sang. Ahead of the announcement, Chey met with the telecom arm's management and received the feedback that his participation would be beneficial to the company's growth.

The 61 year-old serves as the chairman of SK Inc., the holding company focused on corporate investment.

With the latest announcement, Chey will be serving as a chair without voting rights at board of director meetings for SK Innovation Co., SK Hynix Inc. and SK Telecom.

He receives his salary from SK Inc. and SK Hynix only.

AI AS GROWTH DRIVER

"SK Telecom is an integral and symbolic part of the group's information and communications technology (ICT)," Chey wrote on the mobile carrier unit's in-house bulletin board.

Last November, South Korea's largest wireless operator claimed to have entered what it dubs SKT 2.0 era; in which AI will be the company's growth driver.

SK Telecom has been incorporating AI technology in the T World subscription services and the metaverse platform ifland. The telecom giant is also developing an AI assistant, tentatively named Apollo.

The telecom giant wants to make Artificial Intelligence as a Service (AlaaS) as its core business to serve the global market. AlaaS is the third party offering of AI services. As such, it allows individuals and companies to experiment with AI without large capital and at low risk.

[AI processor SAPEON's booth at CES 2022](#)

TRILATERAL COLLAB

The trilateral collaboration among SK Hynix, SK Telecom and its investment spinoff SK Square Co. is also slated to benefit from the latest announcement.

The three companies announced last month [they will jointly set up an independent entity called SAPEON Inc. in the United States](#) to enter the global AI chip business.

SK Telecom has a 62.5% stake in the US company, followed by SK Hynix's 25%. The remaining 12.5% goes to SK Square.

The telecom company will lead the joint firm's technological development.

An SK Telecom employee told The Korea Economic Daily that Chey's insight will be helpful in detecting opportunities in mergers and acquisitions and following through with the investment.

"Chey's participation could make the joint company's decision making on large scale investment and new ventures faster and clearer," an industry insider said.

By Han-Gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

Jee Abbey Lee edited this article.

[SK Group chairman Chey Tae-won](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | skcacl : SK Inc. | skskgp : SK Group

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NS gainl : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | gcsci : Computer Science | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c23 : Research/Development | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD Companies

PUB KED Global News Network

AN Document ECODEN0020220222ei2m00002

HD **SK chief to head SK Telecom, forgo remuneration**

WC 406 words

PD 21 February 2022

SN Korea Times

SC KORTIM

LA English

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LP

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-wonBy Lee Kyung-min

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won will serve as chairman of SK Telecom without pay or any executive authority, in a bid to help the group's telecommunications affiliate accelerate its artificial intelligence (AI) business and digital innovation, the group said Monday.

TD

Chey will not engage in corporate decision-making and instead will guide the management and the board to lead innovation, the group said.

SK Telecom's daily management activities will be led by current firm executives including CEO Ryu Young-sang, and major decisions will be made by the board chaired by Kim Yong-hak.

SK Telecom will be able to accelerate key initiatives to become a global AI company. The firm's medium- to long-term growth vision beyond short-term profit will in turn increase corporate valuation.

Chey's decision was backed by support from SK Telecom's outside directors who agreed that the affiliate's valuation will be strengthened in the long term.

'Innovation to become a global AI firm is a task that can no longer be delayed, and we are pressed for time with limited opportunities for the challenge,' he posted on the company's intranet bulletin board earlier in the day.

Chey expects successful innovation at SK Telecom will translate into overall deep changes for SK Group, speeding up the group's other key ICT businesses as a result.

'Since SK hynix was acquired by the chairman a decade ago, other SK affiliates have succeeded in expanding into the batteries, bio and hydrogen sectors,' an SK Group official said. 'SK Telecom's innovation will help SK Group to become more agile.'

Chey helped strengthen SK hynix after it acquired Intel's NAND memory and storage business, and transformed SK Innovation, the group's energy affiliate, into an eco-friendly business.

The corporate value of SK hynix exceeded 100 trillion won (\$83 billion) for the first time last year, becoming the second-largest firm on the benchmark KOSPI by market capitalization. It was a significant growth from its 2011 market capitalization of 13 trillion won, when it was ranked 14th on the KOSPI. It has since slid down one slot to third place, after the listing of LG Energy Solution.

'The chairman will integrate SK Telecom's capabilities through his vision, global network and strong resolve, thereby advancing innovation more effectively,' the official added.

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NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Korea Times
AN Document KORTIM0020220221ei2l00009

HD SK Telecom to showcase **metaverse**, **AI**, urban air mobility services at MWC 2022

WC 185 words

PD 21 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

LA English

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South Korean operator SK Telecom has announced it will participate in MWC Barcelona 2022 to be held from 28 February to 3 March. At its 792 square meter booth in Hall 3 of Fira Gran Via, SK Telecom plans to introduce its technologies and services, including **metaverse**, **AI** and Urban Air Mobility (UAM).

SK Telecom will showcase the global and HMD versions of its **metaverseplatform** Ifland; mixed reality capture studio named Jump Studio, which is designed to create a K-pop concert experience via volumetric technology; Korea's first **AI** semiconductor chip Sapeon; UAM powered by connected intelligence; and 4D **Metaverse**, which provides a glimpse of the future virtual world through a ride on a giant robot arm.

TD

SK Telecom's CEO Ryu Young-sang will visit Barcelona to attend the event. He will present the company's new vision and ambitions, and seek areas of cooperation with companies of diverse fields, including telecommunications, device and future technology, to further expand and enrich customer experience through the provision of top notch ICT services.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | c22 : New Products/Services | cexpro : Products/Services | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE spain : Spain | catal : Catalonia | barca : Barcelona | eecz : European Union Countries | eurz : Europe | medz : Mediterranean | weurz : Western Europe

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELASI0020220221ei2I0008e

SE , Biz&Company
HD **SK Group chief Chey to chair SK telecom's board for AI push**
BY Pulse
WC 292 words
PD 21 February 2022
SN Mael Business Newspaper
SC MAEIL
LA English
CY Copyright 2022 MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

LP

SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won will take up an extra job as the chair of the board on flagship SK telecom to support the mobile operator's artificial intelligence (AI) business and digital innovation without additional pay.

"Innovation as a global AI company is a task that cannot be delayed any longer, and the opportunity and time for the challenge are limited. I would like to join the challenge for SK telecom," Chey was quoted as saying on the company's internal communication, according to SK telecom on Monday.

TD

Industry watchers say Chey's engagement in SK telecom will be a big boost to the company's ongoing innovation initiatives given his clout as the leader of South Korea's second largest conglomerate. SK telecom expects to gain strong support from direct command from the owner.

Chey currently sits on a board of SK Inc., the investment holding company of SK Group, as CEO and Chairman, while serving as unregistered Chairman for SK innovation and SK hynix to facilitate decision making in management and boards of the two affiliates.

SK Group said Chey decided to join SK telecom as he believes the success in SK telecom's AI innovation will accelerate a deep change across SK Group's ICT business.

Even after Chey's participation, SK telecom's current management will continue their leadership role with day-to-day operation to be led by CEO Yoo Young-sang and a key decision to be made by board chairman Kim Yong-hak.

Chey will leverage his vision, rich global network and strong driving force to help SK telecom achieve innovation, said a group official.

[\[Photo by SK Group\]](#)

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PUB MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.
AN Document MAEIL00020220221ei2I000md

HD SK chief-SK Telecom; SK Group chief Chey to assume chairman post at SK Telecom

CR YNA

WC 254 words

PD 21 February 2022

ET 01:18

SN Yonhap English News

SC YONH

LA English

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SK Group chief Chey to assume chairman post at SK Telecom

SEOUL, Feb. 21 (Yonhap) -- SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won will double as a chairman at SK Telecom Co., the mobile carrier unit under the conglomerate's wing, to accelerate its digital innovation efforts centering on artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, SK said Monday.

TD

The board of SK Telecom has endorsed Chey as an unpaid and unregistered board member to lead the country's largest wireless operator, as the company is pushing to advance its AI chip business as a future growth driver.

