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News

alex lawson

Why no one's TalkTalking about sale of mobile firm

166 words 17 April 2022 Mail on Sunday MOSM 1; National 118 English

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TELECOMS bankers don't appear to be in a frenzy over the prospect of a sale of TalkTalk.

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But analysts at Enders reckon that sum could not be reached without a bidding war.

'That's a barmy price,' sniffed one industry executive.

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Bankers reckon Vodafone - which has also been linked to a deal for Three - is the frontrunner as TalkTalk could bolster its broadband business.

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2Africa Deployment Underway with First Landing in Genoa, Italy

1,936 words 14 April 2022 Ventures Africa VENAF English

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The 2Africa consortium, comprised of China Mobile International, Meta (www.Facebook.com), MTN GlobalConnect, Orange, stc, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone and WIOCC, announced today the first landing of the 2Africa cable – in Genoa, Italy. The landing sets the tone for more landings in the coming months as the cable is extended to a total of 46 locations by the completion of the project in 2024.

Announced in May 2020, the 2Africa subsea cable system together with its Pearls extension are designed to deliver seamless international **connectivity** to approximately 3 billion people, representing 36% of the global population and connecting three continents, Africa, Europe and Asia.

At 45,000km, it will be the longest subsea cable ever deployed, serving communities that rely on the internet for services from education to healthcare and business, with all experiencing the economic and social benefits that come from this increased connectivity.

Vodafone, the 2Africa landing party in Genoa, has partnered with Equinix to land the cable directly into the Equinix Carrier Neutral Data Center (CNDC), with Retelit delivering the fronthaul. As with all 2Africa cable landings, capacity will be available to service providers in Genoa on a fair and equitable basis, encouraging and supporting the development of a healthy internet ecosystem.

Working with a local Italian operator, 2Africa has also developed a new terrestrial route connecting the Genoa cable landing station (CLS) directly to major CNDCs in Milan.

Good progress on the survey work and manufacturing continues with the 2Africa project remaining on track for completion in 2024.

Distributed by APO Group on behalf of Meta.

About China Mobile International Limited:

China Mobile International Limited (CMI) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Mobile, mainly responsible for the operation of China Mobile's international business. In order to provide better services to meet the growing demand in the international telecommunications market, China Mobile established a subsidiary, CMI, in December 2010. CMI currently has over 70 terrestrial and submarine cable resources worldwide, with a total international transmission bandwidth of over 109T, and a total of 225 PoPs. With Hong Kong, China as its launchpad, CMI has significantly accelerated global IDC development, creating a strong network for data center cloudification.

Leveraging the strong support by China Mobile, CMI is a trusted partner that provides comprehensive international information services and solutions to international enterprises, carriers and mobile users. Headquartered in Hong Kong, China, CMI has expanded its footprint in 36 countries and regions. For more information, please visit www.CMI.ChinaMobile.com, or to connect with us on LinkedIn at: https://bit.ly/3jAA8do.

About Meta:

Meta builds technologies that help people connect, find communities, and grow businesses. When Facebook launched in 2004, it changed the way people connect. Apps like Messenger, Instagram and WhatsApp further empowered billions around the world. Now, Meta is moving beyond 2D screens toward immersive experiences like augmented and virtual reality to help build the next evolution in social technology.

About MTN GlobalConnect:

GlobalConnect is a Pan-African digital wholesale and infrastructure services company, and an operating company in the MTN Group. GlobalConnect manages MTN's international and national major wholesale activities, in addition to offering reliable wholesale and infrastructure solutions for fixed connectivity and wholesale mobility solutions that include international mobile services, Voice, SMS, signalling, roaming and interconnect. The MTN Group launched in 1994 is a leading emerging market operator with a clear vision to lead the delivery of a bold new digital world and is inspired by the belief that everyone deserves the benefits of a modern connected life. Embracing the Ambition 2025 strategy, MTN is anchored on building the largest

and most valuable platform business, with a clear focus on Africa. The MTN Group is listed on the JSE Securities Exchange in South Africa under the share code "MTN".

For more information, please visit <u>www.GlobalConnect.solutions</u> – <u>www.MTN.com</u>

About Orange:

Orange is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators with sales of 42.3 billion euros in 2020 and 140,000 employees worldwide at 31 March 2021, including 80,000 employees in France. The Group has a total customer base of 262 million customers worldwide at 31 March 2021, including 217 million mobile customers and 22 million fixed broadband customers. The Group is present in 26 countries. Orange is also a leading provider of global IT and telecommunication services to multinational companies, under the brand Orange Business Services. In December 2019, the Group presented its new "Engage 2025" strategic plan, which, guided by social and environmental accountability, aims to reinvent its operator model. While accelerating in growth areas and placing data and AI at the heart of its innovation model, the Group will be an attractive and responsible employer, adapted to emerging professions.

Orange is listed on Euronext Paris (symbol ORA) and on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol ORAN).

For more information on the internet and on your mobile: www.Orange.com, <a href="

About stc:

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In Saudi Arabia (the group's main operation site) stc operates the largest modern mobile network in the Middle East as it covers more than 99% of the country's populated areas in addition to providing 4G mobile broadband to about 90% of the population across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In addition to the above-mentioned, stc is a strong regional player in IoT, managed services, system integration, cloud computing, information security, big data Analytics fintech and artificial intelligence. For more information, please visit www.stc.com.sa; or to follow us on Twitter: @stc , @stc_ksa

About Telecom Egypt:

Telecom Egypt is the first total telecom operator in Egypt providing all telecom services to its customers including fixed and mobile voice and data services. Telecom Egypt has a long history serving Egyptian customers for over 160 years maintaining a leadership position in the Egyptian telecom market by offering its enterprise and consumer customers the most advanced technology, reliable infrastructure solutions and the widest network of submarine cables. Aside from its mobile operation "WE", the company owns a 45% stake in Vodafone Egypt. Telecom Egypt's shares and GDRs (Ticker: ETEL.CA; TEEG.LN) are traded on The Egyptian Exchange and the London Stock Exchange. Please refer to Telecom Egypt's full financial disclosure on ir.TE.eg

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Vodafone is a world leader in the Internet of Things (IoT), connecting more than 142m devices and platforms through innovation that aligns with the aspirations of society for cleaner and safer cities, better transport and improved agriculture. Vodafone's digital leadership is also changing how governments deliver healthcare and education, and how businesses, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), serve customers.

We have revolutionised fintech in Africa through M-Pesa, which celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2022. It is the region's largest fintech platform, providing access to financial services for more than 51m people in a secure, affordable and convenient way.

Our purpose is to connect for a better future, enabling an inclusive and sustainable digital society. We are taking significant steps to reduce our impact on our planet by becoming net zero by 2040, purchasing 100% of our electricity from renewable sources in Europe and across our entire operations by 2025, and reusing, reselling or recycling 100% of our redundant network equipment. Vodafone proactively works to expand access to connectivity for rural communities, students and jobseekers. For more than 30 years, Vodafone's Foundation has supported communities in Europe and Africa in the areas of health, education, and equality.

We support diversity and inclusion through our maternity and parental leave policies, empowering women through connectivity and improving access to education and digital skills for women, girls, and society at large. We are respectful of all individuals, irrespective of race, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, belief, culture or religion.

For more information, please visit <u>www.Vodafone.com</u>, follow us on Twitter at @VodafoneGroup or connect with us on LinkedIn at http://bit.ly/3vIHWoC.

About WIOCC:

WIOCC is building Africa's first, truly hyper-scale network infrastructure. With the ability to efficiently deliver 100Gbps capacity and an extensive investment programme to develop our pan-African solution even further, WIOCC is the natural partner for OTTs, content providers, telecom operators, and ISPs looking to take advantage of Africa's opportunities. The company utilises more than 55,000km of terrestrial fibre and in excess of 75,000km of submarine cable assets to offer affordable, reliable, managed connectivity to over 550 locations across 30 African countries. WIOCC's international reach extends to key commercial centres in Europe, Asia, and North America, providing a one-stop shop for fully-scalable international connectivity into, within, and out of Africa. Operating exclusively as a wholesaler, the company's focus is on putting you, our client, first. Building and maintaining strong, long-term relationships means WIOCC can develop bespoke solutions to meet your current requirements, with the flexibility to match future demands for growth and extra resilience and geographical expansion. You will find that only WIOCC has the depth of experience, local expertise, capacity, flexibility, and scalability to take you where you want to be. For more information, please visit www.WIOCC.net

About Alcatel Submarine Networks:

Alcatel Submarine Networks, part of Nokia, leads the industry in terms of transmission capacity and installed base with more than 650,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to circumnavigate the globe 15 times. From traditional Telecom applications to Content and "Over The Top" Service Provider infrastructures, as well as to offshore Oil and Gas applications, ASN provides all elements of a turnkey global undersea transmission systems, tailored to individual customer's needs. An extensive Services porLolio completes its comprehensive offering for the submarine business, including project management, installation and commissioning, along with marine and maintenance operations performed by ASN's fully owned fleet of cable ships. For more information, please visit www.web.ASN.com/en

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2Africa makes first landing in Genoa

342 words 14 April 2022 Optical Networks Daily OBSERV English

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At 45,000km, 2Africa is expected to be the longest subsea cable ever deployed. A total of 46 cable landing locations are envisioned for the project before completion in 2024.

The 2Africa consortium, comprised of China Mobile International, Meta, MTN GlobalConnect, Orange, stc, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone and WIOCC

Equinix and Vodafone to build subsea hub in Genoa for 2Africa cable

Thursday, February 25, 2021 Africa, Equinix, Italy, Subsea

Equinix and Vodafone announced a plan to build a new subsea hub in Genoa, called GN1, to serve as a strategic interconnection point for the 2Africa cable system.2Africa is a consortium cable project backed by China Mobile International, Facebook, MTN GlobalConnect, Orange, stc, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone and WIOCC. At 37,000km long, 2Africa will be one of the world's largest subsea cable projects and will interconnect Europe (eastward via Egypt), the...

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2Africa subsea cable boasts design capacity up to 180 Tbps

Thursday, May 14, 2020 Africa, ASN, Egypt, Facebook, Submarine Cable, Subsea, Telecom Egypt

2Africa, a new subsea cable to serve the African continent and Middle East region, promises to deliver more than the total combined capacity of all subsea cables serving Africa today, with a design capacity of up to 180Tbps on key parts of the system. Consortium partners include China Mobile International, Facebook, MTN GlobalConnect, Orange, stc, Telecom Egypt, Vodafone and WIOCC. Alcatel Submarine Networks (ASN) has been selected to build...

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2Africa Deployment Underway with First Landing in Genoa, Italy; Highly Anticipated Subsea Cable System Set to Connect 3 Billion People Upon Completion

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For more information, contact: The investor relations team, Email: investor.relations@te.eg

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Our purpose is to connect for a better future, enabling an inclusive and sustainable digital society. We are taking significant steps to reduce our impact on our planet by becoming net zero by 2040, purchasing 100% of our electricity from renewable sources in Europe and across our entire operations by 2025, and reusing, reselling or recycling 100% of our redundant network equipment. Vodafone proactively works to expand Page 12 of 126 © 2022 Factiva, Inc. All rights reserved.

access to connectivity for rural communities, students and jobseekers. For more than 30 years, Vodafone's Foundation has supported communities in Europe and Africa in the areas of health, education, and equality.

We support diversity and inclusion through our maternity and parental leave policies, empowering women through connectivity and improving access to education and digital skills for women, girls, and society at large. We are respectful of all individuals, irrespective of race, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, belief, culture or religion.

For more information, please visit www.Vodafone.com, follow us on Twitter at @VodafoneGroup or connect with us on LinkedIn at https://bit.ly/3vIHWoC.

About WIOCC: WIOCC is building Africa's first, truly hyper-scale network infrastructure. With the ability to efficiently deliver 100Gbps capacity and an extensive investment programme to develop our pan-African solution even further, WIOCC is the natural partner for OTTs, content providers, telecom operators, and ISPs looking to take advantage of Africa's opportunities. The company utilises more than 55,000km of terrestrial fibre and in excess of 75,000km of submarine cable assets to offer affordable, reliable, managed connectivity to over 550 locations across 30 African countries. WIOCC's international reach extends to key commercial centres in Europe, Asia, and North America, providing a one-stop shop for fully-scalable international connectivity into, within, and out of Africa. Operating exclusively as a wholesaler, the company's focus is on putting you, our client, first. Building and maintaining strong, long-term relationships means WIOCC can develop bespoke solutions to meet your current requirements, with the flexibility to match future demands for growth and extra resilience and geographical expansion. You will find that only WIOCC has the depth of experience, local expertise, capacity, flexibility, and scalability to take you where you want to be. For more information, please visit www.WIOCC.net

About Alcatel Submarine Networks: Alcatel Submarine Networks, part of Nokia, leads the industry in terms of transmission capacity and installed base with more than 650,000 km of optical submarine systems deployed worldwide, enough to circumnavigate the globe 15 times. From traditional Telecom applications to Content and "Over The Top" Service Provider infrastructures, as well as to offshore Oil and Gas applications, ASN provides all elements of a turnkey global undersea transmission systems, tailored to individual customer's needs. An extensive Services porLolio completes its comprehensive offering for the submarine business, including project management, installation and commissioning, along with marine and maintenance operations performed by ASN's fully owned fleet of cable ships. For more information, please visit www.web.ASN.com/en

Document APOENG0020220415ei4e00001

Vodafone NZ Software Collaboration with IBM and MATRIXX Software Modernises Customer Payments

242 words
14 April 2022
Internet Business News
INTA
English
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Vodafone NZ is extending its collaboration with IBM and MATRIXX Software to provide enterprise-wide digital commerce for all post-pay, pre-pay, wholesale and IoT customers, the company said.

As part of this latest relationship expansion, IBM Consulting and MATRIXX, which is part of IBM's ecosystem network, will replace and modernise Vodafone's charging system in order to offer customers a transformed digital experience.

Andrew Haddad, Vodafone NZ Chief Information Officer, says both MATRIXX Software and IBM are proven and reliable collaborators with global credentials, and will play a key role in helping further improve customer experience. "Paying bills is never the most exciting part of any customer relationship, but it's an incredibly vital one for any business. MATRIXX and IBM have been supporting Vodafone NZ with charging solutions for our post-pay and wholesale customers for eight years and I'm excited to extend our collaboration to benefit our pre-pay customers."

In its earlier engagement with MATRIXX and IBM, Vodafone NZ experienced a decrease in customer churn, an increase in business NPS and were first to market in New Zealand with enterprise data sharing.

For more information about Vodafone NZ services and payment options, visit: www.vodafone.co.nz.

For more information about IBM visit ibm.co.nz

MATRIXX Software is online at www.matrixx.com.

((Comments on this story may be sent to info@m2.com))

Document INTA000020220414ei4e00002



Vodafone Together customers offered GBP 12 Just Eat voucher

87 words
14 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone UK is offering a GBP 12 Just Eat voucher for Vodafone Together customers. The <u>Vodafone Together</u> combined mobile and broadband package can save families up to GBP 380 a year on their **connectivity**.

New research from Vodafone shows that 25 percent of Brits order a takeaway meal 3-4 times per month; with fish & chips and a Chinese takeaway the favourite meals. The GBP 12 Just Eat voucher is the first monthly award launched for Vodafone Together customers.

Document TELEUR0020220414ei4e000e1



Vodafone NZ Extends Digital Commerce Software Collaboration with IBM and MATRIXX Software to Modernise Customer Payments

802 words 14 April 2022 11:00 Business Wire BWR English

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IBM and MATRIXX will team up to deliver MATRIXX Software's 5G-ready, **cloud**-native, Converged Charging System to further improve Vodafone NZ's customer experience.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand & FOSTER CITY, Calif. -- (BUSINESS WIRE) -- April 14, 2022-- Vodafone NZ is extending its collaboration with IBM and MATRIXX Software to provide enterprise-wide digital commerce for all post-pay, pre-pay, wholesale and IoT customers. As part of this latest relationship expansion, IBM Consulting and MATRIXX, which is part of IBM's ecosystem network, will replace and

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Steve O'Donnell, IBM Consulting Managing Partner, New Zealand, says the pace and demand for digital transformation continues to accelerate, making strategic relationships even more critical in helping organisations get to value quickly. "To realise the promise of 5G within the next few years, decisions need to be made today with the right technology solutions, skills and support to execute and succeed. Systems integrators like IBM can help organisations like Vodafone NZ co-create unique solutions while supporting them on their transformation journeys, help them reduce costs and unlock new revenue streams."

André Gunnberg, MATRIXX Chief Revenue Officer, says the extension to the collaboration means MATRIXX can streamline and simplify Vodafone NZ's infrastructure and open opportunities for new products and services. "Our Digital Commerce Platform will enable Vodafone NZ to consolidate multiple charging solutions onto a single instance with sub-domains for each business unit, optimising costs and gaining significant operational efficiencies thanks to simpler and cheaper operations."

"We are thrilled to be teaming up with IBM to power Vodafone's innovation with new products and services. Working together, we have the potential to open up new revenue opportunities that were not previously available. Enabled by our simplified approach, I believe MATRIXX will enable Vodafone to achieve its integration and migration outcomes faster than any other vendor could achieve," added Gunnberg.

For more information about Vodafone NZ services and payment options, please visit: www.vodafone.co.nz.

About Vodafone New Zealand:

Vodafone New Zealand is one of Aotearoa's leading connectivity companies and we offer a range of broadband, mobile and technology products. We are focused on creating a better future for Aotearoa New Zealand through remarkable technology solutions that simplify lives and businesses, and operate New Zealand's largest 5G network. We maintain almost three million connections with consumer, business, public sector and wholesale customers via Vodafone and Farmside, New Zealand's rural broadband specialist. We're proud to help other Kiwi businesses to thrive by partnering with world-leading brands to offer best-in-class ICT services. Vodafone New Zealand is owned by Infratil and Brookfield Asset Management and we are a partner market in the Vodafone Group, one of the world's largest telecommunications companies. For more information, please visit www.vodafone.co.nz

About IBM

For more information please visit ibm.co.nz

About MATRIXX Software

MATRIXX Software delivers a modern converged charging and commerce solution proven at scale. Its cloud native Digital Commerce Platform provides network-grade, mission critical software that unlocks new network monetization opportunities. With its no-code configuration capabilities, MATRIXX empowers service providers with the agility necessary to easily develop, deploy and monetize new products and services. MATRIXX is the platform of choice powering many of the world's leading communications companies, IoT players and emerging network infrastructure providers. MATRIXX makes it possible to harness commercial innovation and on-demand customer experience to better compete and drive new revenue and growth opportunities across markets and verticals. For more information, please visit www.matrixx.com.

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220414005298/en/

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Document BWR0000020220414ei4e0001t



Vodacom South Africa says KwaZulu-Natal floods hit mobile towers and fibre ducts

128 words
14 April 2022
Telecompaper Africa
TELAFR
English
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Vodacom South Africa says widespread flooding in KwaZulu-Natal has damaged its network **infrastructure** in the province, including over 400 towers, MyBroadband reported. Spokesperson Byron Kennedy said the damage to its towers was primarily caused by disruptions to electricity supply. Some fibre customers are affected by waterlogged ducts, too.

