

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
SK Telecom's digital remastering technology Supernova going global

218 words
19 April 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

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

Document KORHER0020220418ei4j0002t

THE KOREA ECONOMIC DAILY
GLOBAL EDITION

Companies
SK Telecom steps up metaverse push with Morph Interactive purchase

269 words
14 April 2022
The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
ECODEN
English

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

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

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

SK Telecom's metaverse platform ifland

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

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

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

SK Telecom

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

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

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

By Han-Gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

In-Soo Nam edited this article.

SK Telecom is in a strategic partnership with Morph Interactive

Document ECODEN0020220415ei4e00005

SK Telecom signs contract with Morph Interactive to implement new metaverse functions

posted by Ellie McGonagle-Foy, Total Telecom
433 words
14 April 2022
Total Telecom Plus
TOTEL
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Document TOTEL00020220414ei4e00003

THE KOREA ECONOMIC DAILY
GLOBAL EDITION

Companies
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268 words
14 April 2022
The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
ECODEN
English

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SK Telecom's metaverse platform ifland

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

By Han-Gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

In-Soo Nam edited this article.

SK Telecom in a strategic partnership with Morph Interactive

Document ECODEN0020220414ei4e00033

SK Telecom: Expect Healthy Earnings Growth

382 words
14 April 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

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

Earnings ramping up strongly on improving wireless profitability

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

1Q22 preview: To log solid earnings

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

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

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

Document BKORDN0020220414ei4e0002t

THE NATION

international

SK Telecom buys stake in 3D motion graphics firm in metaverse push

345 words
14 April 2022
The Nation
THENAT
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Son Ji-hyoung

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

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THE KOREA ECONOMIC DAILY
GLOBAL EDITION

Companies
SK Telecom invests in Morph Interactive in stepped-up metaverse push

270 words
14 April 2022
The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
ECODEN
English

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SK Telecom

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

By Han-Gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

In-Soo Nam edited this article.

SK Telecom in a strategic partnership with Morph Interactive

Document ECODEN0020220414ei4e00001

매일경제

, Tech
SKT invests in Morph Interactive to add games, market place to ifland

Woo Soo-min and Susan Lee
275 words
14 April 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Source: SK Telecom Co.]

Document MAEIL00020220414ei4e0005n

The Korea Herald

Entertainment

SK Telecom buys stake in 3D motion graphics firm in metaverse push

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301 words
14 April 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

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

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

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

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

Document KORHER0020220413ei4e000b5

KOREA JOONGANG DAILY
In association with International New York Times

SK Telecom to add game features to its ifland platform

348 words
13 April 2022
Korea JoongAng Daily
JOONAI
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

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

Document JOONAI0020220413ei4d000xd

PR Newswire
a CISION company

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

562 words
13 April 2022
06:47
PR Newswire
PRN
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Media Contact:

marketing@its-newid.com

View original content to download multimedia:

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

SOURCE NEW ID

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Document PRN0000020220413ei4d0001n

World
SKT works with Morph Interactive for quick introduction of new functions for Ifland metaverse platform

Lim Chang-won
508 words
13 April 2022
AJU NEWS
AJUENG
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwlim34@ajunews.com

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cwlim34@ajunews.com
Document AJUENG0020220413ei4d0008d

Smart Times

#Digital Currency
SKT invests in XR tech company for metaverse expansion

Yeran Kim
135 words
13 April 2022
Smart Times
SMTIME
English

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

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

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

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

Source: SKT

Document SMTIME0020220413ei4d00001

World
SK Telecom develops AI post-production technology for media localization

Kim Joo-heon
445 words
11 April 2022
AJU NEWS
AJUENG
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kim Joo-heon Reporter jhkim123@ajunews.com

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

jhkim123@ajunews.com

Document AJUENG0020220411ei4b0008d

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

338 words
11 April 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<lt-toolbar contenteditable="false" data-lt-force-appearance="light" style="display: none;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__wrapper" style="left: 625px; position: absolute !important; top: 476px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__premium-icon"></lt-div><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__status-icon lt-toolbar__status-icon-has-no-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></lt-div></lt-div></lt-toolbar>

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

Document BKORDN0020220411ei4b00005

Smart Times

#AI
SKT develops AI technology to erase subtitles and sound sources

jinyong lee
200 words
11 April 2022
Smart Times
SMTIME
English

SK Telecom announced that it will complete the development of 'AI Post Production (AIPP)' technology in collaboration with 'New ID', a digital **content** distribution company, and start commercializing it.

SKT uses AI technology to support ▵Removal of Korean subtitles and broadcaster logos in **content** ▵Removal of field and background sound sources without loss of voice ▵Upscaling technology that converts low-quality images to high-definition, 'Supernova'.

New ID, which supplies content to more than 20 global platforms such as Amazon, Discovery Channel, Roku, Pluto TV, and 2B, plans to export domestic content reprocessed through SKT's AI technology to the global market.

Both companies anticipate that AIPP technology will be particularly helpful in exporting domestic entertainment contents, where subtitles, speech bubbles and background sound sources are frequently used.

Kim Hyuk, head of global media support at SKT, said, "We expect that the export of excellent entertainment contents in Korea, which has been difficult to localize due to problems such as Korean subtitles and music copyrights, will expand, and will further strengthen the content Korean wave." We will do our best to develop 'media localization' technology for.

SK Telecom

Document SMTIME0020220411ei4b00002

telecompaper

SK Telecom opens Sphere workspaces in three locations in Seoul

398 words
8 April 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

South Korean operator SK Telecom has officially opened new workspaces called ‘Sphere' in three different locations in the Seoul Metropolitan Area, including Sindorim, Ilsan and Bundang. Employees can enter Spheres and choose their desks via facial recognition. They can also reserve their seats beforehand using the Sphere app. At Spheres, all seats are equipped with a tablet that connects them to Virtual Desktop **Infrastructure** (VDI), which deploys all of the features of their PCs, via facial recognition.

As near-to-home workspaces, Spheres are expected to reduce employees' commuting distance and time. It has been found through the company's survey that the employees who work at SK Telecom offices located within the Seoul Metropolitan Area spent a total of 3,969 hours commuting per day, and their total commuting distance was 118,737 kilometers.

Spheres feature various types of rooms to support works and meetings. In particular, they offer one-person meeting rooms to meet the needs for non-face-to-face meetings. Some rooms are equipped with Oculus Quest (HMD) to support communication in the virtual space. In the second half of this year, employees will be able to hold meetings in the metaverse with the launch of the HMD version of Ifland.

IoT sensors located throughout Sphere collect work environment-related data, including room temperature, humidity, fine dust concentration, CO2 level, hazardous substance, illuminance and noise, and AI technology uses this data to maintain an optimal work environment, SK Telecom also said.

SK Telecom also reports its has selected the locations and designs of Spheres considering the place of residence and work characteristics of its 4,300 employees working in the Seoul Metropolitan Area. The company now plans to create more Spheres in diverse locations.

SK Telecom also added diverse environmentally-friendly elements to Sphere. For instance, the walls and furniture of Spheres are made by upcycling textile waste and these offices are equipped with intelligent cameras that turn off the lights when no one is present. Sphere located in Sindorim and Bundang are in the process of achieving LEED Gold certification from the US Green Building Council.

In July, SK Telecom plans to open a Sphere with a concept of ‘Work + Vacation' at the Walkerhill Hotel located in Gwangjin-gu, Seoul, and employees of SK ICT affiliates will also be able to use this Sphere.

Document TELASI0020220408ei480008d

매일경제

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

98 words
7 April 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

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

[Source: SK Telecom]

Document MAEIL00020220407ei470008i

YouTube Music Threatens Melon's Top Spot in Korea

233 words
1 April 2022
Chosun Ilbo
DIGCHO
English

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

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

(By Kim Bong-kee)

englishnews@chosun.com /

April 01, 2022 12:45

Document DIGCHO0020220401ei4100001

THE KOREA ECONOMIC DAILY
GLOBAL EDITION

Companies
Dell, SK team up for 5G mobile edge computing market

409 words
29 March 2022
The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
ECODEN
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Sung-Soo Bae

baebae@hankyung.com

Yeonhee Kim edited this article.

SK Telecom's exhibition booth at the Mobile World Conference 2022 in Barcelona

Document ECODEN0020220329ei3t00032

KOREA JOONGANG DAILY
In association with International New York Times

Three telecom companies establish ESG investment fund

412 words
29 March 2022
Korea JoongAng Daily
JOONAI
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

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

Document JOONAI0020220329ei3t001jl

매일경제

, Biz&Company
SK Square to invest over $1.6bn in semiconductor, blockchain sectors

Woo Soo-min and Sookyung Seo
395 words
29 March 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to view image

Park Jung-ho, SK Square CEO - Photo provided by SK Square

Document MAEIL00020220329ei3t0005p

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
SK Square unveils W2tr bet on chips, blockchain

483 words
29 March 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(consnow@heraldcorp.com)

Click here to see image

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

Document KORHER0020220328ei3t000rt

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
SKT to mount 5G MEC solutions on Dell's servers

353 words
29 March 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

US tech giant Dell Technologies and South Korean mobile carrier SK Telecom said Monday they would forge a multi-access edge computing alliance to expand its global 5G footprint targeting enterprise and government clients.

Under the plan, SK Telecom's 5G MEC solutions -- ranging from network virtualization to MEC application for operation and user experience optimization -- will be mounted on Dell's servers to meet the global demand for 5G private network **infrastructure**.

Moreover, the two companies aim to offer consulting, deployment and maintenance services to its clients.

Multi-access edge computing, formerly known as mobile edge computing, refers to a cloud computing architecture designed to reduce communication latency and enhance security for a stable network operation.

Those setting up the 5G private radio access network infrastructure for smart factories, connected cars and immersive media would no longer need to rely on data centers distant from the 5G private network location for data processing. Data are stored and processed at the network's edge within the MEC infrastructure, instead of a data center.

"The computing speed goes faster and more consistent when (data are processed) in close proximity to where data came from, driving telecom business innovation further in the future," Kevin Kim, president of Korea and senior vice president at Dell Technologies, said in a statement.

Dell, headquartered in Texas, is dedicated to enterprise server, personal computer, mobile business and enterprise storage, among others.

SK Telecom said it is working to allow Dell's MEC servers to be interoperable with other telecom carriers' MEC solutions.

SK Telecom announced a commercialization of Korea's first MEC solution with Amazon Web Services in December 2020.

Korea is the first country to deploy the commercial 5G mobile network. The Science Ministry and three Korea-based telecom carriers -- SK Telecom, KT and LG Uplus -- pledged in 2020 to invest a combined 25 trillion won ($20.4 billion) to achieve the nationwide 5G network penetration by the first half of 2022.

(consnow@heraldcorp.com)

Click here to see image

A visual concept image of 5G network (123rf)

Document KORHER0020220328ei3t000jh

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

Camomile Shumba
212 words
28 March 2022
CoinDesk.com
COINDSK
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document COINDSK020220328ei3s000jk

KOREA JOONGANG DAILY
In association with International New York Times

SK Square to invest big in semiconductors and blockchain

200 words
28 March 2022
Korea JoongAng Daily
JOONAI
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

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

Document JOONAI0020220328ei3s002p9

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

Camomile Shumba
217 words
28 March 2022
CoinDesk.com
COINDSK
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Document COINDSK020220328ei3s0008e

SK Telecom, Dell introduce Petasus 5G MEC platform

159 words
28 March 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

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

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

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

Document TELASI0020220328ei3s0002t

World
SKT partners with Dell Technologies to release 5G MEC platform targeting global market

Park Sae-jin
403 words
28 March 2022
AJU NEWS
AJUENG
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

Park Sae-jin Reporter swatchsjp@ajunews.com

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

swatchsjp@ajunews.com

Document AJUENG0020220328ei3s000dx

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
Korean conglomerates delve into digital asset market

718 words
28 March 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

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

Document KORHER0020220327ei3s0002t

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

Eliza Gkritsi
258 words
24 March 2022
CoinDesk.com
COINDSK
English

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

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

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

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

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

* In November 2021, SK Telecomspent KRW 87.3 billion acquire a 35% stake in crypto exchange Korbit.

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

Read more: Japanese Consortium Plans to Issue Bank Deposit-Like Stablecoin By End of 2022

Document COINDSK020220324ei3o000mg

South Korea
South Korea’s second-largest conglomerate to issue own cryptocurrency

Danny Park
199 words
24 March 2022
Forkast News
FOKNEW
English

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

Fast facts

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click to view image.

Document FOKNEW0020220324ei3o00006

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

Eliza Gkritsi
252 words
24 March 2022
CoinDesk.com
COINDSK
English

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

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

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

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

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

* In November 2021, SK Telecomspent KRW 87.3 billion acquire a 35% stake in crypto exchange Korbit.

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

Read more: Japanese Consortium Plans to Issue Bank Deposit-Like Stablecoin By End of 2022

Document COINDSK020220324ei3o000gr

SK Square Moving to Issue Its Own Cryptocurrency

347 words
24 March 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Unlike existing cryptocurrencies that have limited uses, the cryptocurrency to be issued by SK Group will be used widely for SK Telecom’s metaverse platform Ifland, SK Planet’s point and membership-based platform, e-commerce of 11ST, OTT service Wavve and T Map Mobility,” said industry observer.<lt-toolbar contenteditable="false" data-lt-force-appearance="light" style="display: none;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__wrapper" style="left: 625px; position: absolute !important; top: 430px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__premium-icon"></lt-div><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__status-icon lt-toolbar__status-icon-has-no-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></lt-div></lt-div></lt-toolbar>

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

Document BKORDN0020220324ei3o0002t

THE KOREA ECONOMIC DAILY
GLOBAL EDITION

Companies
SK tipped to be Korea's 1st group to issue digital coins

664 words
23 March 2022
The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition
ECODEN
English

SK Square Co., the **investment** arm of SK Group, is working on issuing its own digital currency within the year, according to people with knowledge of the matter on Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 2021, 11Street launched a new subscription e-commerce market, T Universe

GROUP-WIDE SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

SK Planet and Korbit's signing ceremony for business cooperation on March 23

INITIAL COIN OFFERING

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

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

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

By Han-Gyeol Seon and Sung-Soo Bae

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Yeonhee Kim edited this article.

Park Jung-ho, vice chairman and co-CEO of SK Square and SK Hynix

Document ECODEN0020220324ei3n00002

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GLOBAL EDITION

Companies
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668 words
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ECODEN
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Yeonhee Kim edited this article

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The Korea Herald

Entertainment

K-pop idols bond with Gen Z and Alpha fans on metaverse platforms

426 words
21 March 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

Girl group Billlie and the group members' avatars are seen in the group<font size="3">'

Click here to see image

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

Document KORHER0020220320ei3l00001

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

1,775 words
18 March 2022
Investment Weekly News
INVWK
3186
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

quantization parameter for each of coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture, and the block partition map represents information about a boundary of each of the coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture.

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

The claims supplied by the inventors are:

"1. A video decoding method using a convolutional neural network (CNN)-based filter, the method comprising: obtaining an input data, the input data including pixel data of a first reconstructed picture region which is partitioned into a plurality of coding units, and a quantization parameter map and a block partition map which are associated with the first reconstructed picture region, the first reconstructed picture region having been reconstructed from a bitstream of a video data, wherein the quantization parameter map is a two dimensional array for representing quantization parameters for the respective coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region, and the block partition map is a two dimensional array for representing boundaries between the coding units in the first reconstructed picture region; and providing the neural network based filter with the input data to obtain a second picture region that the first reconstructed picture region is filtered with the neural network based filter, wherein the neural network based filter has filter coefficients which have been trained with training data including pixel data of sample picture regions, and quantization parameter maps and block partition maps associated with the sample picture regions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"8. A video decoding apparatus using a neural network based filter, the apparatus comprising: an input unit configured to receive an input data, the input data including pixel data of a first reconstructed picture region, and a quantization parameter map and a block partition map which are associated with the first reconstructed picture region, the first reconstructed picture region having been reconstructed from a bitstream of a video data, wherein the quantization parameter map is a two dimensional array for representing quantization parameters for the respective coding units constituting the first reconstructed picture region, and the block partition map is a two dimensional array for representing boundaries between the coding units in the first reconstructed picture region; a filter unit configured to apply the neural network based filter to the input data; and an output unit configured to output a second picture region obtained from an output of the neural network based filter, the second picture region being a filtered picture region of the first reconstructed picture region, wherein the neural network based filter has filter coefficients which have been trained with training data including pixel data of sample picture regions, and quantization parameter maps and block partition maps associated with the sample picture regions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information on this patent, see: Kim, Hyo Song. Apparatus and method for applying artificial neural network to image encoding or decoding. U.S. Patent Number 11265540, filed October 6, 2020, and published online on March 1, 2022. Patent URL: http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetahtml%2FPTO%2Fsrchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=11265540.PN.&OS=PN/11265540RS=PN/11265540

Keywords for this news article include: Business, Machine Learning, SK Telecom Co. Ltd., Network Technologies, Convolutional Network, Emerging Technologies, Information Technology, Artificial Neural Networks, Telecommunications Companies.