SK unveiled last month a joint investment plan among its chip-making unit, SK hynix Inc., SK Telecom and its investment spinoff SK Square Co., to set up an independent entity in the United States to enter the AI chip business with its self-developed SAPEON.

SK Telecom also plans to introduce a new AI assistance, tentatively named "Apollo," and an AI-based avatar service for smartphones.

"We expect Chairman Chey's support will help accelerate not only SK Telecom but the overall innovation for SK Group, as he has been successful in expanding our business portfolio into battery, bio and hydrogen areas," an SK official said.

Since Chey is taking an unregistered post, he will not participate in the board, SK said. SK Telecom's general management affairs will continue to be headed by the current leadership, including CEO Ryu Young-sang, it added.

elly@yna.co.kr

(END)

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IPD 0401001

PUB Yonhap News Agency

AN Document YONH000020220221ei2l0018h



HD Fitch Ratings: SK Telecom Split to Boost Business Stability, Improve Profitability

WC 1,531 words

PD 16 February 2022

SN Fitch Rating / Non Rating Action Commentary

SC FITRA

LA English

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Related Fitch Ratings **Content**:

What Investors Want to Know: SK Telecom Co., Ltd: <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10190836>

TD

Fitch Ratings-Seoul/Sydney-15 February 2022: SK Telecom Co., Ltd's (SKT, A-/Stable) split in 2021 will improve its business stability due to a greater focus on the telecom business, Fitch Ratings says. We expect SKT's focus on more stable and higher-margin telecom-related businesses to lower business risk and improve its profitability after the spinoff of its non-telecom businesses into SK Square Co Ltd. SKT's revenue and EBITDA base may be reduced following the split, but its EBITDA in 2022 is likely to improve to over KRW5 trillion, supported by a stronger wireless operation.

We expect the slightly higher post-split net leverage to be mitigated by the reduction in business risk. We forecast SKT's fund flow from operation will improve to 1.5x over the medium term from 1.7x in 2021 after the split.

We believe SKT's renewed strategy focusing on expanding its artificial-intelligence and digital infrastructure-based services will support its strong market position, demonstrating its ability to address the industry's inherent fast-moving technological risks.

The report, "What Investors Want to Know: SK Telecom Co., Ltd", is available on www.fitchratings.com or by clicking the link in this release.

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NS nedc : Commentaries/Opinions | npress : Press Releases | c174 : Corporate Credit Ratings | c17 : Corporate Funding | c172 : Corporate Debt Instruments | cactio : Corporate Actions | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

IPC Non-Rating Action Commentary

PUB Fitch Solutions Group Limited

AN Document FITRA00020220216ei2g00001

HD Global Content Providers Facing Increasing Pressure from Mobile Carriers

WC 265 words

PD 15 February 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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LP

The GSM Association is planning to call for global **content** providers such as Netflix and YouTube to share network **investment** costs.

These days, big tech companies are facing increasing pressure, especially in Europe, with regard to communication infrastructure costs and this has to do with the fact that their profits have increased a lot since the outbreak of COVID-19. This year, the French Telecoms Federation sent presidential candidates a policy proposal to that effect. Late last year, the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association released a joint statement to the same effect.

TD

In South Korea, SK Broadband won a suit against Netflix in June last year and this is the world's first court ruling regarding content provider-content service provider disputes over the cost of network use.

The GSM Association's demand also has to do with an increase in content demand and the creation of new content such as metaverse and NFT. More and more data traffic is likely to be caused by content providers, which means telecom operators are more likely to take group action.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=87576>

CO hnrtel : SK Broadband Co Ltd | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | i3303 : Networking | i3441 : Telecommunications Equipment | ibrdbi : Broadband Equipment | itech : Technology

NS gout : Outbreaks/Epidemics | gsars : Novel Coronaviruses | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gcold : Respiratory Tract Diseases | ghea : Health | gmed : Medical Conditions | gpox : Infectious Diseases

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PUB Business Korea Co., Ltd.

AN Document BKORDN0020220215ei2f00031

HD SK Telecom: Needs to Find New Growth Engines

WC 442 words

PD 14 February 2022

SN Business Korea Daily News

SC BKORDN

LA English

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The author is an analyst of NH **Investment** & Securities. He can be reached at jaemin.ahn@nhqv.com. -- Ed.

TD

Following the spin-off into SKT and SK Square, the wired and wireless telecommunication domains remain SKT's main focus. That said, we expect SKT to start in earnest marshalling its stable cash flow towards expanding its new growth businesses.

Building on stable wired/wireless earnings and finding new drivers

- We maintain a Buy rating on SK Telecom (SKT). Following the spin-off into SKT and SK Square, the wired and wireless telecommunication domains remain SKT's main focus. However, moving ahead, we expect the firm to expand investment in new businesses (including Enterprise, metaverse, and future technologies ventures) in order to secure new growth drivers. We expect to see a harmonious balance of stable core earnings performance and new business growth.

- SKT has announced a strategy to expand in five major areas (telecommunications, media, Enterprise, AIVerse, and Connected Intelligence). It is simultaneously to concentrate on stable earnings at its core telecommunication business and to pursue new business growth. With its Enterprise business (IDC & cloud) recently enjoying rapidly rising demand, we believe that SKT will narrow the gap with its competitors in these arenas through bold investment initiatives. Although new metaverse platform Ifland is still in its early stages, the company anticipates that it will lead to tangible inroads into the metaverse market. T Universe, a subscription service, recorded transaction volume of W0.35tn in 2021, and is this year expected to expand partnerships with various companies and increase subscribers—target transaction volume for 2022 is set at W0.5tn.

- Wireless sales should grow this year to W10.3tn (+4.9% y-y) in line with increasing 5G penetration (estimated at 59%). We see consolidated 2022E sales of W17.7tn (+5.9% y-y) and OP of W1.52tn (+9.4% y-y). However, we lower our TP on SKT from W80,000 to W70,000, taking into account a recent decline in global peer valuations.

4Q21 review: OP arrives short of estimate

- SKT booked consolidated 4Q21 sales of W4.3tn (+2.0% q-q) and OP of W226.7bn (42.0% q-q), with OP missing both our estimate of W269.1bn and consensus of W233.6bn. Wireless ARPU has entered a clear growth trend, hitting W30,740 (+1.6% y-y) and in turn driving the growth of wireless sales (W2.6tn, +2.7% y-y). However, OP proved sluggish due to stock compensation costs for all employees.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=87547>

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i79021 : Wired Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

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RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia
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SE , Photos
HD **Korbit launches T Universe and Peaches NFTs with SK Telecom**

WC 116 words

PD 14 February 2022

SN Maeil Business Newspaper

SC MAEIL

LA English

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South Korea's major **cryptocurrency** exchange Korbit will release SK Telecom subscription **platform** T Universe's **NFT** and car lifestyle brand Peaches' **NFT** in its **NFT** marketplace. Korbit will be in charge of building the necessary blockchain infrastructure and market for the NFTs. Those who participate in SK Telecom's Galaxy S22 month-long event starting on Feb. 14 will be eligible to enter a contest where SK Telecom will give out T Universe and Peach NFTs to 2,000 people. The NFTs won in this contest can be traded in the Korbit **NFT** marketplace in the latter half of the year.

[\[Photo by SK Telecom Co.\]](#)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | iblock : Blockchain Technology | i3302 : Computers/Consumer Electronics | icryxch : Cryptocurrency Exchanges | ivicu : Virtual Currencies/Cryptocurrencies | i831 : Financial Investment Services | i83106 : Securities/Commodity Exchange Activities | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | ifmsoft : Financial Technology | iinv : Investing/Securities | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

AN Document MAEIL00020220214ei2e000dy

HD **No need to dress up for job interviews in the **metaverse****

WC 636 words

PD 10 February 2022

SN Korea JoongAng Daily

SC JOONAI

LA English

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LP

If you are looking for a job, you might need to prepare an avatar of yourself for an interview in the **metaverse**.

TD

If you are looking for a job, you might need to prepare an avatar of yourself for an interview in the metaverse.