Kennedy said several coastal regions have intermittent mobile connections for the time being, from Ballito in the north to Amanzimtoti in the south. He added that service to some Vodacom fibre customers is affected by waterlogged ducts, although the operator has contingency plans to manage such situations. Vodacom is working hard to restore **connectivity** in impacted areas as quickly and as safely as possible, Kennedy said.

Document TELAFR0020220414ei4e0002w



Vodafone considers JV for fibre expansion in Germany - report

121 words
14 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone is considering setting up a joint venture to expand fibre-optic networks in Germany, Handelsblatt reports. The company is in talks with investors to set up the venture, it said. According to the report, Vodafone is evaluating a maximum **investment** in the joint venture of EUR 10 billion.

For internet connections in Germany, Vodafone largely relies on TV **cables** that have been upgraded to gigabit speed with Docsis 3.1 technology. It does not deploy fibre-optics on the last mile. Competitor Telefonica set up the joint venture Unsere Gruene Glasfaser (UGG) with Allianz in 2020, and Deutsche Telekom built set up a joint venture for fibre expansion with Australian investors IFM.

Document TELEUR0020220414ei4e0002v



Vodafone Italia supports loans for low-income students in job training

107 words
14 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Italia announced its support for a new job training initiative. The Vodafone Foundation, along with the Cariplo Foundation, the Giordano Dell'Amore Social Venture Foundation and the Italian Accenture Foundation will provide EUR 1 million to support 170 low-income students in job training programmes.

Run by Talents Venture, the training targets people aged 20-35 in areas in economically important sectors in need of new recruits, including **cybersecurity**, data science and web development. The students will receive interest-free loans to pursue their studies, with repayment required only if they find a job in the sector.

Document TELEUR0020220414ei4e00004



Vodafone Turkey opens store in metaverse

173 words
14 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Turkey is preparing to open its first store in the **metaverse**. The Vodafone **Metaverse** Store will open in Decentraland very soon and will offer customers the convenience of accessing Vodafone products and services in the virtual universe. This will be the first store opened in the **metaverse** among Vodafone Group countries.

The company's personal digital assistant Tobi will welcome visitors. They will be able to meet all their technology-related needs and access Vodafone's products and services in the store, which will be designed in accordance with Vodafone's new generation retail approach.

Vodafone Metaverse Store will have special areas for hosting campaigns of Vodafone's brands such as Red and FreeZone, as well as areas for environmental, social and governance initiatives. Various events and launches will also be held. The content offered by Vodafone for gamers under the umbrella of FreeZone Gaming will also be available in the shop, and VR and AR experiences will be offered to customers in the metaverse store.

Document TELEUR0020220414ei4e00005



Press Release

Vodafone NZ Extends Digital Commerce Software Collaboration With IBM And MATRIXX Software To Modernise Customer Payments

Vodafone 450 words 14 April 2022 01:12 Scoop.co.nz SCCONZ English

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AUCKLAND, New Zealand and FOSTER CITY, Calif., April 14, 2022 - Vodafone NZ is extending its collaboration with IBM and MATRIXX Software to provide enterprise-wide digital commerce for all post-pay, pre-pay, wholesale and IoT customers. As part of this latest relationship expansion, IBM Consulting and MATRIXX, which is part of IBM's ecosystem network, will replace and modernise Vodafone's charging system in order to offer customers a transformed digital experience.

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For more information about Vodafone NZ services and payment options, please visit: www.vodafone.co.nz.

Document SCCONZ0020220414ei4e0005o



Deutsche Telkom preparing to sell stake in tower biz

by Harry Baldock, Total Telecom 574 words 13 April 2022 Total Telecom Plus TOTEL English

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Reports suggest that the company is considering approaches from numerous companies seeking to take a majority or minority stake in the company's tower **infrastructure**

Towards the end of 2021, Deutsche Telekom's CEO, Timotheus Höttges, announced during an investor conference that he was interested in finding a partner for the company's tower business, with media reports later suggesting that a stake sale in the unit was imminent.

Analysts have previously suggested that Telekom's roughly 40,600 towers, could be worth up to €18 billion.

Now, just days after Deutsche Telekom started the official sales process for the unit, reports are suggesting that the operator has already been inundated with bids for take a stake in its German towerco, Deutsche Funkturm. The unit controls around 33,4000 towers across Germany.

According to the report, Vantage Towers and a consortium of KKR and GIP has submitted bids to purchase either 51% equity in the business, or a majority stake.

Spanish infrastructure giant Cellnex, which has been on an enormous towerco acquisition spree in recent years, has also made a bid, though they are only seeking a majority stake.

The report also suggests that American Tower Corp has submitted a bid, though the size of the stake sought was not noted.

Deutsche Telekom has hired Goldman Sachs to advise them on their options regarding these approaches and reportedly hopes to sign a deal for its tower assets by the middle of the year, assuming regulatory approval.

It should be noted that this approval, however, is far from guaranteed.

A tie up with Vantage Towers, for example, would leave the German tower assets of both Vodafone and Deutsche Telekom in the hands of a single company, making them a runaway market leader and potentially stifling future competition. As a result, such a move would come under major scrutiny from European regulators.

According to Reuters sources, such a merger would require "a package of remedies including asset disposals to win the blessing of European regulators".

Nonetheless, Vantage Towers has been vocally enthusiastic about such a deal's potential, even fending off approaches from private equity investors in favour of waiting for a possible deal with Funkturm or another major European towerco, such as Orange's Totem.

One the other hand, the sale of a minority stake in Funkturm would be far less likely to run into regulatory red tape and thus may be the more attractive option for Deutsche Telekom.

In fact, a cash injection from any stake sale would be quite timely, with the company today announcing that it has spent \$2.4 billion to increase their stake in T-Mobile from 48.4%. According to a company statement, this investment was largely facilitated by the €4 billion windfall from the sale of T-Mobile Netherlands to a consortium of Consortium of Apax and Warburg Pincus last year.

The stake increase leaves the Deutsche Telekom just a stone's throw away from majority control of the T-Mobile, something that Höttges has been driving the company's board of directors towards since last year.

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

513048

Document TOTEL00020220413ei4d0000d



SIM Authentication Platform tru.ID Expands to Germany, Adds Telekom, O2 and Vodafone to its Next-Generation Cybersecurity Solution

690 words 13 April 2022 10:00 Business Wire BWR English

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tru.ID leverages the strong cryptographic security of the mobile SIM card to deliver an innovative passwordless solution for customers and employees

LONDON & FRANKFURT, Germany--(BUSINESS WIRE) -- April 13, 2022--

tru.ID (https://tru.id), the API-based mobile cybersecurity platform, today announced it is now integrated with mobile network operators Telekom, O2, and Vodafone, and opens up SIM-based authentication to businesses in Germany, adding over 80 million new users to the tru.ID network. Businesses will be able to offer customers and employees in Germany the security and ease-of-use of next-generation authentication.

By implementing tru.ID, businesses of any size can now leverage the formidable security at the heart of mobile networks, using the SIM-based authentication technology already inside every mobile phone. tru.ID delivers this latest innovation in authentication to help eliminate the risk of password-related security breaches, offering a unique combination of hardware-grade security coupled with a seamless user experience.

A solution to cybercrime is urgently needed

With the shift to hybrid working, there has been a huge rise in cybercrime and particularly ransomware, with attackers most commonly exploiting weak password habits and phishing user credentials.

The 2021 Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report(1) found that 74% of ransomware attacks in Germany occurred via phishing emails. In its Data Breach Investigations Report (DBIR)(2) 2020, Verizon Enterprise observed that 80% of data breaches involving threat actors used either brute-force techniques or lost/stolen credentials.

The ability for criminals to exploit these password weaknesses has been a significant driver in the growth of ransomware attacks, with over 304 million attacks in 2020 (over 800,000 every day)(3) and an estimated total loss to business from cybercrime of over \$1 trillion(4).

SIM authentication from tru.ID is a new solution that can help businesses avoid this risk.

Next-gen SIM-based authentication -- how it works and why it's better

When we use our mobile phones, we don't need to type our email and a password to log in. We are automatically logged onto the mobile network because the mobile operator performs a cryptographic check of the SIM card, silently in the background, to prove it is valid. From that point forward, all communication between the device and the network is fully encrypted.

Now this authentication capability is being made available as a possession factor API. Simply add the tru.ID SDK into your existing mobile app to instantly have possession factor security available to all your customers.

Paul McGuire, co-founder and CEO of tru.ID, commented: "Businesses urgently need help to protect customers and employees from cybercrime. We are excited to bring this next-generation security solution to the world and are delighted to be working with our mobile operator partners in Germany to help businesses prevent cybercrime."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

- [1] Hixcox Hiscox Cyber Readiness Report 2021
- [2] Verizon Business Verizon Data Breach Report (2020).
- [3) Statista Ransomware attacks per year

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[4] McAfee & CSIS - The hidden costs of cybercrime

[5] GSMA - The Mobile Economy

About tru.ID

tru.ID (https://tru.id) is an API-based passwordless authentication platform that leverages the cryptographic security of the SIM card to deliver highly secure, but frictionless, online user authentication to help businesses fight the growing problems of cybercrime. This transformative new solution is based on proven technology that is already deployed at scale in mobile networks and is now being made available to businesses for the first time. By using tru.ID, businesses can connect to a single API to quickly and easily enable SIM-based authentication for all their customers and employees across multiple markets. The tru.ID platform is already live in 20 countries covering 2bn+ mobile subscribers, and is rolling out globally. To find out more about tru.ID, visit https://tru.id.

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220413005261/en/

CONTACT: tru.ID, Media Relations: Natalie Malevsky Email: press@tru.id

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Document BWR0000020220413ei4d00016



Deutsche Telekom evaluates bids from KKR, GIP and Vantage for towers business - report

128 words
13 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Deutsche Telekom is evaluating the bids it received for a majority stake in its tower business Deutsche Funkturm, Reuters reports. The company has had offers from Vodafone's **infrastructure** subsidiary Vantage Towers, and a consortium of investors including KKR and Global **Infrastructure** Partners (GIP) that would also be willing to take a minority stake. The tower business is valued at up to EUR 18 billion.

According to a previous report, Deutsche Telekom earlier got bids from Cellnex, Vantage Towers and American Tower. EQT and a consortium of KKR and GIP also sent in bids, while Stonepeak and Vantage shareholder Digital Colony expressed interest in Deutsche Funkturm, the report added. Cellnex would only buy a majority stake in Deutsche Funkturm.

Document TELEUR0020220413ei4d00007

SeeNews

Suitors line up for Deutsche Telekom's mobile towers unit - report

145 words 13 April 2022 09:40 SeeNews Deals SEDEL English © 2022. SeeNews. All rights Reserved.

April 13 (SeeNews) - Deutsche Telekom AG (ETR:DTE) has received several bids for its tower unit from competitors and financial investors who are vying either for a minority stake or a 51% holding, Reuters reported on Monday, citing sources familiar with the matter.

The interested investors include Vodafone's Vantage Towers and a consortium of KKR and GIP, as well as Spanish mobile telephone **infrastructure** operator Cellnex and American Tower Corp, the report says.

Goldman Sachs has been hired to manage the sale of Muenster-based DFMG Deutsche Funkturm GmbH. The value of the business is estimated at up to EUR 18 billion (USD 19.55bn).

According to an earlier media report, the German telecoms major is open to offers for both a minority and a majority stake in the business.

(EUR 1 = USD 1.086)

Document SEDEL00020220413ei4d00001



5G

Businesses in these 12 areas can now access Vodafone's 5G network

Sabina Weston 372 words 12 April 2022 IT Pro ITREN English

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Vodafone has added 12 new areas across England and Wales to its 5G network coverage, allowing consumers, businesses, and their employees to benefit from faster mobile data **connectivity**.

Vodafone's 5G is now available in Coventry, Dursley, Golborne, Keynsham, Llantwit Major, Lydney, Redditch, Rickmansworth, South Lackenby, Thornbury, Watford, and Wigan.

Businesses in these areas will be able to improve productivity and employee communications by adopting 5G, which is expected to add as much as £6.3 billion annually to the value of the UK manufacturing industry by 2030.

Commenting on the announcement, Vodafone chief network officer Andrea Dona said that 5G will provide extended opportunities to businesses and their employees, while also "supporting the local economy and helping to deliver a greener, more prosperous and digitally connected region".

5G has been found to be more sustainable than its predecessors, with a 2020 report from O2 estimating that the application of 5G in manufacturing, transport, and healthcare could see the UK save up to 269 megatonnes of CO2 by 2035.

"The arrival of 5G gives our customers some of the fastest mobile data speeds in the UK, and a mobile network they can rely on," said Dona, before adding that Vodafone is "investing in our network across the UK and look forward to seeing how that investment will benefit local people and businesses".

Vodafone's 5G rollout has intensified as businesses are asked to migrate their services to 4G and 5G ahead of the <u>3G shutdown scheduled for 2023</u>. The repurposing of 3G spectrum will allow Vodafone to switch to more sustainable equipment used in 5G networks, decreasing its environmental footprint in line with the goal of achieving <u>net zero</u> by 2027. The UK is expected to phase out all of its public 2G and 3G <u>mobile</u> networks in the next ten years to facilitate the mass rollout of 5G and 6G, in accordance with a deadline imposed by the <u>Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)</u>.

The latest announcement comes amid intensified rumours of a <u>merger</u> between Three and Vodafone, following a call for "structural change" in the UK's telecommunications sector from Three <u>CEO</u> Robert Finnegan.

Document ITREN00020220412ei4c00002



Vodafone Group and Sky Rumored to Acquire TalkTalk Telecom Group

157 words 12 April 2022 MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker FDTRA English © 2022, MarketLine. All rights reserved

Deal In Brief

According to Ispreview, sources reported that Vodafone Group PIc, a telecommunications company, and Sky Ltd, media and telecommunications conglomerate, are in talks to acquire Talktalk Telecom Group Ltd, a provider of fixed line voice and broadband telecommunications services. All entities are based in the UK. Reportedly, TalkTalk have appointed **investment** bank Lazard to review their options. TalkTalk is yet to receive a formal offer from either company.

Deal Type Acquisition
Sub-Category 100% Acquisition
Deal Status Rumour: 2022-04-08

Deal Participants

Target (Company)
Talktalk Telecom Group PLC
Acquirer 1 (Company) Sky plc
Acquirer 2 (Company) Vodafone Group PLC
Deal Rationale

% Acquisition 100%

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Document FDTRA00020220413ei4c000mh



Press Release

Vodafone Select Anodot For Faster Detection & Resolution Of Network Interruptions To Further Improve Customer Experience

Vodafone 540 words 12 April 2022 22:20 Scoop.co.nz SCCONZ English

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Vodafone New Zealand has selected Anodot, the autonomous business monitoring company, to transform network performance visibility to improve customer experience. Through advanced anomaly detection, Anodot will help Vodafone identify, diagnose, and resolve potential service interruptions that result in a loss of **connectivity**, ideally before customer service is impacted.

Vodafone operates approximately three million connections for consumer and business customers across Aotearoa New Zealand, with a mobile network that covers 98.5% of the country's population. On any given month, customers consume around 1.1 billion mobile and fixed line phone minutes, while using over 26PB (which is 26million GB) of mobile data and 166PB (which is 166million GB) of fixed line data.

Due to the vast amount of data Vodafone New Zealand must monitor and analyse to ensure service uptime, it uses Anodot's dynamic Al-driven monitoring technology to distill billions of data events into single, scored, network operations alerts. These high-fidelity alerts enable Vodafone New Zealand's network operations teams to immediately know when customer experience has begun to degrade and to quickly determine why it's happening, so incidents can be resolved with minimal impact to network and service uptime.

"We know how important reliable connectivity is to New Zealanders, so it's ideal if we can detect and resolve potential service issues wherever possible before our customers experience interruptions," said Tony Baird, Head of Wholesale & Infrastructure. Vodafone of New Zealand.

"Anodot's ability to analyse the high volumes of data that we generate daily allows us to identify in real-time the business-critical anomalies in our network, to enable our teams to maintain consistent operations in order to deliver an enhanced customer experience. While there will inevitably be unexpected weather occurrences or third-party connectivity issues such as power outages to cell sites or construction activity that damage underground cables, Anodot provides another layer of defence so we can better detect network occurrences and keep our customers connected wherever possible," continued Baird.

"Telco service providers like Vodafone New Zealand must generate and process a vast amount of data from multiple sources to ensure service uptime across their complex network environments," said Amir Kupervas, Telecom Managing Director, Anodot. "Anodot monitors granular performance and telemetry data in real-time across the entire telco stack from all network types, layers and domains, allowing communications service providers (CSPs) to understand what is happening across their networks. These capabilities will give Vodafone New Zealand full visibility into service degradation incidents and provide the swift time-to-resolution its customers require."

Anodot's easy-to-use anomaly detection technology combines performance and fault monitoring to give CSPs an end-to-end view for real-time detection of service-impacting incidents. Anodot immediately learns the normal behavior of all business metrics and constantly monitors each metric in real-time. Its correlation engine connects anomalies across all data stacks, identifies events and contributing factors, and slashes time to detection and remediation.

For more information on how Anodot network performance monitoring, please click here. For real time information about Vodafone's network and customer impacting events, please visit www.vodafone.co.nz/help/network-status/

Document SCCONZ0020220413ei4c0000e

Vodafone selects Anodot for faster detection and resolution of network interruptions to further improve customer experience

Vodafone 547 words 12 April 2022 21:28 Fuseworks Media FUSMED English Copyright 2022. Fuseworks Limited.

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Due to the vast amount of data Vodafone New Zealand must monitor and analyse to ensure service uptime, it uses Anodot's dynamic Al-driven monitoring technology to distill billions of data events into single, scored, network operations alerts. These high-fidelity alerts enable Vodafone New Zealand's network operations teams to immediately know when customer experience has begun to degrade and to quickly determine why it's happening, so incidents can be resolved with minimal impact to network and service uptime.

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Document FUSMED0020220412ei4c006v9



Vodafone Czechia reaches 300,000 TV subscribers, adds smart TV app

110 words
12 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Czech Republic announced that the customer base of its service Vodafone TV has exceeded 300,000 households. The service offers 145 TV channels, as well as VoD **content** and is now also available on a smart TV app.

The operator first launched the service two years ago. It's delivered over a set-top box, computer or mobile app. The new smart TV app works with most Android TVs of the past five years, running at least Android 5.0. The operator said it's also developing a version of the app for Samsung and LG smart TVs.

Document TELEUR0020220412ei4c000md



Vodafone Ukraine restores connection in 20 sites

80 words
12 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Ukraine has restored connection at 20 sites in the Kiev, Kherson and Chernigiv regions. The telecom **infrastructure** had been damaged during military actions.

The operator started providing free roaming services for UAH 38 million from 28 February. A monthly bundle of 400 MB and of 60 minutes of calls to Ukrainian and local networks are on offer in 27 states. A daily bundle of 100 MB is also available for accessing messengers.