Document INVWK00020220318ei3i000dy

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

926 words
17 March 2022
ENP Newswire
ENPNEW
English

Release date - 16032022

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

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

Market Leaders: Deutsche Telekom, Telefonica, Vodafone, KPN

Mainstream: AT&T, Verizon, Orange

Followers: SK Telecom, NTT DoCoMo, Singtel

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

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

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

Telefonica led the index in several areas, such as energy efficiency, waste recycled, eco-design, and green bonds, while Vodafone had strong performances in energy efficiency, waste recycled, overall sustainability reporting, and conversion of fleet vehicles to electric vehicles. KPN, an over achiever in sustainability, has been using green electricity since 2011 and has been carbon neutral since 2015. KPN was the smallest operator in the index and did not lead in network upgrades, 5G deployment, or scale of impact; however, the company is a global sustainability leader from every other perspective.

The mainstream selections, such as AT&T, Verizon, and Orange, were all very strong in 5G and fiber deployment, and these companies led the index, along with SK Telecom, for network upgrades. However, the mainstream companies lagged the leaders in global percent use of renewable energy for the networks. SK Telecom, NTT DoCoMo, and Singtel emerged as followers, primarily due to challenges in their regions for

sourcing renewable energy (the companies are still close to zero percent for renewable energy use, despite future pledges), and for less breadth and depth in overall sustainability tracking and reporting.

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

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

About ABI Research

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

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

Document ENPNEW0020220317ei3h0002x

SK telecom: Worthwhile Investment amid Changing Media Landscape

306 words
17 March 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

Maintain BUY, target price of KRW75,000

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

(1) the company's bolstered dividend policy;

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

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

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

Media platform strategy to drive growth

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

Bolstered dividend policy

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

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

Document BKORDN0020220317ei3h0000b

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

988 words
16 March 2022
M2 Presswire
MTPW
English

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

Market Leaders: Deutsche Telekom, Telefónica, Vodafone, KPN

Mainstream: AT&T, Verizon, Orange

Followers: SK Telecom, NTT DoCoMo, Singtel

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

Each of the leaders in the index has transitioned to using more than 50 percent renewable energy for global purchased electricity and two have reached 100 percent. The use of renewable energy has reduced the leaders' total carbon emissions by 8.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2e), which is equivalent to removing the CO_2 emissions of 1.8 million passenger vehicles for one year, or 19.4 million barrels of oil consumed. Johnson advises, "All operators need to focus on the largest source of carbon emissions, which is energy consumption of their networks. The most sustainable companies, though, have a comprehensive strategy, including the deployment of technologies such as 5G, AI, and automation, an in-depth waste recycling program, employee compensation tied to climate targets, and active engagement with suppliers and customers, upstream and downstream from the company's own operations."

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

Telefónica led the index in several areas, such as energy efficiency, waste recycled, eco-design, and green bonds, while Vodafone had strong performances in energy efficiency, waste recycled, overall sustainability reporting, and conversion of fleet vehicles to electric vehicles. KPN, an over achiever in sustainability, has been using green electricity since 2011 and has been carbon neutral since 2015. KPN was the smallest operator in the index and did not lead in network upgrades, 5G deployment, or scale of impact; however, the company is a global sustainability leader from every other perspective.

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

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

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

# # #

About ABI Research

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

For more information about ABI Research’s services, contact us at +1.516.624.2500 in the Americas, +44.203.326.0140 in Europe, +65.6592.0290 in Asia-Pacific or visit www.abiresearch.com.

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The Korea Herald

Entertainment
[Herald Interview] When quantum tech marries 5G

Son Ji-hyoung Korea Herald Correspondent (consnow@heraldcorp.com)
823 words
14 March 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

BARCELONA, Spain -- The early 5G rollout in South Korea brought Switzerland-based ID Quantique's quantum-safe technology to life on smartphones, backbone networks and will potentially be on mobile camera modules and cars.

With outcomes and prototypes in Asia keen on 5G penetration, primarily with its controlling shareholder SK Telecom, IDQ looks to take its aim back at Europe as its continent-wide quantum network **infrastructure** project is starting to crystalize.

"The first deployment will take place this year," Gregoire Ribordy, chief executive officer of IDQ told The Korea Herald in an interview during MWC 2022.

"There's a deadline for countries to apply for the funding at the end of March."

Ribordy is referring to a series of projects under the European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI) to build a secure quantum communication infrastructure across the entire EU region to protect sensitive data transmission between governments, hospitals, energy grids and the like.

All 27 European Union member states have signed the EuroQCI declaration, which would allow their broadband communication system to be safeguarded with the additional layer of security on the foundations of quantum physics.

IDQ is now in the process of searching for telecom partners to join the EuroQCI tenders, according to Ribordy, who cofounded IDQ in 2001.

"(Approaches for bidding) may be different country by country," Ribordy said. "The European market is still very fragmented."

Not relying on computational difficulty, the advanced quantum cryptography will be theoretically cyberattack-proof given there are indefinite causal orders or patterns to decipher an encrypted data transmission.

Some of IDQ's quantum cryptography technology has already been deployed in commercial-level projects in Korea, which launched 5G service for the first time in the world.

This gained steam since SK Telecom, Korea's largest telecom carrier by mobile subscribers, acquired a controlling stake in IDQ in 2018.

So far, the Samsung Galaxy Quantum 5G smartphone series, including the latest Galaxy Quantum 2 in 2021, is its biggest public success. Equipped with IDQ's quantum random number generator chipsets, the Samsung smartphones -- available only in Korea -- encrypt users' personal information and offer an enhanced user authentication mechanism.

According to Ribordy, the quantum mechanism gets activated only when in use to minimize power consumption. For a broader application, however, there are space constraints for the quantum-safe chipsets to be placed inside phones, while cost limitations also remain a hurdle.

Moreover, its quantum key distributor solutions -- allowing a secret key to be produced and shared between trusted parties -- have been applied in Korea's government projects to add a quantum layer on top of Korea's network infrastructure.

These include consolidation of a combined 2,000-kilometer-long backbone network by 48 Korean state bodies into one in a project by the Interior Ministry, with SK Telecom's subsidiary SK Broadband, which is scheduled for completion later in 2022.

Also, as part of Korea's Digital New Deal initiative, IDQ's quantum key distributors were deployed in highly sensitive sites dedicated to health care, nuclear power generation, hydrogen cars, waterworks and autonomous robots.

As for the latest enterprise use cases, IDQ and SK Telecom joined hands with Equinix in February to test quantum-based data center protection in Korea and abroad. In neighboring Japan, IDQ is dedicated to quantum solutions for connected car components in the 5G world.

IDQ's participation in EuroQCI projects will be a leap forward, as its real-world applications in Korea have seen a success.

"(Our track record in Asia) gives us credibility," Ribordy said.

Calling Korea "forward-thinking," Ribordy noted that one of the big questions in Europe and the US is when to bring 5G mainstream.

These are the latest developments in IDQ, as cybersecurity attacks five or 10 years from now are likely to make the conventional encryption mechanism more vulnerable, with hackers storing encrypted information today and evolving in the years to come to decrypt the stored information later on.

"This kind of attack means if you have long-term secrets to protect, then you are at risk," he said.

The quantum threat is becoming more relevant in the wake of the 5G rollout, Ribordy said, as a quantum attack, once launched, could result in "massive challenges."

In the world of 5G connectivity where unmanned cars or robots become more popular, a slight interruption causing a millisecond of increase in latency might result in fatal accidents.

"Today, if there is a vulnerability, data is lost," Ribordy said. "It's not good, but no one dies in a sense."

Click here to see image

ID Quantique CEO Gregoire Ribordy poses for a photo during his visit to MWC 2022. (Son Ji-hyoung/The Korea Herald)

Click here to see image

Samsung Galaxy Quantum 2 phones are displayed at SK Telecom's MWC 2022 exhibition. (Son Ji-hyoung/The Korea Herald)

Document KORHER0020220313ei3e00001

MediaPost

Metaverse Mainly An Idea At Mobile World Congress

287 words
7 March 2022
12:00
MediaPost.com
MPC
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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MediaPost

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644 words
7 March 2022
12:00
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CCS Insight Chief Analyst Ben Wood told @font-face {font-family:Helvetica; panose-1:0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:auto; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-font-signature:-536870145 1342208091 0 0 415 0;}@font-face {font-family:"Cambria Math"; panose-1:2 4 5 3 5 4 6 3 2 4; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:roman; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-font-signature:3 0 0 0 1 0;}@font-face {font-family:Calibri; panose-1:2 15 5 2 2 2 4 3 2 4; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:swiss; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-font-signature:-536859905 -1073732485 9 0 511 0;}@font-face {font-family:Georgia; panose-1:2 4 5 2 5 4 5 2 3 3; mso-font-alt:Georgia; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:roman; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-font-signature:647 0 0 0 159 0;}p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-unhide:no; mso-style-qformat:yes; mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Calibri",sans-serif; mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:Calibri; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}a:link, span.MsoHyperlink {mso-style-priority:99; color:#0563C1; mso-themecolor:hyperlink; text-decoration:underline; text-underline:single;}a:visited, span.MsoHyperlinkFollowed {mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-priority:99; color:#954F72; mso-themecolor:followedhyperlink; text-decoration:underline; text-underline:single;}.MsoChpDefault {mso-style-type:export-only; mso-default-props:yes; font-family:"Calibri",sans-serif; mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-fareast-font-family:Calibri; mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}div.WordSection1 {page:WordSection1;}

Document MPC0000020220307ei370002x

SK Telecom invests KRW 10 billion in AI robotics company CMES

243 words
7 March 2022
Telecompaper World
TELWOR
English

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

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

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

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

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243 words
7 March 2022
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TELASI
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Document TELASI0020220307ei370002t

Visitors Flock to SK Telecom's Metaverse World at MWC22

330 words
7 March 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

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

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

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

"It was more valuable to ride a robot arm for 2 minutes than to look around other places for two hours," said a foreign visitor who experienced the 4D metaverse.<lt-toolbar contenteditable="false" data-lt-force-appearance="light" style="display: none;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__wrapper lt-toolbar-small" style="left: 594px; position: absolute !important; top: 399px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__premium-icon"></lt-div><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__status-icon lt-toolbar__status-icon-has-no-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></lt-div></lt-div></lt-toolbar>

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

Document BKORDN0020220307ei370002t

#AI
SKT promotes AI robot logistics business in earnest and wins AI service GLOMO Award for 3 years in a row

jinyong lee
240 words
3 March 2022
Smart Times
SMTIME
English

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

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

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

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

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

Photo = SK Telecom

Document SMTIME0020220304ei33000m9

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

518 words
3 March 2022
CE NoticiasFinancieras
NFINCE
English

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

5G Bartender

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

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

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

Virtual Discotheque

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

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

Driving a car from a distance

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

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

Express recharge and ecological battery

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

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

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

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

Robot dog

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

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

Document NFINCE0020220303ei330095l

SKT taking its metaverse platform to the world

Robert Clark
463 words
2 March 2022
Light Reading
LITEREAD
English

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

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

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

Click here to view Figure 1.

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

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

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

Additional focus areas

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

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

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

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

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

Related posts:

* The next telco worry is paying for the metaverse

* MWC22 Day 2: To the metaverse and beyond

* SKT cruises to $340M operating profit on mobile, media growth

- Robert Clark, contributing editor, special to Light Reading

rclark@electricspeech.com

Document LITEREAD20220302ei3200001

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

497 words
2 March 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CEO Ryu also talked about SKT's recent rearrangement of its business into five different groups, namely Mobile & Fixed Telecommunications, Media, Enterprise, AIVERSE (AI+Universe), and Connected Intelligence, targeted at accelerating its progress in global expansion while sustaining stable growth.<lt-toolbar contenteditable="false" data-lt-force-appearance="light" style="display: none;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__wrapper" style="left: 625px; position: absolute !important; top: 469px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__premium-icon"></lt-div><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__status-icon lt-toolbar__status-icon-has-errors lt-toolbar__status-icon-has-1-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></lt-div></lt-div></lt-toolbar>

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

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매일경제

, Biz&Company
SK Telecom eyes M&As to bolster metaverse with quantum cryptography, AI chip

Lim Young-shin and Susan Lee
463 words
2 March 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang. [Photo provided by SK Telecom Co.]

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The Korea Herald

Business

[MWC 2022] SKT CEO bets future on metaverse, AI chip, quantum cryptography

Son Ji-hyoung and Kim Byung-wook Korea Herald correspondents (consnow@heraldcorp.com) (kbw@heraldcorp.com)

513 words
2 March 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Click here to see image

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

LightReading

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

Mike Dano
1,363 words
1 March 2022
Light Reading
LITEREAD
English

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

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

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

Whether the metaverse will change things remains to be seen.

Meta again setting the tone

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

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

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

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

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

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

Network latency

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

Click here to view Figure 1.

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

Mobile network operators are well aware of this situation. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, many had been hinting at making major investments in the development of edge computing services all over the globe. But

the massive traffic spikes early on in the pandemic - when millions of people were working and schooling from home - redirected those investments into core networking services.

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

Symmetrical bandwidth

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

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

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

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

A 'common framework'

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indeed, aside from the basics like text messaging and voice calling, operators are notoriously bad at creating open, interoperable interfaces. Take, for example, Rich Communications Services (RCS), a GSMA effort that in part hoped to open text messaging services to business customers. The big operators in the US promised in 2019 to launch RCS services, but their alliance fell apart just two years later. Today, more than a decade after the first RCS specifications hit the market, the technology is still mostly absent in the US.

In conclusion

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

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

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

Related posts:

* Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile kill RCS plans

* Did wireless win the battle over broadband symmetry?

* The metaverse will save 5G? That's so cute!

- Mike Dano, Editorial Director, 5G & Mobile Strategies, Light Reading | @mikeddano

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telecompaper

SK Telecom to focus on metaverse, AI semiconductor, quantum cryptography

663 words
1 March 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

South Korean operator SK Telecom held a press conference at MWC Barcelona 2022 to announce that the company will enter the global market with 'Next Big Tech', which refers to its three key future technologies namely **metaverse**, AI semiconductor and quantum cryptography.

Metaverse

SK Telecom plans to expand its global presence by launching its metaverse service Ifland in 80 different countries this year. SK Telecom reports that, in South Korea, Ifland has become a popular venue for social gatherings as well as a platform for businesses seeking new ways to communicate with their customers.

To shape Ifland into an innovative global service, SK Telecom plans to enhance user convenience through service upgrades, including opening up its platform to enable users to provide diverse content, and creating a marketplace applied with crypto technologies (NFT/Blockchain).

Going forward, the company plans to evolve Ifland and AI Agent into a single AIVERSE service by interconnecting content, economic system, and back-end infrastructure of the two services.

AI semiconductor

SK Telecom plans to release a follow-up model of its AI semiconductor Sapeon X220 later this year or in early 2023. Growing by 44 percent per year, the global AI semiconductor market is expected to reach KRW 40 trillion by 2025.

SK Telecom recently secured a bridgehead to advance into the global market by establishing Sapeon in the US, through joint investment with SK Square and SK hynix. This year, SK Telecom will work closely with Sapeon to apply its semiconductor chip to many different industries including manufacturing, security, media and automotive.

Through these efforts, SK Telecom expects Sapeon to become a company with a cumulative revenue of KRW 2 trillion and an enterprise value of KRW 10 trillion by 2027.

Quantum cryptography

SK Telecom announced plans to expand in the field of quantum cryptography, which is being applied to wider areas due to the increased importance of security brought by the diversification of smart devices. Together with ID Quantique, a quantum technology company acquired by SK Telecom in 2018, the Korean operator has integrated security technologies and created various use cases in Europe, North America and Asia.

In addition, the company applied QKD to 221 kilometers of its 5G backbone network in 2019, and introduced a QRNG-powered 5G smartphone 'Galaxy A Quantum' with Samsung Electronics in 2020.

SK Telecom also reports it has secured over 250 customers and partners, more than doubling its sales after the acquisition of ID Quantique. This year, the company plans to increase sales of the existing products such as QRNG and QKD, while expanding into new areas such as blockchain and quantum cryptography solutions.

SK Telecom redefines five key business units

SK Telecom has decided to revamp its business into five different groups, namely Mobile & Fixed Telecommunications, Media, Enterprise, AIVERSE (AI+Universe), and Connected Intelligence.

SK Telecom plans to continue to expand operations in mobile & fixed telecommunications based on its 5G services, as well as grow its media business by expanding its platform to the overall value chain including content, T-commerce and advertising.