Yook So-young, 27, is working as a manager at a 7-Eleven branch in Incheon International Airport. To land the job in November, Yook had an online interview on metaverse platform Gather last October, completed a one-month internship and then had a final normal video interview with executives.

"Offline interviews can be really frustrating because you can be nervous," says Yook. "I enjoyed the metaverse interview because it created a friendly environment for interviewees to communicate with not only the interviewers but also other applicants."

February is the hiring season in Korea, and companies are adopting the metaverse as a hiring tool with blinding speed.

"SK Telecom plans to hire new employees three times this year," said a spokesperson for the company. "We are considering holding a recruitment fair on our metaverse platform, as we did last year."

Last September, SK Telecom hosted a recruiting event where job seekers could consult with recruiters on its metaverse platform ifland.

Samsung Electronics has scheduled its second metaverse recruiting fair for March. The company first applied metaverse technology to the hiring process last year. LG Electronics also launched a metaverse platform to hold a recruiting event in the latter half of last year, and plans to hold another in March as well.

Shinsegae's e-commerce arm SSG.com built a virtual training center dubbed SSG Town on Gather, and new hires by the company will be trained on the metaverse platform in the first half of this year.

Applicants are warming to the use of the new technology.

In a survey conducted by recruitment website JobKorea last December, 51 percent of 390 job seekers born between 1985 and 2010 were positive about metaverse platforms being used in the hiring process for such things as interviews.

"Recruiters can evaluate applicants' competence via the metaverse, as they can give presentations or share their portfolio through the online platform," said Oh Sung-eun, an advisor at the Seoul National University Career Development Center.

Metaverse platforms are also useful for blind recruitment, which refers to reviewing applicants based on job competency and not personal factors such as their gender, race or age, said Oh.

Other notable hiring trends this year include a rolling recruitment system.

The traditional biannual mass hiring system is giving way to something more flexible, with a growing number of companies using a rolling recruitment system. They hire new employees when the need arises. Incruit found Tuesday that 68 percent of large companies say they prefer to hire new employees when they actually need them.

Job search website Incruit found that 73 percent of large companies are planning to hire four-year college graduates, up 16.8 percentage points from the previous year when the Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the job market.

Moreover, 25 percent of big companies said that they will hire more than 100 employees this year, a 17.6 percentage point jump compared to 2021. Big name companies such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix are expected to lead the competition for talent.

On the other hand, only 49.5 percent of medium-sized companies said they will post job openings this year, a 6.1 percentage point increase compared to the previous year. For small-sized companies, the number was 46 percent, up 13.3 percentage points.

BY KIM KYUNG-JIN [shin.hanee@joongang.co.kr]

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SK Telecom held a recruitment event on its metaverse platform ifland last September. [SK TELECOM]

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS crecrt : Recruitment | gjsear : Job Search | c42 : Labor/Personnel | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | gcat : Political/General News | gjob : General Labor Issues | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.

AN Document JOONAI0020220210ei2a002mh

HD SK Telecom to build QKD environment in Equinix's Seoul data center

WC 192 words

PD 10 February 2022

SN Telecompaper Asia

SC TELASI

LA English

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LP

South Korean operator SK Telecom has signed an agreement with Equinix to expand the quantum business including 'QKD as a Service (QaaS)' in both Korean and overseas markets. SK Telecom and Equinix agreed to build a QKD environment in Equinix's SL1 data center located in Sangam-dong, Seoul, using Equinix interconnection and digital services.

QaaS will provide quantum cryptography protection for private enterprise networks that connect a company's headquarters, offices and data centers on a subscription basis. By offering enhanced **network security**, QaaS is expected to become an essential service for companies that use data centers, enabling them to safeguard their business against **cybersecurity** risks.

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So far, QKD has been mainly applied to backbone services of mobile operators. With the application of QKD to Equinix's data center, SK Telecom expands the use of QKD to data center interconnection services.

Going forward, the two companies also plan to create synergies in the future data center business by leveraging Equinix's knowhow in data center operation and SK Telecom's expertise in quantum cryptography, convergence security and fixed and mobile telecommunication technologies.

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | eqnxin : Equinix Inc

IN idcent : Data Centers/Colocation Services | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i8394 : Computer Services | ibcs : Business/Consumer Services | idserv : Data Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology

NS gdatap : Privacy Issues/Information Security | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ciexp : International Expansion (Facilities) | c24 : Capacity/Facilities | cprdop : Facility Openings | gcat : Political/General News

RE skorea : South Korea | seoul : Seoul | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Telecompaper BV

AN Document TELASI0020220210ei2a0002u

HD Global Equities Roundup: Market Talk
WC 1,358 words

PD 10 February 2022

ET 02:44

SN Dow Jones Institutional News

SC DJDN

LA English

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The latest Market Talks covering Equities. Published exclusively on Dow Jones Newswires throughout the day.

2144 ET - SK Telecom's 2022 earnings may face headwinds from slower-than-expected 5G migration and higher operating costs for new businesses, says Daiwa Capital. The **investment** bank lowers its 2022 EPS forecast for the South Korean wireless carrier by 3.2%. SKT's 9.87 million 5G subscribers as of 4Q last year accounts for 41.6% of its total mobile users, and management pushes hard for new growth in artificial intelligence, **metaverse** and other new businesses. Daiwa trims its target price by 1.7% to KRW59,500 but maintains its outperform rating, citing the steady earnings growth at SKT's core telecom services. Shares fall 1.4% to KRW55,400. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

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2143 ET - Singapore Exchange's stock looks fully valued at current price levels, and there doesn't seem to be any major potential upside, after the company reported muted 1H earnings, UOB Kay Hian says. It lowers the target price to S\$9.09 from S\$9.74 with an unchanged hold rating. The brokerage remains cautious that competition from the Hong Kong Exchange and SGX's sliding securities daily average traded value could affect earnings. Also, significant revenue from SGX's new initiatives such as special-purpose acquisition companies will take time to gestate, although major success from these initiatives could rerate the stock, UOB KH says. Shares are unchanged at S\$9.88. (ronnie.harui@wsj.com)

2117 ET - Higher net interest margin pressure in AMP Bank into 2022 is likely to counter the benefit of improving Australian Wealth Management unit investment flows and stronger bank loan growth, Jarden says. Still, the investment bank says the AMP Capital Private Markets' demerger or potential sale remains a key positive value catalyst. Jarden notes that AMP's group cost outlook for 2022 is in line with its expectations. AMP on Thursday announced AMP Capital Private Markets' new brand--Collimate Capital--as it moves to establish private markets as a standalone business. (alice.uribe@wsj.com)

2113 ET - CSPC Pharmaceutical's current valuation looks relatively cheap at a P/E ratio of 14.4 times 2022 estimates, Daiwa Capital says. While there may be market concerns over the pharmaceutical company's long-term growth, Daiwa notes that CSPC now has in-licensed a series of innovative drugs from China biotech names, such as Keymed Biosciences and Alphamab Oncology. "We view these deals as a good starting point for CSPC to transition from an old-school pharmaceutical company to a new-school player that embraces innovation," Daiwa says. The Japanese bank upgrades its rating to hold from underperform, citing its attractive valuation, and maintains its target price of HK\$9.90. Shares are flat at HK\$9.69. (justina.lee@wsj.com)

2049 ET - Chinese shares decline broadly, amid concerns that the U.S. government is considering a new tariff probe on China, should current talks fail to result in Beijing following through on promised purchases of U.S. energy, goods and services. The Shanghai Composite Index is flat at 3481.58, the Shenzhen Composite Index slips 0.2% to 2313.60 and the ChiNext Price Index falls 0.7% to 2863.11. Coal companies may be in focus, after China's National Development and Reform Commission held a meeting to make further arrangements to stabilize coal prices, Commerzbank says. China Coal Energy declines 1.2% and China Shenhua Energy slips 2.1%. (justina.lee@wsj.com)