Document TELEUR0020220412ei4c000gw



Vodafone Idea strengthens portfolio of digital content offerings with specially curated Bihu playlists

271 words
12 April 2022
Accord Fintech
HTACCF
English
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India, April 12 -- With the Assamese New Year around the corner, Vodafone Idea (Vi) has come up with something special to get customers into the festive spirit. Vi in **partnership** with Hungama Music, has curated special playlists of Assamese songs that herald the New Year. These playlists are available to all Vi customers on Hungama Music on the Vi App.

Vi offers 6 months premium subscription of Hungama Music at no extra cost with ad-free experience, unlimited downloads, endless playlists, podcasts, music videos, to all Vi users on Vi App. On the occasion of Bihu, Vi customers can access the Rongali Bihu playlists containing popular Assamese songs that have been put together for their listening pleasure.

Vi has been strengthening its portfolio of digital content offerings ranging from entertainment, health & fitness, education and skilling. The Hungama Premium subscription on the Vi App is for all customers, providing access to ad-free music in 20 languages, across genres from Hungama's huge library of millions of songs, besides unlimited downloads, music videos, latest Bollywood news, caller tunes, podcasts, etc.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220412ei4c000mr



Vodafone Spanish Network Sale Seen to Make Sense -- Market Talk

139 words
12 April 2022
10:16
Dow Jones Institutional News
DJDN
English
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0916 GMT - A sale of Vodafone Group's fixed **infrastructure** network in Spain makes sense, Citi says. A report in Spanish business newspaper Expansion said the FTSE 100 telco is looking for potential investors for at least part of the business. "A possible sale of the Spanish network may not be game changing for the group, but it should help to either reduce exposure by taking off more capital from Spain or reinvest in the business," Citi says. The development of a third fiber-to-the-home network looks sub-optimal, Citi says, instead suggesting bids from either Telefonica or Orange. Vodafone shares are down 0.5% at 130.18 pence. (kyle.morris@dowjones.com)

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

April 12, 2022 05:16 ET (09:16 GMT)

Document DJDN000020220412ei4c0018r



UK Market Talk Roundup: Shares Losing

293 words
12 April 2022
10:16
Dow Jones Institutional News
DJDN
English
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Stocks on the fall in the UK today. Compiled by Dow Jones Newswires Markets Desk, markets.eu@dowjones.com

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0836 GMT - Deliveroo's first-quarter update was disappointing, failing to buck market expectations, with total order growth of 18%, Jefferies says. The food-delivery company's 1% constant-currency growth in orders and gross transaction value in the U.K. and Ireland are indicative of tough competition and lower consumer appetite, the U.S. bank says. While Deliveroo's international markets prop up the group's growth, it isn't by much, Jefferies says. "We expect a neutral impact on the price today, as the stock is still too depressed for any further shocks," Jefferies says, retaining its buy rating on the stock with a 240-pence price target. Shares are down 2.4% at 106.85 pence. (joseph.hoppe@wsj.com)

Contact us in London. +44-20-7842-9288 Markettalk.eu@dowjones.com

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

April 12, 2022 05:16 ET (09:16 GMT)

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Vodafone New Zealand taps Anodot for detection, resolution of network interruptions

274 words
12 April 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English
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Vodafone New Zealand has selected autonomous business monitoring company Anodot to upgrade its network performance visibility. Through anomaly detection, Anodot is expected to help Vodafone identify, diagnose, and resolve potential service interruptions that result in a loss of **connectivity**, ideally before customer service is impacted.

Vodafone also reports it currently operates approximately 3 million connections for consumer and business customers across New Zealand, with a mobile network that covers 98.5 percent of the country's population. Vodafone customers use 1.1 billion mobile and fixed line phone minutes per month, as well as over 26 PB (26 million GB) of mobile data and 166 PB (166 million GB) of fixed line data.

Due to the amount of data Vodafone New Zealand must monitor and analyse to ensure service uptime, it now uses Anodot's dynamic Al-driven monitoring technology to distill billions of data events into single, scored, network operations alerts. Vodafone says these alerts enable its network operations teams to immediately know when customer experience has begun to degrade and to quickly determine why it's happening, so incidents can be resolved with minimal impact to network and service uptime.

Anodot's anomaly detection technology combines performance and fault monitoring to give CSPs a view for real-time detection of service-impacting incidents. The Anodot platform is designed to immediately learn the normal behavior of all business metrics and constantly monitor each metric in real-time. Its correlation engine is also designed to connect anomalies across all data stacks, identify events and contributing factors, and reduce time to detection and remediation.

Document TELASI0020220412ei4c0005m



Vodafone selects Anodot for faster detection and resolution of network interruptions to further improve customer experience

Anodot; Vodafone New Zealand; PR Newswire 815 words 12 April 2022 06:00 PR Newswire Europe TWOTEN English

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Anodot's Al- and ML-powered autonomous network and services monitoring platform will help optimise Vodafone New Zealand's network performance visibility to maximise service uptime

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About Vodafone New Zealand

Vodafone New Zealand is one of Aotearoa's leading connectivity companies and we offer a range of broadband, mobile and technology products. We believe every New Zealander will thrive with access to the world's best digital services and network technology. We maintain almost three million connections to consumer, business and public sector customers, as well as partner with world-leading brands to offer best-in-class ICT services to organisations in Aotearoa and beyond. Vodafone New Zealand is owned by Infratil and Brookfield Asset Management and we are now a partner market in the Vodafone Group, one of the world's largest telecommunications companies. For more information, please visit www.vodafone.co.nz

About Anodot

Anodot's Business Monitoring platform uses machine learning to constantly analyze and correlate every parameter of a business, providing real-time anomaly alerts and forecasts in context. Fortune 500 companies – from digital businesses to telecoms – trust Anodot's patented technology to reduce time to detection and resolution for revenue-critical issues by as much as 80 percent. Anodot is headquartered in Virginia and Israel, with sales offices worldwide. To learn more, follow Anodot on LinkedIn and Twitter.

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837 words 12 April 2022 06:00 PR Newswire PRN English

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SOURCE Anodot: Vodafone New Zealand

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Vodafone Romania launches Easter offers

146 words
11 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Romania has started an Easter promotional campaign during which it offers a discount on its Vodafone Maxim tariff plan, among other benefits. For EUR 7.90 per month, Vodafone mobile customers will receive the Vodafone Maxim package with maximum Net service (Net 500 or NET 1000, depending on the coverage), Vodafone TV, 206 television channels, Sport and 4K extra options included. The same package is available for EUR 9.90 per month for new customers who opt for the fixed services from Vodafone.

Fixed services customers who purchase a mobile service subscription will benefit from unlimited data traffic, at EUR 7.90 per month with the Red 12 subscription, and also from discounts on **devices**.

New mobile services customers will benefit from unlimited traffic for a year if they opt for the Red 12 subscription, reduced to EUR 9.90 per month.

Document TELEUR0020220411ei4b000gr



Vodafone Spain considers sale of fixed network - report

113 words
11 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Spain is looking for potential investors in its fixed network, Expansion reports citing people familiar with the process. The operator may hire an **investment** bank to assess interest in a total or partial sale of the cable network, which counts around 7.5 million premises passed.

According to the report, the company could use the cash from investors in the fixed network to expand its FTTH footprint, which counts around 3 million lines, or 5G coverage. The money could also go to upgrading the hybrid fibre cable network to full fibre, without having to take out additional debt or financing from the parent company.

Document TELEUR0020220411ei4b000gq

SeeNews

UK telecom TalkTalk considers options after suitors express interest - report

139 words
11 April 2022
17:44
SeeNews Deals
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English
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April 11 (SeeNews) - British telecoms company TalkTalk has appointed Lazard to help it consider its options after receiving approaches from a number of potential suitors, the Financial Times reported on Friday, citing people in the know.

The appointment of the **investment** bank was said to come after Vodafone and other groups approached TalkTalk, which hedge fundToscafund Asset Management LLP and peer Penta Capital took private in December 2020. The deal valued the telecom at GBP 2 billion (USD 2.6bn/EUR 2.4bn) including debt.

Vodafone has considered a deal for TalkTalk in the past but the value of the company posed some questions, people familiar with the matter told the newspaper.

None of the mentioned parties provided a comment for FT.

(GBP 1 = USD 1.303/EUR 1.200)

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Vodacom hands over 257 new cold chain units for vaccine storage to Western Cape health dept

112 words
11 April 2022
Telecompaper Africa
TELAFR
English
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Vodacom South Africa and the Western Cape Department of Health have announced the distribution of 257 new cold chain units worth ZAR 3.6 million across the province for Covid-19 vaccine storage. They consist of six vaccine freezers, 40 ice-lined vaccine fridges, 80 cooler boxes, 125 electronic temperature loggers, two remote temperature devices and four remote probes. The equipment is being distributed to 51 sites in all six districts, namely Cape Town Metro Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Central Karoo District Municipality, Garden Route District Municipality, Overberg District Municipality and West Coast District Municipality.

Document TELAFR0020220411ei4b000b6



Vodafone, Sky consider potential offers for TalkTalk - report

101 words
10 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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TalkTalk has appointed **investment** bank Lazard to review its options after receiving tentative approaches about a sale of the company, reports Sky News. Vodafone is considering making a potential offer for TalkTak, with Sky also understood to be examining whether to submit a bid.

TalkTalk founder and chairman Sir Charles Dunstone and Toscafund believe the company is now worth at least GBP 3 billion, according to unnamed telecoms industry sources. The sources stressed that no formal offers have yet been received by TalkTalk, and there was no certainty that any bids would be submitted.

Document TELEUR0020220410ei4a00008



Hindustan Times, Business_V2 **DoT gives bank guarantees back to Airtel and Voda Idea**

Gulveen Aulakh 338 words 9 April 2022 Hindustan Times HNTM English

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New Delhi, April 9 -- The government has returned bank guarantees of nearly Rs.23,000 crore to Bharti Airtel Ltd and Vodafone Idea Ltd, two people familiar with the matter said, offering a major relief to the telecom operators.

In an affidavit in the Supreme Court, the department of telecommunications (DoT) said it returned the bank guarantees as the carriers opted for a moratorium on spectrum auction instalments and no such instalment payments were due until the moratorium period ends in 2025. Vodafone Idea will gain the most from the government decision as it has been seeking a return of the bank guarantees, which would help pare its debt by Rs.15,000 crore. The debt reduction process will be aided further by converting interest on the dues-from adjusted gross revenue and spectrum payments amounting to Rs.16,000 crore-into equity to be held by the government. Vodafone Idea's debt pile is at Rs.1.9 trillion.

Vodafone Idea recently received an infusion of Rs.4,500 crore from its promoters, Vodafone Group Plc and Aditya Birla Group. The telco is also in talks with investors to raise an additional Rs.10,000 crore through equity or debt, funds that will be critical to purchase 5G airwaves in upcoming spectrum auctions amid intense competition from larger rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel. According to a person familiar with the matter, bank guarantees of about Rs.7,000-8,000 crore have been returned to Airtel.

DoT told the top court that the telcos were directed to submit bank guarantees equal to the next payable instalment, including the part of the deferred amount due with the instalment, 13 months before the next due date after the moratorium period ends.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Market Wrap - Street Talk Ontario Teachers, NZ Super to tag team for Vodafone towers

Anthony Macdonald, Sarah Thompson and Kanika Sood 321 words 8 April 2022 The Australian Financial Review AFNR First 16 English

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Street Talk

As Vodafone's NZ towers auction springs into action, interested bidders are starting to look around for partners for the Kiwi telco **infrastructure** asset.

Street Talk understands Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is weighing a joint bid with NZ Super, in a consortium advised by Bank of America.

Ontario Teachers' is familiar with the ins and outs of Australia and New Zealand infrastructure assets. Last year, the Canadian pension fund missed out on a stake in Australian Tower Network (the Optus towers portfolio), in an auction run by its now adviser Bank of America.

The heavyweight pairing lines up as sale advisers UBS and Barrenjoey mailed out information memorandums this week.

There's understood to be no shortage of tyrekickers willing to take a look, however it remains to be seen on who will opt to swing hard across the Tasman.

Ontario Teachers' emergence is somewhat of a surprise. Bankers had been chasing Australia's mid-market infrastructure set for mandates - Igneo Infrastructure Partners (nee First Sentier), which has a bunch of NZ assets, Infrastructure Capital Group (ICG), Palisade Investment Partners, and the like - almost forgetting that Ontario Teachers' had been sniffing around local telco networks last year.

The underbidders to last week's Axicom deal, OMERS and DigitalBridge, are expected to at least take a look, along with fibre owner Chorus. Vodafone NZ's decision to spin out its mobile telecommunication towers was first announced earlier this month, and followed Telstra and Optus' decisions to go down the same path in Australia.

At an estimated \$NZ51 million (\$47.4 million) EBITDA for the 2023 financial year, owners Brookfield and Morrison & Co would be expecting a \$1 billion odd sale. Morrison is expected to seek to retain a 15 per cent to 25 per cent stake in the new TowerCo.

Document AFNR000020220410ei480000f



Business

Vodafone eyes £3bn telecoms mega merger: TalkTalk is back on the block only a year after being bought

Calum Muirhead For The Daily Mail 652 words 8 April 2022 23:30 Mail Online DAMONL English Copyright 2022

- * Move takes place year after TalkTalk was taken private in £2bn deal
- * Talk Talk's adviser, investment bank Lazard, is fielding approaches
- * Aside from Vodafone, another possible buyer is understood to be Sky

Vodafone is circling rival TalkTalk over a possible megamerger that would create waves across the telecoms sector.

The owners of TalkTalk, one of the UK's biggest broadband providers, have hired bankers to sound out a possible sale that values the company at £3billion.

A tie-up between the two would be the latest blockbuster merger attempt this year, coming nearly three months after it was revealed that Unilever had tried to buy GlaxoSmithKline's consumer healthcare division.

The move takes place one year after TalkTalk was taken private in a £2billion deal spearheaded by hedge fund Toscafund, run by pro-Brexit Tory donor Martin Hughes.

TalkTalk had previously been listed on the FTSE 250.

Hughes is known as 'the Rottweiler' in City circles because of his aggressive style when agitating for change at firms he invests in.

Talk Talk's long-time adviser, investment bank Lazard, is fielding approaches and searching for potential buyers although no formal offers have yet been received, according to Sky News.

Aside from Vodafone, another possible buyer is understood to be Sky, which is owned by US media giant Comcast. TalkTalk and Vodafone declined to comment. TalkTalk has around 4.2m customers and 2.4m fibre broadband connections across the UK as well as a pay-TV service that includes channels from both Sky and BT Sport.

The firm was co-founded in 2003 by Sir Charles Dunstone and was originally part of retail chain Carphone Warehouse before being demerged in 2010 to become a standalone company.

TalkTalk has been a lucrative business for the 57-year old, who according to Forbes has a fortune totalling around £769m.

He took over as chairman in 2017 after then-chief executive Dido Harding resigned following a massive cyber-attack that affected tens of thousands of its customers.

She would later go on to run the Government's Covid-19 Test and Trace scheme before leaving in April amid heavy criticism.

The firm's current chief executive is Tristia Harrison, who is married to former Carphone Warehouse chief executive Andrew Harrison.

An acquisition of Talk Talk would give the buyer a substantial boost in the ongoing battle to grab market share of the rapidly expanding ultra-fast internet market. It also marks the latest step in a drive to consolidate the telecoms sector, which has suffered from declining value in recent years. Some in the industry have said it is suffering from excess competition as larger players and smaller rivals fight over customers, forcing down prices and holding back investment in the UK's digital infrastructure.

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Vodafone is under pressure from Cevian Capital, one of Europe's biggest activist investors, which earlier this year revealed it had bought a stake in the group and has since been pushing for an overhaul of the business.

However, some in the City thought a Vodafone swoop on TalkTalk could prompt a backlash from investors.

'If Vodafone does go ahead with an acquisition, a lot of people would ask why they didn't do this the last time TalkTalk was up for sale,' said Carl Murdock-Smith, telecoms analyst at investment bank Berenberg.

He added that while TalkTalk was small compared to Vodafone, which has a market cap of nearly £36billion, any acquisition would likely be received 'poorly' by its shareholders.

'Investors are looking for Vodafone to either do disposals or mergers, not acquisitions of low-quality operators,' MurdockSmith said.

Others are worried that a tie-up could draw scrutiny from competition regulators. Vodafone shares rose 0.7 per cent, or 0.84p, to 127.68p.

Document DAMONL0020220408ei4800870



Sky and Vodafone among those interested in buying TalkTalk

by Harry Baldock, Total Telecom 321 words 8 April 2022 Total Telecom Plus TOTEL English

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Consolidation of the UK broadband market has been a hot topic in recent months, with supporters claiming that the large number of players is leading to inefficient **investment**

According to reports, Sky and Vodafone are among a number of suitors having approached UK broadband ISP TalkTalk regarding a potential acquisition.

The reports note that TalkTalk have appointed investment bank Lazard to review their options.

TalkTalk was taken private in a £1.1 billion purchase by Toscafund back in 2020, valuing the business at around £2 billion. Since then, despite difficult years during the pandemic, the company has seemingly grown in value, with TalkTalk founder and chairman Charles Dunstone reportedly suggesting that the business is now worth "at least"£3 billion.

In 2021, TalkTalk reported having around 4 million broadband subscribers.

Vodafone has long been interested in purchasing TalkTalk, with discussions having taken place numerous times over the past couple of years but always fizzling out for unknown reasons. Vodafone itself has just under a million broadband subscribers, so the addition of TalkTalk's subscriber baser would see their position in the fixed market hugely enhanced.

Sky, meanwhile, already has roughly 6.7 million broadband customers, but this does not mean their acquisition of TalkTalk would be any less ground-breaking. The move would immediately make them the UK's largest broadband provider, exceeding current market leader BT's tally of roughly 9.2 million subscribers as of January 2022.

TalkTalk has yet to receive a formal offer from either company.

How would the acquisition of TalkTalk reshare the UK's connectivity landscape? Find out from the experts at this year's live Connected Britain conference

Also in the news: The Greater Manchester Authority talks digital investment at Connected North 2022TIM refuses to let KKR look at its booksSpectrum Coordination Act set to smooth collaboration between FCC and NTIA

513013

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BUSINESS

Vodafone and Salvamont launch two state-of-the-art search and rescue technologies powered by GigaNetwork

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English
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Vodafone Romania and Salvamont (Mountain Rescuers Association) strengthen their technological partnership and launch two digital solutions that, together with the power and the reliability of the recently rebranded Vodafone GigaNetwork, help to significantly reduce the time needed to search for victims and save more lives. When the path goes unseen, the mountain rescuers rely on Vodafone GigaNetwork 5G and

GigaNetwork FIBER.

The first solution is developed for the first time by Vodafone Romania's technology team and provides mobile signal coverage in hard-to-reach mountain areas surrounded by rocky walls that block the propagation of mobile signal generated by the current terrestrial telecommunication towers. The solution consists of a ground-based equipment installed on a mean of transportation specific to these areas that connects via satellite to the centre of the Vodafone network and a radio equipment fitted on a professional drone that is raised in the air above the search areas. The radio equipment installed on the drone generates mobile signal (voice and data), including 5G, within a radius of up to 10km. The mobile phone of the searched person automatically connects to the Vodafone network, so that the victim can contact the unique 112 emergency service, regardless of the operator whose services he or she uses. Moreover, if the victim uses the Salvamont-Vodafone app and has activated its location function via mobile data before starting the route, the mountain rescue team will be able to track his or her route on the mountain and locate the missing person faster.