In the enterprise business, SK Telecom plans to keep expanding the scale of its data centers, while advancing 5G MEC-based cloud services, AI-based IoT and smart factory. It will also promote the growth of the AIVERSE business by evolving T Universe, metaverse and AI agent into new AI services that provide a new level of experience, while actively pursuing its Connected Intelligence business to realize connectivity for future devices like UAM vehicles, robots and self-driving cars.

In particular, SK Telecom will promote robot-related business in full swing by leveraging its rich stock of AI technologies. The company decided to invest in CMES, an AI vision robotics company, to jump into the AI robot-based logistics business. The operator plans to apply AI to its overall ESG activities under the ‘Barrier Free AI' project, which aims to create a barrier-free society with AI.

Document TELASI0020220301ei310005m

The Daily Telegraph

Business
Stage is set A visitor [...]

54 words
1 March 2022
The Daily Telegraph
DT
1; National
4
English

Stage is set A visitor enjoys a **virtual reality** experience at the SK Telecom booth on the opening day of the GSMA Mobile World Congress in Barcelona. The annual event hosts some of the world's largest communications companies, with many unveiling their latest phones and wearable gadgets.

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Telcos-MWC; S. Korean telcos showcase metaverse, AI technologies at MWC 2022

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S. Korean telcos showcase **metaverse**, AI technologies at MWC 2022

SEOUL, March 1 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's three major mobile carriers have been showcasing their latest technologies from **metaverse** services to artificial intelligence robots at a global mobile technology trade fair held in Spain.

The Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 kicked off in Barcelona on Monday (local time) and is set to run until Thursday. It is one of the top three annual tech events in the world, along with the Consumer Electronics Show in the United States and the IFA in Germany.

At the event, SK Telecom demonstrated a four-dimensional metaverse service that allows users to experience Meta Planet, a virtual world created by the company, on a robotic arm.

The wireless carrier also displayed its virtual meeting platform ifland, a metaverse platform that allows users to interact with others using personalized avatars in a range of online settings from stadiums to cafes.

SK Telecom said the company will launch ifland in around 80 overseas markets by the end of this year, although it did not elaborate on the exact countries.

"Ifland has developed into a new communication platform with over 1,500 requests for partnerships in the country," CEO Ryu Young-sang said at a press conference at the MWC. Ryu added that he has received requests for collaborations from global telecommunication companies at this year's MWC.

KT demonstrated the company's latest technology, including an AI sanitization robot that disinfects the floor and purifies air in indoor spaces.

Samsung Electronics also participated in the trade fair, showcasing its next-generation Galaxy Book laptop for the first time and other lineups of products, such as Galaxy S22 smartphones and Galaxy Tab S8 series.

This year's MWC marks its first offline event in three years as the trade fair was canceled in 2020 and held online last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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(END)

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South Korea - Mobile Phones - Five Forces

2,987 words
28 February 2022
MarketLine Industry Profiles
DMRP
English

The mobile phones market will be analyzed taking mno's and mvno's as players. The key buyers will be taken as consumers and businesses , and mobile phone manufacturers, government organizations and mobile **infrastructure** businesses as the key suppliers.

There is a high degree of rivalry within the Indian mobile phones market. There are just a handful mobile network operators (MNO) that provide cellular and mobile broadband services across South Korea, including large brand names such as SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus. These companies are highly competitive with each other, providing the same core wireless services, making it difficult to differentiate from each other. Market consolidation and the roll-out of 5G technology has intensified rivalry in recent years.

There is little threat from new entrants as a result of the high cost associated with cellular infrastructure and maintenance, as well as the limited availability and access to spectrum – radio frequencies allocated to the mobile industry and other sectors for communication over the airwaves.

Buyers, which include end-consumers, have limited choice when choosing their mobile network and weak financial power means their bargaining power is weak. Smartphones are becoming integrated parts of everyday life, particularly in developed markets. However, consumers are price sensitive and have a tendency to switch to the most affordable mobile packages.

Supplier power is strong. MNOs have limited options when securing suppliers of mobile devices and 5G infrastructure companies. However, changing consumer trends have meant players rely less on mobile handsets to drive sales, which has reduced expenditure on mobile phone suppliers.

Alternatives to mobile phones are limited. Fixed line services are the only reasonable substitute but lack mobility and many of the attractive features associated with mobile phones, such as high-quality cameras, access to social media, and entertainment applications.

This market consists of large mobile network operators (MNO) and mobile virtual network operators (MNVO) that sell post-paid and prepaid mobile subscriptions to the end user. These companies tend to serve millions of customers. In the South Korean market, there are three MNOs (SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus) that serve that majority of consumers. These three companies have around 66.8 million mobile subscriptions between them, more than South Korea's total population. The large number of potential customers weakens buyer power, as individual buyers have little influence on the performance of the business.

MNOs benefit from their wireless network infrastructure, which it sells to MVNOs, which lease mobile coverage and data bandwidth at wholesale prices and then resell mobile services to customers at wholesale prices. MVNOs wield little buyer power, as leasing infrastructure is the only way the companies can operate mobile services. High fixed costs and limited radio wave spectrum prevent MVNOs from backward integrating and creating their own mobile infrastructure. The presence of MVNOs in the market increases the buyer power wielded by the end consumer by increasing the number of available mobile brands, which encourages competition. However, many of these brands are owned by larger MNOs.

Buyers usually display little loyalty to mobile operators and often shop around for the best valued deal before committing to a new mobile contract. This increases buyer power and forces MNOs and MVNOs to compete and offer consumers better value mobile deals. Many mobile operators record churn rate, the rate at which customers stop doing business with a company over a given period.

Switching mobile provider is relatively easy and sometimes cost free, particularly for prepaid subscribers that pay for the services they use and are not locked into lengthy contracts. However, for post-paid customers, mobile service providers can often charge exit fees if a consumer chooses to upgrade or switch to an alternative provider before their mobile contract has ended.

Market players generally provide the same wireless services, including calls, texts, access to data and data roaming. However, network operators often try to differentiate their products to appeal to end-users and

increase their market share. Convergence plans have become increasingly popular, combining mobile services with broadband and TV services to create a more valuable product for customers. Demand for mobile data is growing rapidly and new technologies cause consumers to consume more data than ever before. This has caused players to create more data centric mobile packages, including unlimited data plans, often competing on price. The end-consumer is highly price sensitive and often searches for the cheapest deals. New phone models help encourage customers towards higher value mobile plans; however, generally, consumers search for plans with high data allowances at low costs. This price sensitivity increases the consumer’s tendency to switch and increases buyer power, as operators often must find ways to reduce costs, to create more competitive mobile packages.

While mobile phones are not essential for survival, they are considered an essential item by many people, particularly in developed markets where mobiles have become integrated parts of everyday life. South Korea had a mobile penetration rate of 133.2% in 2019, indicative of a high demand for and dependency on mobile phone services.

Overall, buyer power is assessed as weak.

Mobile phone manufacturers are some of the most significant suppliers for mobile service providers. Large mobile companies, such as Apple, Samsung, and Huawei, sell products directly to consumers, but generate the majority of sales through indirect distribution channels, including third party mobile network carriers, wholesalers, retailers, and resellers. Mobile carriers usually purchase handsets upfront and receive an inflow of cash to cover the cost of the handset over the length of the contract. Alternatively, carriers can also sell handsets as a third party seller and then offer SIM contracts, which allows consumers the freedom of choice when choosing their mobile phone and contract.

In recent years, consumer habits have changed, causing the elongation of the handset upgrade cycle. Consumers are holding onto their phones in response to new smartphone releases becoming increasingly expensive, with less notable improvements. As a result, mobile carriers have experienced a decrease in wireless equipment expenses as sales are driven by data centric mobile plans instead of new mobile releases. This has weakened supplier power, with mobile carriers becoming less reliant on new handset models to drive sales.

Infrastructure costs are high and essential for mobile network operators to maintain operations. Building network infrastructure requires supplies of building materials, software development, and other advanced technologies used for communication services. The emergence of 5G technologies has increased supplier power as network operators compete to launch the most advanced 5G networks with the largest coverage. This is expected to be detrimental to future business growth over the forecast period as 5G technologies facilitate consumers' growing demand for data. 5G infrastructure, such as radio access units, are built by a limited number of companies. Finnish firm Nokia, Sweden’s Ericsson, and Chinese mobile manufacturer Huawei are the main providers of 5G technology.

Mobile network operators also rely on a supply of radio wave spectrum, a specific frequency allocated to the mobile industry and other sectors for communication over airwaves. Spectrum is a sovereign asset; therefore, the government or designated national regulated authority is responsible for its allocation. In South Korea, the federal government promotes and ensures the proper operation of all markets in the interest of consumers and corporations. This includes the regulation of the telecommunications market and the distribution of available spectrum for mobile network operators. While the government receives a significant amount of revenue from leasing spectrum to mobile operators, the cost is usually reasonably priced to prevent the inflation of mobile phone costs for the end-consumer. However, spectrum is a finite resource and access to radio frequency can help determine the market position of a mobile network operator, making it one of the most valuable supplies in the market.

During 2018, the South Korean government held a frequency auction and a shared 5G deployment and network agreement was signed, which aimed to avoid a very costly launch campaign. However, South Korea's three leaders still spent KRW3.6 trillion ($3.3 billion). SK Telecom spent the most, close to KRW1.2 trillion ($1.1 billion) for 100 MHz of spectrum. KT paid KRW968 billion ($870 million) for the same amount. Finally, LG Uplus acquired an 80 MHz license in this range for KRW810 billion ($728 million). Under the terms of the auction process, the Korean government also requires the winning carrier to install over 150,000 5G base stations by 2025. As a result, bid winners will have to invest significant amounts of capital in the expansion of their 5G networks.

South Korea’s ICT ministry opened bidding for additional 5G frequencies in the 3.4 to 3.42 GHz spectrum in 2022 and has confirmed that that the price of the 20 MHz to be awarded at the auction will be set at KRW135.5 billion ($113.5 million).

Overall, supplier is assessed as strong.

Entry into the South Korean mobile phones market is limited by high fixed costs and the existence of strong brand names already competing within the market. There are just four MNOs operating in South Korea, including SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus. These companies operate large infrastructure networks that provide nationwide mobile and mobile broadband coverage. To create a new mobile network infrastructure would involve significant capital expenditure, unaffordable for most companies.

Secondly, there is only a limited amount of spectrum allocated for mobile communications, including 5G. This means just a small number of mobile operators can purchase the airwaves needed to provide mobile services. Furthermore, spectrum is only likely to be allocated to companies that already have the infrastructure and technology in place to readily provide communication services.

The most common method through which MNOs can infiltrate the market is through the acquisition of an existing incumbent. The largest threat of acquisition comes from large multinational MNOs or domestic or international telecommunication companies looking to expand into the mobile communications market. Generally, South Korea provides an attractive market environment for foreign investors and regularly expresses the need for increased foreign direct investment. However, the companies operating in the market are some of the world’s largest mobile carriers and South Korea remains their core market, making it unlikely for incumbents to offload their operations business to potential foreign buyers. As a result, there have been few major acquisitions and mergers over the past decade.

Market entry is more achievable for MVNOs. These companies do not own mobile infrastructure and rely on cellular coverage purchased at wholesale prices from MNOs. The consumer’s tendency to switch to affordable mobile phone services means new entrants can acquire customers with attractive and affordable mobile packages and strong customer services. Virtual networks traditionally offer contracts much cheaper than their parent networks and offer some good value SIM-only deals, which have grown in popularity because of handset fatigue. Successful MVNOs often use existing market assets such as media, telecom brands, customer databases, and other channel infrastructure.

Market growth is limited because of the saturation of the South Korean mobile communication market – South Korea had a 121% penetration rate for wireless connections as of December 2020. Because of its saturated market environment, the country is unlikely to experience significant growth in new mobile subscribers, which makes it difficult for newcomers to attract customers. New entrants would have to find ways of competing with market leaders and eat into their market shares, which often results in incumbents retaliating to new competition.

Overall, the threat from new entrants is assessed as weak.

One possible substitute for mobile phones is fixed-line telephones. However, this threat is seen as minimal, as mobile phones offer the advantage of being able to use them over a much wider geographical area – wherever they pick up a signal. Not only this, but there has been an observed increase in households that have substituted fixed-line telephones with mobile phones. Moreover, many mobile phones now offer benefits that have enabled them to become substitutes for many other electrical appliances, including laptops, televisions, MP3 players, and cameras.

Whilst laptops also offer many of the features that mobile phones are marketed on, such as internet access, video calling through programs such as Skype, email, TV, GPS, music, entertainment, and portability, they are not a strong substitute, as they do not possess many of the benefits of a mobile phone, such as size, weight, and the seamless ability to call others. As smart phones have developed, they have gradually eaten into PC sales, with consumers showing a preference towards mobile devices.

Tablet computers could be seen as a substitute for smartphones, but large-screened smartphones (known as "phablets") negate this threat to a large extent. The fact that tablet sales have declined globally for the last several consecutive years supports this. This has led to many players operating in the tablets market, such as HTC and Dell, pulling out of that market, emphasizing the fact that the mobile phones market has successfully been able to counter the impact of this potential substitute.

Overall, the threat of substitutes is assessed as weak.

A small number of large mobile network operators competing within a commercial, sales driven market creates a highly competitive environment with a strong degree of rivalry. SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus are the primary MNOs competing in the South Korean mobile phones market and all of them compete intensely for a share of mobile subscribers and mobile service revenues. Leading players are continuously trying to improve customer experience, price, quality of service, scope of services, network coverage, sophistication of wireless technology, breadth of distribution, selection of devices, and branding and positioning to gain a competitive edge over rivals.

Competition remains intense because of high rates of smartphone penetration in the wireless market. The mobile market is one of the most mature segments of the South Korean telecommunications industry. It is

characterized by high penetration rates, leading to increased competition and leaving MNOs battling to retain existing and attract new customers. This competitive landscape is one of the most influential factors continuing to impact the mobile market. The South Korean mobile phone market is highly saturated; therefore, incumbents need to try to attract new customers by causing them to switch from rival operators. Innovation, new technology, designing new mobile packages, and adding value to postpaid subscriptions helps to reduce customer churn and attract new customers. This kind of direct competition for consumers creates fierce rivalry.

The similarity of players and their products also encourages rivalry. Each of the market's leading players provide the same core wireless services: calls, texts, data, and data roaming. Companies can attempt to differentiate themselves from competition in terms price and value-added services. As a result of the similarity of players, consumer choice is usually dictated by price, which creates a highly competitive market, with the companies offering the lowest priced mobile packages expected to attract the highest number of subscribers. This can be offset somewhat by the quality of services provided, including mobile coverage, device selection, and the availability of data. Consumers may be willing to pay premium prices for services such as unlimited data plans. In recent years, the market has slowed in response to a surge in competition, including price competition between major operators, the re-emergence of unlimited plans, and active promotion by new MVNOs.

Previously, this market was heavily driven by handset launches. Today, while handset innovation continues, the cost of a new mobile device has increased substantially, leading to consumers keeping their handsets for longer. This has also had an impact on store footfall. An increase in demand for SIM-only contracts and large data bundles is driving market growth.

5G technology has intensified competition in recent years. The performance of the mobile phone market is becoming increasingly reliant on data consumption trends. Consumers are demanding more data and 5G is a necessary technology for mobile operators to provide fast, low latency cellular broadband that better facilitates consumer data consumption and digital services. Competition has become increasingly fierce as mobile operates race to deploy nationwide 5G coverage.

Overall, rivalry is assessed as strong.

Market Definition

The Mobile Phones market includes mobile phone service revenues and average minutes of use (MOU). Market values are made up of total mobile revenues containing revenues from mobile service providers and other members of the mobile service value-chain for the provision of mobile telephony services, excluding revenues from the sale of devices. Market volumes are made up of two segments: prepaid and postpaid, which consist of prepaid average monthly MOU and postpaid average monthly MOU. Minutes of use are made up from the average of voice minutes used in mobile subscriptions, including both incoming and outgoing calls, but not including M2M/IoT voice services.

All market data and forecasts are represented in nominal terms (i.e. without adjustment for inflation) and all currency conversions used in the creation of this report have been calculated using constant 2021 annual average exchange rates.

Forecast figures in this report have taken into account the estimated impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the market, though the length of the pandemic and restrictions imposed by governments around the world is not certain, therefore the impact on the market is difficult to predict.

For the purposes of this report, the global market consists of North America, South America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, South Africa and Nigeria.

North America consists of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

South America comprises Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

Europe comprises Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Scandinavia comprises Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Asia-Pacific comprises Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Middle East comprises Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

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Asia-Pacific - Mobile Phones - Five Forces

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MarketLine Industry Profiles
DMRP
English

The mobile phones market will be analyzed taking mno's and mvno's as players. The key buyers will be taken as consumers and businesses , and mobile phone manufacturers, government organizations and mobile **infrastructure** businesses as the key suppliers.