2042 ET - Hong Kong shares rise in early trade, tracking the rebound in global equity markets. Hong Kong blue chips performed well in the U.S. ADR market overnight, which together with factors such as improved market turnover, should keep local equity-market's short-term sentiment firm, KGI Research

says. Best performers on the Hang Seng Index include Xinyi Solar, which advances 3.9%, Xinyi Glass up 4.4% and Country Garden Services 3.2% higher. Meanwhile, HSBC Holdings loses 1.7% and Hang Seng Bank slips 0.8%. The Hang Seng Index is 0.3% higher at 24905.00. The Hang Seng TECH Index gains 1.2% to 5702.26. (ronnie.harui@wsj.com)

2037 ET - Production problems at a Western Digital/Kioxia joint venture will dent memory chip supply, Western Digital says, blaming "contamination of certain material used in its manufacturing processes" that will lead to a reduction of NAND flash memory availability of at least 6.5 exabytes. "The good news--this will clearly drive NAND pricing higher, particularly considering that the chemical contamination is not completely resolved. The bad news--WDC's March quarter results will clearly be impaired," Evercore ISI's C.J. Muse says. (robert.wall@wsj.com)

2016 ET - Megaport remains Macquarie's preferred Australian tech stock amid signs that its revenue growth is accelerating. The investment bank, which this week outlined its preference for more defensive sector picks, notes that Megaport's margin run-rate at the end of 2Q was rising more quickly than revenue. It also thinks that a strong pipeline of business for Megaport's so-called virtual-edge connectivity hints at a stronger growth trajectory than for the company's cloud router service. Macquarie raises the stock's target price 5.0% to A\$21.00 and maintains an outperform rating. Shares rise 7.9% to A\$14.69. (stuart.condie@wsj.com; @StuartLCondie)

2017 ET - Singapore shares are steady in early trade, underpinned by Wall Street gains overnight. Investors are likely adopting a cautious mood ahead of the U.S. January CPI report due later in the day, which may have implications for the pace of Fed tightening. Best performers on the STI include Keppel Corp., which is up 1.2%, after its offshore & marine unit secured S\$250 million in contracts involving oil, LNG and dredging projects. Worst performers include Venture Corp., which is 1.0% lower, and OCBC down 0.5%. The FTSE Straits Times Index is little changed at 3421.44. (ronnie.harui@wsj.com)

2013 ET - Amorepacific Corp.'s earnings could pick up starting in 2Q, thanks to its aggressive restructuring of Innisfree cosmetics outlets in China with sluggish sales to save costs, KB Securities says. The brokerage notes the South Korean beauty-product company may still post a decline in operating profit for 1Q as it is now undergoing "the final leg of business restructuring" in China. KB expects the company's 2022 revenue and operating profit to rise 9.0% and 23%, respectively. The brokerage upgrades the stock to buy from hold and raises its target price by 21% to KRW205,000. Shares are 6.1% higher at KRW173,500. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

2010 ET - IDP Education should enjoy a stronger fiscal second half than usual as international border reopenings fuel a recovery in Australian student placements, Goldman Sachs says. The investment bank also sees continued strength in multi-destination placements and greater than anticipated synergies from IDP's recent acquisition in India. It raises its EPS estimates for FY 2022 by 6.3%, FY 2023 by 1.3% and FY 2024 by 1.2%. Target price rises 2.9% to A\$35.00 and GS maintains a buy rating on the stock, which is 0.6% higher at A\$30.86. (stuart.condie@wsj.com; @StuartLCondie)

2009 ET - Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Composite Index rises 0.3% to 1555.48 in morning trade, extending the previous session's rally on the back of robust December retail sales data, says Malacca Securities. December retail sales grew 3.5% on year to a record high of MYR120.5 billion. However, cautious sentiment may prevail ahead of U.S. inflationary data scheduled to be released tonight, the brokerage says. Kuala Lumpur Kepong gains 2.4%, Maxis Bhd. rises 1.2% and Sime Darby advances 1.4%. Top Glove falls 1.8% and Hartalega drops 1.4%. (chester.tay@wsj.com)

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

February 09, 2022 21:44 ET (02:44 GMT)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i83101 : Investment Banking | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i257 : Pharmaceuticals | i814 : Banking | i831 : Financial Investment Services | i951 : Healthcare/Life Sciences | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS m11 : Equity Markets | mcat : Commodity/Financial Market News | namt : All Market Talk | ncdig : Corporate Digests | ndjmt : Dow Jones Market Talk | neqac : Equities Asset Class News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfce : C&E Exclusion Filter

RE china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | easiaz : Eastern Asia | chinaz : Greater China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies

PUB Dow Jones & Company, Inc.

HD SK Telecom 2022 Earnings May Face Headwinds From Slower 5G Migration, Higher Costs -- Market Talk

WC 146 words

PD 10 February 2022

ET 02:44

SN Dow Jones Institutional News

SC DJDN

LA English

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0244 GMT - SK Telecom's 2022 earnings may face headwinds from slower-than-expected 5G migration and higher operating costs for new businesses, says Daiwa Capital. The **investment** bank lowers its 2022 EPS forecast for the South Korean wireless carrier by 3.2%. SKT's 9.87 million 5G subscribers as of 4Q last year accounts for 41.6% of its total mobile users, and management pushes hard for new growth in artificial intelligence, **metaverse** and other new businesses. Daiwa trims its target price by 1.7% to KRW59,500 but maintains its outperform rating, citing the steady earnings growth at SKT's core telecom services. Shares fall 1.4% to KRW55,400. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

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February 09, 2022 21:44 ET (02:44 GMT)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS namt : All Market Talk | ndjmt : Dow Jones Market Talk | neqac : Equities Asset Class News | c151 : Earnings | c15 : Financial Performance | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

PUB Dow Jones & Company, Inc.

AN Document DJDN000020220210ei2a00021

HD (LEAD) KT-AI speaker; (LEAD) KT adds Amazon's Alexa voice service on its AI speakers

CR YNA

WC 300 words

PD 10 February 2022

ET 02:03

SN Yonhap English News

SC YONH

LA English

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(LEAD) KT adds Amazon's Alexa voice service on its AI speakers

(ATTN: RECASTS throughout with more info, comments from KT official)

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By Yi Wonju

SEOUL, Feb. 10 (Yonhap) -- South Korean telecom giant KT Corp. said Thursday it rolled out a new service that allows customers to enjoy Amazon's voice assistant on its artificial intelligence speakers to better meet demand for English education.

KT said it has joined hands with U.S. retail giant Amazon.com Inc. to launch the Dual Brain AI service, which integrates Amazon's Alexa virtual voice service into its GiGa Genie speakers to support both Korean and English languages.

The service is available immediately on all 3.1 million GiGa Genie 3 devices in the country, offering users access to global content, such as CNN and TedTalks, as well as digital audio books from Audible Inc.

A new display card feature has been installed on KT's AI speakers to allow customers to see information on a television screen connected to the speaker, giving the telecom operator a competitive edge in the AI speaker market.

"Our point of differentiation is that we provide English text and images up on the screen to provide easy access to education, entertainment and information not just vocally but also visually," Lee Hong-chul, vice president of the AI/BigData Planning Department, said during an online press briefing.

In a competitive race to develop AI speakers, the company's bigger local rival SK Telecom last month showcased its latest NUGU Candle SE model equipped with Alexa.