The second solution uses photogrammetry and Artificial Intelligence to capture and analyse geolocated images, collected for automatic detection of missing victims. Capturing high-resolution images in the search area is done by a second professional drone, equipped with the necessary technology for photogrammetry and thermal imaging. Thus, in just 30 minutes, the drone can travel for up to 5 linear km and can cover an area of 24 hectares, taking between 130 and 300 images, depending on the flight parameters and the resolution of the camera. After download, the photos are sent to be processed, through the dedicated network generated for the rescue mission, to the Salvamont-Vodafone National Data Analysis Centre. In the centre connected to GigaNetwork FIBER, the data is analysed and processed in a few minutes (approx. 100 photos in 2 minutes) by the artificial intelligence automatic detection program SARUAV. The system identifies a series of clues such as a person's figure or coat, and the command centre team sends the exact coordinates where they were spotted to the mountain rescuers. For more information about how these two solutions work, but also about how a mountain rescue action is carried out, watch this documentary.

"The project we launched today demonstrates once again that technology and the human spirit brought together can have a huge impact. When it comes to saving lives, technology can be the decisive factor in interventions where search time can be crucial. By supporting Salvamont with these two digital solutions, one of them being developed in-house, from scratch, by the Vodafone technology team, we strengthen the role of technological partner that we took on and reconfirm the reliability of our GigaNetwork FIBER and GigaNetwork 5G the Salvamont command centres rely on. The fact that mountain rescuers rely on our networks each moment in their missions when they often endanger their own lives to save other lives, for us, is the most important recognition for our networks reliability and performance", said Cătălin Buliga, Chief Network Officer Vodafone Romania and Head of Networks Development for Europe Cluster Markets.

10 times higher search capacity

"Each year, the number of rescue missions increases by 30-40%. Only last year, we had over 7,000 missions and more than 8,500 rescued people. In such interventions, time is the most important element. We have well-trained human resource, but there are situations when more is needed. Using the solutions launched today and having a command centre equipped with state-of-the-art technology which is connected to Vodafone's fibre optic network, we practically increase the search capacity by almost 10 times, which means more lives saved, but also an intervention time, risks and effort considerably reduced for mountain rescuers. We rely on Vodafone's network on this project and its expertise as a technological partner, as well as on Gorj

County Council", added Prof. Sabin Cornoiu, President of the National Association of Mountain Rescuers in Romania.

From Supernet to GigaNetwork

"We have chosen this moment to announce the transition from Supernet to Vodafone GigaNetwork, which comes naturally with our evolution to a technology company, the new role as a convergent player on the market and following continuous investment in our network. The consolidation and expansion of our partnership with Salvamont confirms our network reliability on which the mountain rescuers rely at key moments in their operations. If Salvamont counts on the reliability of our networks to save lives, we can all count on Vodafone's mobile and fixed networks. Moreover, the rebranding comes at a moment of double recognition of our networks by German auditor umlaut – "Best in Test" mobile network and "best experience of using the fixed internet", said Nedim Baytorun, Consumer Business Director, Vodafone Romania.

Vodafone GigaNetwork was certified as "Best in test" mobile network in Romania, in March 2022, by the independent German auditor umlaut, with a total score of 922 points, 25 more than the next ranking operator and the highest umlaut score for the past six years. Thus, Vodafone GigaNetwork was ranked as the best mobile data and voice network nationwide, with the highest total score, the highest score for mobile voice services, the highest score for mobile data services, the highest score for urban areas and the highest score for the reliability of mobile networks. Vodafone GigaNetwork FIBER was already certified by the same German auditor in August 2021 for the best experience of using the fixed internet in Romania, being the first such certification conferred by the umlaut auditor to a fixed internet network operator in our country.

Vodafone Romania has supported Salvamont's rescue missions since 2004. Among the first projects in which it was involved, together with the Vodafone Foundation, were the establishment of the National Dispatch Office and the implementation of the Salvamont app, essential for mountain rescue operations. Currently, the dispatchers receive over 12,000 calls a year, and for over 50% of them rescue team intervention is required. The Salvamont-Vodafone app, available since last year in a new version for both iOS and Android, offers, alongside a complete information and mountain orientation guide, the SOS option, through which users can activate the location service of the phone and the dispatcher can be notified in real time about their coordinates.

Starting 2019, Vodafone has officially become the technological partner of Salvamont, getting involved especially in projects that use digital solutions dedicated to the mountain rescue activity. One of the most recent collaborations was to equip Salvamont with tools for finding people caught in the avalanche. The RECCO system consists of a locating device used by mountain rescuers and reflectors that tourists can carry in their equipment.

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Vodafone Germany partners Deutsche Bahn to close mobile gaps on rail routes

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Vodafone Germany has signed an agreement with railway company Deutsche Bahn to close the remaining gaps in the mobile network on rail routes throughout Germany. Vodafone will supply 7,800 km of main rail routes of ICE and IC trains with bandwidths of 225 Mbps over LTE by mid-2025. Vodafone will supply bandwidths of 125 Mbps on 13,800 km of train routes, carrying more than 2000 passengers per day, by summer 2025.

The company will set up a further 160 mobile sites. Vodafone will also activate its 5G+ network extensively on ICE train routes by 2025. Deutsche Bahn will make fibre infrastructure available to Vodafone along the rail routes to a greater extent than before and will offer services related to planning, approval and construction processes.

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Vodafone Portugal launches Vodafone Power Lab competition

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Vodafone Portugal, through the Vodafone Power Lab, has launched a competition to select the best tech start-ups. The "Get in the Ring" initiative will take the selected projects into a real boxing ring to showcase their solutions, competing against each other and vying for the title of winner. The competition will also offer participants online training sessions and workshops with partner organizations. Applications are open and will run until 29 April, with winners able to receive up to EUR 20,000.

The event is organized by the Building Global Innovators (BGI) in **partnership** with EIT Urban Mobility and the Lisbon City Council, through the Made of Lisbon **platform**.

Document TELEUR0020220408ei48000jp



MasMovil-Orange merger to bring great opportunities for Vodafone Spain, CEO says

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Colman Deegan, CEO of UK telco Vodafone's Spanish subsidiary, stated on Wednesday that the possible merger between its competitors MasMovil and Orange will bring great opportunities to the company he heads.

Deegan said that in many European markets, the third operator is the fastest-growing and has the best returns on **investment**.

The executive stressed that previous periods of consolidation were positive for the Spanish market.

Abstracted from an original article in Cinco Dias (Vodafone afirma que la fusión de Orange y MásMóvil traerá grandes oportunidades).

Document SPACOL0020220408ei48001gt



MINT, Companies Returned bank guarantees to Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel: DoT tells SC

Gulveen Aulakh 391 words 8 April 2022 Mint HNMINT English

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New Delhi, April 8 -- The department of telecommunications (DoT) has returned bank guarantees (BGs) to Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, according to an affidavit filed by the department in the Supreme Court. The bank guarantees amount to nearly Rs.23,000 crore.

The department told the apex court that the BGs have been returned since the carriers had opted for a moratorium on spectrum auction installments and no such installment **payments** were due till post the moratorium period ends in 2025.

The move will come as a major relief to debt-laden Vodafone Idea which has been seeking return of the BGs from the government. This will help it lower its debt by a massive Rs.15,000 crore. The reduction in debt will further be helped by the conversion of interest on the dues - from adjusted gross revenue and spectrum payments amounting to Rs.16,000 crore - into equity to be held by the Indian government. Vodafone Idea's total debt pile is nearly Rs.1.9 trillion.

According to sources, bank guarantees of about Rs.7,000- Rs.8,000 crore have been returned to Airtel.

"Pursuant to the Cabinet decision and in the view of the fact that VIL and BAL had opted for such moratorium on spectrum auction installments and no installment due necessitating security in the form of financial BGs till 13 months before the next payable instalment post moratorium period, DoT has returned the existing bank guarantees submitted by VIL and BAL, which were for securitizing the deferred annual spectrum installments in respect of the past auctions," the affidavit submitted by the DoT in the Supreme Court said. Mint has seen a copy.

The payments were due for auctions held in 2012,2014, 2015 and 2016.

The DoT told the Court that the telcos have been directed to submit FBGs of equal to next payable installment, including the part of the deferred amount due with the installment, 13 months before the next due date after the moratorium period.

Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea did not comment on the development as of Friday afternoon.

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Vodacom expands m-mama mobile maternity transport app across Tanzania

by Harry Baldock, Total Telecom 639 words 7 April 2022 Total Telecom Plus TOTEL English

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The app will see network of local taxi drivers act as 'taxi ambulances' when pregnant women need emergency transport to hospital

Vodacom's m-mama mobile service, developed by the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and the Vodafone Foundation, is set to be scaled up to cover over half of Tanzania using a \$10 million **investment** over the next six years.

The m-mama programme aims to help pregnant women received vital medical assistance as quickly as possible, especially in rural areas where ambulances are rarely available. To do this, the m-mama app creates a network of local taxi drivers, each ready to transport a pregnant woman to the nearest medical facility during an emergency. When needed, the patient makes a free call to a 24/7 dispatch centre, which then uses the app to alert the nearest driver and direct them to the patient's location.

Upon delivery to the medical centre, the driver is paid immediately for the journey via Vodacom's mobile money transfer system, M-Pesa.

Piloted in six regions by Vodacom alongside the Tanzanian government since 2013, m-mama has been proving its effectiveness for over almost a decade; between 2013 and 2022, the programme reached 10,455 women and 2,200 new-borns, with over 200 drivers registered and trained as community taxis. In the Shinyanga region, m-mama has contributed to a reduction 38% in maternal deaths and 45% in perinatal deaths.

Now, with a pledge of an additional \$10 million in fresh investment from the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and the Vodafone Foundation over the next six years, the m-mama programme is set to be expanded to roughly half of Tanzania.

"Too many pregnant women, women in childbirth and new-borns die each year form largely preventable causes," said Vodacom Tanzania's Managing Director, Sitholizwe Mdlalose. "For nine years, we have been working with the Government to develop a practical, sustainable and scalable solution to reduce maternal and new-born deaths in the country. We have built a system that strengthens health care delivery and connects the community and lower-level health facilities to responsive emergency transport."

Starting from 2022, the programme expects to transport over 300,000 women, certify over 1,400 community drivers, and ultimately save more than 9,000 lives. If the programme proves successful, it is hoped that m-mama will be introduced to neighbouring African countries.

Tanzania's president Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was present at the app's wider launch in the capital Dodoma, said m-mama would "definitely save the lives of rural maternal mothers and newborn children".

"For effective and efficiency service delivery, we must embrace digital technology and such innovations are what we should advocate for under the Public, Private Partnership," said Suluhu, who noted that a new law would be drafted to ensure that user data would be protected.

In the longer term, it is hoped that m-mama will be integrated it into the national healthcare system by 2027.

While maternal mortality in Tanzania – and indeed all of Sub-Saharan Africa – has been improving in the past decade, it still remains an enormous challenge for national healthcare systems. In 2017, Tanzania's maternal mortality rate was recorded as 524 per 100,000 live births, roughly 1 in every 200 cases. By contrast, in more developed countries like the UK and Germany, this rate was just 7 per 100,000.

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importance of regional expansionTIM starts formal talks with CDP for building Italian single networkConnecting Germany: Building the fibre that underpins 5G

513003

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ontario Teachers, NZ Super to tag-team for Vodafone NZ towers

Anthony Macdonald, Sarah Thompson and Kanika Sood 316 words 7 April 2022 12:33 AFR Online AFNROL English

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As Vodafone's NZ towers auction springs into action, interested bidders are starting to look around for partners for the Kiwi telco **infrastructure** asset.

Street Talk understands Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan is weighing a joint bid with NZ Super, in a consortium advised by Bank of America.

Ontario Teachers is familiar with the ins and outs of Australia and New Zealand infrastructure assets. Last year, the Canadian pension fund missed out on a stake in Australian Tower Network (the Optus towers portfolio), in an auction run by its now adviser Bank of America.

The heavyweight pairing lines up as sale advisers UBS and Barrenjoey mailed out information memorandums this week.

There's understood to be no shortage of tyrekickers willing to take a look, but it remains to be seen who will opt to swing hard across the Tasman.

Ontario Teachers' emergence is somewhat of a surprise. Bankers had been chasing Australia's mid-market infrastructure set for mandates - Igneo Infrastructure Partners (nee First Sentier), which has a bunch of NZ assets, Infrastructure Capital Group (ICG), Palisade Investment Partners, and the like - almost forgetting that Ontario Teachers' had been sniffing around local telco networks last year.

The <u>underbidders to last week's Axicom deal</u>, OMERS and DigitalBridge, are expected to at least take a look, along with fibre owner Chorus.

Vodafone NZ's decision to spin out its mobile telecommunication towers was first announced earlier this month, and followed Telstra and Optus' decisions to go down the same path in Australia.

At an estimated \$NZ51 million (\$47.4 million) EBITDA for the 2023 financial year, owners Brookfield and Morrison & Co would be expecting a \$1 billion odd sale. Morrison is expected to seek to retain a 15 per cent to 25 per cent stake in the new TowerCo.

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National Rostam Aziz is the new owner of Tigo, Zantel

Josephine Christopher 552 words 7 April 2022 The Citizen CITTAN English

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Dar es Salaam. Almost two years since selling his shares in Vodacom Tanzania, tycoon Rostam Aziz has now set his foot on Tigo and Zantel.

Axian Group of Madagascar said in a statement yesterday that in **partnership** with Mr Aziz, it has closed the acquisition of Tigo and Zantel in Tanzania.

Prior to the \$100 million deal, Tigo and Zantel were owned by the Nasdaq (New York City) and Stockholm (Sweden) listed telecom firm, Millicom International Cellular S.A. (Millicom).

"The consortium led by Axian Telecom and Mr Rostam Aziz announced today it has closed the acquisition of Millicom's merged entity MIC Tanzania Public Limited Company (Tigo and Zantel) in the United Republic of Tanzania. The transaction brings approximately 14 million mobile customers to Axian Telecom and accelerates the development of the group in Africa which now operates in eight markets," the statement reads.

In September 2019, Rostam Aziz earned Sh499.8 billion after selling his 26.25 percent stake - which was held in form of 588 million shares under 'Mirambo Holdings' - in Vodacom Tanzania Plc – through the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday.

In 2014, Aziz sold off a 17.2 percent stake in Vodacom Tanzania to Vodacom South Africa for a reported \$240 million. At the time, Aziz held the shares via Cavalry Holdings, a Jersey island-registered private investment company.

In its statement, Axian Group quotes its chairman, Hassanein Hiridjee as saying that the company would accelerate the digital inclusion and open access to innovative services for clients while supporting economic growth.

"We're delighted to start this exciting journey with our colleagues here and I believe together we will achieve great things and contribute to shaping the digital future of the country. We express our gratitude to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for helping us bring this transaction home, and look forward to continuing to work alongside them," he said.

The statement quotes the incoming chairman of Mic Tanzania Plc, Mr Aziz as saying that when he began the telecoms adventure more than twenty years ago, the issue was connectivity.

"We were pioneers in building mobile coverage, especially in rural areas, that so many of my fellow Tanzanians now enjoy. Looking forward together with Axian Telecom, we will push the boundaries of digital inclusion while zooming in on specific customer solutions for Tanzanian people and businesses,"

The consortium by Axian Telecom and Mr Rostam Aziz has promised to support the country's digital transformation and its access to submarine cables to enable faster connections.

Other plans is to provide affordable services, using international experience to provide world-class mobile financial services and develop and nurture local talents

Support the digital transformation of the country with the deployment of cutting-edge technologies and services benefiting Tanzanian consumers and businesses alike.

The deal includes strategic ownership in the EASSy cable landing station in Dar es Salaam and a consortium network with over 3,200km of backbone and over 600km of metro fibre.

The Axian-led alliance said it plans "to significantly increase the coverage of Tigo Tanzania and Zantel, especially for 4G network" and to "extend access to affordable mobile services and accelerate digitalisation in the territory".

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National **How e-platform will save lives of mothers**

Gadiosa Lamtey 537 words 7 April 2022 The Citizen CITTAN English

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Dar es Salaam. President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday launched a system dubbed "M-Mama" that uses a mobile **platform** to connect pregnant women in rural areas to emergency transport in an effort to reduce maternal deaths.

Funded by Vodacom Tanzania in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the **platform** was introduced as a pilot in Shinyanga and Sengerema in 2017 where it helped a total of 12,000 mothers and children and reduced deaths caused by lack of emergency transport.

Speaking during the launch in Dodoma yesterday, President Hassan said the platform was complimenting a 2017 government campaign known as "Jiongeze Tuwavushe Salama" which focused on a similar issue of reducing maternal deaths.

"The comfort I have today is to see this system we are launching today has gone to pilot and has produced positive results to save the lives of pregnant women and their babies, but also I heard processes are underway under the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Vodacom to design a system that will track drugs from the manufacturer to the end users." she said.

The Heald of State said after the official launch the service would now be rolled out in 14 regions under Vodacom funding. Ms Hassan added that in Africa there were challenges and shortcomings in the health sector which are related to quality of availability of services and to manage so dealing with it there is a need for public private partnership like what has been done by Vodacom.

However, to support what has been done by the telco, Ms Hassan said the government has bought 233 ordinary ambulances that are expected to be deployed across Tanzania while another 25 with referral status are also expected to arrive.

In his remarks Vodacom Tanzania managing director Sitholizwe Mdlalose said: "The pilot phase of the M-Mama programme, we managed to serve almost 10,500 women and 2,300 new-borns. We registered 200 drivers and gave entrepreneurial training to 100 in the Sengerema District in Mwanza and Shinyanga. Childbirth is a joyous occasion as per many African traditions. It is a cause for celebration. No woman should have to give up her life to bring in the next generation. We can do better," he added.

Speaking at the event, Health minister Ummy Mwalimu said pregnant women who deliver in health centers have reached 84 percent after improving the health sector.

"We expect to receive \$200 million from the World Bank to ensure the M-Mama system spreads to the remaining regions and Zanzibar."

Ms Mwalimu said the ministry in collaboration with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in October this year will launch results of a Health Demographic Survey that shows maternal deaths declined to around 5,000 cases from 11,000 cases that were recorded in 2015-2016.

Information, Communications and Informational Technology minister Nape Nnauye said Vodacom introduced a system that helps women to get information. This is due to investment in ICT. There are a large number of innovations which have been created in the country. "In short the ministry will strengthen the national broadband network so that the M-mama can reach in many areas."

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Vodafone Romania develops new search and rescue technologies with Salvamont

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Vodafone Romania and Salvamont (Mountain Rescuers Association) strengthened their technological **partnership** and launched two new services based on the Vodafone network that are designed to significantly reduce the time needed to search for victims and save more lives.