There is a high degree of rivalry within the Asia-Pacific mobile phones market. There are just a handful of mobile network operators (MNO) that provide cellular and mobile broadband services in each mobile phones market, including large brand names such as China Mobile, SK Telecom, Jio, and Singtel. These companies are highly competitive with each other, providing the same core wireless services, making it difficult to differentiate from each other. The roll-out of 5G technology has intensified rivalry in recent years, while competition from smaller MVNO and mobile operators has had the opposite effect.

There is little threat from new entrants as a result of the high cost associated with cellular infrastructure and maintenance, as well as the limited availability and access to spectrum – radio frequencies allocated to the mobile industry and other sectors for communication over the airwaves.

Buyers, which include end-consumers, have limited choice when choosing their mobile network and weak financial power means their bargaining power is weak. Smartphones are becoming integrated parts of everyday life, particularly in developed markets. However, consumers are price sensitive and have a tendency to switch to the most affordable mobile packages.

Supplier power is strong. MNOs have limited options when securing suppliers of mobile devices and 5G infrastructure companies. However, changing consumer trends have meant players rely less on mobile handsets to drive sales, which has reduced expenditure on mobile phone suppliers.

Alternatives to mobile phones are limited. Fixed line services are the only reasonable substitute but lack mobility and many of the attractive features associated with mobile phones, such as high-quality cameras, access to social media, and entertainment applications.

This market consists of large mobile network operators (MNO) and mobile virtual network operators (MNVO) that sell post-paid and prepaid mobile subscriptions to the end user. These companies tend to serve millions of customers. China’s market leading MNO, China Mobile, provides mobile services for almost 1 billion Chinese end-consumers. The large number of potential customers weakens buyer power, as individual buyers have little influence on the performance of the business.

Buyers are also restricted by the availability of cellular services. While most markets have nationwide mobile data coverage, some areas may only be supplied by a single network, significantly reducing the available options for consumers to choose from.

MNOs benefit from their wireless network infrastructure, which it sells to MVNOs, which lease mobile coverage and data bandwidth at wholesale prices and then resell mobile services to customers at wholesale prices. MVNOs wield little buyer power, as leasing infrastructure is the only way the companies can operate mobile services. High fixed costs and limited radio wave spectrum prevent MVNOs from backward integrating and creating their own mobile infrastructure. The presence of MVNOs in the market increases the buyer power wielded by the end consumer by increasing the number of available mobile brands, which encourages competition. However, many of these brands are owned by larger MNOs.

Buyers usually display little loyalty to mobile operators and often shop around for the best valued deal before committing to a new mobile contract. This increases buyer power and forces MNOs and MVNOs to compete and offer consumers better value mobile deals. Many mobile operators record churn rate, the rate at which customers stop doing business with a company over a given period.

Switching mobile provider is relatively easy and sometimes cost free, particularly for prepaid subscribers that pay for the services they use and are not locked into lengthy contracts. However, for post-paid customers, mobile service providers can often charge exit fees if a consumer chooses to upgrade or switch to an

alternative provider before their mobile contract has ended. Most mobile subscribers across the Asia-Pacific purchase mobiles using post-paid monthly contracts. However, in less economically developed countries, mobile carriers still rely on prepaid packages as consumers are less likely to commit to long mobile contracts without reliable income.

Market players generally provide the same wireless services, including calls, texts, access to data and data roaming. However, network operators often try to differentiate their products to appeal to end-users and increase their market share. Convergence plans have become increasingly popular, combining mobile services with broadband and TV services to create a more valuable product for customers. Demand for mobile data is growing rapidly and new technologies cause consumers to consume more data than ever before. This has caused players to create more data centric mobile packages, including unlimited data plans, often competing on price. The end-consumer is highly price sensitive and often searches for the cheapest deals. New phone models help encourage customers towards higher value mobile plans; however, generally, consumers search for plans with high data allowances at low costs. This price sensitivity increases the consumer’s tendency to switch and increases buyer power, as operators often must find ways to reduce costs, to create more competitive mobile packages.

While mobile phones are not essential for survival, they are considered an essential item by many people, particularly in developed markets where mobiles have become integrated parts of everyday life. According to the GSMA, Asia-Pacific had a unique mobile subscriber penetration rate of 58% at the end of 2020, and is expected to grow to 62% by 2025, indicative of a growing demand for and dependency on mobile phone services.

Overall, buyer power is assessed as weak.

Mobile phone manufacturers are some of the most significant suppliers for mobile service providers. Large mobile companies, such as Apple, Samsung, and Huawei, sell products directly to consumers, but generate the majority of sales through indirect distribution channels, including third party mobile network carriers, wholesalers, retailers, and resellers. Mobile carriers usually purchase handsets upfront and receive an inflow of cash to cover the cost of the handset over the length of the contract. Alternatively, carriers can also sell handsets as a third party seller and then offer SIM contracts, which allows consumers the freedom of choice when choosing their mobile phone and contract.

In recent years, consumer habits have changed, causing the elongation of the handset upgrade cycle. Consumers are holding onto their phones in response to new smartphone releases becoming increasingly expensive, with less notable improvements. As a result, mobile carriers have experienced a decrease in wireless equipment expenses as sales are driven by data centric mobile plans instead of new mobile releases. This has weakened supplier power, with mobile carriers becoming less reliant on new handset models to drive sales.

Infrastructure costs are high and essential for mobile network operators to maintain operations. Building network infrastructure requires supplies of building materials, software development, and other advanced technologies used for communication services. The emergence of 5G technologies has increased supplier power as network operators compete to launch the most advanced 5G networks with the largest coverage. This is expected to be detrimental to future business growth over the forecast period as 5G technologies facilitate consumers' growing demand for data. 5G infrastructure, such as radio access units, are built by a limited number of companies. Finnish firm Nokia, Sweden’s Ericsson, and Chinese mobile manufacturer Huawei are the main providers of 5G technology.

Mobile network operators also rely on a supply of radio wave spectrum, a specific frequency allocated to the mobile industry and other sectors for communication over airwaves. Spectrum is a sovereign asset; therefore, the government or designated national regulated authority is responsible for its allocation. While governments receive a significant amount of revenue from leasing spectrum to mobile operators, the cost is usually reasonably priced to prevent the inflation of mobile phone costs for the end-consumer. However, spectrum is a finite resource and access to radio frequency can help determine the market position of a mobile network operator, making it one of the most valuable supplies in the market. The cost of spectrum can vary from country to country depending on the competitiveness of the market, the amount of available spectrum at auction, and the design of the auction itself.

In contrast to Western markets, where spectrum is awarded to the highest bidder during a series of auctions, China allocates spectrum according to the requirements and capabilities of telecom carriers. By doing so, incumbents can accelerate the development of network construction, and this stops the companies from acquiring large sums of debt. However, spectrum allocation also gives MNOs little power and can prevent them from acquiring the frequencies they want most. The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) issued nationwide 5G trial licenses in China during December 2018.

Elsewhere, 5G spectrum auctions have been more competitive, which has increased the cost for market players. During 2018, the South Korean government held a frequency auction and a shared 5G deployment and network agreement was signed, which aimed to avoid a very costly launch campaign. However, South Korea's three leaders still spent KRW3.6 trillion ($3.3 billion). SK Telecom spent the most, close to KRW1.2 trillion ($1.1 billion) for 100 MHz of spectrum. KT paid KRW968 billion ($870 million) for the same amount. Finally, LG Uplus acquired an 80 MHz license in this range for KRW810 billion ($728 million).

Overall, supplier is assessed as strong.

Entry into the Asia-Pacific mobile phones market is limited by high fixed costs and the existence of strong brand names already competing within the market. There are just a handful of MNOs operating in each market, including recognizable brands such as China Mobile, SK Telecom, Jio, and Singtel. These companies operate large infrastructure networks that provide nationwide mobile and mobile broadband coverage. To create a new mobile network infrastructure would involve significant capital expenditure, unaffordable for most companies. Secondly, there is only a limited amount of spectrum allocated for mobile communications, including 5G. This means just a small number of mobile operators can purchase the airwaves needed to provide mobile services. Furthermore, spectrum is only likely to be allocated to companies that already have the infrastructure and technology in place to readily provide communication services.

The most common method through which MNOs can infiltrate the market is through the acquisition of an existing incumbent. The largest threat of acquisition comes from large multinational MNOs or domestic or international telecommunication companies looking to expand into the mobile communications market.

Generally, across Asia-Pacific, communications legislation does not limit foreign investments or foreign ownership in the telecommunications sector. However, MNOs tend to be large brands with extensive customer-bases; therefore, a significant amount of capital is needed to purchase an incumbent.

Some markets are more heavily regulated but are beginning to show signs of liberation, which could encourage new entrants over the forecast period. Until recently, access to the Chinese market has been obstructed by strict regulations and legislation preventing foreign ownership, but recently, China has opened up its telecommunications market to foreign investment and has liberalized its mobile market, allowing easier access for new entrants. In 2019, BT Group was the first non-Chinese telecoms firm to get a nationwide operating license in China from the MIIT. The group was awarded a China nationwide domestic IP-VPN license and China nationwide internet service provider (ISP) license, allowing it to compete with the country's domestic mobile service providers. However, the company has targeted foreign companies operating in China and has not yet had access to China’s domestic mobile customers.

Market entry is more achievable for MVNOs. These companies do not own mobile infrastructure and rely on cellular coverage purchased at wholesale prices from MNOs. The consumer’s tendency to switch to affordable mobile phone services means new entrants can acquire customers with attractive and affordable mobile packages and strong customer services. Virtual networks traditionally offer contracts much cheaper than their parent networks and offer some good value SIM-only deals, which have grown in popularity because of handset fatigue. Successful MVNOs often use existing market assets such as media, telecom brands, customer databases, and other channel infrastructure. For example, Japanese electronic commerce and online retailing company, Rakuten, launched its mobile services company, Rakuten Mobile, in 2018, utilizing its pre-existing online retail customer base and low prices to attract consumers from leading companies.

MVNOs can often face retaliation from larger network operators that have the financial power to acquire competitors and launch their own competitive MVNO brands. MVNO acquisitions help network operators increase their customer base and product offerings.

The Asia-Pacific mobile phones market is approaching maturity. However, the GSMA expects 663 million new mobile internet users across Asia-Pacific by 2025. This increase in mobile users and mobile internet users will drive growth in mobile subscriptions and revenues over the forecast period, which will encourage new entrants to infiltrate the market.

India has a particularly attractive mobile phones market. Indian government initiatives have support growth of the mobile phones market. Digital India is a flagship program of the Indian government, with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Providing cheap and affordable mobile plans was central to the initiative's strategy to increase the adoption of digital infrastructure in India. India’s young demographic and the increased access to and affordability of mobile and internet services is driving growth in this market. In addition, a fall in smartphone prices has been stimulated by increased local manufacturing, encouraged by the government’s Phased Manufacturing Program. Cheaper smartphone prices will drive hardware sales and demand for mobile services will increase. Because of the country’s rapidly growing smartphone penetration, the market is expected to experience significant growth in new

mobile subscribers, which will make it much easier for new entrants to acquire customers by reducing the need to compete with the market's leading players.

Overall, the threat from new entrants is assessed as weak.

One possible substitute for mobile phones is fixed-line telephones. However, this threat is seen as minimal, as mobile phones offer the advantage of being able to use them over a much wider geographical area – wherever they pick up a signal. Not only this, but there has been an observed increase in households that have substituted fixed-line telephones with mobile phones. Moreover, many mobile phones now offer benefits that have enabled them to become substitutes for many other electrical appliances, including laptops, televisions, MP3 players, and cameras.

Whilst laptops also offer many of the features that mobile phones are marketed on, such as internet access, video calling through programs such as Skype, email, TV, GPS, music, entertainment, and portability, they are not a strong substitute, as they do not possess many of the benefits of a mobile phone, such as size, weight, and the seamless ability to call others. As smart phones have developed, they have gradually eaten into PC sales, with consumers showing a preference towards mobile devices.

Tablet computers could be seen as a substitute for smartphones, but large-screened smartphones (known as "phablets") negate this threat to a large extent. The fact that tablet sales have declined globally for the last several consecutive years supports this. This has led to many players operating in the tablets market, such as HTC and Dell, pulling out of that market, emphasizing the fact that the mobile phones market has successfully been able to counter the impact of this potential substitute.

Overall, the threat of substitutes is assessed as weak.

A small number of large mobile network operators competing within a commercial, sales driven market creates a highly competitive environment with a strong degree of rivalry. China Mobile, SK Telecom, Jio, and Singtel are some of the primary MNOs competing in the Asia-Pacific mobile phones market and compete intensely for a share of mobile subscribers and mobile service revenues. However, rivalries often remain at a national scale, with mobile operators across the region focusing exclusively on the domestic market. Leading players are continuously trying to improve customer experience, price, quality of service, scope of services, network coverage, sophistication of wireless technology, breadth of distribution, selection of devices, and branding and positioning to gain a competitive edge over rivals.

In saturated markets such as Japan, South Korea, and Singapore, competition remains intense because of high rates of smartphone penetration in the wireless market. The mobile market is one of the most mature segments of the Asia-Pacific telecommunications industry. It is characterized by high penetration rates, leading to increased competition and leaving MNOs battling to retain existing and attract new customers. This competitive landscape is one of the most influential factors continuing to impact the mobile market. When a market is saturated, incumbents need to try to attract new customers by causing them to switch from rival operators. Innovation, new technology, designing new mobile packages, and adding value to postpaid subscriptions helps to reduce customer churn and attract new customers. This kind of direct competition for consumers creates fierce rivalry.

In comparison to Europe, the Asia-Pacific mobile market has experienced little consolidation and many markets have experienced an increase in the number of competitors in recent years as an attempt to lower mobile prices for the end consumer. In Japan, stronger market competition has weakened the existing rivalry between the MNOs as they start to switch their attention to managing competition from smaller emerging mobile carriers.

The similarity of players and their products also encourages rivalry. Each of the market's leading players provide the same core wireless services: calls, texts, data, and data roaming. Companies can attempt to differentiate themselves from competition in terms price and value-added services. As a result of the similarity of players, consumer choice is usually dictated by price, which creates a highly competitive market, with the companies offering the lowest priced mobile packages expected to attract the highest number of subscribers. This can be offset somewhat by the quality of services provided, including mobile coverage, device selection, and the availability of data. Consumers may be willing to pay premium prices for services such as unlimited data plans. In recent years, the market has slowed in response to a surge in competition, including price competition between major operators, the re-emergence of unlimited plans, and active promotion by new MVNOs.

Previously, this market was heavily driven by handset launches. Today, while handset innovation continues, the cost of a new mobile device has increased substantially, leading to consumers keeping their handsets for longer. This has also had an impact on store footfall. An increase in demand for SIM-only contracts and large data bundles is driving market growth.

5G technology has intensified competition in recent years. The performance of the mobile phone market is becoming increasingly reliant on data consumption trends. Consumers are demanding more data and 5G is a necessary technology for mobile operators to provide fast, low latency cellular broadband that better facilitates consumer data consumption and digital services. Competition has become increasingly fierce as mobile operates race to deploy nationwide 5G coverage. 5G deployment is gathering pace across the Asia-Pacific region. There are nine markets that have launched commercial mobile 5G services and 12 more have officially announced plans to do so. Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and South Korea all aspire to be global leaders in 5G.

Overall, rivalry is assessed as strong.

Market Definition

The Mobile Phones market includes mobile phone service revenues and average minutes of use (MOU). Market values are made up of total mobile revenues containing revenues from mobile service providers and other members of the mobile service value-chain for the provision of mobile telephony services, excluding revenues from the sale of devices. Market volumes are made up of two segments: prepaid and postpaid, which consist of prepaid average monthly MOU and postpaid average monthly MOU. Minutes of use are made up from the average of voice minutes used in mobile subscriptions, including both incoming and outgoing calls, but not including M2M/IoT voice services.

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Forecast figures in this report have taken into account the estimated impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the market, though the length of the pandemic and restrictions imposed by governments around the world is not certain, therefore the impact on the market is difficult to predict.

For the purposes of this report, the global market consists of North America, South America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, South Africa and Nigeria.

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South America comprises Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru.

Europe comprises Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Scandinavia comprises Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden.

Asia-Pacific comprises Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Middle East comprises Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates.