KT said it plans to install the Alexa service on its GiGa Genie 1 and 2 devices before July this year.

julesyi@yna.co.kr

(END)

CO amzcom : Amazon.com, Inc. | audibl : Audible Inc | kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | kortel : KT Corp

IN i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | itech : Technology | i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i656000301 : Etailing | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i79026 : Integrated Communications Providers | iecom : E-commerce | iint : Online Service Providers | iretail : Retail

NS gaiml : Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning | gcsci : Computer Science | gcat : Political/General News | gsci : Sciences/Humanities

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

IPD	0901001
PUB	Yonhap News Agency
AN	Document YONH000020220210ei2a001rx

SE World
HD **Equinix partners with SK Telecom to apply quantum cryptography to dedicated lines between companies and data centers**
BY Lim Chang-won
WC 494 words
PD 10 February 2022
SN AJU NEWS
SC AJUENG
LA English
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[Courtesy of SK Telecom]SEOUL --Equinix, an American digital infrastructure company, tied up with SK Telecom, a leading mobile carrier in South Korea, to apply quantum cryptography to dedicated lines between companies and internet data centers where many servers, routers and switches are managed autonomously. Strong **network security** can be provided as quantum cryptography communication services are available to corporate customers using data centers. It would be the first application of quantum key distribution (QKD) to a global data center operator like Equinix, which runs more than 230 data centers worldwide. QKD is a secure communication method that implements a cryptographic protocol involving components of quantum mechanics. So far, QKD has been mainly applied to key network services provided by telecom companies.

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The importance of cybersecurity in mobile communications is rising exponentially. Quantum cryptography has emerged as an essential solution for safeguarding critical information because it is impossible to copy data encoded in a quantum state. Cryptographers are designing new algorithms to prepare for a time when quantum computing becomes a threat.

SK Telecom (SKT) is a leading member of South Korea's state project to secure technology competitiveness in quantum cryptography communication. SKT's quantum key distributor implements a cryptographic protocol involving components of quantum mechanics.

SKT and Equinix signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in expanding quantum businesses such as QKD as a Service (QaaS), which is a promising pattern for future QKD networks. The two companies agreed to push for the commercialization of QaaS within this year while establishing a QKD environment at a data center run by Equinix in Seoul.

"It will be the first step toward creating synergy between Equinix, a global No. 1 data center operator, and SKT, a global leader in quantum cryptography and 5G wired and wireless communication," SKT's innovation suite head Ha Min-yong said in a statement on February 10.

Equinix's digital services, including interconnections between data centers, will be used to make QaaS available in data centers around the world. QaaS would protect enterprise-only lines that connect corporate headquarters, offices, and data centers with quantum cryptography. SKT said the service would become a corporate subscription model in the future.

Equinix hopes to help companies address future risks by adding SKT's QaaS to its ecosystem. "As companies gradually adopt digital transformation, cyberattacks are becoming more sophisticated, and digital leaders need a powerful digital infrastructure to address today's threats and take the next step ahead," Equinix Korea CEO Jang Hye-deok was quoted as saying.

In January, SKT's quantum cryptography transmission encryption modules secured government certification, paving the way for government organizations and public institutions to protect key information against evolving hacking threats by strengthening communication security.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwlim34@ajunews.com

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/02/10/20220210105435156918.jpg>

CT cwl34@ajunews.com

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd | eqn : Equinix Inc

IN i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications | i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | iint : Online Service Providers | itech : Technology

NS gdatap : Privacy Issues/Information Security | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | cpartn : Partnerships/Collaborations | gcat : Political/General News

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB AJU NEWS CORPORATION

AN Document AJUENG0020220210ei2a00001

SE Entertainment
HD **SKT CEO vows stronger **metaverse** push with M&As**

WC 395 words

PD 10 February 2022

SN The Korea Herald

SC KORHER

LA English

CY (c) 2022 The Korea Herald

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SK Telecom will push for mergers and acquisitions in the field of **metaverse**, the telecom firm's CEO Ryu Young-sang said in an earnings call Wednesday.

The remark comes as SK Telecom, which spun off **investment** affiliate SK Square, is undergoing a period of transition with new growth drivers, with artificial intelligence and **metaverse** spearheading the trend under a newly established "Aiverse" division.

TD

"I'd like to make it very clear that SK Telecom will pursue strategic M&A opportunities. ... The first direction is to acquire technology companies for the business such as AI and metaverse," Ryu said.

Korea's top mobile carrier has been trying to expand its foothold in the fledgling field, after making inroads with its "ifland" virtual space.

Ryu, who took the top post of the company in November, said SKT is transitioning into a company which "expands time and space for customers with technologies such as AI, metaverse and universe."

"For our metaverse business, we will act quickly and we will expand our existing strategies and add more intellectual property resources, so that we can create a new growth momentum," Ryu said.

Metaverse is one of the new growth businesses for SK Telecom, along with subscription-based media, enterprise IT infrastructure and futuristic mobility.

According to Ryu, the new sectors will contribute 36 percent of its revenue in 2025, from 18 percent as of 2021. With this, SK Telecom aims to achieve 23 trillion won (\$19.2 billion) in terms of revenue in 2025, from the current 16.7 trillion won.

Ryu added that the company will also seek overseas deals on the premise that the new growth businesses stabilize, as well as acquisitions of developers.

"In terms of pursuing these M&As, our intention is not to do IPO of subsidiaries after M&As but rather combine and integrate the acquired companies into existing businesses of SK Telecom," Ryu said.

SK Telecom recorded an operating profit of 1.39 trillion won for 2021, up 11.1 percent from a year prior, while its revenue rose 4.1 percent to 16.7 trillion won, a preliminary earnings release showed.

(consnow@heraldcorp.com)

[Click here to see image](#)

SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang speaks during a press conference held during CES 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (SK Telecom)

CO kmtel : SK Telecom Co Ltd

IN i7902 : Telecommunication Services | i3302022 : Artificial Intelligence Technologies | itech : Technology | i79022 : Wireless Telecommunications Services | i7902202 : Mobile Telecommunications

NS csImc : Senior Level Management | c41 : Management | ccat : Corporate/Industrial News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpin : C&E Industry News Filter

RE skorea : South Korea | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | easiaz : Eastern Asia

PUB Herald Corporation

AN Document KORHER0020220209ei2a002bd

HD Q4 2021 SK Telecom Co Ltd Earnings Call - Final

WC 6,014 words

PD 9 February 2022

SN VIQ FD Disclosure

SC FNDW

LA English

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Presentation

UNIDENTIFIED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: [Interpreted] Good afternoon. (inaudible) SK Telecom. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend SK Telecom's CEO Investor Day. 2022 marks a new starting line for SK Telecom. Today, the senior management of SK Telecom, led by **Mr.** Young Sang, the company's CEO, will share the vision and strategy of SK 2.0 with analysts and investors. First, **Mr.** Ryu will begin by presenting SK Telecom's new vision and its details, which will be followed by a Q&A session. Interpretation will be provided for the CEO presentation. Consecutive interpretation will be provided for the following Q&A session.

TD

Now I will give the floor to Mr. Ryu, CEO of SK Telecom.

YOUNG SANG RYU, CEO, PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SK TELECOM CO.,LTD:
[Interpreted] Hello, everyone. We had the spin-off in November last year, and it is my first time meeting with investors. We wished to arrange such a meeting earlier than today, but there was COVID situation, and so we are holding this event online. I'd like to ask for your understanding.

Today marks the 101st day since the spin-off. And for the past 100 days, as the CEO of SK Telecom 2.0, I have had many thoughts, and I'd like to share with you my thoughts with you in detail. We've been listening to the expectations and ideas from the shareholders regarding the SKT after the spin-off. There are many investors and shareholders who are expecting stable dividend income based on earnings growth, but at the same time many shareholders are looking for new growth opportunities by utilizing new growth momentum. And as the CEO of SK Telecom 2.0, I'd like to pursue 2 targets of stability and growth at the same time. And to do so, the SK Telecom has reorganized its businesses and resource operations.

SK Telecom will continue to generate stable income from MNO, mobile and fixed business, which is the core business of SK Telecom. And at the same time, we're going to pursue new growth in the areas of Media, Enterprise, AIVERSE, and Connected Intelligence.

In the following chapters, I'm going to share with you some more specific strategies. But the reason for this reorganization is to basically overcome the limitations of binary operation between the existing business and the growth businesses. It means that while we pursue growth businesses in the 5 business groups, we will utilize our entire resources, so that there will be no loss coming after the spin-off. And we're going to focus on the 3 management pillars of customer, services, and technology and utilize our manpower and resources in these 3 areas.