The first platform was created for the first time by Vodafone Romania's technology team and provides mobile signal coverage in hard-to-reach mountain areas surrounded by rocky walls that block the propagation of mobile signals generated by the existing terrestrial telecommunication towers. The platform consists of ground-based equipment installed on vehicle specific to these areas, that connects via satellite to the Vodafone network and radio equipment fitted on a professional drone in the air above the search areas. The radio on the drone generates a mobile signal (voice and data), including 5G, within a radius of up to 10km. The mobile phone of the searched person automatically connects to the Vodafone network, so that the victim can contact the 112 emergency service, regardless of the operator whose services he or she uses. Moreover, if the victim uses the Salvamont-Vodafone app and has activated its location function via mobile data before starting the route, the mountain rescue team will be able to track his or her route on the mountain and locate the missing person faster.

The second platform uses photogrammetry and artificial intelligence to capture and analyse geolocated images, collected for automatic detection of missing victims. Capturing high-resolution images in the search area is done by a second professional drone, equipped with the necessary technology for photogrammetry and thermal imaging. In just 30 minutes, the drone can travel up to 5 km and can cover an area of 24 hectares, taking between 130 and 300 images, depending on the flight parameters and the resolution of the camera. After download, the photos are sent to be processed, through the dedicated network generated for the rescue mission, to the Salvamont-Vodafone National Data Analysis Centre. In the centre connected to Vodafone's fibre network, the data is analysed and processed in a few minutes (approximately 100 photos in 2 minutes) by the artificial intelligence automatic detection programme Saruav. The system identifies a series of clues such as a person's figure or coat, and the command centre team sends the exact coordinates where they were spotted to the mountain rescuers.

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Vodafone Portugal adopts holograms for business marketing

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Vodafone Portugal's demo centre in Lisbon will start using holograms from May to demonstrate business solutions from its corporate portfolio, reports Dinheiro Vivo. Currently in the prototype phase, the initiative is based on Microsoft's HoloLens mixed reality glasses. The aim is to transport customers to an immersive environment that allows them to visualize the features of the product in question.

The company expects the **platform** will help streamline presentations which, in the traditional format, are boring and repetitive, based on control panels and **platform** management. Vodafone Portugal's corporate portfolio consists of fifteen vertical solutions.

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Vodacom, Vodafone to invest USD 10 mln to expand 'm-mama' service in Tanzania

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The mobile 'm-mama' service developed by the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation and Vodafone Foundation that provides emergency transport for pregnant and postpartum women will be scaled up from one Tanzanian region to cover more than 50 percent of the national population across fifteen regions, Vodafone announced. The expanded m-mama programme in Tanzania is expected to transport more than 300,000 women, empower more than 1,400 community transport drivers and could save more than 9,000 lives.

The programme has been developed by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, Vodafone Foundation and the government of Tanzania. Both foundations have committed to invest USD 10 million over six years to roll out the programme, guided by a steering committee from Tanzania's Ministry of Health and public health delivery agency PO-RALG. Over the next six years the government will increase its **funding** and the programme will be fully integrated into the healthcare system by 2027.

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Vodafone Idea inks pact with Apna, Enguru, Pariksha to enhance engagement with job aspirants

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India, April 7 -- Vodafone Idea (Vi) has entered into **partnership** with job **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and government exam preparatory **platform** Pariksha to enhance engagement with users, specially the job aspirants, and reduce customer churn on the network.

Under the partnership with Apna, Vi customers will not pay any fee for accessing services and they will get higher visibility for jobs compared to other aspirants. The Vi will provide 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts on the English learning platform 'enguru'. Thereafter, learners can continue on the platform at 15-25 per cent discounted price after the trial period. Under the arrangement with Pariksha, Vi Jobs & Education will offer the aspirants of central and state government jobs, one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This will also include unlimited mock tests across more than 150 exams and post free period, users can continue at a subscription fee of Rs 249 per year.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Vodacom South Africa offers Linea emergency contact watch

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7 April 2022
Telecompaper Africa
TELAFR
English
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Vodacom South Africa has introduced Linea, a watch that enables customers to obtain assistance if needed. Linea is available online and in store and retails for ZAR 499, with no monthly **payments** to access the service. The watch has been launched under the "Connected by Vodacom" range and has a panic button that sends an SMS to five pre-determined trusted contacts with 30-minute live monitoring.

When the SOS button is pressed, contacts immediately receive an alert via SMS, with a date, time and live GPS location link to a map to click on. The Linea has a 48-72 hour battery life, It comes with an embedded Vodacom Smart SIM. Once the watch is switched on, the user connects it to the Linea+ app, which is downloadable from the Android Google Play Store and iOS Apple Stores. They can then add and link their trusted contacts.

Document TELAFR0020220407ei470002u

Mobile phone operator launches 5G network in Watford and Rickmansworth

Nathan Louis
261 words
7 April 2022
Watford Observer
NQTJ
English
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People living in Watford and Rickmansworth can now enjoy improved mobile **connectivity** after a provider switched on its 5G network in the area.

The new data is part of a Vodafone network modernisation programme to improve 4G and 5G experience for all its customers.

This programme will see Vodafone retiring its 3G network in 2023 and replacing coverage with strengthened 4G and 5G services, meaning customers across more parts of our area can access more reliable connectivity through the Vodafone network.

Vodafone says its 5G network will allow much higher download and upload speeds and superfast connection times

It is the latest in a number of operators providing 5G access in Watford such as EE and Three.

Vodafone says the roll-out locally comes as part of an expansion of its coverage improvement across Hertfordshire. Vodafone customers in the likes of Borehamwood, London Colney and Waltham Cross have already been benefitting from the next-generation network connectivity.

Andrea Dona, chief network officer at Vodafone UK, said: "The arrival of 5G gives our customers some of the fastest mobile data speeds in the UK, and a mobile network they can rely on.

"It will open-up all sorts of possibilities for our consumer customers, as well as local businesses and their employees, supporting the local economy and helping to deliver a greener, more prosperous and digitally connected region.

"We're investing in our network across Hertfordshire and look forward to seeing how that investment will benefit local people and businesses."

Document NQTJ000020220407ei470002t



Vodafone-Idea to offer jobs, educational opportunities to users

FE Bureau
176 words
7 April 2022
Financial Express
AIWFIE
English
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To provide employment and skilling opportunities to its pre-paid subscribers, Vodafone Idea on Wednesday partnered with a set of digital start-ups like Apna, Enguru and Pariksha.

Apna is a job search **platform**, while Enguru is an English learning **platform**. Pariksha is a **platform** specializing in government employment exam preparation. The company will integrate the three platforms with its Vi app to offer jobs and **education** services to its customers.

"The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English has become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, government employment remains a top choice for a large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities. Based on these insights, we have curated the Vi Jobs & Education proposition in partnership with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha," said Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea.

Pariksha is a platform specializing in government employment exam preparation. The company will integrate the three platforms with its Vi app to offer jobs and education services to its customers.

Document AIWFIE0020220407ei470000r



GADGETS NEWS

Vodafone Idea to offer jobs, educational opportunities to users in India

298 words
7 April 2022
The Times of India
TOI
English
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NEW DELHI: Telecom operator Vodafone Idea has launched Vi jobs and **Education** on the Vi app. This new initiative is targeted at the youth of Bharat to help them with finding employment and also help them prepare for government jobs. Primarily targeted toward the large prepaid user base in India, Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App offers a one-stop solution for youth to search for jobs, improve spoken English skills and excel in Govt. employment exams, empowering them to fulfill their career dreams. Vodafone Idea has partnered with 'Apna, the English learning **platform** Enguru and Pariksha, a **platform** specializing in government employment exam preparation for this initiative.Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App in **partnership** with Apna offers free priority access to India's largest job listing. Priority access ensures double the visibility prospects to recruiters, thus double the chance of interview opportunities for a quick job search solution.

This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost. With Enguru, Vi users will get 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with the platform at a 15% to 25% discounted price after the trial period. The users will also be entitled to free access to interactive, gamified, industry-specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1500. Making the process of applying for government jobs convenient for Vi users, Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Pariksha offers the aspirants of Central/State Govt. jobs , one month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This also includes unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee of Rs 249/year.

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Document TOI0000020220406ei46000g0

Vodafone paints Doha green in Ramadan sustainability campaign

The Peninsula Newspaper 328 words 6 April 2022 The Peninsula PINSUL English

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Doha: Vodafone Qatar has launched its latest brand campaign to drive positive action throughout the country during the Holy month of Ramadan. 'Yes, We Can Renew and Rebuild' is the first time that Vodafone has launched such a large, **sustainability**-based campaign, and is one of the first times that Qatar has seen such a focus on the topic on this scale.

This initiative is very much in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 of promoting green-living and sustainability.

Residents of and visitors to Doha will see Vodafone paint the city green through its new installations, that aim to draw attention to the importance of sustainable living and recycling using plant life that is native to Qatar.

As part of the campaign, Vodafone is tackling the high volume of food waste in homes across Qatar. Through a partnership with Seashore Recycling, Vodafone will be giving away free Bio Box composting bins to encourage households to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost, which can then be used at home.

Furthermore, Qatar Foundation's schools will participate in this campaign encouraging the students and parents to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost.

Shaikha Rashid Al Naimi, Head of Brand & Communications, Vodafone Qatar commented: "Sustainability lies at the heart of our brand, and we are proud that Vodafone continues to be a beacon of environmental action in Qatar. We are firmly committed to supporting sustainability causes and believe that urgent action is needed to address climate change and preserve the planet for future generations. We know that together we can change our habits for the better to protect our planet, and we will continue to develop and provide innovative solutions that can help to create a more sustainable future for all." To find out more about Vodafone's Ramadan campaign and to get involved, please visit: www.vodafone.ga/BeTheChange

Document PINSUL0020220407ei4600024



BUSINESS Vi partners Apna, Enguru, Pariksha to enhance engagement with job aspirants

227 words
6 April 2022
Press Trust of India
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English
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New Delhi, Apr 6 (PTI) Telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Wednesday announced its **partnership** with job **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and government exam preparatory **platform** Pariksha to enhance engagement with users, specially the job aspirants, and reduce customer churn on the network.

Under the **partnership** with Apna, Vi customers will not pay any fee for accessing services and they will get higher visibility for jobs compared to other aspirants.

"We are creating multiple opportunities for consumers to engage with a host of experiences, products and services and I think which will continue to cement our relationship with our consumers. Then, obviously, bring down our churn," Vodafone Idea chief marketing officer Avneesh Khosla said while announcing the partnership.

The Vi will provide 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts on the English learning platform 'enguru'. Thereafter, learners can continue on the platform at 15-25 per cent discounted price after the trial period.

Under the arrangement with Pariksha, Vi Jobs & Education will offer the aspirants of central and state government jobs, one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This will also include unlimited mock tests across more than 150 exams and post free period, users can continue at a subscription fee of Rs 249 per year. PTI PRS MR

Document PRTRIN0020220406ei4600lj2



Vodafone India partners with start-ups to provide education and job-related help on Vi App

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ATBEMI
English
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Telecom brand Vi has partnered with multiple digital start-ups to empower the youth of the country by offering **education** and job-related help on the Vi App, under the Vi Jobs and **Education** section.

Vi has partnered with start-ups including Apna, Enguru and Pariksha, to offer better opportunities and services to the youth.

While Apna is a job search platform, Enguru helps users to improve their communication skills in the English language and Pariksha will help those who wish to crack the examinations for getting government jobs.

By partnering with the start-ups, the company wants to target the close to 200 million youth in the country and empower them.

Talking about Vi Jobs and Education, Vineet Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea, said, "In line with Vi's brand promise 'together for tomorrow', we've been looking at the need gaps in consumers' daily lives, where we believe we can play the role of an enabler to help them get ahead in life. When we look at youth in this country their key aspiration is to get a good job and become more employable. We believe that these integrated solutions will enable Vi customers to further their efforts in gaining a competitive edge and march ahead to meet their career aspirations."

With regards to the monetisation of the offerings, Khosla said that monetisation is not their top priority right now but rather they are focusing on engaging with young consumers as well as bridging the digital divide in India. "We want to build this segment for our consumers."

The partnership

By partnering with Apna, Vi intends to enable hyperlocal jobs across 70 cities. The telecom operators' user applications will get higher priority compared to other applicants. This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost.

Likewise, with the association of Enguru, the company will provide 14-days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with the platform at a 15-25% discounted price after the trial period ends. The users will also be entitled to free access of interactive, gamified, industry-specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1500.

The partnership with Pariksha will enable the aspirants for central/state government jobs to get a one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha'. This also includes unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee.

In the month of December 2021, Vi partnered with Hungama Music to provide music services to its users. In March 2022, the company has also announced its association with Nazara Technologies and launched Vi games to tap into the growing Indian gaming industry.

Info@BestMediaInfo.com

Document ATBEMI0020220406ei460002w



Eurobites: UK think-tank, government put 'social tariffs' back in the spotlight

Paul Rainford 533 words 6 April 2022 Light Reading LITEREAD English

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Also in today's EMEA regional roundup: Intel suspends Russian operations; Google Cloud helps Vodafone snoop on its customers; A1 wants to digitalize construction.

* The Fabian Society, a left-wing think tank that has been around in the UK since the nineteenth century, has published a <u>report</u> calling for a broadband discount scheme providing broadband connections costing no more than GB pound 15 (US\$19.62) per month for disabled people and households with low incomes, co-funded by government and the telecom industry, as well as a free Internet-enabled device for individuals identified by local groups as being not able to afford one. The proposals in the "Bridging the Divide" report come in response to research revealing that 1.5 million households in the UK are still not connected to the Internet at all, while 29% of adults have very low digital engagement.

Click here to view Figure 1.

- * Some UK operators, BT among them, have already launched so-called social tariffs for broadband.

 Commenting on the Fabian Society report, BT's director of policy and public affairs, Alex Towers, lambasted Sky and Vodafone for refusing to launch social tariffs "on the basis that if BT offers one, they don't need to."
- * In similar territory, the UK government's Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries has, <u>as the BBC reports</u>, written a letter to broadband suppliers telling them that they must do more to promote social tariffs, pointing out that only 1-2% of those in receipt of Universal Credit welfare payments have taken advantage of such tariffs.
- * US chip giant Intel has fallen into line with several other technology firms and suspended all operations in Russia, Reuters reports. "Intel continues to join the global community in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine and calling for a swift return to peace," the company said in a statement.
- * Vodafone reckons the migration of its data to Google Cloud back in 2019 has given it a "more holistic understanding" of its customers, enabling it to bombard them with "personalised content, apps, and rewards," according to the operator's head of data and analytics, Osman Peermamode. Vodafone is now using the Nucleus data platform, which is powered by Google Cloud products such as as BigQuery, Dataproc and Cloud Data Fusion.
- * A1 Digital, the "digital transformation" arm of Austrian operator A1, has joined a project looking at ways to "digitalize" processes in the construction industry with a view to improving productivity in the sector by as much as 10%. The company is mainly contributing its cloud and IoT chops to the IECO project, which is funded by the German government and forms part of the wider Gaia-X cloud initiative.
- * Airtel Africa has joined the Joint Alliance for CSR (JAC), a global industry body, to promote sustainability in its supply chain. Membership of the body is intended to help Airtel incorporate Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) principles into the way it goes about its business. The JAC was founded in 2010 and currently has 19 telecom operators as members.
- Paul Rainford, Assistant Editor, Europe, Light Reading

p.rainford@yahoo.co.uk

Document LITEREAD20220406ei4600002



CE Noticias Financieras English Vodafone says the merger of Orange and MásMóvil will bring great opportunities

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6 April 2022
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English
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Madrid 6 APR 2022 - 11:51CEST The CEO of Vodafone Spain, Colman Deegan, said today that the possible merger between competitors MásMóvil and Orange will bring "great opportunities" to the company he heads in Spain

. Deegan stressed on Wednesday that in many European markets the third operator is "the one that grows the most" and presents the best returns on **investment** and highlighted that previous periods of consolidation have been positive for the Spanish market.

In his presentation at the 'Wake Up Spain!' forum, organized by El Español, the executive asked regulators not to follow with this consolidation a process similar to what happened when Vodafone bought Ono and Orange bought Jazztel, when the 'remedies' gave enough size to MásMóvil to compete as the fourth operator.

"That will fracture the market and if that is not changed we will never get to 5G or 6G," he stressed, following the discourse of the directors of the large European 'telecos', who are calling for a change in the European Commission's competition policy to facilitate operators to gain size and thus generate economies of scale for the deployment of 5G.

Deegan also assured that Vodafone has set itself the target of having between 20% and 30% of its network with Open RAN components, the new technology for mobile networks that enables interoperability between manufacturers.

Document NFINCE0020220406ei46005kv

Business Today

Vi partners with digital start-ups, domain experts to help youth upskill, find jobs

548 words
6 April 2022
Business Today Online
BTDYON
English
Copyright 2022. Living Media India Limited

Vodafone Idea (Vi) announced on Wednesday that it has partnered with a bunch of digital start-ups and domain experts such as job search **platform** Apna, English learning **platform** Enguru and **platform** specialising in government employment exam preparation Pariksha to help youth with employment and skilling opportunities. The offerings will not only help the youth in finding employment but will also make them more employable and help in preparation of government jobs.

The telco said that these offerings are targeted towards the large prepaid user base in India. Vi Jobs & **Education** on the Vi App will offer a one-stop solution for the youth to search for jobs, improve spoken English and excel in government exams.

Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vodafone Idea Limited, said, "The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English have become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, government employment remains a top choice for the large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities. Based on these insights, we have curated the Vi Jobs & Education proposition in partnership with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha."

Here's what the company is offering:

Job searches – Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Apna is offering free priority access to the latter's job listing. Priority access will double the visibility of applicants, hence increasing the chance of interview opportunities. This will be available at no cost.

"Access to the internet has not only opened avenues for people, but has also played a significant role in reducing the collar divide between professionals. In the coming years, we are certain to completely dismantle this divide through our inclusive platform," said Nirmit Parikh, CEO and founder, Apna.

English education – Vi Jobs & Education with Enguru offers four days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts. Learners can continue with a 15-25 per cent discounted price after the trial period. Users will be entitled to free access of interactive, gamified, industry specific self-learning modules, worth Rs 1,500.

Udit Hinduja, COO, Enguru said, "Enguru's live classes allow users to practice speaking with expert teachers & students from across the country, with classes offered through the day across all levels of English. We believe our product will help Vi subscribers in their interview preparation and career growth."

Preparation for government job exams – Vi Jobs & Education in partnership with Pariksha offers the aspirants of central/state government jobs one-month free subscription to 'Pariksha', including unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. At the end of the free period, users can continue at a nominal subscription fee of Rs 249 per year.

Vikram Shekhawat, co-founder, Pariksha said, "With this deep integrated partnership with one of the largest and most trusted telecom partners, we will be able to reach our goal faster and narrow the gap between opportunities for over 75 million govt job aspirants across Bharat. This partnership will act as the new age digital book and will create the largest impact at the bottom of the pyramid."

Also read: Vodafone Idea approves allotment of shares to promoters to raise Rs 4,500 cr

Also read: <u>L&T</u>, Vi to set up private LTE network on pilot basis

Document BTDYON0020220406ei46000gg



Vodafone Qatar to support Rafeeq with business services

92 words
6 April 2022
Telecompaper Middle East
TELEAST
English
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Vodafone Qatar announced a new **partnership** with Qatari food delivery **platform** Rafeeq. The two companies will work together to identify how Vodafone's business services and customer insights based on big data can support Rafeeq to optimise its operations and enhance customer service and experience.