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THE KOREA TIMES

SK, KT, LG promote metaverse, robots, AI at Mobile World Congress

663 words
27 February 2022
Korea Times
KORTIM
English

Models pose at SK Telecom's booth, designed for attendees to experience its **metaverse** services, at the Mobile World Congress tech show in Barcelona, Sunday. Courtesy of SK Telecom

Samsung Electronics to unveil new Galaxy lap top

By Baek Byung-yeul

SK Telecom, KT, LG Uplus, Samsung Electronics and other Korean companies will promote their latest technologies such as the metaverse, robots, artificial intelligence (AI) and other services at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) tech show, which will be held in Barcelona from Monday to Thursday.

The MWC event is the biggest annual gathering of the global mobile communication industry. The event, which was canceled in 2020 and held online in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will return to its normal schedule this year and will be held offline for the first time in three years.

Around 110 Korean companies including big ones as well as startups will take part in the show to market their technologies to the global market, especially for European consumers.

To seek more business opportunities, CEOs from Korea's three mobile carriers – SK, KT and LG – will attend the show. SK Telecom will focus on promoting its metaverse technology, which has emerged as key trend for mobile carriers. KT, which is transforming itself into a digital platform company, has put its focus on AI and robots while LG Uplus seeks to export its virtual reality content.

SK said it decorated its exhibition booth with a metaverse concept, enabling visitors to experience real and virtual convergence. The company is betting big on its metaverse or virtual meeting platform known as ifland, using the event as a chance to export it to other countries.

'Since the world's first 5G commercialization in 2019, ifland has been recognized as a successful case of a 5G service launched by a mobile carrier. Many leading global companies have been inquiring about the ifland service and we expect the service can enter the global market through this year's MWC,' the company said.

Models pose with KT's AI and robot services at the Mobile World Congress tech show in Barcelona, Sunday. Courtesy of KT

KT plans to introduce its AI and robot-related services. Its AI secretary service has been evaluated to have contributed greatly to reducing the workload of small business owners by offering a consultancy service, receiving preorders and informing potential customers about business hours or location.

In the robot zone, an AI quarantine robot that can measure indoor air pollution levels in real time and purify air will be also be introduced

LG Uplus will operate a demonstration zone, displaying its virtual reality content and 5G service for buyers. The company will introduce various content such as virtual reality and augmented reality-based movies and art performances as well as travel, online comics, games and education based content.

Samsung Electronics' models pose with the company's Galaxy S22 smartphones at its booth during the Mobile World Congress tech show in Barcelona, Sunday. Courtesy of Samsung Electronics

Samsung Electronics will also display its latest mobile devices at the event. The company said Sunday that visitors to its booth will be able to experience its latest premium smartphone Galaxy S22 and tablet PC Galaxy Tab S8 and smartwatch Galaxy Watch 4 as well as the latest edition of its Galaxy Book laptop.

'Samsung Electronics reflected new education and working culture trends such as remote classes and work from home in the exhibition booth. Visitors can experience the smooth connectivity, productivity and

innovation of the Galaxy ecosystem that can be used in various places and spaces in everyday life,' the company said.

The tech giant will promote not only its gadgets but also its efforts to make the global environment greener. The company said visitors can see how it developed a new smartphone material using ocean plastics such as discarded fishing nets. These materials are used in the Galaxy S22 smartphones.

Document KORTIM0020220227ei2r0000d

Mobile World Congress returns to Barcelona with force

239 words
25 February 2022
EFE News Service
WEFE
English

Barcelona, Spain, Feb 25 (EFE).- After two stripped back editions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mobile World Congress (MWC) returns to Barcelona, expecting up to 60,000 attendees, the GSMA, the mobile industry employers' association that organizes the fair, said Friday. Organizers are expecting the event to return with force featuring industry powerhouses like Samsung, Huawei, Ericsson, Deutsche Telekom, Google, Nokia, Oppo, Qualcomm, SK Telecom and ZTE. The CEO of GSM, John Hoffman, told Efe this edition would not be " transitional" but rather one of "growth", coming from the worst of the pandemic and moving towards a normal MWC. "It is much more than a transition: it is the future." This year's show theme, '**Connectivity** Unleashed', will explore the development of 5G connection into 6G, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Everything, CloudNet, FinTech and Tech Horizon.

Hosted at the Fira Gran Via in Barcelona from 28 February to 3 March, this year's edition includes more than 1000 speakers, over 1500 exhibitors and 37 country pavilions. Smartphones will be at center stage of the trade show, with foldable terminals and multiple rear cameras expected to be unveiled from major mobile companies Samsung, Honor, Huawei or Xiaomi. Other still emerging elements will also make an appearance, such as the possibilities offered by the metaverse or the NewSpace economy, in dispute between private companies and public administrations. EFE mpl/ch-mp

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SK Telecom and Samsung complete industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC) Trial in 5G

CT Bureau
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25 February 2022
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Samsung Electronics and SK Telecom (SKT) announced they have successfully completed the industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC, New Radio–E-UTRAN Dual **Connectivity**) trial in SKT's 5G Standalone (5G SA) commercial network. SA Option 4 is a dual **connectivity** technology that connects both 5G and 4G radios to a 5G Core in advanced 5G SA mode, enabling operators to increase reliability and maximize their current network resources.

The two companies verified the 5G Option 4 technology at the SKT R&D Center to achieve the equal data speed as the NSA, using 175MHz of bandwidth, and also completed the verification of SA's specialized functions. For this commercial field trial, SKT used Samsung's 5G SA Core, 5G radios and 4G radios, which are already deployed across SKT's 5G commercial networks.

5G Option 4 is a more advanced option than the existing 5G Standalone mode (SA Option 2) and provides the equivalent level of speed and quality as the NSA while utilizing the specialized functions of the SA Option 2 such as network slicing and the evolved 5G Core network.

SA Option 4 helps operators deliver innovative services including Urban Air Mobility (UAM), automated vehicles, remote control for heavy equipment, remote control robots and more. Network slicing creates multiple virtual networks within a single physical network infrastructure, optimizing network resources to meet specific performance needs for various services.

"While we supported the launch of the world's first commercial 5G services in Korea, we are excited to continue spearheading the advancement of 5G through 5G SA technology, which will power innovative 5G services by leveraging the world-class LTE network that is well established in Korea," said Jong-Kwan Park, Vice President and Head of 5GX Technology Group at SKT. "We will continue to expand our collaboration with industry leaders to continue driving this advanced technology and in growing this 5G SA ecosystem, to demonstrate new ways to tap the full potential of next-generation networks."

"Through this commercial trial, Samsung is proud to collaborate with SKT to achieve another milestone in advancing 5G SA technology, demonstrating the equal performance as NSA with 5G Option 4 technology in 5G SA mode," said June Moon, Executive Vice President and Head of Technology Strategy, Networks Business at Samsung Electronics. "We look forward to continue collaborating with SKT for the development and commercialization of advanced 5G SA technology, to deliver market-leading services to consumers and diverse use cases across industry."

While in the early stages of 5G, operators used E-UTRAN New Radio Dual Connectivity (EN-DC) technology to combine 5G and 4G networks in 5G NSA mode, and now with 5G SA, they can leverage SA Option 4, which is a more advanced dual connectivity technology.

This latest milestone is a result of Samsung and SKT's continued commitment to developing cutting-edge network technologies that power innovative 5G use cases. As part of their ongoing collaboration, the companies have successfully completed the EN-DC test in 2019, following the world's first 5G Next-Generation Core (5G NC) trial in June 2018. In March 2021, SKT began delivering 5G SA commercial services to private networks using Samsung's advanced 5G end-to-end solutions. In a collaborative effort, the companies will continue delivering advanced network services to mobile users in Korea.

Visit SK Telecom's booth at MWC Barcelona 2022 for this Option 4 (NE-DC) demonstration and more.

Samsung has pioneered the successful delivery of 5G end-to-end solutions including chipsets, radios and core. Through ongoing research and development, Samsung drives the industry to advance 5G networks with its market-leading product portfolio from fully virtualized RAN and Core to private network solutions and AI-powered automation tools. The company is currently providing network solutions to mobile operators that deliver connectivity to hundreds of millions of users around the world.

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SK Telecom and Samsung to Showcase 5G-4G SA Option 4 at MWC 2022

674 words
25 February 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Telecom (SKT) announced on Feb. 24 that they have successfully completed the industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC, New Radio–E-UTRAN Dual **Connectivity**) trial in SKT's 5G Standalone (5G SA) commercial network.

The two companies will showcase their new technology at Mobile World Congress 2022, which opens in Barcelona on Feb. 28.

SA Option 4 is a dual connectivity technology that connects both 5G and 4G radios to a 5G Core in advanced 5G SA mode, enabling operators to increase reliability and maximize their current network resources.

The two companies verified the 5G Option 4 technology at the SKT R&D Center to achieve the equal data speed as the NSA, using 175MHz of bandwidth, and also completed the verification of SA's specialized functions. For this commercial field trial, SKT used Samsung's 5G SA Core, 5G radios and 4G radios, which are already deployed across SKT's 5G commercial networks.

5G Option 4 is a more advanced option than the existing 5G Standalone mode (SA Option 2) and provides the equivalent level of speed and quality as the NSA while utilizing the specialized functions of the SA Option 2 such as network slicing and the evolved 5G Core network.

SA Option 4 helps operators deliver innovative services including urban air mobility (UAM), automated vehicles, remote control for heavy equipment, remote control robots and more. Network slicing creates multiple virtual networks within a single physical network infrastructure, optimizing network resources to meet specific performance needs for various services.

"While we supported the launch of the world's first commercial 5G services in Korea, we are excited to continue spearheading the advancement of 5G through 5G SA technology, which will power innovative 5G services by leveraging the world-class LTE network that is well established in Korea," said Park Jong-kwan, vice president and head of 5GX Technology Group at SKT. "We will continue to expand our collaboration with industry leaders to continue driving this advanced technology and in growing this 5G SA ecosystem, to demonstrate new ways to tap the full potential of next-generation networks."

"Through this commercial trial, Samsung is proud to collaborate with SKT to achieve another milestone in advancing 5G SA technology, demonstrating the equal performance as NSA with 5G Option 4 technology in 5G SA mode," said Moon June, executive vice president and head of Technology Strategy, Networks Business at Samsung Electronics. "We look forward to continuing collaborating with SKT for the development and commercialization of advanced 5G SA technology, to deliver market-leading services to consumers and diverse use cases across industry."

While in the early stages of 5G, operators used E-UTRAN New Radio Dual Connectivity (EN-DC) technology to combine 5G and 4G networks in 5G NSA mode, and now with 5G SA, they can leverage SA Option 4, which is a more advanced dual connectivity technology.

This latest milestone is a result of Samsung and SKT's continued commitment to developing cutting-edge network technologies that power innovative 5G use cases. As part of their ongoing collaboration, the companies have successfully completed the EN-DC test (Link) in 2019, following the world's first 5G Next-Generation Core (5G NC) trial in June 2018 (Link). In March 2021, SKT began delivering 5G SA commercial services to private networks using Samsung's advanced 5G end-to-end solutions. In a collaborative effort, the companies will continue delivering advanced network services to mobile users in Korea.

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http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=88216

Document BKORDN0020220225ei2p0005p

매일경제

, Biz&Company
SK Square vows active M&A and IPO drive upon releasing first earnings report

Pulse
356 words
25 February 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

SK Square Co. on Friday reporting its first earnings for the last two months in 2021 since its separation from SK telecom as a standalone **investment** entity Friday vowed to enhance corporate value through active M&As, collaborations, and initial public offerings of its units.

The company disclosed its consolidated operating profit for November-December period was 419.8 billion won ($348.7 million) over sales of 1.14 trillion won. Net profit came to 363.2 billion won. The consolidated sales reflect figures of subsidiaries such as SK Shieldus, 11 Street., SK Planet, T Map Mobility, and One Store, as well as P&L from its equity holding in SK hynix.

SK Square is scheduled to hold a shareholder meeting on Mar. 28.

SK Square said it expects more stable cash generation this year as SK hynix decided to increase dividend payouts as part of efforts to raise shareholder value. Earlier, SK hynix announced that it would pay a quarterly dividend and raise its fixed dividend payments from 1,000 won per share to 1,200 won.

SK Square has so far invested 130.3 billion won in total in three companies since its debut as a pureplay investment firm: cryptocurrency exchange Korbit (87.3 billion won), 3D digital human developer Onmind (8 billion won), and digital agriculture platform Greenlabs (35 billion won).

SK Square said it is preparing for new investments in promising companies in the semiconductor and ICT fields this year. It also plans to pursue an initial public offering of subsidiaries and expand business partnerships to increase their value.

SK Square's net asset value, the value of the company's assets minus liabilities and expenses, came to 26 trillion won at the end of last year.

SK Square is a unique investment company that has a diverse portfolio of semiconductor, security, e-commerce, and mobility, and will focus on increasing investment profitability and corporate value through active portfolio management, said the company's chief investment officer Yoon Poong-young.

Click here to view image

Document MAEIL00020220225ei2p000b7

SK Telecom, Samsung complete 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC) trial in 5G commercial network

179 words
25 February 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

Samsung Electronics and SK Telecom have completed a 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC, New Radio–E-UTRAN Dual **Connectivity**) trial in the South Korean operator's 5G Standalone (5G SA) commercial network. The SA Option 4 dual **connectivity** technology connects both 5G and 4G radios to a 5G Core in advanced 5G SA mode.

The two companies verified the 5G Option 4 technology at the SK Telecom R&D Center to achieve the equal data speed as the NSA, using 175MHz of bandwidth, and also completed the verification of SA's specialized functions. For this commercial field trial, SK Telecom used Samsung's 5G SA Core, 5G radios and 4G radios, which are already deployed across the operator's 5G commercial networks.

While in the early stages of 5G, operators used E-UTRAN New Radio Dual Connectivity (EN-DC) to combine 5G and 4G networks in 5G NSA mode, and now with 5G SA, they can leverage the SA Option 4 dual connectivity technology.

Document TELASI0020220225ei2p00003

MIL-OSI Economics: SK Telecom and Samsung Complete Industry's First 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC) Trial in 5G Commercial Network

801 words
25 February 2022
ForeignAffairs.co.nz
PARALL
English

Source: Samsung

Samsung Electronics and SK Telecom (SKT) announced they have successfully completed the industry's first 5G-4G SA Option 4 (NE-DC, New Radio-E-UTRAN Dual **Connectivity**) trial in SKT's 5G Standalone (5G SA) commercial network. SA Option 4 is a dual **connectivity** technology that connects both 5G and 4G radios to a 5G Core in advanced 5G SA mode, enabling operators to increase reliability and maximize their current network resources.

The two companies verified the 5G Option 4 technology at the SKT R&D Center to achieve the equal data speed as the NSA, using 175MHz of bandwidth, and also completed the verification of SA's specialized functions. For this commercial field trial, SKT used Samsung's 5G SA Core, 5G radios and 4G radios, which are already deployed across SKT's 5G commercial networks.

5G Option 4 is a more advanced option than the existing 5G Standalone mode (SA Option 2) and provides the equivalent level of speed and quality as the NSA while utilizing the specialized functions of the SA Option 2 such as network slicing and the evolved 5G Core network.

SA Option 4 helps operators deliver innovative services including Urban Air Mobility (UAM), automated vehicles, remote control for heavy equipment, remote control robots and more. Network slicing creates multiple virtual networks within a single physical network infrastructure, optimizing network resources to meet specific performance needs for various services.

"While we supported the launch of the world's first commercial 5G services in Korea, we are excited to continue spearheading the advancement of 5G through 5G SA technology, which will power innovative 5G services by leveraging the world-class LTE network that is well established in Korea," said Jong-Kwan Park, Vice President and Head of 5GX Technology Group at SKT. "We will continue to expand our collaboration with industry leaders to continue driving this advanced technology and in growing this 5G SA ecosystem, to demonstrate new ways to tap the full potential of next-generation networks."

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Visit SK Telecom's booth at MWC Barcelona 2022 for this Option 4 (NE-DC) demonstration and more.

Samsung has pioneered the successful delivery of 5G end-to-end solutions including chipsets, radios and core. Through ongoing research and development, Samsung drives the industry to advance 5G networks with its market-leading product portfolio from fully virtualized RAN and Core to private network solutions and

AI-powered automation tools. The company is currently providing network solutions to mobile operators that deliver connectivity to hundreds of millions of users around the world.

About SK Telecom

SK Telecom (NYSE:SKM) is Korea's leading ICT company, driving innovations in fixed & wireless telecommunications, AI service, and digital infrastructure service. Armed with cutting-edge ICT including AI and 5G, the company is ushering in a new level of convergence to deliver unprecedented value to customers. As the global 5G pioneer, SKT is committed to realizing the full potential of 5G through ground-breaking services that can improve people's lives, transform businesses, and lead to a better society.

SKT boasts unrivaled leadership in the Korean mobile market with over 30 million subscribers, which account for nearly 50 percent of the market.

For more information, please contact skt_press@sk.com or visit our LinkedIn page www.linkedin.com/company/sk-telecom.