In other words, we are going to focus on the 5x3 metrics. When you look at the current situation, mobile and fixed revenue accounts for 82%, and the growth rate is 3%. And the growth businesses account for 18% of the revenue, and the growth rate is 15%. And the reason for this reorganization of the business into 5 business groups is based on the following background. When you look at the corporate value of a company that has a high share of the existing business, the existing business multiple would be applied for corporate valuation. This means that growth potential of the growth businesses is not well reflected in the valuation.

As for the Media and Enterprise business, they need to be applied with a different multiple and different metrics compared to the Mobile and Fixed business. And also, Subscription, Metaverse, and AI agent based AIVERSE services require a different approach in valuation. In this regard, we will continue to share with the shareholders specific indicators and progress of the 5 business groups in a clear manner and on a regular basis, so that the corporate value of the growth businesses will be recognized properly in the market.

Now I'm going to give you some specific business strategies of the 5 business groups. First of all, let me talk about the mobile and fixed business, when you think about the key driver of MNO business as you may know very well, it is 5G. In January, the SK Telecom 5G subscribers reached 10 million. And by 2025, we believe that the additional 5G subscriber growth of 8 million is possible. And the wireless ARPU will continue to grow. And as a result, the MNO revenue growth trend will continue for many years to come.

In addition, we're building the 5G networks together with the other 2 telcos, which will provide us with CapEx savings. And in doing so, we will be able to expand the 5G coverage earlier than scheduled. And as for marketing and competition, it's not going to be mainly market share competition, but mainly competition based on providing value to customers. And overall, the market stability has been maintained. In addition, we're going to achieve operational excellency by utilizing the network efficiency and online provision of distribution.

And as for the fixed line business, we are going to be able to enjoy a sustained growth of subscribers as the number of single households is increasing and there is a growing demand for the second TVs. And as we have the One Team system between the SK Telecom and SK Broadband, we will be able to maintain #1 market share in terms of subscriber net adds. Therefore, the fixed line business revenue is going to be record-breaking each year. And at the same time, by designing and offering new customer opportunities and experiences, we'll be able to retain customers in the long run.

Next is the media business. We have more than 10 million pay TV subscribers, and we have more than 25 million mobile subscribers. By utilizing these subscriber bases, we're going to expand through the value chain, including content, commerce and advertising. First of all, when we look at the content business, we will continue to expand collaboration in the original content lineup by working with Wavve, Btv and Channel S and we're going to expand the number of channels. Last year, we were able to secure more than 1,000 titles of Kakao TV original content, and we're going to expand the Channel S by building new strategies.

The recently launched Play Z is going to be a big game changer because it offers not only wireless and fixed content, but also entertainment content. And this is going to be a game changer in the media industry.

Moving on to SK Stoa, in just 2 years, the GMV recorded KRW 1.3 trillion and SK Stoa has become #1 domestic T-commerce player. Currently, we are connecting with T deals where GMV is about KRW 100 billion and we're going to develop growth strategies. And we will capitalize on the paid POCs, so wireless PV of more than 100 million views and a fixed PV of more than 60 million views of SK Telecom. By utilizing our wireless and wired POC, we're going to build advertising business based on the new AIVERSE services.

Now next is the Enterprise business. The data center business has huge growth potential because of the increasing demand and supply shortage. We'll not only expand capacity, but also we will expand into high value-added business models, including the HTC and MMR platforms based on 5G. And we're going to expand collaboration with the global CSPs to explore global expansion opportunities. By 2025, we plan to increase the data center revenue to more than KRW 1 trillion.

Next, the cloud market is continuing to grow and we are looking for new business opportunities in the areas of 5G MEC and MSP. In 2021, the cloud revenue was KRW 64 billion. And the 5G MEC, which was jointly launched with AWS, has produced more than 30 use cases such as AR and VR use cases. In addition, we're going to utilize Bespin Global, where we made equity investment, to look for global expansion opportunities.

Now we are seeing new business opportunities in the era of the 5G together with AI and IoT. Vision AI, language AI, data analytics platform and 5G and IoT networks are combined, and these will lead to vertical integrations and expansions in smart factory, finance, security and hospital services.

Next, I will go on to our service business, which is AIVERSE. This year, first, we will work on expanding the product portfolio of Amazon Global Store; second, we will be increasing subscription partnerships and packages; third, we will be boosting the user convenience of our services, so that it can become the base year of achieving tangible results in the subscription business. 2025 GMV target is KRW 8 trillion, as we have already announced.

Metaverse is in its very early age, so we will be focusing on expanding subscription base. In July last year, our MAU went over 1.13 million and duration was around 61 minutes, which are meaningful results. Recently, we have been receiving more than 1,500 partnership requests, and we believe that this is recognition of our Metaverse as a new communication platform. This year, we will make efforts to build open content platform; second, establish economic system, including NFT; and third, venturing into global markets.

In 2025, we plan to secure more than 30 million global MAU. For the AI agent, we are targeting to create an unprecedented new service based on characters and also based on conversational AI service. In Q2 this

year, we are planning to launch new services, and therefore, we are currently conducting product development and tests.

Lastly, I will be talking about how we are preparing to develop the growth engines for the next decade. Telco has been -- continued to evolve and also technologies such as AI, robots, mobility will also continue to develop, which will lead to the emergence of a diverse array of devices. This means that we will have to see what kind of devices will appear after the smartphone, and SKT will focus on how to provide additional services other than connection. We believe that in this respect, Connected Intelligence is a role that SKT can play because it is adding intelligence to our existing strengths.

Our first business is UAM. UAM is a newly emerging urban AR mobility service. There are some uncertainties surrounding its demand, regulation and technology. But for Korea, we believe that there is visibility in terms of business license and commercialization in 2025. We are working together with Hanon Systems, Korea Airport Corporation, and our recently announced partnership with Joby. And we believe that we will be able to offer UAM services and become a total service provider in this area. We will continue to explore new growth engines for the next decade in areas where SKT can leverage key strengths other than UAM.

Next, I will go over our shareholder return policy. In 2021, we implemented the spin-off. We also retired KRW 2 trillion of treasury stock. We introduced quarterly dividends and also implemented 5-to-1 stock split. We have been continuously implementing shareholder-friendly policies, and this trend should continue this year. Our pre spin-off total dividend level should be maintained in '22 as well and we will also maintain our dividend guideline that has been already announced to the market.

Lastly, I will talk about the future envisioned by SK Telecom. We believe that the robust growth of the 5 business groups will enable us to achieve KRW 23 trillion in terms of revenue in 2025 from the current KRW 16.7 trillion. The growth businesses should contribute 36% in 2025 from the 18% of current levels.

SKT is now moving on from connecting people. We are transitioning into a company that expands time and space for customers with technologies such as AI, Metaverse, and Universes. We are shifting from distance to dimension. We will be continuously identifying new businesses that can boost the value of customers and shareholders by leveraging our key strengths. We will be achieving both targets of stability and growth. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: This will conclude our presentation. We will move on to the Q&A session.

Questions and Answers

OPERATOR: (foreign language) (Operator Instructions) (foreign language) The first question will be presented by Hoi Jae Kim from Daishin Securities.

HOI JAE KIM, ANALYST, DAISHIN SECURITIES CO. LTD., RESEARCH DIVISION: [Interpreted] I am Kim Hoi Jae from Daishin Securities. I'd like to get some more information about the background behind SK Telecom's decision to reorganize its business into the 5 business groups. When you look at your competitors, KT and LG U+, you can see that they are operating their mobile and fixed business under the same legal entity. But as far as SK Telecom, there is a division between SKT and SK Broadband. And as you are reorganizing your business into the 5 business groups, I wonder if this means that there will be further reorganization or any possible merger with SK Broadband, which will lead to a governance change?

The second question is about potential growth of the 5 business groups. I understand that the company has huge expectation for growth potentials of the other business groups other than the Mobile and Fixed. So they include the Media and Enterprise and AIVERSE and there are many diverse subsectors under these business groups. So in the short run, what are the particular business groups that we may need to pay attention to? In other words, what specific business groups do you, as a CEO, would like to emphasize to the shareholders and investors?