Vodafone said its fleet management and advanced analytics services are examples of how it can help the food delivery **platform** meet business objectives. The companies will collaborate to identify the most suitable solutions for Rafeeq's needs, including any customisation requirements.

Document TELEAST020220406ei460005I



Vodafone Qatar starts brand campaign around sustainability

172 words
6 April 2022
Telecompaper Middle East
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English
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Vodafone Qatar has launched its latest brand campaign during the holy month of Ramadan. 'Yes, We Can Renew and Rebuild' is the first time that Vodafone has launched such a large, **sustainability**-based campaign. This initiative is in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 of promoting "green" living and **sustainability**. Residents and visitors to Doha will see Vodafone paint the city green through its new installations that aim to draw attention to the importance of sustainable living and recycling using plant lifenative to Qatar.

As part of the campaign, Vodafone is tackling the high volume of food waste in homes across Qatar. Through a partnership with Seashore Recycling, Vodafone will be giving away free Bio Box composting bins to encourage households to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost, which can then be used at home. Qatar Foundation's schools will participate in this campaign encouraging the students and parents to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost.

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MINT, Companies

Vodafone Idea ties up with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha to provide curated job search, education services

Gulveen Aulakh 445 words 6 April 2022 Mint HNMINT English

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NEW DELHI, April 6 -- Vodafone Idea has tied up with Apna, Enguru and Pariksha platforms to provide its over 260 million customers access to curated job search, including government jobs, and exam preparation facilities targeted at Indian youth.

The third largest carrier is tapping into education and employment segments with Vi Jobs & Education on the Vi App to increase customer stickiness with the brand by offering the services to its large pre-paid base of customers.

"The relevance of digital skills and fluency in spoken English have become more pronounced for today's youth. Further, government employment remains a top choice for the large part of this segment, particularly for those coming from tier 2 & 3 cities," said Avneesh Khosla, chief marketing officer at Vodafone Idea Limited.

The app will integrate job search platform Apna, English learning platform Enguru, and Pariksha, a platform specialising in government employment exam preparation. A combination of learning English, improving spoken English, preparing for government exams as well as specialised job search will impress upon customers to take up the subscription service.

"These integrated solutions will enable Vi customers to further their efforts in gaining a competitive edge and march ahead to meet their career aspirations," he added.

Job-searches are expected to be top category for mobile users across the globe, and emergence of gig economy can serve up to 90 million jobs in the non-farm sector alone, according to a joint report by BCG and Michael & Susan Dell Foundation.

Vi is looking at opportunities in this space with Apna, through which it will offer priority access - at no cost - to all customers, ensuring double visibility prospects to recruiters, thus doubling the chance of interview opportunities for a quick job search solution. This service will be available for all Vi customers at no cost.

In partnership with Enguru, customers will get 14 days of free trial with unlimited interactive live classes conducted by experts, and 15%-25% discounted price after the trial period. Users will get free access to interactive, gamified, industry specific self-learning modules, worth Rs.1500.

Vi has entered into parternship with Pariksha where aspirants of central or state government jobs will get one month free subscription to the platform with unlimited mock tests across 150+ exams. "At the end of the free period, users can continue at an annual subscription fee of Rs.249.

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Vodafone paints Doha green in its Ramadan sustainability campaign

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English
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TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK

DOHA

Vodafone Qatar has launched its latest brand campaign to inspire positive action across the country during Ramadan. 'Yes, We Can Renew and Rebuild' is the first time Vodafone has launched such a large, sustainability-focused campaign, and it is one of the first times Qatar has seen such a large focus on the topic. This initiative is strongly aligned with Qatar's National Vision 2030, which promotes green living and sustainability.

Residents and visitors to Doha will notice Vodafone painting the city green with new installations that aim to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable living and recycling by utilising plant life native to Qatar.

Vodafone is tackling the high volume of food waste in Qatari homes as part of the campaign. Vodafone, in collaboration with Seashore Recycling, will distribute free Bio Box composting bins to encourage households to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost that can then be used at home. Furthermore, Qatar Foundation's schools will take part in this campaign, encouraging students and parents to recycle and compost their food waste during Ramadan.

Shaikha Rashid Al-Naimi, Head of Brand & Communications, Vodafone Qatar said: "Sustainability lies at the heart of our Brand, and we are proud that Vodafone continues to be a beacon of environmental action in Qatar. We are firmly committed to supporting sustainability causes and believe that urgent action is needed to address climate change and preserve the planet for future generations. We know that together we can change our habits for the better to protect our planet, and we will continue to develop and provide innovative solutions that can help to create a more sustainable future for all."

To find out more about Vodafone's Ramadan campaign and to get involved, please visit: www.vodafone.qa/BeTheChange

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Vodafone Qatar launches latest brand campaign

297 words 5 April 2022 Gulf Times GUTIME English

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Vodafone Qatar has launched its latest brand campaign to drive positive action throughout the country during the holy month of Ramadan. 'Yes, We Can Renew and Rebuild' is the first time that Vodafone has launched such a large, sustainability-based campaign. This initiative is in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 of promoting green-living and sustainability. Residents and visitors to Doha will see Vodafone paint the city green through its new installations, that aim to draw attention to the importance of sustainable living and recycling using plant life that is native to Qatar. As part of the campaign, Vodafone is tackling the high volume of food waste in homes across Qatar. Through a partnership with Seashore Recycling, Vodafone will be giving away free Bio Box composting bins to encourage households to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost, which can then be used at home.

Qatar Foundation's schools will participate in this campaign encouraging the students and parents to recycle their food waste during Ramadan and turn it into compost. Shaikha Rashid al-Naimi, head of Brand & Communications, Vodafone Qatar commented: "Sustainability lies at the heart of our brand, and we are proud that Vodafone continues to be a beacon of environmental action in Qatar. We are firmly committed to supporting sustainability causes and believe that urgent action is needed to address climate change and preserve the planet for future generations. We know that together we can change our habits for the better to protect our planet, and we will continue to develop and provide innovative solutions that can help to create a more sustainable future for all."

To find out more about Vodafone's Ramadan campaign and to get involved, please visit: www.vodafone.qa/BeTheChange

Document GUTIME0020220405ei45000jj



05:11 EDT Vodafone downgraded to Hold from Buy at BerenbergBerenberg analyst...

5 April 2022
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FLYWAL
English
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05:11 EDT Vodafone downgraded to Hold from Buy at BerenbergBerenberg analyst Carl Murdock-Smith downgraded Vodafone to Hold from Buy with a price target of 145 GBp, down from 150 GBp. Vodafone shares are up 12% year-to-date, making it one of the better performing stocks in the STOXX 600 Telecoms index, Murdock-Smith tells investors in a research note. The company's failure to actively participate in Spanish consolidation should remind investors of the risks of "building a Buy case on M&A hopes," says the analyst. He sees seeing "simpler investment cases in the sector that are less reliant on M&A execution and offer more upside."BREN

Document FLYWAL0020220405ei4500231



1&1 signs contract with GfTD to set up antennas for mobile network

144 words
5 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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1&1 Mobilfunk, a subsidiary of 1&1, has signed a contract with GfTD, a provider of services for tower **infrastructure**, to build sites for mobile network antennas. The company will build 500 new sites in a first step. GfTD will set up the new sites for the antennas for the 1&1 mobile network throughout Germany.

The companies have been partnering since the beginning of 2020 as part of the federal government's "white spots" programme to close coverage gaps in rural areas. GfTD has set up hundreds of new mobile sites on behalf of 1&1, which can also be used by Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone and Telefonica. 1&1 also has up to 5,000 existing masts available for the installation of antennas through a cooperation with Vantage Towers.

Document TELEUR0020220405ei4500032



Versino takes over as president of Vodafone Italia Foundation

191 words
5 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Italia Foundation, the Italian operator's charitable arm, has announced the appointment of Adriana Versino as its new president, succeeding Marinella Soldi, who steps down at the end of her three-year term. Versino joined Vodafone in 2020 as the Foundation's Managing Director and Head of **Sustainability**, having worked at worked McKinsey, AF Mezzanine, YNAP, Oltre Venture and Talent Garden to support the growth of companies both in the start-up and scale-up phases, gaining skills in sectors such as strategic consulting, finance, e-commerce and non-profit.

Vodafone Italia Foundation was created in 2002 and has since invested over EUR 100 million to support around 450 projects throughout the country. Its current strategy focuses on scalable and sustainable projects with a high social impact in the areas of Apps for Good and Connected **Education**.

It has recently donated EUR 500,000 to help the Italian Red Cross take care of the Ukrainian population near battle areas, to the Rava Foundation to support hospitalised children in hospital and to providing SIM cards and telephones for Ukrainian refugees in Italy.

Document TELEUR0020220405ei4500004



Vodafone Portugal Awards Mavenir Cloud-Native Converged Packet Core

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5 April 2022
02:00
Korea Newswire
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English
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Vodafone Portugal, a leading telecom provider in Portugal, and Mavenir, the Network Software Provider building the future of networks with **cloud**-native software that runs on any **cloud** and transforms the way the world connects, today announced that Vodafone Portugal will be using the MAVcore solution for its fully containerised Converged Packet Core network after the selection of Mavenir as strategic 5G Converged Core supplier.

The MAVcore family includes Mavenir's leading-edge Converged Packet Core and Policy Control solution delivering a next-generation modernised data network. The MAVcore solution will allow the transformation to a containerised and automated **cloud**-native network - providing the flexibility for future mobile network evolution, including the launch of disruptive and innovative 5G Stand Alone applications for Vodafone customers in Portugal.

The 5G Converged Packet Core solution is designed with cloud-native containerised techniques providing a fully scalable and virtualised network architecture. The solution uses software running on commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) hardware that provides cost-effectiveness, flexibility, and agility. Mavenir Converged Packet Core with multi-access support (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G) allows Communication Service Providers (CSPs) like Vodafone to plan for future growth and a greater focus on security and reliability. It simplifies network transformation and enables operational efficiencies with complete automation.

Paulino Correa, Network Director, Vodafone Portugal, said; "The industry defines several steps for 5G - the first one was launched back in November - but it is the second step, the 5G Stand Alone Core, that brings the more powerful technology revolution in terms of use cases. For our strategic 5G Stand Alone Core supplier, we wanted a vendor who would have innovation at its heart and equally provide us with a technically leading converged Packet Core solution. We have been working on 5G SA with Mavenir in our lab for over 1 year and are now ready to deliver a cloud-native Packet Core platform that will transform our network and prepare it for powerful applications and differentiating use cases, as the 5G solution evolves."

Stefano Cantarelli, Chief Marketing Officer, Mavenir, said; "Mavenir has been working with Vodafone Group across various projects and we are delighted to now be part of their next-generation Converged Packet Core network under the Spring 3 Cosmos programme - we look forward to transforming Vodafone Portugal's existing network into a dynamic, agile, fully automated for simplified operation and cloud-native based platform."

About Mavenir:

Mavenir is building the future of networks and pioneering advanced technology, focusing on the vision of a single, software-based automated network that runs on any cloud. As the industry's only end-to-end, cloud-native network software provider, Mavenir is focused on transforming the way the world connects, accelerating software network transformation for 250+ Communications Service Providers in over 120 countries, which serve more than 50% of the world's subscribers. www.mavenir.com

About Vodafone Portugal:

Vodafone Portugal is part of the Vodafone Group which is a leading technology communications company. Vodafone is the largest mobile and fixed network operator in Europe and a leading global IoT connectivity provider. Vodafone Group operates mobile and fixed networks in 21 countries and partner with mobile networks in 48 more. Vodafone Portugal currently serves 3.6 million homes and businesses with its next generation network and has over 4.6 million mobile customers.

https://www.vodafone.pt/

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220404005056/en/

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NEWS Hacker alleges data leak in Vi's subscriber database portal

349 words
5 April 2022
BusinessLine (The Hindu)
BSNLNE
English
(c) 2022 The Hindu Business Line
Mumbai, April 4 NEWS

Details of Vodafone Idea (Vi) users may have been accessed by threat actors after an alleged leak of its directory services portal's user ID and password on the dark web, according to **cybersecurity** researcher and ethical hacker Sunny Nehra. The database portal comprises information of all active and older inactive subscribers, including current and permanent addresses, date of birth, PAN and Aadhaar card details, Nehra said. As of January 2022, Vi had over 24.72 crore active subscribers.

Nehra, Admin, Hacks and Security, found a set of 12-15 user IDs and passwords of various portals of Vi, available for sale on private dark net forums. On testing one of them, he found that it to belonged to the subscriber database portal and was probably meant for special access to the Delhi police.

BusinessLine reached out to Vi with queries on Saturday and the company denied any such breach in its portals and apps by Monday. "Vi has a tight IT security framework and we regularly conduct checks and audits to identify any potential areas of vulnerabilities to strengthen our security architecture. We have not found any such breach. Our data remains safe and secure," a Vodafone Idea spokesperson told this newspaper.

Weak password

However, Nehra claimed that the portal has been down since Sunday night.

"Vodafone Idea had allocated a generic and weak password for the site which had critical details of its subscribers. It is common for hackers to try out that password. While these user IDs and passwords will be removed from the dark net forum once it's sold, the threat remains that someone is going to have access to the portal and data of all the subscribers of the company. I was able to find details of at least three IPS officers and two important bureaucrats I knew who are using Vi numbers," Nehra added.

He also notified the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team(CERT-In) and Mathan Babu Kasilingam, Chief Information Security Officer, Vi, in separate emails.

Document BSNLNE0020220405ei450000p

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Market Wrap - Street Talk

Aussie funds cross the ditch for Vodafone NZ's towers

Anthony Macdonald, Sarah Thompson and Kanika Sood 406 words
4 April 2022
The Australian Financial Review
AFNR
First
16
English
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Street Talk

As one telco towers infrastructure auction wraps up, the next is already kicking off.

The towers brigade - bidders, funders, bankers, lawyers - is off to New Zealand, where Brookfield and Morrison are trying to sell telco towers owned by (and to be leased back to) their Vodafone New Zealand.

UBS and Barrenjoey are running the auction and readying potential suitors for an information memorandum and financial model to kick off stage one of the two-round auction.

The bankers have been briefing tyrekickers which, as far we can tell, will include a handful of the Australian mid-market infrastructure fund managers, and potentially a few industry players from across the Tasman.

In pre-deal briefings, tyrekickers said they were told there was likely to be a 75 per cent to 85 per cent stake in the proposed TowerCo up for grabs. One of the owners, Brookfield, is expected to sell out in full, while Morrison thinks about retaining a 15 per cent to 25 per cent minority interest.

A flyer sent to interested parties last month said the new TowerCo would own 1487 towers, leased to its anchor tenant for 40 years and making an estimated \$NZ51 million (\$47.4 million) EBITDA in the 2023 financial year. Similar deals in Australia would imply a \$1.2 billion to \$1.4 billion valuation on a 100 per cent basis.

Igneo Infrastructure Partners, fresh from winning Waste Management NZ, as Street Talk revealed on Friday, is expected to take at least an early look, along with rivals Palisade Infrastructure Partners and Infrastructure Capital Group.

Although Axicom has only just been signed, it's too early to tell whether underbidders OMERS and DigitalBridge will turn up in New Zealand. At first glance, dealmakers reckon the Vodafone NZ is likely to be too small for either, even if they were considering it as part of a larger roll-up strategy. The forgotten about Stilmark, backed by Five V Capital, could turn up.

The biggest question on the financial investors' minds is whether one of the big Kiwi telco infrastructure groups - namely Chorus - could emerge as a smoky contender. After all, there's nothing like synergies to juice up a bid. Major broadband and wireless internet service provider Spark NZ has bankers working on its own potential towers selldown.

Document AFNR000020220406ei440000d

Robotics - Robotics and Automation; New Findings on Robotics and Automation from Technical University Munich (TU Munich) Summarized (Passivity-based Adaptive Force-impedance Control for Modular Multi-manual Object Manipulation)

409 words
4 April 2022
Journal of Robotics & Machine Learning
JRML
619
English

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2022 APR 4 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Journal of Robotics & Machine Learning -- Current study results on Robotics - Robotics and Automation have been published. According to news reporting out of Munich, Germany, by VerticalNews editors, research stated, "There exist robotic tasks such as cumbersome object manipulation for which one arm alone is not sufficient and a team of robots should be employed. For such a multi-manual system, a control policy must be defined to meet the task objective."

Financial supporters for this research include EU Horizon 2020 ReconCycle Project, Federal Ministry of **Education** & Research (BMBF), Federal Ministry of **Education** & Research (BMBF), Project X, Project Y, Vodafone GmbH.

Our news journalists obtained a quote from the research from Technical University Munich (TU Munich), "This letter presents a modular uni-arm control law for a multi-manual object manipulation task. Following the concept of force and impedance control, a novel adaptation policy is introduced which mitigates the intrinsic limitations of conventional methods such as the coupled impedance and hybrid position/force control approaches. To ensure the stability of the proposed control algorithm, passivity analysis is performed and a virtual energy tank is augmented to the multi-manual system."

According to the news editors, the research concluded: "Finally, a set of experiments with a bi-manual setup manipulating an object is carried out to evaluate the performance of the proposed control approach."

This research has been peer-reviewed.

For more information on this research see: Passivity-based Adaptive Force-impedance Control for Modular Multi-manual Object Manipulation. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 2022;7(2):2194-2201. IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters can be contacted at: leee-inst Electrical Electronics Engineers Inc, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08855-4141, USA.

Our news journalists report that additional information may be obtained by contacting Erfan Shahriari, Technical University Munich (TU Munich), Dept. of Information, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Chair Robot & Syst Intelligence, Munich Inst Robot, D-80333 Munich, Germany. Additional authors for this research include Seyed Ali Baradaran Birjandi and Sami Haddadin.

Keywords for this news article include: Munich, Germany, Europe, Robotics and Automation, Robotics, Technical University Munich (TU Munich).

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We did not show the customer's phone number in the Ramadan campaign: Vodafone

Mohamed Alaa El-Din 287 words 4 April 2022 Daily News Egypt DAINEG English

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An official source at Vodafone Egypt said that the phone number that appeared in their latest advertisement was not complete, and that the company attaches great importance to customer **privacy**, and therefore it was keen to show an incomplete number.

The source told Daily News Egypt that the phone number that appeared in the ad consists of only 10 digits, and that a full number is no less than 11, and therefore, legally, the company did not harm its customers; however, some have been randomly calling Vodafone customers by adding an extra digit to the number, leading to some customer complaints.

The source explained that an owner of the affected number combination was contacted, and a number of solutions were presented to them, which has led to the problem being resolved.

The source emphasised that the company is keen to preserve the privacy of its customers as it is of significant priority to the company.

However, a girl named Habiba Al-Maliki published a post on Facebook complaining that she had been subjected to telephone harassment because her phone number appeared as the number of the ad's main character, Sarah Farid.

The entire debacle stems from a scene shown at the 1:27 minute-mark of the ad in which the protagonist writes the first six digits of a phone number before Farid takes the phone from him and adds an additional four digits.