MIL OSI Economics -

Document PARALL0020220224ei2p001i1

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
[MWC 2022] SKT, Samsung to unveil advanced 5G tech at MWC

355 words
25 February 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

South Korea's telecommunication carrier SK Telecom and wireless network equipment maker Samsung Electronics will unveil the test results of their 5G network architecture "Option 4" for enhanced **connectivity** at the upcoming Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

The two firms recently tested the advanced 5G **connectivity** on a commercial network **infrastructure** for the first time within the industry. SK Telecom plans to commercialize the technology by 2023 in order to support urban air mobility systems and remote control of robots and heavy equipment.

Option 4 uses Samsung's 5G core, meaning the 5G radio frequencies are connected directly and independently. Under the architecture, the 5G core is anchored with 5G base stations, which acts as the master cell, while allowing a smoother interworking with 4G base stations.

The architecture differentiates itself from Option 2, which provides a standalone connectivity to the 5G core, as well as from the conventional non-standalone architecture, where the control signaling of 5G radio runs on the 4G core that is anchored with 4G base stations.

Option 4 was defined as one of the standards for 5G architecture by the Third Generation Partnership Project in 2019. It is considered one of the alternatives beyond Option 2. SK Telecom claimed that Option 4 falls in a category of 5G standalone technology.

SK Telecom said in a statement that the technology, if deployed commercially, would combine the advantages of both a more stable 4G-based non-standalone architecture and Option 2 5G standalone architecture.

The architecture will offer 5G network users, via smartphones, vehicles and the like, a more stable wireless network operation than conventional 5G standalone architecture. At the same time, it also provides benefits of 5G cores through the support of capabilities such as network slicing -- which divides single network connections into multiple virtual connections -- and the cloud-native 5G network deployment.

The detailed test results will be unveiled at SK Telecom's exhibition at MWC 2022, the company said.

Click here to see image

SK Telecom technicians are seen testing 5G technologies in this undated photo. (SK Telecom)

Document KORHER0020220224ei2p0015p

SK Telecom's Support for ESG Startups Bears Fruit

226 words
23 February 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

SK Telecom announced on Feb. 22 the results of ESG Korea 2021, an ESG startup support program launched last year in cooperation with domestic and foreign partners.

A total of 14 ESG startups were selected for support in 2021. These startups took home 23 major competition prizes, six companies attracted a combined total of 10 billion won in **investment**, three companies commercialized their business ideas.

Among the startups, Marvelous, a company focusing on AI and immersive content such as VR, AR and MR, was recognized for its expertise in developing solutions for learning deficits and educational inequality.

Based on these achievements, the ESG Korea Alliance will select up to 15 teams in 2022. The six-month program will start in May.

The number of companies and institutions participating in the ESG Korea Alliance will soar from 11 to 21 this year.

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http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=88061

Document BKORDN0020220223ei2n0005r

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
[MWC 2022] Korean telcos set sight on groundbreaking 5G network tech

518 words
23 February 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

The chiefs of all three major telecommunication firms in South Korea -- KT, SK Telecom and LG Uplus -- are poised to attend the forthcoming tech event Mobile World Congress 2022 onsite in Barcelona, Spain, where next-generation network technologies are set to take center stage.

At the MWC 2022, which runs from Feb. 28 to March 3, Korean telcos will showcase how they have shifted gears in their radio access network technology. This shift has enabled mobile handsets to be connected with a core network to improve flexibility, reduce costs and allow seeking of vendor diversity in an **ecosystem**. These are all considered key elements in their 5G roadmaps.

SK Telecom will present its use cases and collaborations for its virtual radio access network (vRAN) with partners such as Korea-based Samsung Electronics, as well as Nordic telcos Ericsson and Nokia. Its exhibit will be located in the Fira Gran Via, an MWC venue.

The vRAN virtualizes the baseband unit, a device transporting a baseband frequency through optical fibers composed of central units and distributed units. Under the new infrastructure, the baseband unit is no longer hardware-based. A multi-vendor environment will be supported by increased equipment interoperability.

There will be more room for Korean small- and mid-sized network equipment providers to join the 5G ecosystem once vRAN technology becomes mainstream, Park Jong-kwan, vice president and head of Infra Tech, SK Telecom, said in a statement.

SK Telecom Chief Executive Officer Ryu Young-sang will attend the 792 square-meter exhibition booth, which would also give visitors a glimpse of Korea‘s first homegrown artificial intelligence chip Sapeon. It will also showcase the firm’s connected intelligence-powered urban air mobility vessels and metaverse functionalities.

Alongside SK Telecom, LG Uplus CEO Hwang Hyeon-sik will also attend the MWC 2022 venue to meet representatives of Amazon, Qualcomm, Samsung Electronics and Nokia to explore 5G collaboration opportunities.

LG Uplus said in a statement that their main focus lies in the open radio access network (O-RAN) ecosystem and 5G infrastructure migration to cloud. In particular, O-RAN architecture will allow telecom carriers to deploy the fully open and interoperable nature of the RAN by embracing different vendors in the ecosystem.

Meanwhile, KT’s exhibition at MWC 2022 will focus on its AI solutions and robot technologies.

One of KT‘s AI use cases will be designed to monitor fibic base stations to detect abnormalities or failures and respond to them automatically. Also, KT will showcase how AI is applied to calculate traffic conditions and timing for traffic signals, analyze closed-circuit camera clips, and dissect choreography.

KT CEO Ku Hyeon-mo will attend MWC 2022 as a board member of the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), a host of the event.

All three major telco carriers SK Telecom, LG Uplus and KT are operator members of the O-RAN Alliance.

Click here to see image

SK Telecom employees pose for a photo while conducting research on virtual radio access network technologies. (SK Telecom)

Document KORHER0020220222ei2n0008d

SK Telecom to showcase metaverse, AI, urban air mobility services at MWC 2022

185 words
21 February 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

South Korean operator SK Telecom has announced it will participate in MWC Barcelona 2022 to be held from 28 February to 3 March. At its 792 square meter booth in Hall 3 of Fira Gran Via, SK Telecom plans to introduce its technologies and services, including **metaverse**, AI and Urban Air Mobility (UAM).

SK Telecom will showcase the global and HMD versions of its **metaverse platform** Ifland; mixed reality capture studio named Jump Studio, which is designed to create a K-pop concert experience via volumetric technology; Korea's first AI semiconductor chip Sapeon; UAM powered by connected intelligence; and 4D **Metaverse**, which provides a glimpse of the future virtual world through a ride on a giant robot arm.

SK Telecom's CEO Ryu Young-sang will visit Barcelona to attend the event. He will present the company's new vision and ambitions, and seek areas of cooperation with companies of diverse fields, including telecommunications, device and future technology, to further expand and enrich customer experience through the provision of top notch ICT services.

Document TELASI0020220221ei2l0008e

Fitch Ratings: SK Telecom Split to Boost Business Stability, Improve Profitability

1,531 words
16 February 2022
Fitch Rating / Non Rating Action Commentary
FITRA
English

Related Fitch Ratings**Content**:

What Investors Want to Know: SK Telecom Co., Ltd: https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10190836

Fitch Ratings-Seoul/Sydney-15 February 2022: SK Telecom Co., Ltd's (SKT, A-/Stable) split in 2021 will improve its business stability due to a greater focus on the telecom business, Fitch Ratings says. We expect SKT's focus on more stable and higher-margin telecom-related businesses to lower business risk and improve its profitability after the spinoff of its non-telecom businesses into SK Square Co Ltd. SKT's revenue and EBITDA base may be reduced following the split, but its EBITDA in 2022 is likely to improve to over KRW5 trillion, supported by a stronger wireless operation.

We expect the slightly higher post-split net leverage to be mitigated by the reduction in business risk. We forecast SKT's fund flow from operation will improve to 1.5x over the medium term from 1.7x in 2021 after the split.

We believe SKT's renewed strategy focusing on expanding its artificial-intelligence and digital infrastructure-based services will support its strong market position, demonstrating its ability to address the industry's inherent fast-moving technological risks.

The report, "What Investors Want to Know: SK Telecom Co., Ltd", is available on www.fitchratings.com or by clicking the link in this release.

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Document FITRA00020220216ei2g00001

Global Content Providers Facing Increasing Pressure from Mobile Carriers

265 words
15 February 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

The GSM Association is planning to call for global **content** providers such as Netflix and YouTube to share network **investment** costs.

These days, big tech companies are facing increasing pressure, especially in Europe, with regard to communication **infrastructure** costs and this has to do with the fact that their profits have increased a lot since the outbreak of COVID-19. This year, the French Telecoms Federation sent presidential candidates a policy proposal to that effect. Late last year, the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association released a joint statement to the same effect.

In South Korea, SK Broadband won a suit against Netflix in June last year and this is the world’s first court ruling regarding content provider-content service provider disputes over the cost of network use.

The GSM Association’s demand also has to do with an increase in content demand and the creation of new content such as metaverse and NFT. More and more data traffic is likely to be caused by content providers, which means telecom operators are more likely to take group action.<lt-toolbar contenteditable="false" data-lt-force-appearance="light" style="display: none;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__wrapper" style="left: 597px; position: absolute !important; top: 346px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__premium-icon"></lt-div><lt-div class="lt-toolbar__status-icon lt-toolbar__status-icon-has-no-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></lt-div></lt-div></lt-toolbar>

http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=87576

Document BKORDN0020220215ei2f00031

Joby Aviation stock jumps nearly 27% on air taxi partnership with Toyota and All Nippon Airways

Cromwell Schubarth
345 words
14 February 2022
Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal
SVBUSJ
English

Joby Aviation Inc.'s air taxi plans are going global, with the Santa Cruz company announcing its second major partnership in Asia this month.

Joby on Monday said it is teaming up on plans to provide service in Japan with Toyota Motor Corp. — its biggest shareholder — and that country's biggest airline, ANA Holdings Inc.

The partnership follows one announced earlier this month with telecommunications provider SK Telecom Co. Ltd. (NYSE:SKM) to bring air taxi service to South Korea.

Joby stock rose by nearly 27% on Tuesday, going as high as $6.17 a share before closing at $6.04. Despite that, its stock has lost nearly 40% of its value since it went public in August with a blank-check company led by LinkedIn co-founder and Zynga founder Mark Pincus.

No dates have been announced for when Joby's air taxi service would launch in Japan or South Korea. The company has said it plans to begin flying customers in its electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft in the U.S. sometime in 2024.

Joby said its eVTOLs could fly the 31-mile route from Osaka rail station to Kansai International Airport in Japan in less than 15 minutes by air rather than one hour by car. That might be handy when Osaka, Japan's third biggest city, hosts the 2025 World Expo.

Toyota (NYSE:TM) has invested $400 million in Joby (NYSE:JOBY). The carmaker said it will support air taxi service by helping with ground-based transportation that may be needed before and after flights.

“Joby exists to help people save time while reducing their carbon footprint," Joby CEO JoeBen Bevirt said in Monday's announcement. "Japan offers us a spectacular opportunity to do just that with 92% of the population living in urban areas and Tokyo registering as one of the top 20 most congested cities in the world."

Document SVBUSJ0020220215ei2e00001

SK Telecom: Needs to Find New Growth Engines

442 words
14 February 2022
Business Korea Daily News
BKORDN
English

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

Following the spin-off into SKT and SK Square, the wired and wireless telecommunication domains remain SKT's main focus. That said, we expect SKT to start in earnest marshalling its stable cash flow towards expanding its new growth businesses.

Building on stable wired/wireless earnings and finding new drivers

- We maintain a Buy rating on SK Telecom (SKT). Following the spin-off into SKT and SK Square, the wired and wireless telecommunication domains remain SKT's main focus. However, moving ahead, we expect the firm to expand investment in new businesses (including Enterprise, metaverse, and future technologies ventures) in order to secure new growth drivers. We expect to see a harmonious balance of stable core earnings performance and new business growth.

- SKT has announced a strategy to expand in five major areas (telecommunications, media, Enterprise, AIVerse, and Connected Intelligence). It is simultaneously to concentrate on stable earnings at its core telecommunication business and to pursue new business growth. With its Enterprise business (IDC & cloud) recently enjoying rapidly rising demand, we believe that SKT will narrow the gap with its competitors in these arenas through bold investment initiatives. Although new metaverse platform Ifland is still in its early stages, the company anticipates that it will lead to tangible inroads into the metaverse market. T Universe, a subscription service, recorded transaction volume of W0.35tn in 2021, and is this year expected to expand partnerships with various companies and increase subscribers—target transaction volume for 2022 is set at W0.5tn.

- Wireless sales should grow this year to W10.3tn (+4.9% y-y) in line with increasing 5G penetration (estimated at 59%). We see consolidated 2022E sales of W17.7tn (+5.9% y-y) and OP of W1.52tn (+9.4% y-y). However, we lower our TP on SKT from W80,000 to W70,000, taking into account a recent decline in global peer valuations.

4Q21 review: OP arrives short of estimate

- SKT booked consolidated 4Q21 sales of W4.3tn (+2.0% q-q) and OP of W226.7bn (42.0% q-q), with OP missing both our estimate of W269.1bn and consensus of W233.6bn. Wireless ARPU has entered a clear growth trend, hitting W30,740 (+1.6% y-y) and in turn driving the growth of wireless sales (W2.6tn, +2.7% y-y). However, OP proved sluggish due to stock compensation costs for all employees.

http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=87547

Document BKORDN0020220214ei2e0002x

매일경제

, Photos
Korbit launches T Universe and Peaches NFTs with SK Telecom

116 words
14 February 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

South Korea’s major cryptocurrency exchange Korbit will release SK Telecom subscription **platform** T Universe's NFT and car lifestyle brand Peaches’ NFT in its NFT marketplace. Korbit will be in charge of building the necessary blockchain **infrastructure** and market for the NFTs. Those who participate in SK Telecom’s Galaxy S22 month-long event starting on Feb. 14 will be eligible to enter a contest where SK Telecom will give out T Universe and Peach NFTs to 2,000 people. The NFTs won in this contest can be traded in the Korbit NFT marketplace in the latter half of the year.

[Photo by SK Telecom Co.]

Document MAEIL00020220214ei2e000dy

SK Telecom signs MOU with Equinix

303 words
10 February 2022
00:00
MarketLine News and Comment
DTMNTR
English

SK Telecom has inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Equinix, the digital **infrastructure** company, to expand the quantum business including 'QKD as a Service (QaaS)' in both Korean and overseas markets.

SKT and Equinix agreed to build a QKD environment in Equinix's SL1 data center located in Sangam-dong, Seoul, usingEquinix interconnection and digital services.

QaaS will provide quantum cryptography protection for private enterprise networks that connect a company's headquarters, offices and data centers on a subscription basis. By offering enhanced network security, QaaS is expected to become an essential service for companies that use data centers, enabling them to safeguard their business against increasing cybersecurity risks.

So far, QKD has been mainly applied to backbone services of mobile operators. With the application of QKD to Equinix's data center, SKT successfully expands the use of QKD to data center interconnection services.

Going forward, the two companies will also work to create synergies in the future data center business by leveraging Equinix's extensive knowhow in data center operation and SKT's expertise in quantum cryptography, convergence security and fixed & mobile telecommunication technologies.

"As companies increasingly transform digitally, cyber attacks are becoming more sophisticated. Digital leaders need a robust digital infrastructure to navigate today's threats and stay ahead of what's next. The addition of SKT's QaaS to the Equinix ecosystem will further protect businesses and help them be better prepared to address future risks," said Chris Jang, Managing Director of Equinix Korea.

"This MOU will mark the first step to creating valuable business synergies between SKT and Equinix. By combining our respective strengths, we will be able to gain leadership in the future data center business," said Ha Min-yong, Vice President and Head of Innovation Suite at SKT.

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Document DTMNTR0020220214ei2a0008z

KOREA JOONGANG DAILY
In association with International New York Times

No need to dress up for job interviews in the metaverse

636 words
10 February 2022
Korea JoongAng Daily
JOONAI
English

If you are looking for a job, you might need to prepare an avatar of yourself for an interview in the **metaverse**.

If you are looking for a job, you might need to prepare an avatar of yourself for an interview in the metaverse.

Yook So-young, 27, is working as a manager at a 7-Eleven branch in Incheon International Airport. To land the job in November, Yook had an online interview on metaverse platform Gather last October, completed a one-month internship and then had a final normal video interview with executives.

“Offline interviews can be really frustrating because you can be nervous,” says Yook. “I enjoyed the metaverse interview because it created a friendly environment for interviewees to communicate with not only the interviewers but also other applicants.”

February is the hiring season in Korea, and companies are adopting the metaverse as a hiring tool with blinding speed.

“SK Telecom plans to hire new employees three times this year,” said a spokesperson for the company. “We are considering holding a recruitment fair on our metaverse platform, as we did last year.”