YOUNG SANG RYU: [Interpreted] I'd first like to thank Mr. Kim for your questions. Let me answer the first question first. The background behind the reorganization of SK Telecom into the 5 business groups was -- as was mentioned in the presentation, was to maximize corporate value for each business group. As you may know very well, we need different valuation metrics for mobile and fixed line business versus Media, Enterprise and AIVERSE. It is because, otherwise, in the past we've seen cases where the growth of the promising growth businesses was not well reflected in the valuation or multiple of the telecom company. That is why we've decided to reorganize our business into separate business groups and communicate our strategies to the market. And because Mobile and Fixed line business are combined in 1 business group, you may wonder if there is going to be any governance change going forward. However, SK Telecom and SK Broadband have already been operating as virtually 1 body or a single entity, and we have been

producing a lot of synergies in the past. Therefore, we do not have any specific governance change plan at this point.

Let me now cover the second question. In addition to our mobile and fixed business group, we have huge expectations for the remaining 4 business groups. But let me point out some of the highlights for these 4 business groups. First is Advertising. As you may know, when you look at the history of SK Telecom, you can say that SK Telecom is very good at conducting subscription business. So when you consider the wireless POC and wired POC of SK Telecom, and given the current MAU level of the entire services we provide, we believe that we have enormous potential for ad sales business. So we're going to capitalize on the strengths of SK Telecom and combine them so that we offer an integrated advertising platform that covers both SKT and SKB. And this, I believe, advertising business, is going to be a new growth driver for us.

The second highlight that I want to emphasize, as was mentioned in the presentation, is data center business. As was mentioned in the presentation, in the data center market, there is a huge demand, while supply is in shortage. And at the same time, we are capable of offering high value-added services such as HTC. For some time, we're going to pursue organic growth in the data center market domestically, but in the future, we believe that we can explore global inorganic growth opportunity as well.

The third highlight I want to emphasize is subscription business. It's been 5 months since we launched the new subscription service, and there has been a very positive feedback from the customers and brand recognition. We also have learned a lot of lessons for the past 5 months. This year, we're going to increase and expand the Amazon Global store lineup and improve the product lineup as well and offer more convenience services, so that we can produce tangible results for the subscription products.

Finally, I'd like to comment more about the Metaverse business. These days, a lot of companies are talking about Metaverse. In Korea, we are the second company to enter the Metaverse market. And for our Metaverse business, we will act quickly and we will continue to expand the existing strategies and add more IP resources, so that we can create a new growth momentum.

OPERATOR: (foreign language) The next question will be presented by Sean Lee from Citigroup.

SEAN LEE, DIRECTOR, CITIGROUP INC., RESEARCH DIVISION: [Interpreted] I am Lee Sean from Citigroup. I would like to ask 2 questions. The first question relates to your dividend policy. You mentioned dividend policy in your presentation, but I wonder if the dividend level for 2022 is going to be similar to the previous year? In other words, can you clarify on whether the last year's dividend amount of KRW 717 billion is going to be maintained for 2022 as well? And also, I'd like to learn more about the medium and long-term dividend policy after 2023.

The second question is regarding the M&A investment plans. And after the spin-off last year, you became a pure telecom company. And I wonder if you have any specific M&A plans to pursue growth? And if you do have such plans, in what areas and then for what reasons are you going to pursue on M&A?

YOUNG SANG RYU: [Interpreted] Mr. Lee from Citigroup, thank you for your questions. Let me first cover the first question. As for your first part of the question, for 2022, as was mentioned in the presentation, we're going to be able to maintain the dividend amount that is similar to what we had before the spin-off. As for the medium- and long-term dividend guidance, it's going to be based on the EBITDA and the CapEx. And we expect our EBITDA or earnings to continue to grow in the medium to long term, while CapEx level will either decline or stabilize. Therefore, in the medium to long term, we believe that there's enough dividend upside.

And regarding our medium- to long-term dividend policy, as soon as we have some specific decisions and guidelines, we will communicate them with the market.

Let me now cover the second question. I understand that there's a lot of interest in whether the pure telecom SKT after the spin-off will pursue an M&A or not. I'd like to make it very clear that SK Telecom will pursue strategic M&A opportunities. And there can be 3 main directions. The first direction is to acquire technology companies for the business such as AI and Metaverse.

The second type of M&As would be acquisitions for the purpose of acquiring talent, because it is quite challenging to secure competent developers in the market. And the final direction is when we become competent in these growth business groups, so we will pursue global M&As to expand into the global market. And in terms of pursuing these M&As, our preference is not -- our intention is not to do IPO of subsidiaries after M&As, but rather combine and integrate these acquired companies into the existing businesses of SK Telecom.

OPERATOR: (foreign language) The next question will be presented by [Hyunjoon Noh from Hanwha Asset Management].

UNIDENTIFIED ANALYST: [Interpreted] I am [Noh Hyunjoon from Hanwha Asset Management]. I have 2 questions. The first question is related to any potential regulatory risks as a result of the presidential election. And the second question relates to your position of SK Telecom with respect to additional frequency allocation.

YOUNG SANG RYU: [Interpreted] [Ms. Noh from Hanwha Asset Management], thank you for your questions. Let me first comment on the impact of the presidential election on SK Telecom. I believe that now we're living in the era of digital and there are many aspects of the lives of the people or citizens in Korea, where we not only have to emphasize the role of telecommunications, but also platforms and other elements. Therefore, I believe that there has been a lessening of burden on communication-related costs by having an increased MVNO business and also better regulations regarding tariff and price plans. Therefore, overall, I believe that telecommunications-related policies are putting focus on the early 5G rollout to the entire nation as well as building data center capacity. So these will all strengthen the national infrastructure. Following these policy directions, the telecom operators, including SK Telecom, are working to expand the 5G coverage nationwide and making digital investments.

As for the second question relating to the frequency acquisition, I believe that the same approach can be applied. As for SK Telecom, we're not in a position to accelerate the pace of frequency allocation. But when we consider benefits to those citizens as well as fairness in the market, rather than pursuing a 20 megahertz allocation of frequency, as it is now, I believe that it is better to allocate 3 levels of frequencies by 20 megahertz for the benefit of the citizens.

OPERATOR: (foreign language) The next question will be presented by [Stacy Young from CLSA Korea].

UNIDENTIFIED ANALYST: [Interpreted] I am (inaudible) from CLSA. I have 2 questions. The first question is related to your CapEx. I understand that the level of CapEx last year did not change much, and do you think it will continue in this trend? And as we have the initial 5G investments coming to an end, do you think that the CapEx level will continue to stabilize downward? The second question is related to the joint rule 5G network construction with telecom companies. What is the update? And can you give us some update? And do you think that there will be a positive impact on your CapEx?

HWANG KEUN-JOO: [Interpreted] I am Keun-joo Hwang, Head of Corporate Planning. Let me answer the first question regarding CapEx. When you look at the CapEx level of last year for SK Telecom, it was KRW 2.18 trillion, and for SK Broadband, it was KRW 820 billion. So in total, it was about KRW 3 trillion. The CapEx level for this year is going to be similar to that of last year.

For SK Telecom, first of all, the top priority for CapEx is increasing 5G customers, telecommunications, quality, and expand coverage and network quality for our customers. And for SK Broadband, they will continue to make investments for IPTV and broadband businesses as well as making investments for content and enterprise business.

Moving on to medium- to long-term CapEx projection, we have been making constant investments for 5G. As a result, the coverage based on population has improved dramatically and we're going to utilize the joint 5G networks together with the other telco companies. So overall, I can say that in the medium term, the CapEx level is going to be stabilizing downward. And as for the 5G joint construction, the other executive in charge of ICT infrastructure will cover that question.