Vodafone's 'Elly Bena Hayat' (What is Between Us is Life') ad for Ramadan 2022 recorded more than 3.4m views in just three days and featured a song by renowned Egyptian singer Amr Diab.

Document DAINEG0020220404ei44000b6

Mavenir Cloud - Native Converged Packet Core Gets Vodafone Award

361 words
4 April 2022
Internet Business News
INTA
English
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((Comments on this story may be sent to info@m2.com))

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Info-tech

Hacker reports vulnerability and possible data leak in Vodafone Idea's subscriber database portal

Debangana Ghosh
421 words
4 April 2022
BusinessLine Online
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English
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The database portal comprises information of all active and older inactive subscribers of the telecom operator, including current and permanent addresses, date of birth, PAN and Aadhaar card details, Nehra said. As of January 2022, Vi had over 24.72 crore active subscribers.

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BusinessLine reached out to Vi with queries on Saturday and the company denied any such breach in their portals and apps by Monday.

"Vi has a very tight IT security framework and we regularly conduct checks and audits to identify any potential areas of vulnerabilities to further strengthen our security architecture. We have not found any such breach. Our data remains fully safe and secure," a Vodafone Idea spokesperson told BusinessLine.

Weak password

However, Nehra claimed that the portal has been down since Sunday night.

"To check the account, they will have to make the portal up again anyway. I assume they noticed something unusual on the portal and made it down at night. My mail will clarify things," he said.

"Vodafone Idea had allocated a very generic and weak password for the site which had critical details of its subscribers. It is very common for hackers to try out that password. While these user IDs and passwords will be removed from the dark net forum once it's sold, the threat remains that someone is going to have access to the portal and data of all the subscribers of the company. I was able to find details of at least three IPS officers and two important bureaucrats I knew who are using Vi numbers," Nehra added.

He also notified the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mathan Babu Kasilingam, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Vi, in separate emails.

"Vi's CISO has taken a note of my email. He said he is analysing the systems on priority and checking what went wrong," Nehra said.

Document BSNLNO0020220404ei44000ea



LocoSoco in Discussions with Proton Technologies about Hydrogen Production

254 words 4 April 2022 Gulf Oil & Gas GUONGA English

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LocoSoco Group Plc ("LocoSoco", "LOCO"), the **platform** that profits from distributing products & technologies that contribute to **sustainability** and is listed on the Direct Market segment of the Vienna MTF, is pleased to announce discussions are underway with Proton Technologies, a leader in the field of Clean Hydrogen Production that utilises existing fossil fuel **infrastructure**.

Proton Technologies

Proton Technologies "Clear Hydrogen" is a carbon-free, low-cost opportunity for extracting hydrogen using previously expensed infrastructure and known energy deposits. Operating for over 6 years and holding patented technology for the extraction of clean hydrogen whilst sequestering carbon within existing oil wells. Proton Technologies has the experience and technology to effect change on a global scale whilst profiting with purpose. Part of this includes the production of clean hydrogen and generating carbon credits to underpin further investment into the transition from dirty energy sources to sustainable low cost energy solutions.

LocoSoco CEO James Perry commented, "Having been in conversation with the team at Proton Technologies over the past year, we are excited to potentially deliver further opportunities for commercialising Proton's patented technologies. At LocoSoco we get to see a wide range of game changing technologies coming to market that serve to increase the value that we bring to our client base, our partners and future customers who are looking to transition to sustainable alternatives. Clean Hydrogen Energy in my opinion is the future of land, air and sea transportation and the opportunities it presents are on a global scale."

Document GUONGA0020220404ei44000e2



Mavenir to supply Converged Packet Core to Vodafone Portugal

103 words
4 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Network software provider Mavenir has announced that it will be supplying a fully containerised Converged Packet Core network to Vodafone Portugal. The operator will use the Mavcore product after selecting Mavenir as its strategic 5G Converged Core supplier. Besides the Converged Packet Core that offers multi-access support (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G), the Mavcore family includes the product Policy Control.

According to Vodafone Portugal network director Paulino Correa, the operator has been working on 5G SA with Mavenir in its laboratory for over one year and is now ready to deliver a **cloud**-native Packet Core **platform**.

Document TELEUR0020220404ei44000jp



Vodafone raises stake in Vodafone Idea

159 words 4 April 2022 Accord Fintech HTACCF English Copyright 2022. Accord Fintech

India, April 4 -- Vodafone has raised its stake in debt-ridden Vodafone Idea to 47.61 per cent through its subsidiary Prime Metals. The company earlier held 44.39 per cent stake in Vodafone Idea (VIL). Vodafone Idea's board has approved the allotment of 338.3 crore equity shares at Rs 13.30 per scrip to three promoter group entities - Euro Pacific Securities, Prime Metals and Oriana Investments - for about Rs 4,500 crore.

Vodafone Idea is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is developing world-class infrastructure to introduce newer and smarter technologies, making both retail and enterprise customers future ready with innovative offerings conveniently accessible through an ecosystem of digital channels as well as extensive on-ground presence.

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Document HTACCF0020220404ei44000mm



Vodafone Idea informs about disclosure

78 words
4 April 2022
Accord Fintech
HTACCF
English
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India, April 4 -- Vodafone Idea has informed that the exchange has received the disclosure under Regulation 29(2) of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares & Takeovers) Regulations, 2011 for Oriana Investments. The above information is a part of company's filings submitted to BSE.

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Document HTACCF0020220404ei44000h4



Vodafone Germany names new head of public affairs

277 words
4 April 2022
Telecompaper Europe
TELEUR
English
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Vodafone Germany has appointed Marc Konarski as its new head of public affairs from 01 April. Konarski also takes over the roles of chairman of the management board at Vodafone Foundation Germany and managing director of the Vodafone Institute for Society and Communication. He previously led the Vodafone office in Berlin.

In his new role, Konarski will be responsible for representing Vodafone's political interests at federal level in Germany and the company's social commitment. He will report to Michael Jungwirth, member of the executive board responsible for public affairs, regulation, external communications and **sustainability** at Vodafone Germany. Konarski succeeds Inger Paus, who left the company in October last year.

Konarskibegan his professional career in 2010 at digital association Bitkom, where he most recently led the telecommunications policy department. In 2014 he served as senior counsel in the field of regulatory strategy at Vodafone Germany. In 2017, he took over the management of the Berlin office.

Johanna Boersch-Supan takes over as MD of the Vodafone Foundation, responsible for strategic development and external representation. The management of the Vodafone Foundation will also include Thomas Holtmanns, who will remain second MD of the Vodafone Institute. Boersch-Supan studied political science, ethnology, development economics and history at Dartmouth College, the University of Heidelberg and the University of Oxford, where she also received her doctorate. She then worked as personal assistant to the secretary-general of the Cusanuswerk, a catholic organisation financially supporting talented students, and in 2014 became a fellow in the think-tank of the Vodafone Foundation. In 2018, she was appointed head of strategy and programme at the Vodafone Foundation.

Document TELEUR0020220404ei440005v



Vodafone Egypt compensates customers for 30 March network malfunction with day's free calls

1/8 words
4 April 2022
Telecompaper Africa
TELAFR
English
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Vodafone Egypt announced compensation for customers affected by a malfunction on its network on 30 March, providing them with free calls throughout 31 March. It said a technical failure outside its control resulted from a cut to one of the **cables**, affecting service to 10 million of its 44 million customers. The failure lasted less than an hour.

A company statement stated that the operations room followed up on the problem as soon as it occurred, and engineers worked to find quick solutions to the malfunction. Vodafone was not satisfied with solving the problem in record time and quickly applied to the industry regulator TRA for approval to compensate customers who were affected. As a result, it provided them with free calls throughout 31 March.

The TRA responded to Vodafone Egypt's request and a text message was sent to 10 million customers on 31 March to inform them of the compensation and to clarify the reasons for the technical malfunction, the statement added.

Document TELAFR0020220404ei4400003



Mavenir Systems Inc. - Vodafone Portugal Awards Mavenir Cloud-Native Converged Packet Core

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4 April 2022

Private Companies News via PUBT

PCNVB

English

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Vodafone Portugal Awards Mavenir Cloud-Native Converged Packet Core

Vodafone Portugal Awards Mavenir Cloud-Native Converged Packet Core

Mavenir becomes Vodafone's strategic 5G Core supplier

Lisbon, Portugal and Reading, United Kingdom - 4th April 2022: Vodafone Portugal, a leading telecom provider in Portugal, and Mavenir, the Network Software Provider building the future of networks with cloud-native software that runs on any cloud and transforms the way the world connects, today announced that Vodafone Portugal will be using the MAVcore solution for its fully containerized Converged Packet Core network after the selection of Mavenir as strategic 5G Converged Core supplier.

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Paulino Correa, Network Director, Vodafone Portugal, said; "The industry defines several steps for 5G - the first one was launched back in November - but it is the second step, the 5G Stand Alone Core, that brings the more powerful technology revolution in terms of use cases. For our strategic 5G Stand Alone Core supplier, we wanted a vendor who would have innovation at its heart and equally provide us with a technically leading converged Packet Core solution. We have been working on 5G SA with Mavenir in our lab for over 1 year and are now ready to deliver a cloud-native Packet Core platform that will transform our network and prepare it for powerful applications and differentiating use cases, as the 5G solution evolves."

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Related Content

PACKET CORE (VEPC, 5G)

* Original Link

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Vodafone Portugal Awards Mavenir Cloud-Native Converged Packet Core

627 words
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08:00
Business Wire
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English
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Mavenir becomes Vodafone's strategic 5G Core supplier

LISBON, Portugal & READING, United Kingdom--(BUSINESS WIRE) --April 04, 2022--Vodafone Portugal, a leading telecom provider in Portugal, and Mavenir, the Network Software Provider building the future of networks with cloud-native software that runs on any cloud and transforms the way the world connects, today announced that Vodafone Portugal will be using the MAVcore solution for its fully containerised Converged Packet Core network after the selection of Mavenir as strategic 5G Converged Core supplier.

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https://www.vodafone.pt/

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220404005056/en/

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SOURCE: Mavenir Copyright Business Wire 2022

(END)

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LocoSoco Group Plc in Discussions with Proton Technologies about Hydrogen Production that Utilises Existing Fossil Fuel Infrastructure to Generate Clean Hydrogen and Sequester Carbon.

432 words
4 April 2022
07:00
Business Wire
BWR
English
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LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE) -- April 04, 2022--

LocoSoco Group Plc ("LocoSoco", "LOCO"), the **platform** that profits from distributing products & technologies that contribute to **sustainability** and is listed on the Direct Market segment of the Vienna MTF, is pleased to announce discussions are underway with Proton Technologies, a leader in the field of Clean Hydrogen Production that utilises existing fossil fuel **infrastructure**.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220403005082/en/

LocoSoco x Proton Energy (Graphic: Business Wire)

LocoSoco is listed on the Direct Market segment of the Vienna MTF. For quotes and trading data, link here: https://www.wienerborse.at/en/market-data/shares-others/quote-direct/?ISIN=GB00BD5BTL23&ID NOTATION=246035708&cHash=96818d4943bd602c7947d54b3503cb6f

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About LocoSoco

LocoSoco delivers products and technologies that contribute to economic and environmental sustainability, working within sectors including retail, hospitality, corporate and government organisations.

View source version on businesswire.com: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20220403005082/en/

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Document BWR0000020220404ei440000I



Business
Chorus tunes in for Vodafone tower sale - DATA ROOM

EDITED BY BRIDGET CARTER 601 words 4 April 2022 The Australian AUSTLN Australian 16 English

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Internet infrastructure provider Chorus New Zealand is believed to be weighing up a move to compete for Vodafone New Zealand's telecommunication towers, which may sell for up to \$NZ1.5bn.

Chorus would be going head to head with Australian infrastructure investor Igneo Infrastructure Partners, recently renamed from First Sentier, which is working with investment bank Goldman Sachs.

It is understood that Igneo is looking at Vodafone New Zealand business through its New Zealand internet fibre business Ultrafast Fibre, which it purchased from WEL Networks and Waipa Networks for \$NZ854m two years ago.

UFF builds, owns and operates fibre networks in some of New Zealand's North Island provinces after being established in 2010.

It is understood that Chorus has already taken a look at the Vodafone New Zealand tower offering.

Chorus is listed on the NZX with a \$NZ3.bn value and owns most of the telephone lines and exchange equipment in New Zealand.

It is responsible for building about 70 per cent of the new fibre optic Ultra-Fast Broadband network and received a government subsidy of \$NZ929m to do so.

Chorus was previously part of the government-owned Telstra New Zealand, now named Spark.

It runs the equivalent to the NBN in Australia. It cannot sell directly to consumers but instead provides wholesale services to retailers.

The plan for both Chorus and Igneo is to integrate fibre with mobile towers to protect their customer base and market share.

Barrenjoey and UBS are working on the Vodafone New Zealand tower portfolio sale. Information memorandums are currently in the market.

Vodafone New Zealand has over 1550 mobile cell sites providing coverage to 98 per cent of the population; 95 per cent have 4G and 80 per cent of rural New Zealand has access to Vodafone NZ broadband.

The company has 41 per cent of New Zealand's mobile subscribers. Vodafone New Zealand is owned by the Morrison & Co-managed Infratil and Brookfield, and is worth about \$NZ1.5bn.

Buyers have the option to own a stake of about 70 per cent in the portfolio. The sales process has been set to attract mid-market infrastructure investors like Igneo. A sale will probably need approval from New Zealand's Overseas Investment Office.

Igneo on Friday struck a deal to buy Waste Management New Zealand for \$NZ1.9bn from Beijing Capital, following an auction that also included Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners.

Igneo was advised by RBC. KKR Macquarie Capital and Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners worked with Jarden.

Beijing Capital purchased Waste Management NZ from Cleanaway in 2014 for \$910m. Waste Management NZ owns landfill sites, recycling depots and hazardous waste treatment facilities across New Zealand.

The Waste Management New Zealand transaction came as The Australian Tower Network bought the country's largest Australian independent telecommunication tower owner, Axicom, for \$3.58bn.

ATN is 70 per cent-owned by AustralianSuper and 30 per cent-owned by Singtel, but Singtel's share will shrink to 20 per cent following the transaction, which doubles the size of its tower portfolio to 4000.

Telecoms towers are in demand from infrastructure investors, eager for stable returns at a time of low interest rates.

Telstra in June offloaded a 49 per cent interest in its telco towers to Morrison & Co and The Future Fund for 28 times EBITDA. That unit has been renamed Amplitel. Also set to put tower assets up for sale are TPG Telecom, which has hired Bank of America, and Spark, which is working with Jarden and Forsyth Barr.

Document AUSTLN0020220403ei440002a



Business
Chorus tunes in for Vodafone tower sale

Bridget Carter 597 words 3 April 2022 10:00 The Australian - Online AUSTOL English

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Document AUSTOL0020220403ei430015p

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Aussie funds cross the ditch for Vodafone NZ towers

Anthony Macdonald, Sarah Thompson and Kanika Sood 400 words
3 April 2022
12:31
AFR Online
AFNROL
English

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As one telco towers infrastructure auction wraps up, the next is already kicking off.

The towers brigade - bidders, funders, bankers, lawyers - are off to New Zealand, where Brookfield and Morrison are trying to sell telco towers owned by (and to be leased back to) their Vodafone New Zealand.

UBS and Barrenjoey are running the auction and readying potential suitors for an information memorandum and financial model, to kick off stage one of the two round auction.

The bankers have been briefing tyrekickers which, as far we can tell, will include a handful of the Australian mid-market infrastructure fund managers, and potentially a few industry players from across the Tasman.

In pre-deal briefings, tyrekickers said they were told there was likely to be a 75 per cent to 85 per cent stake in the proposed TowerCo up for grabs. One of the owners, Brookfield, is expected to sell out in full, while Morrison thinks about retaining a 15 per cent to 25 per cent minority interest.

A flyer sent to interested parties last month said the new TowerCo would own 1487 towers, leased to its anchor tenant for 40 years and making an estimated \$NZ51 million (\$47.4 million) EBITDA in the 2023 financial year. Similar deals in Australia would imply a \$1.2 billion to \$1.4 billion valuation on a 100 per cent basis.

Igneo Infrastructure Partners, <u>fresh from winning Waste Management NZ as Street Talk revealed on Friday</u>, is expected to take at least an early look, along with rivals Palisade Infrastructure Partners and Infrastructure Capital Group.

While Axicom's only just been signed, it's too early to tell whether underbidders OMERS and DigitalBridge will turn up in New Zealand. At first glance, dealmakers reckon the Vodafone NZ is likely to be too small for either, even if they were considering it as part of a larger roll-up strategy. The forgotten about Stilmark, backed by Five V Capital, could turn up.

The biggest question on the financial investors' minds is whether one of the big Kiwi telco infrastructure groups - namely Chorus - could emerge as a smoky contender. After all, there's nothing like synergies to juice up a bid. [Major broadband and wireless internet service provider Spark NZ has bankers working on its own a potential towers selldown].

Document AFNROL0020220403ei43000un



LocoSoco Group plc - LocoSoco Group Plc in discussions with Proton Technologies about Hydrogen Production that utilises existing fossil fuel infrastructure to generate Clean Hydrogen and Sequester Carbon

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3 April 2022

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English

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LocoSoco Group Plc in discussions with Proton Technologies about Hydrogen Production that utilises existing fossil fuel infrastructure to generate Clean Hydrogen and Sequester Carbon

LocoSoco Group Plc ("LocoSoco", "LOCO"), the platform that profits from distributing products & technologies that contribute to sustainability and is listed on the Direct Market segment of the Vienna MTF, is pleased to announce discussions are underway with Proton Technologies, a leader in the field of Clean Hydrogen Production that utilises existing fossil fuel infrastructure.

LocoSoco is listed on the Direct Market segment of the Vienna MTF. For quotes and trading data, link here: https://www.wienerborse.at/en/market-data/shares-others/quote-direct/?ISIN=GB00BD5BTL23&ID NOTATION=246035708&cHash=96818d4943bd602c7947d54b3503cb6f

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Ends.

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About LocoSoco

<u>LocoSoco</u> delivers products and technologies that contribute to economic and environmental sustainability, working within sectors including retail, hospitality, corporate, government organisations.

* Original Link

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Vodafone Qatar QSC - Vodafone Qatar Paints Doha Green In Ramadan Sustainability Campaign

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2 April 2022

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Vodafone Qatar Paints Doha Green In Ramadan Sustainability Campaign

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Vodafone extends Tech Appeal with Refugee Council

posted by Vodafone 422 words 1 April 2022 Total Telecom Plus TOTEL English

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Vodafone has announced it is working with leading charity Refugee Council to distribute smartphones, devices and connectivity to refugees, including those fleeing Ukraine

Vodafone has donated 3,000 smartphones, **connectivity** and 1,000 portable chargers to the programme and is extending its popular Tech Appeal, so the UK public and businesses can donate tech to the cause.

This follows Vodafone's recent announcement that it is offering free connectivity to 200,000 refugees arriving in the UK from Ukraine through its everyone.connected programme.