Last September, SK Telecom hosted a recruiting event where job seekers could consult with recruiters on its metaverse platform ifland.

Samsung Electronics has scheduled its second metaverse recruiting fair for March. The company first applied metaverse technology to the hiring process last year. LG Electronics also launched a metaverse platform to hold a recruiting event in the latter half of last year, and plans to hold another in March as well.

Shinsegae's e-commerce arm SSG.com built a virtual training center dubbed SSG Town on Gather, and new hires by the company will be trained on the metaverse platform in the first half of this year.

Applicants are warming to the use of the new technology.

In a survey conducted by recruitment website JobKorea last December, 51 percent of 390 job seekers born between 1985 and 2010 were positive about metaverse platforms being used in the hiring process for such things as interviews.

“Recruiters can evaluate applicants’ competence via the metaverse, as they can give presentations or share their portfolio through the online platform,” said Oh Sung-eun, an advisor at the Seoul National University Career Development Center.

Metaverse platforms are also useful for blind recruitment, which refers to reviewing applicants based on job competency and not personal factors such as their gender, race or age, said Oh.

Other notable hiring trends this year include a rolling recruitment system.

The traditional biannual mass hiring system is giving way to something more flexible, with a growing number of companies using a rolling recruitment system. They hire new employees when the need arises. Incruit found Tuesday that 68 percent of large companies say they prefer to hire new employees when they actually need them.

Job search website Incruit found that 73 percent of large companies are planning to hire four-year college graduates, up 16.8 percentage points from the previous year when the Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the job market.

Moreover, 25 percent of big companies said that they will hire more than 100 employees this year, a 17.6 percentage point jump compared to 2021. Big name companies such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix are expected to lead the competition for talent.

On the other hand, only 49.5 percent of medium-sized companies said they will post job openings this year, a 6.1 percentage point increase compared to the previous year. For small-sized companies, the number was 46 percent, up 13.3 percentage points.

BY KIM KYUNG-JIN [shin.hanee@joongang.co.kr]

Click here to see image

SK Telecom held a recruitment event on its metaverse platform ifland last September. [SK TELECOM]

Document JOONAI0020220210ei2a002mh

telecompaper

SK Telecom to build QKD environment in Equinix's Seoul data center

192 words
10 February 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

South Korean operator SK Telecom has signed an agreement with Equinix to expand the quantum business including 'QKD as a Service (QaaS)' in both Korean and overseas markets. SK Telecom and Equinix agreed to build a QKD environment in Equinix's SL1 data center located in Sangam-dong, Seoul, using Equinix interconnection and digital services.

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So far, QKD has been mainly applied to backbone services of mobile operators. With the application of QKD to Equinix's data center, SK Telecom expands the use of QKD to data center interconnection services.

Going forward, the two companies also plan to create synergies in the future data center business by leveraging Equinix's knowhow in data center operation and SK Telecom's expertise in quantum cryptography, convergence security and fixed and mobile telecommunication technologies.

Document TELASI0020220210ei2a0002u

DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

Global Equities Roundup: Market Talk

1,358 words
10 February 2022
02:44
Dow Jones Institutional News
DJDN
English

The latest Market Talks covering Equities. Published exclusively on Dow Jones Newswires throughout the day.

2144 ET - SK Telecom's 2022 earnings may face headwinds from slower-than-expected 5G migration and higher operating costs for new businesses, says Daiwa Capital. The **investment** bank lowers its 2022 EPS forecast for the South Korean wireless carrier by 3.2%. SKT's 9.87 million 5G subscribers as of 4Q last year accounts for 41.6% of its total mobile users, and management pushes hard for new growth in artificial intelligence, **metaverse** and other new businesses. Daiwa trims its target price by 1.7% to KRW59,500 but maintains its outperform rating, citing the steady earnings growth at SKT's core telecom services. Shares fall 1.4% to KRW55,400. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

2143 ET - Singapore Exchange's stock looks fully valued at current price levels, and there doesn't seem to be any major potential upside, after the company reported muted 1H earnings, UOB Kay Hian says. It lowers the target price to S$9.09 from S$9.74 with an unchanged hold rating. The brokerage remains cautious that competition from the Hong Kong Exchange and SGX's sliding securities daily average traded value could affect earnings. Also, significant revenue from SGX's new initiatives such as special-purpose acquisition companies will take time to gestate, although major success from these initiatives could rerate the stock, UOB KH says. Shares are unchanged at S$9.88. (ronnie.harui@wsj.com)

2117 ET - Higher net interest margin pressure in AMP Bank into 2022 is likely to counter the benefit of improving Australian Wealth Management unit investment flows and stronger bank loan growth, Jarden says. Still, the investment bank says the AMP Capital Private Markets' demerger or potential sale remains a key positive value catalyst. Jarden notes that AMP's group cost outlook for 2022 is in line with its expectations. AMP on Thursday announced AMP Capital Private Markets' new brand--Collimate Capital--as it moves to establish private markets as a standalone business. (alice.uribe@wsj.com)

2113 ET - CSPC Pharmaceutical's current valuation looks relatively cheap at a P/E ratio of 14.4 times 2022 estimates, Daiwa Capital says. While there may be market concerns over the pharmaceutical company's long-term growth, Daiwa notes that CSPC now has in-licensed a series of innovative drugs from China biotech names, such as Keymed Biosciences and Alphamab Oncology. "We view these deals as a good starting point for CSPC to transition from an old-school pharmaceutical company to a new-school player that embraces innovation," Daiwa says. The Japanese bank upgrades its rating to hold from underperform, citing its attractive valuation, and maintains its target price of HK$9.90. Shares are flat at HK$9.69. (justina.lee@wsj.com)

2049 ET - Chinese shares decline broadly, amid concerns that the U.S. government is considering a new tariff probe on China, should current talks fail to result in Beijing following through on promised purchases of U.S. energy, goods and services. The Shanghai Composite Index is flat at 3481.58, the Shenzhen Composite Index slips 0.2% to 2313.60 and the ChiNext Price Index falls 0.7% to 2863.11. Coal companies may be in focus, after China's National Development and Reform Commission held a meeting to make further arrangements to stabilize coal prices, Commerzbank says. China Coal Energy declines 1.2% and China Shenhua Energy slips 2.1%. (justina.lee@wsj.com)

2042 ET - Hong Kong shares rise in early trade, tracking the rebound in global equity markets. Hong Kong blue chips performed well in the U.S. ADR market overnight, which together with factors such as improved market turnover, should keep local equity-market's short-term sentiment firm, KGI Research says. Best performers on the Hang Seng Index include Xinyi Solar, which advances 3.9%, Xinyi Glass up 4.4% and Country Garden Services 3.2% higher. Meanwhile, HSBC Holdings loses 1.7% and Hang Seng Bank slips 0.8%. The Hang Seng Index is 0.3% higher at 24905.00. The Hang Seng TECH Index gains 1.2% to 5702.26. (ronnie.harui@wsj.com)

2037 ET - Production problems at a Western Digital/Kioxia joint venture will dent memory chip supply, Western Digital says, blaming "contamination of certain material used in its manufacturing processes" that will lead to a reduction of NAND flash memory availability of at least 6.5 exabytes. "The good news--this will clearly drive NAND pricing higher, particularly considering that the chemical contamination is not completely resolved. The bad news--WDC's March quarter results will clearly be impaired," Evercore ISI's C.J. Muse says. (robert.wall@wsj.com)

2016 ET - Megaport remains Macquarie's preferred Australian tech stock amid signs that its revenue growth is accelerating. The investment bank, which this week outlined its preference for more defensive sector picks, notes that Megaport's margin run-rate at the end of 2Q was rising more quickly than revenue. It also thinks that a strong pipeline of business for Megaport's so-called virtual-edge connectivity hints at a stronger growth trajectory than for the company's cloud router service. Macquarie raises the stock's target price 5.0% to A$21.00 and maintains an outperform rating. Shares rise 7.9% to A$14.69. (stuart.condie@wsj.com; @StuartLCondie)

2017 ET - Singapore shares are steady in early trade, underpinned by Wall Street gains overnight. Investors are likely adopting a cautious mood ahead of the U.S. January CPI report due later in the day, which may have implications for the pace of Fed tightening. Best performers on the STI include Keppel Corp., which is up 1.2%, after its offshore & marine unit secured S$250 million in contracts involving oil, LNG and dredging projects. Worst performers include Venture Corp., which is 1.0% lower, and OCBC down 0.5%. The FTSE Straits Times Index is little changed at 3421.44. (ronnie.harui@wsj.com)

2013 ET - Amorepacific Corp.'s earnings could pick up starting in 2Q, thanks to its aggressive restructuring of Innisfree cosmetics outlets in China with sluggish sales to save costs, KB Securities says. The brokerage notes the South Korean beauty-product company may still post a decline in operating profit for 1Q as it is now undergoing "the final leg of business restructuring" in China. KB expects the company's 2022 revenue and operating profit to rise 9.0% and 23%, respectively. The brokerage upgrades the stock to buy from hold and raises its target price by 21% to KRW205,000. Shares are 6.1% higher at KRW173,500. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

2010 ET - IDP Education should enjoy a stronger fiscal second half than usual as international border reopenings fuel a recovery in Australian student placements, Goldman Sachs says. The investment bank also sees continued strength in multi-destination placements and greater than anticipated synergies from IDP's recent acquisition in India. It raises its EPS estimates for FY 2022 by 6.3%, FY 2023 by 1.3% and FY 2024 by 1.2%. Target price rises 2.9% to A$35.00 and GS maintains a buy rating on the stock, which is 0.6% higher at A$30.86. (stuart.condie@wsj.com; @StuartLCondie)

2009 ET - Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur Composite Index rises 0.3% to 1555.48 in morning trade, extending the previous session's rally on the back of robust December retail sales data, says Malacca Securities. December retail sales grew 3.5% on year to a record high of MYR120.5 billion. However, cautious sentiment may prevail ahead of U.S. inflationary data scheduled to be released tonight, the brokerage says. Kuala Lumpur Kepong gains 2.4%, Maxis Bhd. rises 1.2% and Sime Darby advances 1.4%. Top Glove falls 1.8% and Hartalega drops 1.4%. (chester.tay@wsj.com)

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

February 09, 2022 21:44 ET (02:44 GMT)

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DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

SK Telecom 2022 Earnings May Face Headwinds From Slower 5G Migration, Higher Costs -- Market Talk

146 words
10 February 2022
02:44
Dow Jones Institutional News
DJDN
English

0244 GMT - SK Telecom's 2022 earnings may face headwinds from slower-than-expected 5G migration and higher operating costs for new businesses, says Daiwa Capital. The **investment** bank lowers its 2022 EPS forecast for the South Korean wireless carrier by 3.2%. SKT's 9.87 million 5G subscribers as of 4Q last year accounts for 41.6% of its total mobile users, and management pushes hard for new growth in artificial intelligence, **metaverse** and other new businesses. Daiwa trims its target price by 1.7% to KRW59,500 but maintains its outperform rating, citing the steady earnings growth at SKT's core telecom services. Shares fall 1.4% to KRW55,400. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

February 09, 2022 21:44 ET (02:44 GMT)

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World
Equinix partners with SK Telecom to apply quantum cryptography to dedicated lines between companies and data centers

Lim Chang-won
494 words
10 February 2022
AJU NEWS
AJUENG
English

[Courtesy of SK Telecom]SEOUL --Equinix, an American digital **infrastructure** company, tied up with SK Telecom, a leading mobile carrier in South Korea, to apply quantum cryptography to dedicated lines between companies and internet data centers where many servers, routers and switches are managed autonomously. Strong network security can be provided as quantum cryptography communication services are available to corporate customers using data centers.It would be the first application of quantum key distribution (QKD) to a global data center operator like Equinix, which runs more than 230 data centers worldwide. QKD is a secure communication method that implements a cryptographic protocol involving components of quantum mechanics. So far, QKD has been mainly applied to key network services provided by telecom companies.

The importance of cybersecurity in mobile communications is rising exponentially. Quantum cryptography has emerged as an essential solution for safeguarding critical information because it is impossible to copy data encoded in a quantum state. Cryptographers are designing new algorithms to prepare for a time when quantum computing becomes a threat.

SK Telecom (SKT) is a leading member of South Korea's state project to secure technology competitiveness in quantum cryptography communication. SKT's quantum key distributor implements a cryptographic protocol involving components of quantum mechanics.

SKT and Equinix signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in expanding quantum businesses such as QKD as a Service (QaaS), which is a promising pattern for future QKD networks.The two companies agreed to push for the commercialization of QaaS within this year while establishing a QKD environment at a data center run by Equinix in Seoul.

"It will be the first step toward creating synergy between Equinix, a global No. 1 data center operator, and SKT, a global leader in quantum cryptography and 5G wired and wireless communication," SKT's innovation suite head Ha Min-yong said in a statement on February 10.

Equinix's digital services, including interconnections between data centers, will be used to make QaaS available in data centers around the world. QaaS would protect enterprise-only lines that connect corporate headquarters, offices, and data centers with quantum cryptography. SKT said the service would become a corporate subscription model in the future.

Equinix hopes to help companies address future risks by adding SKT's QaaS to its ecosystem. "As companies gradually adopt digital transformation, cyberattacks are becoming more sophisticated, and digital leaders need a powerful digital infrastructure to address today's threats and take the next step ahead," Equinix Korea CEO Jang Hye-deok was quoted as saying.

In January, SKT's quantum cryptography transmission encryption modules secured government certification, paving the way for government organizations and public institutions to protect key information against evolving hacking threats by strengthening communication security.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwlim34@ajunews.com

https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/02/10/20220210105435156918.jpg

cwlim34@ajunews.com

Document AJUENG0020220210ei2a00001

The Korea Herald

Entertainment
SKT CEO vows stronger metaverse push with M&As

395 words
10 February 2022
The Korea Herald
KORHER
English

SK Telecom will push for mergers and acquisitions in the field of **metaverse**, the telecom firm's CEO Ryu Young-sang said in an earnings call Wednesday.

The remark comes as SK Telecom, which spun off **investment** affiliate SK Square, is undergoing a period of transition with new growth drivers, with artificial intelligence and **metaverse** spearheading the trend under a newly established "Aiverse" division.

"I'd like to make it very clear that SK Telecom will pursue strategic M&A opportunities. ... The first direction is to acquire technology companies for the business such as AI and metaverse," Ryu said.

Korea's top mobile carrier has been trying to expand its foothold in the fledgling field, after making inroads with its "ifland" virtual space.

Ryu, who took the top post of the company in November, said SKT is transitioning into a company which "expands time and space for customers with technologies such as AI, metaverse and universe."

"For our metaverse business, we will act quickly and we will expand our existing strategies and add more intellectual property resources, so that we can create a new growth momentum," Ryu said.

Metaverse is one of the new growth businesses for SK Telecom, along with subscription-based media, enterprise IT infrastructure and futuristic mobility.

According to Ryu, the new sectors will contribute 36 percent of its revenue in 2025, from 18 percent as of 2021. With this, SK Telecom aims to achieve 23 trillion won ($19.2 billion) in terms of revenue in 2025, from the current 16.7 trillion won.

Ryu added that the company will also seek overseas deals on the premise that the new growth businesses stabilize, as well as acquisitions of developers.

"In terms of pursuing these M&As, our intention is not to do IPO of subsidiaries after M&As but rather combine and integrate the acquired companies into existing businesses of SK Telecom," Ryu said.

SK Telecom recorded an operating profit of 1.39 trillion won for 2021, up 11.1 percent from a year prior, while its revenue rose 4.1 percent to 16.7 trillion won, a preliminary earnings release showed.

(consnow@heraldcorp.com)

Click here to see image

SK Telecom CEO Ryu Young-sang speaks during a press conference held during CES 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada. (SK Telecom)

Document KORHER0020220209ei2a002bd

SK Telecom Forms Partnership with Joby Aviation

147 words
9 February 2022
MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker
FDTRA
English

Deal In Brief

SK Telecom Co Ltd (SK Telecom), a South Korea-based provider of wireless telecommunications services, has entered into **partnership** agreement with Joby Aviation Inc, a US-based company developing all-electric aircraft for commercial passenger service. The agreement will see the two companies work closely on introducing this revolutionary form of transportation in support of the South Korean Ministry of Land, **Infrastructure**, and Transport's Roadmap.

Deal Type	Partnership
Sub-Category	Co-development
Deal Status	Announced: 2022-02-07

Deal Participants

Partner 1 (Company)	SK Telecom Co., Ltd.
Partner 2 (Company)	Joby Aviation Inc.

Deal Rationale

Document FDTRA00020220209ei280004j

SKT 2.0 forecasts growth surge from new businesses

Robert Clark
499 words
9 February 2022
Light Reading
LITEREAD
English

The new-look SK Telecom is confident its new growth business such as **cloud**, media and e-commerce can now power its growth, forecasting a 45% spike in revenue over the next four years.