JONG-RYEOL KANG, HEAD OF ICT INFRA CENTER, SK TELECOM CO.,LTD: [Interpreted] I am Kang Jong-Ryeol, the Head of ICT Infrastructure at SK Telecom. Let me answer your question regarding the 5G joint network. Last year, the 3 telecom companies in Korea successfully did a pilot commercialization of 5G in 12 areas. So continuing on with this initiative, the 3 companies will expand the commercialization to the first level areas. And down the road, it is our target for the 3 companies to divide and conquer 131 rural areas for 5G coverage by the end of the first half of 2024. Because of this joint construction of 5G network, there is definitely medium- to long-term positive impact on CapEx savings. But as Mr. Keun mentioned, our 5G subscribers are demanding rapid expansion of the 5G coverage. So we're going to continue making relevant investments. So the CapEx level for 2022 is going to be similar to that of last year.

OPERATOR: (foreign language) The next question will be presented by Seung Woong Lee from eBest Investment Securities.

SEUNG WOONG LEE, ANALYST, EBEST INVESTMENT SECURITIES CO. LTD, RESEARCH DIVISION: [Interpreted] I'm Lee Seung Woong from eBest Investment Securities. My first question is related to the performance of your MNO business. This year, the guidance for the mobile and fixed business, the revenue guidance is KRW 17.4 trillion. And then can you break it into MNO revenue guidance versus the other? And also, what is the wireless ARPU trend and marketing expense that you are expecting for this year from MNO business?

Moving on to the second question that is related to the IPTV. At the end of last year, the number of IPTV subscribers reached 9 million, which is a very good result. And what is your outlook for the subscriber growth this year? And what is your overall IPTV strategy?

MYUNG-JIN HAN, VP & HEAD OF MNO BUSINESS SUPPORTING GROUP, SK TELECOM CO.,LTD: [Interpreted] Thank you for your question. I am Han Myung Jin, Head of Corporate Strategy. Let me answer your questions. As for MNO revenue in 2021, thanks to the growth of the 5G subscribers, the MNO revenue grew by 2.7% to exceed KRW 10 trillion. As for the 5G subscribers, it increased by 4.4 million to reach 9.9 million at the end of last year. We believe that this 5G subscriber growth trend will continue this year to mark the number of 5G subscribers to be around 13 million. As a result of such subscriber base growth, the ARPU has increased from low 30,000 to an upward trend.

The ARPU number that was communicated in the presentation includes ARPU for IoT, which has lower margin. However, when you look at the 5G handset based ARPU growth, there is a very clear growth trend, and we believe that this trend will continue. As a result of such positive developments, we expect MNO revenue for this year to continue to grow, and it's going to be a very positive result on a stand-alone basis as well.

As for marketing expense in 2021, because of the 5G market expansion and the accounting impact of IFRS 15, there was a slight increase. However, starting from the fourth quarter of last year, the marketing expense trend has been stabilizing and going downward. And there's also a market consensus that cost competition is not necessary, and there was a need for market stability. We believe that market stability will continue this year. And by utilizing contact-less distribution channels, we'll be able to increase cost efficiency. All in all, the marketing expense for this year is going to have a Y-o-Y decline.

Let me now move on to the question related to the IPTV subscribers and business strategy. The pay TV market continues to grow with the subscribers reaching 9 million last year. And this growth has been driven by the increasing number of single-person households and a growing demand for second TVs. In addition, we have been offering various services and contents that can appeal to the younger generation, the millennials and Gen Z, that have huge demand for individual and customized content. And as a result, we're able to increase our ARPU. As the market continues to grow and there's growing demand for various services and content, we expect the growth from IPTV to continue starting from last year.

OPERATOR: (foreign language) The next question will be presented by Joonsop Kim from KB Securities.

JOONSOP KIM, ANALYST, KB SECURITIES CO., LTD., RESEARCH DIVISION: [Interpreted] I am Kim Joonsop from KB. I'd like to ask 2 questions related to your Enterprise business group. The first question is related to your Data Center business. You mentioned that in the market, there is a supply shortage of the data center capacity in the market. So this is rather a good situation for the suppliers. So in making data center-related investments, what are your priorities? And as you make data center investments, what's the size of the investment planned for this year?

The second question is related to your enterprise revenue highlights. In 2021, the main revenue source was connectivity for Enterprise business. But in this year of 2022, what will be the key business areas in the Enterprise business group where you will generate revenue?

JINH WAN CHOI, PRESIDENT, CEO & DIRECTOR, SK BROADBAND CO.,LTD.: [Interpreted] I am Choi Jin-Hwan, President of SK Broadband and also Head of SKT Enterprise CIC. Thank you for your questions. Let me answer the first question. As for data center, as you may know, it requires massive amounts of investments. So in consideration of cost efficiency and in consideration of financial risks to be hedged, we are pursuing both direct DC investments, IDC investments as well as lease or TRS-related investments. So for example, the Ka-san and Pung-dong IDCs that are operated by SK Telecom, they were built based on the collateral borrowings and equity investment from a real estate PE. And we have the total return swap agreement with the SPC that has made this investment. And also we have the long-term lease agreement for these properties.

By utilizing this approach, we were able to secure additional IDC capacity, and we were also able to reduce potential financial risk that may incur due to massive, large-size investments. And we were also able to reduce the lease costs by utilizing the TRS agreement.

Other than constructing the data centers and other kinds of CapEx expenditures related to the equipment and related infrastructure supply, these may incur when the customers enter and start using the data centers. And these are demand linked investments which are linked to new revenue. Our plan is to expand the data center capacity by 50 megawatts each year. And when you translate this into an investment, it will require a total of KRW 500 billion, but on our balance sheet, it will account for 10%. So this is going to be KRW 50 billion.

Let me now answer the second question. Our enterprise business comprises of 4 main business areas, and the total revenue last year was KRW 1.34 trillion. And for more detail, connectivity accounts for 70%, IoT and Energy Solutions 17%, and data center and cloud business 13%. While the connectivity business is a cash cow business, the other 3 businesses are growing rapidly, especially for data center and cloud, the annual compound growth rate is more than 30% or 50%, so these are part of the start portfolio. So the data center and cloud businesses are the areas where investors can pay a key attention to.

As was mentioned by the CEO in his presentation, the data center market will continue to experience supply shortage. As we doubled up our capacity last year, we are planning or our aim is to become #1 in Korea in 5 years. So when you look at the big picture, we're going to continue to increase synergies with our 5G MEC, MSP and SaaS business players as well as collaboration with global CSPs, so that we can become a main player in the cloud economy and it's going to be a key business area.

As for cloud business, we aim to become an integrated cloud service provider based on 5G MEC, and we're pursuing growth through collaboration with global players for our main business models of MEC, Cloud Network, MSP, SaaS and PaaS.

UNIDENTIFIED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: (foreign language) We will entertain the final question.

OPERATOR: (foreign language) The last question will be presented by Seunghyun Lim from Shinyoung Asset Investment.

LIM SCOTT SEUNGHYUN: [Interpreted] I'm Lim Seunghyun from Shinyoung Asset Management. I have a question related to your UAM initiative. You mentioned in your presentation that UAM will be a key growth driver in the future. So what roles do you think SKT can play in providing UAM? What business models do you have in mind? And if you need to make investments or need to make some cost spending, how much of such investment are you anticipating?

YOUNG SANG RYU: [Interpreted] Lim Seunghyun from Shinyoung Asset Management, thank you for your question. As for our UAM initiative, it's not been materialized yet. But we can express some synergies between SKT and Joby because SKT has capabilities in terms of communications network platform and services, while Joby can contribute in terms of UAM device development. Also, I'd like to mention that Joby has acquired the UAM operational business of Uber. So we will continue to collaborate with Joby for future opportunities. The particular structure of the corporation has not been decided yet, but I imagine that we can be part of a consortium to gain a business license for UAM in Korea. In the short term, we're going to continue to participate in the grand challenge, which is a demonstration project led by the government.

UNIDENTIFIED COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: [Interpreted] Thank you. This is the end of the Q&A session. This is the end of the SK Telecom CEO Investor Day. I'd like to thank the investors and analysts for your participation. As SK Telecom is making a new start in 2022, I'd like to ask for your continued support. Thank you.

[Portions of this transcript that are marked Interpreted were spoken by an interpreter present on the live call.]

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