Refugee Council is one of the leading charities working with refugees and those seeking asylum in the UK. It provides resettlement and integration services, such as help with securing accommodation, finding English lessons, registering for a GP or opening a bank account. Importantly, it also provides therapy to help address the trauma and mental health issues facing adults and children as they arrive in the UK as refugees. It supports around 14,000 displaced men, women and children every year.

Tamsin Baxter, Executive Director of Fundraising and External Affairs, Refugee Council, said: "We are working hard to prepare for the arrival of refugees from Ukraine and are ready to help them recover and rebuild their lives after the trauma they've faced. It's brilliant to see companies like Vodafone supporting our work. When you have lost so much, connectivity to those you love is invaluable; these phones could make the difference between speaking to a husband, children or parents who have been left behind, or not. That is absolutely a lifeline."

Vodafone is offering its customers free mobile calls and texts to Ukraine and is waiving charges for customers within the country; and is match-funding donations to the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal through the British Red Cross. It is also offering suitably qualified candidates from Ukraine fast track access to employment opportunities, subject to visa requirements. And Vodafone Foundation Instant Networks Teams are on the ground in Romania and Hungary, installing Instant WiFi and charging points in refugee centres to help people stay in touch with family and friends.

To find out more, search Vodafone everyone connected.

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: Startup Stories: We are the future of loyalty"The introduction of 5G capabilities in real production are enabling new connected mobility services"FCC places Russia's Kaspersky on US security risk list

512947

Document TOTEL00020220401ei4100006



Vodafone Qatar to support Rafeeq with digital services

533 words 1 April 2022 Gulf Times GUTIME English

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Vodafone Qatar has announced a new **partnership** with Qatari food delivery **platform** Rafeeq. The two companies will work together to identify how tailored, innovative digital solutions and customer insights based on Big Data can support Rafeeq to optimise their operations and enhance customer service and experience.

Vodafone's portfolio of business solutions is created to cater for businesses across a diverse range of industries and all sizes. For Rafeeq, Vodafone's Internet of Things (IoT) Fleet Management and Big Data and Advanced Analytics solutions are examples of technologies that can help the food delivery **platform** meet their business objectives, according to a press statement.

Mahday Saad E M al-Hebabi, Enterprise Business Unit director at Vodafone Qatar, said: "Rafeeq has a strong set of commitments to its customers; it promises to deliver a high-quality service at high speed, and offers several digitally-enabled features for them to use. Our solutions can equip them with the tools to keep those promises, which is essential in building customer trust and, therefore, a successful business.

"By combining our pioneering technology with the resilience of human spirit, together we can enable businesses to move forward, adapt and adopt new ways of communicating and operating. We can tailor our solutions to the specific needs of any business and provide technologies that streamline their operations and enable them to continue on their digital transformation journey."

Abdullah Thamer Alhemaidi, CEO of Rafeeq, noted: "We are in the process of leveraging a group of solutions to enhance our platform's technical value by employing innovative, smart technologies. These digital solutions include Vodafone's IoT Fleet Management for smoother and more controlled management of our drivers' fleet. Our constant goal is to improve efficiency, so as to both increase the value of our business, and enhance the service for our valued customers.

"Enhancing our efficiency means accelerating the speed of our deliveries, as well as providing technical solutions and the necessary data to hone and develop our services, whether by reducing distances, defining appropriate routes, or reducing the time and effort required to complete jobs. This is all especially important given the continuing expansion of our operations, and the levelling up of our services to meet global standards, all in order to keep pace with the evolving technology sector. As a result, we have partnered with Vodafone through this new pioneering and ambitious programme."

Both businesses will now collaborate to identify the most suitable solutions for Rafeeq's needs, including any customisation requirements. For instance, many factors can affect the efficiency of delivery operations, including distance and travel time, traffic congestion, driving behaviour, high fuel costs and even weather conditions.

Rafeeq can use Vodafone's IoT Fleet Management Solution to manage and monitor their fleet operations, optimise efficiency and manage all of these factors in order to increase customer satisfaction.

To the same end, Rafeeq can also use Vodafone's tailored Big Data and Advanced Analytics solution, which has the ability to deliver real-time, anonymised, aggregated data, in accordance with Qatar regulations and global best practices. The innovative platform gathers vast amounts of data to generate insights for a deeper understanding of customer behaviour.

Document GUTIME0020220401ei410008f

EGYPT INDEPENDENT

Vodafone Egypt compensates customers for Wednesday's network malfunction

Al-Masry Al-Youm 208 words 1 April 2022 Egypt Independent EGYPEN English

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Vodafone Egypt announced compensating 10 million customers who had been affected by a malfunction in its network on Wednesday.

Vodafone Egypt said on Thursday that the company faced on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 2 pm, a technical failure outside its control resulting from a cut in one of the **cables**, which affected the service of 10 million customers out of a total of 44 million customers, and the technical failure lasted less than an hour.

A company statement on Thursday stated that the operations room followed up on the problem as soon as it occurred

Subsequently the network engineers worked to find guick solutions to solve the malfunction.

Vodafone was not satisfied with solving the problem in record time and quickly applied to the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to obtain approval to compensate customers who were affected.

As a result they will provide them with free calls throughout Thursday, March 31, 2022, the statement said.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority responded to Vodafone Egypt's request and a text message was sent to 10 million customers on Thursday to inform them of the compensation and to clarify the reasons for the technical malfunction, the statement added.

Document EGYPEN0020220401ei410002t



04:40 EDT Vantage Towers downgraded to Hold from Buy at Deutsche BankDeutsche...

91 words
1 April 2022
Theflyonthewall.com
FLYWAL
English

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04:40 EDT Vantage Towers downgraded to Hold from Buy at Deutsche BankDeutsche Bank analyst Robert Grindle downgraded Vantage Towers to Hold from Buy with a EUR 35.50 price target. The shares are up 33% since the initial public offering and the probability of a full take-out by **infrastructure** funds is low, Grindle tells investors in a research note. Further, the analyst sees a slower rollout of Vantage's build-to-suit sites amid supply chain challenges. DBAB

Document FLYWAL0020220401ei410015p

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Stock in news Vodafone Idea board approves raising Rs 4,500 crore from 3 promoters

Amit Mudgill
182 words
1 April 2022
The Economic Times
ECTIM
English
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NEW DELHI: Vodafone Idea (Vi) on Thursday said its board has approved raising of Rs 4,500 crore by allotting 3,38,34,58,645 equity shares to three promoter or promoter group entities at Rs 13.30 a piece. The telecom operator said it has allotted 1,96,66,35,338 shares to Euro Pacific Securities on a preferential basis, another 57,09,58,646 shares to Prime Metals and rest 84,58,64,661 shares to Oriana Investment. 90561629The shareholders of the company had approved the said issuance vide special resolution passed at the extra-ordinary general meeting held on March 26. In a filing to exchanges, Vodafone Idea said: "Please further note that after the above allotment of the equity shares, the paid-up equity share capital of the company stands increased to Rs. 3,21,18,84,78,850/- consisting of 32,11,88,47,885 equity shares of face value of Rs 10/- each. "More to come...

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EU 'falling behind on Digital Decade targets'

510 words
31 March 2022
Capacity Magazine
CAPMAG
English
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The European Union needs to double its number of IT specialists and companies need to triple their use of **cloud** in order to meet targets.

A report from Deloitte, commissioned by Vodafone, says the 27 members of the EU are falling way behind their targets for its so-called Digital Decade.

Joakim Reiter (pictured), the Vodafone Group's chief external affairs officer, said: "It's critical for Europe that it closes the gaps on the Digital Decade targets highlighted in this report. Without ICT specialists and SMEs digitalised and fit for the future, it will be difficult for Europe to compete in global markets and to build the digital industrial solutions of tomorrow."

The Digital Decade, which sets key targets on different digital areas until 2030, is the EU's vision for Europe's digital transformation and a critical element in Europe maintaining its global competitiveness in a rapidly changing world.

But, only 26% of all EU companies currently use cloud computing services, which is far short of the 75% target by 2030. This means from now until 2030, the EU needs to make up a gap of 49 percentage points.

The Deloitte report says that there is still a gap of 41 percentage points in connecting households to broadband networks.

"Plugging this gap could prove challenging to most, if not all member states, due to the high costs and operational challenges in deploying these networks in remote areas," says the report.

Across the 27 members of EU, the number of ICT specialists currently stands at 8.43 million. "While this number has increased the most in Germany, Ireland and Hungary over the past year, across the EU as a whole this figure needs to more than double in order to meet the 20 million ICT specialists Digital Decade goal," the report warns.

One of the saddest findings is that digital intensity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) "has remained relatively flat over the past five years, with the average annual growth rate across the EU between 2016-2021 standing at just 2%".

Deloitte says that "its digital intensity index ... measures the availability of 12 different digital technologies including access to fast broadband (30Mbps or above) and ICT specialists".

In some cases, "member states are now further behind on their goals than they were five years ago". Poland was 14 percentage points closer to its 2030 target compared to 2019 and Italy 11 percentage points higher. But the Czech Republic "was 14 percentage points further behind [its] 2030 target in 2021 compared to 2019, Portugal nine percentage points. Germany five, Ireland three, and France two".

Reiter said: "All countries must participate in strengthening and enhancing our continent's digital capabilities. Simply put, progress in only some member states will not be enough to achieve Europe's digital ambitions. While these gaps remain, our vision of a competitive, greener and more resilient Europe moves further away. Indeed, the European Parliament recently estimated that the cost of inaction will stand at €1.3 trillion by 2032."

Document CAPMAG0020220418ei3v00018



5G at Network Level - Are we Ready?

763 words
31 March 2022
Voice and Data
CMVOID
English
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At this year's Voice&Data Telecom Leadership Forum, held on March 22, 2022, during a fireside chat, network architecture for 5G Rollout was discussed, excerpts below.

Ibrahim Ahmad, Consulting Editor, CyberMedia Group chatted with Jagbir Singh, CTO, Vodafone Idea on the alignment of current networks, challenges and opportunities for operators, the **partnership** needed at **ecosystem** level.

Jagbir Singh has built some of the biggest networks in the world. He has held senior leadership positions with multiple operators and brings over 32 years of experience in the industry.

His current role involves planning of network architecture, network lifecycle, engineering, deployment and operations.

Operators have invested big money in networks but are current networks compatible with 5G? Would a hybrid model of 4G and 5G work?

"Until 5G happens, we need a base coverage of 4G to support voice services," said Jagbir Singh. Co-existence of both will continue for the next five to seven years. Similarly co-existence of radio access network or RAN for dual connectivity for 4G and 5G will happen.

5G is not as backward compatible as 3G and 4G were. This dual connectivity will ensure seamless coverage for the customer. Jagbir Singh also touched upon what happens when we divide RAN it into classical RAN and Open RAN where disintegration brings new outcomes.

"Whatever equipment Vodafone has deployed in the last five years is capable of being ready for 5G with a software upgrade. For OpenRAN, we have been doing trials and it is maturing with time. It is a good architecture for machine learning, data analytics and it is a flexible architecture. Most architectures today are classical but Open RAN is evolving fast.

However, classical architecture is equally capable of 5G services. 4G can continue to co-exist with 5G. So benefits of seamless coverage will continue.

The industry is deploying cloud-based architecture with virtual machines.

"We have Cloud systems which are fully ready to update to 5G. Having this network gave us flexibility and scalability."

5G investments

Ibrahim asked, why -- not so long ago -- there was stiff opposition from operators as they had just finished investments in 3G and 4G?

Jagbir Singh explained that the industry has seen confidence with maturity of technology. All investments in infrastructure, equipment and transport is being done with a 5G-readiness in mind.

Specifications have become clearer. Pilots have been completed. This has sharpened understanding of technology. Proven technology across the globe helps to deepen this confidence. Of course, spectrum pricing is a challenge. There is also need for more fibre connectivity, robust transport networks, more base stations which all adds up to more Capex. "There is not too much upside on ARPU, so the challenge will remain," he said

5G enables Private networks.

Jagbir Singh explained that this can happen through slicing and we would get efficiency for spectrum-usage and capex optimisation. "Even devices are going to support eight slices. With different bandwidth for different uses with 5G.

On concerns about security and latency, Jagbir said, "Public networks are more secure due to regulatory aspects and compliance than private networks. Network slicing is highly secure as well. Slicing enables dedicated resources – making SLAs better. We also need to address redundancy in private networks with high degree of efficiency, reliability and security."

The industry also needs enough money for Capex – in light of ARPU challenges. With the Make-in-India effort and fast 5G roll-out, we can navigate these aspects.

5G Power

Jagbir shared lessons from trials in Pune and Gandhinagar by Vodafone Idea.

"Any use case is going to be part of an ecosystem – like network providers, integrators, device providers. All the use-cases will not come from vendors or operators but from the entire ecosystem. We learnt a lot too."

Vodafone Idea implemented several projects like connected ambulances, remote medicine etc. with third-party applications. 5G provides native capability for low latency so it is best suited for AR, VR, Gaming etc.

"It will have a maturity curve. It will take some time," he felt. It is ideal for B2B, remote education, remote healthcare, remote monitoring of infrastructure, factory automation, remote surveillance.

That said, how to make money and make these areas popular would be a challenge. But with industry collaboration and ecosystem co-operation – this would become possible.

Maturity level of technology, cloud-native investments, realistic pricing of spectrum, device availability in ecosystem, and ROI are issues that this industry and regulators need to address. But we have to begin at some point.

Click here to view image

Document CMVOID0020220401ei3v00004

News Former Vodafone CTO to chair BAI

Richard Hook
311 words
31 March 2022
Land Mobile
LMOB
English
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Communications infrastructure provider BAI Communications (BAI) has announced the appointment of former Vodafone chief technology officer Steve Pusey as chair of the board.

Pusey brings more than three decades of experience in telecommunications to the role including nine years as CTO at Vodafone, EMEA president at Nortel Networks and five years at British Telecom.

Pusey will assume the position of chair from the end of March, taking over from non-executive director Bart Vogel who has been serving as interim chair since January.

BAI chief executive Igor Leprince said the group was "extremely proud and fortunate" to have "one of the most accomplished people in the industry" join as chair.

In his new role, Pusey has been tasked with providing "strategic leadership and advisory input as it continues its upward trajectory and expands its global footprint". In December last year, BAIacquired Irish 4G and 5G network specialist Vilicom to "accelerate its growth of wireless networks across Europe".

The deal marked the latest expansion into the UK and Irish telecoms market over the past 12 months for BAlhaving been awarded a 20-year contract by Transport for London to deliver uninterrupted 4G coverage across all London Underground stations and tunnels as well as agreeing a 20-year strategic partnership with Sunderland City Council to "create the UK's most advanced smart city".

Pusey said: "It is fantastic to be joining the BAI Board and I'm very much looking forward to getting involved in the business. BAI is an extremely exciting organisation in a space that is on the cusp of huge expansion as the connected infrastructure and smart city agenda continue to draw the attention and prioritisation of cities and businesses around the world."

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One STEP at a time: Vodafone introduces road safety platform

by Harry Baldock, Total Telecom 764 words 31 March 2022 Total Telecom Plus TOTEL English

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Vodafone's 'Safer Transport for Europe Platform' (STEP) will provide a unified platform for sharing vehicle data between road users in real time, helping deliver traffic updates and hazard warnings

This week, Vodafone has announced its new vehicle-to-everything (V2X) platform, STEP, allowing road users and transport authorities to share data with one another in real time.

For many years now, vehicles have been growing increasingly more computerised and connected, with various commentators comparing modern cars to smartphones on wheels. This increase in vehicle digitalisation has many clear benefits, from mobile applications using location data to warn drivers of upcoming traffic to external sensors that alert drivers to potential hazards beyond their line of sight.

But despite this plethora of available data, interoperability been these apps and sensors remains limited. Vodafone points out that road safety updates, for example, are still typically conveyed to drivers by road infrastructure itself, such as electronic boards and motorway gantries, or by a limited number of compatible technologies like in-vehicle navigation systems.

To solve this challenge, Vodafone has set about to create a unified platform through which this data can be shared. Based on cloud-based, open architecture, STEP will be compatible with all third-party apps and in-vehicle navigation systems, allowing drivers to receive road safety updates quickly across all of their devices and in-vehicle systems.

"This scaled platform enables the delivery of vital safety information to all road users, no matter what app or system they rely on," explained Vinod Kumar, CEO of Vodafone Business. "STEP encourages the collaboration needed between transport authorities, app developers and the automotive industry to unlock the full value of data and connectivity in helping make Europe's roads safer."

Upon launch, STEP will focus on delivering safety messages and targeted updates, like lane closures, speed restrictions, and traffic incidents. However, as the system develops and its functionality improves, it could also help map the road network in real-time. This will allow for the delivery of far more specific alerts, such as warning a drive of a cyclist hidden in their blind spot or pedestrians preparing to cross the road around the next bend.

The technology has been developed by Vodafone UK in collaboration with Nokia and Chordan, with the trio working with other automotive players, transport authorities, and third parties to expand the ecosystem.

STEP is set to be launched within Vodafone's own Vodafone Automotive apps later this year.

Telecoms operators interest in V2X technology is nothing new. Standardisation for V2X technology based on 4G LTE was introduced by the standards body 3GPP back in 2016, with other connectivity technologies, like wireless local area networks, being explored for V2X even earlier with limited success.

However, it was not until the advent of 5G in 2019 that cellular V2X began to gain serious traction from both the automotive and telecoms communities. This is largely related to 5G's inherent improvements over these older technologies; unlike 4G, 5G has the potential to deliver ultra-low latency and high bandwidth that will allow for real-time communication.

In a driving scenario, where a fraction of a second's delay can be a matter of life and death, the widespread availability of 5G will prove crucial to effective V2X communications, lighting the way towards fully autonomous driving in the (albeit distant) future.

Vodafone themselves conducted successful V2X trials in the West Midlands in summer last year and they are far from alone in the telecoms industry's interest in V2X. Telecom Italia (TIM), Telefonica, and BT/EE, for example, all participated in live V2X trials at the end of 2021 as part of the 5G Automotive Association.

Meanwhile, each of the three major telecoms radio access network (RAN) equipment vendors – Ericsson, Nokia, and Huawei – are working on their own V2X technologies, often in tandem with major automotive players.

Their interest is no doubt well placed. The V2X market is evolving rapidly and is expected to reach a value of \$26.23 billion at a CAGR of 43.7% in 2030, according to a report released earlier this week by market intelligence firm Reports and Data.

What role will 5G play in the UK's growing connected car industry? Learn from the experts at this year's Connected Britain conference

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Vodafone Spain adds Facebook Watch to TV offer

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Shortly after renewing its <u>Disney</u>content deal, Vodafone Spain said its TV subscribers can now access Mediaset's Mitele streaming app via the apps section of the company's set-top box. As a result, customers can view the basic Mitele service for free or the premium <u>Mitele Plus</u>platform for EUR 5 a month.

The latter gives viewers ad-free access to all of Mediaset Spain's TV content on a live and on-demand basis, including exclusive programmes and early access to popular shows.

Vodafone Spain had 1.52 million TV subscribers at the end of December and boasted the country's most extensive library of movies and series thanks in part to the renewal of its exclusive agreement with HBO Max in October.

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