The company, which restructured around the new businesses just three months ago, is targeting top-line revenue of around 25 trillion won (US$20.9 billion) in 2025, up from 16.7 trillion in 2021.

CEO Ryu Young-sang told a results briefing Wednesday that the growth businesses accounted for 18% of revenue last year but were expected to double that to 36% by 2025.

Click here to view Figure 1.

SKT's mobile and fixed-line services accounted for 82% of revenue and were growing at just 3%, while the growth businesses were expanding at 15% annually, he said.

He flagged a more aggressive approach to M&A to acquire key technologies and talent for emerging areas such as AI and metaverse.

He also said "SKT 2.0" would also seek more partnerships in telecom and data center services abroad.

Ryu said the recent reorganization into five business groups - mobile and fixed, enterprise, media, AI and connected intelligence - was aimed at maximizing the value of the emerging segments.

"The growth potential of both [legacy and growth] businesses is not reflected in the valuations," he said. "A different multiple applies to the media, enterprise and AI businesses."

Change it up

The telco recorded an 11% rise in full-year operating income to 1.39 trillion won ($1.2 billion), with total sales up 4% to 16.7 trillion won.

Net profit jumped 61% to 2.42 trillion won ($2.03 billion), boosted by the disposal of baseball team SK Wyverns and a change in accounting.

While mobile service revenue improved just 2.7%, fixed-line business grew 9%, helped by an 11% spurt in pay TV revenue.

Ryu singled out cloud and data centers as a prime growth segment, expanding at 30% to 50% CAGR.

Want to know more about 5G? Check out our dedicated 5G content channel here on

Light Reading.

The data center business, driven by huge domestic demand and a shortage in supply, doubled capacity last year.

SKT also saw opportunity in businesses where it could add intelligence to its networks and connectivity, Ryu said.

Earlier this week the company announced it has a partnership with west coast firm Joby Aviation, to build an urban air mobility (UAM) service, with the aim of winning the first commercial license in South Korea in 2025.

"SK Telecom is now moving on from connecting people," Ryu said. It aimed to become a company that "expands time and space for customers" with technologies such as AI and metaverse.

Related posts:

* Asian operators plunge into chip market

* SKT cruises to $340M operating profit on mobile, media growth

* What's ahead for Asia in 2022

- Robert Clark, contributing editor, special to Light Reading

rclark@electricspeech.com
Document LITEREAD20220209ei290002w

SKT, Joby To Bring Air Taxi Service to South Korea

438 words
9 February 2022
Internet Business News
INTA
English

SK Telecom (NYSE:SKM), South Korea's telecommunications company, and Joby Aviation (NYSE:JOBY), a California-based company developing an all-electric, five-seat aircraft that can take off and land vertically (eVTOL), have agreed to work together to introduce emissions-free aerial ridesharing services to cities and communities across South Korea, the companies said.

SKT's CEO Ryu Young-sang and Joby's founder and CEO JoeBen Bevirt signed a strategic collaboration agreement at Joby's manufacturing facility in Marina, California. The agreement will see the two companies work closely on introducing this revolutionary form of transportation in support of the South Korean Ministry of Land, **Infrastructure**, and Transport's "K-UAM" (Korean Urban Air Mobility) Roadmap, first announced in 2020.

With a maximum range of 150 miles (241 kilometers), a top speed of 200 mph (321 km/h), and a low noise profile that will allow it to access built-up areas, Joby's piloted aircraft is designed to make convenient, emissions-free air travel an everyday reality.

SKT has been promoting the development of urban air mobility by leveraging its expertise in telecommunications, autonomous driving, precise positioning, and security to become a company in connected intelligence. As a member of the "UAM Team Korea", SKT is also working together with other major Korean companies to enhance the nation's competitiveness in the field.

The partners intend to leverage SK's T Map mobility platform, Korea's largest mobility platform, and UT ride hailing service to provide multi-modal journeys to customers seamlessly integrating both ground and air travel. UT was established as a joint venture between SKT and Uber in 2021, bringing together SK's T Map platform and Uber's ride sharing technology. Joby and Uber have been collaborating since 2019.

Joby Aviation is a California-headquartered transportation company developing an all-electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft which it intends to operate as part of a fast, quiet, and convenient air taxi service beginning in 2024. The aircraft, which has a maximum range of 150 miles (241 kilometers) on a single charge, can transport a pilot and four passengers at speeds of up to 200 mph (321 km/h). To learn more, visit www.jobyaviation.com.

SK Telecom is Korea's ICT company, driving innovations in fixed & wireless telecommunications, AI service, and digital infrastructure service. Armed with cutting-edge ICT including AI and 5G, the company is ushering in a new level of convergence to deliver unprecedented value to customers.

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

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THE BUSINESS TIMES
SINGAPORE

Companies & Markets
Australia's iCandy to acquire 51% of Singtel-backed Storms for A$8m in shares

Michelle Zhu , Australia's iCandy to acquire 51% of Singtel-backed Storms for A$8m in shares
466 words
9 February 2022
Business Times Singapore
STBT
English

Singapore

ICANDY Interactive is acquiring a 51 per cent stake in Singapore-based **gaming** startup Storms for an initial consideration of A$8 million (S$7.7 million), which will be fully satisfied in new shares of the Australia-listed company.

In a press statement on Tuesday (Feb 8), the digital entertainment company said existing shareholders of Storms will also have a put option to sell their remaining 49 per cent interest of the company to iCandy. Payment will also be settled via the issuance of new iCandy shares.

Storms develops and publishes casual and hyper-casual games through mobile application platforms, while tapping into a business-to-business model that leverages product offerings of super-apps and telcos.

Its investors comprise telecommunications companies (telcos) Singtel, Thailand's AIS and South Korea's SK Telecom, which established the startup in March 2020.

According to iCandy, the management teams of Storms and the 3 telcos are of the view that the share swap with iCandy will allow Storms to collaborate and advance iCan-dy's goal of developing the gaming metaverse.

For the financial period ending Dec 31, 2021, Storms reported an estimated revenue of S$4.1 million, up 14 times from its FY2020 topline. Its cash and cash equivalents stood at S$7.2 million as at end-2021.

iCandy believes its acquisition will allow the group to leverage its distribution network to further target several markets in Asia-Pacific.

In the group's view, the transaction will place it in a better position to extend the reach of its portfolio of projects by leveraging Storms' "expansive games publishing network in the fastest-growing market for gaming experiences".

Another key benefit of the acquisition includes access to Storms' network of telcos and super apps - a term for multi-purpose mobile apps that offer multiple features.

With the ability to leverage the startup's network on the games publishing front, iCandy said this can improve its monetisation mechanisms. It also believes the acquisition will provide additional growth opportunities for its recently acquired gaming platform and games developer, NextGamer.

"Storms' competencies and partnerships with large telcos will allow iCandy to deliver Web 3.0 gaming to its large tech-savvy audiences, bringing the company closer to its goal of developing and publishing games for the metaverse," added the company.

In view of iCandy's metaverse gaming ambition, Singtel group chief corporate officer Lim Cheng Cheng said the partnership with iCandy will further Singtel's collective strategy to better serve its customers with "unique and engaging content". Lim is also chairman of Storms' board.

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THE BUSINESS TIMES
SINGAPORE

Business Times Breaking News
News

Australia's iCandy to acquire 51% of Singtel-backed Storms for A$8m in shares

Michelle Zhu
480 words
8 February 2022
Business Times Singapore
STBT
English

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For the financial period ending Dec 31, 2021, Storms reported an estimated revenue of S$4.1 million, up 14 times from its FY2020 topline. Its cash and cash equivalents stood at S$7.2 million as at end-2021.

iCandy believes its acquisition will allow the group to leverage its distribution network to further target several markets in Asia Pacific.

In the group's view, the transaction will place it in a better position to extend the reach of its portfolio of projects by leveraging Storms' "expansive games publishing network in the fastest-growing market for gaming experiences".

Another key benefit of the acquisition includes access to Storms' network of telcos and super apps - a term for multi-purpose mobile apps that offer multiple features.

With the ability to leverage the startup's network on the games publishing front, iCandy said this can improve its monetisation mechanisms. It also believes the acquisition will provide additional growth opportunities for its recently-acquired gaming platform and games developer, NextGamer.

"Storms' competencies and partnerships with large telcos will allow iCandy to deliver Web 3.0 gaming to its large tech-savvy audiences, bringing the company closer to its goal of developing and publishing games for the metaverse," added the company.

In view of iCandy's metaverse gaming ambition, Singtel group chief corporate officer Lim Cheng Cheng said the partnership with iCandy will further Singtel's collective strategy to better serve its customers with "unique and engaging content". Lim is also chairman of Storms' board.

READ MORE: Singtel-backed gaming startup Storms takes in funding from EDB New VenturesBT Explains: The metaverse and its 7 layersSingapore e-sports company ESPL snags funding from VC firm 500 Startups

Document STBT000020220208ei28000xd

SK Telecom Partners with U.S. Maker of UAM Vehicles

123 words
8 February 2022
Chosun Ilbo
DIGCHO
English

SK Telecom is teaming up with a U.S. manufacturer of urban air mobility vehicles.The Korean telecom service provider said Monday it signed a strategic **partnership** agreement with California-based Joby Aviation to expand its foothold in UAM services.Joby Aviation is developing an electric vertical takeoff-and-landing aircraft for commercial passenger service. An SK Telecom staffer said, "The **partnership** will help us prepare for the government-led trial project for UAM service next year."Korea is aiming to commercialize UAM services by 2025 to help ease urban traffic congestion and lay the groundwork for future mobility business.

(By Byun Hee-won)

englishnews@chosun.com /

February 08, 2022 12:15

Document DIGCHO0020220208ei2800006

SKT and Joby join forces to bring air taxi service to South Korea

554 words
7 February 2022
Voice and Data
CMVOID
English

SK Telecom, South Korea's leading telecommunications company, and Joby Aviation, a California-based company, developing an all-electric, five-seat aircraft that can take off and land vertically (eVTOL), announced that they will work together to introduce emissions-free aerial ride-sharing services to cities and communities across South Korea.

SKT's CEO, Ryu Young-sang, and Joby's founder and CEO, JoeBen Bevirt, signed a strategic collaboration agreement at Joby's manufacturing facility in Marina, California. The agreement will see the two companies work closely on introducing this revolutionary form of transportation in support of the South Korean Ministry of Land, **Infrastructure**, and Transport's "K-UAM" (Korean Urban Air Mobility) Roadmap, first announced in 2020.

With a maximum range of 150 miles (241 kilometers), a top speed of 200 mph (321 km/h), and a low noise profile that will allow it to access built-up areas, Joby's piloted aircraft is designed to make convenient, emissions-free air travel an everyday reality.

SKT has been promoting the development of urban air mobility by leveraging its expertise in telecommunications, autonomous driving, precise positioning, and security to become a leading company in connected intelligence. As a member of the "UAM Team Korea", SKT is also working together with other major Korean companies to enhance the nation's competitiveness in the field.

The partners intend to leverage SK's T Map mobility platform, Korea's largest mobility platform, and UT ride hailing service to provide multi-modal journeys to customers seamlessly integrating both ground and air travel. UT was established as a joint venture between SKT and Uber in 2021, bringing together SK's T Map platform and Uber's ride sharing technology. Joby and Uber have been collaborating since 2019.

"By joining forces with Joby, a global leader in this field, we expect to accelerate our journey towards the era of Urban Air Mobility and lead the way on introducing this exciting new technology," said Ryu Young-sang, CEO of SKT.

"Collaborating with leading global companies is essential to securing leadership in future industries, which we are confident will be driven by the growth of UAM, autonomous driving, and robots."

Joby has spent more than a decade developing the technology behind its aircraft, completing more than 1,000 test flights and becoming the first, and only, eVTOL company to sign a G-1 (stage 4) Certification Basis for their aircraft with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO of Joby, said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with the team at SKT who bring a wealth of relevant experience and technology to the table.

"With more than 42 million people living in urban areas, South Korea offers a remarkable opportunity for Joby to make air travel a part of daily life, helping people to save time while reducing their carbon footprint."

While Joby's aerial ridesharing service will be operated directly by the company and offered to passengers via the Joby app or the Uber app in core US markets, this announcement reflects Joby's strategy to partner with local companies committed to delivering exceptional customer service and operational excellence to launch its service in select markets outside the U.S.

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Document CMVOID0020220208ei2700001

Joby Aviation Partners with South Korea's SK Telecom

Thom Patterson
421 words
7 February 2022
Flying Magazine
FLYMG
English

California-based Joby Aviation (NYSE:JOBY) is partnering with telecommunications giant SK Telecom (NYSE:SKM) to bring a zero-emissions air taxi service to South Korea. Both companies have signed a strategic agreement to support South Korea's 2020 urban air mobility plan known as K-UAM.

An announcement Sunday offered details of the **partnership**. Joby – a developer of electric, vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft – will leverage SK's mobility **platform** and ride-hailing service UT to provide travel across multiple modes of ground and air transportation. Both Joby and UT are backed by Uber (NYSE:UBER).

"With more than 42 million people living in urban areas, South Korea offers a remarkable opportunity for Joby to make air travel a part of daily life, helping people to save time while reducing their carbon footprint," said Joby founder and CEO JoeBen Bevirt in a statement.

Joby Milestones

Joby has been flying full-sized prototype air taxis since 2017 and has logged more than 1,000 test flights. A test article aircraft flew 150 sm on a single charge last year in California and recently achieved a speed of 205 mph (178 kts) and an altitude of more than 11,000 feet.

The company says it's on track to achieve full FAA certification and enter service by 2024. Joby plans to offer air taxi flights in the U.S. through the Uber ride-sharing app.

Joby 는 SKT 와 함께할 미래가 기대됩니다!

We're joining forces with @SKTelecom to bring emissions-free aerial ridesharing to South Korea

South Korea offers a remarkable opportunity for Joby to make air travel a part of daily life.

Read more here: https://t.co/nUKW579SBTpic.twitter.com/GFUB8a20pC

— Joby Aviation (@jobyaviation) February 7, 2022

Rival Developer

The announcement comes nearly four months after rival eVTOL developer Volocopter performed what it called the "first ever crewed, public test flight of a fully electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi in South Korea."

* READ MORE Watch: 'First crewed eVTOL public test flight' in South Korea

The Germany-based company has been working to expand into the Asian market since last year.

* READ MORE Volocopter Sets Its Sights on China

Joby was singled out by Morgan Stanley last year as a leader in the race to develop zero-emission air taxis for quick flights over congested urban areas.

The post Joby Aviation Partners with South Korea's SK Telecom appeared first on FLYING Magazine.

Document FLYMG00020220207ei270008d

SKT and Joby announce collaboration on air taxi service in South Korea

461 words
7 February 2022
Worldwide Computer Products News
WCPN
English

South Korean telecommunications company SK Telecom (SKT) (NYSE:SKM) and Joby Aviation Inc (NYSE:JOBY) disclosed on Sunday that a strategic collaboration agreement was signed by SKT's chief executive officer (CEO) Ryu Young-sang and Joby's founder and CEO, JoeBen Bevirt, under which the companies will collaborate to introduce emissions-free aerial ridesharing services across South Korea.

Pursuant to the agreement, the two companies work on introducing this form of transportation in support of the South Korean Ministry of Land, **Infrastructure** and Transport's "K-UAM" (Korean Urban Air Mobility) Roadmap, declared first in 2020. With a maximum range of 241 km, a top speed of 321 km/h and a low noise profile that will allow it to access built-up areas, Joby's piloted aircraft is designed to make convenient, emissions-free air travel an everyday reality.

Further, SKT has been promoting the development of urban air mobility by leveraging its expertise in telecommunications, autonomous driving, precise positioning and security. As a member of the "UAM Team Korea", SKT is also working with other Korean companies to improve the country's competitiveness in the field.

Also, the partners will leverage SKT's T map mobility platform and UT ride hailing service, established as a joint venture between SKT and Uber in 2021, to provide multi-modal journeys that seamlessly integrate ground and air travel. UT was bringing together SKT's T Map platform and Uber's ride sharing technology. Besides, Joby and Uber have been collaborating since 2019. Joby has spent over a decade developing the technology behind its aircraft, completing more than 1,000 test flights to become the an eVTOL company to sign a G-1 (stage 4) Certification Basis for their aircraft with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

In addition, Joby mentioned that while its aerial ridesharing service will be operated directly by it and offered to passengers via the Joby application or the Uber app in core US markets, its strategy is to partner with local companies and launch its service in select markets outside the US.

A transportation company, Joby Aviation is based in California, USA and is developing an all-electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft which will operate as part of a fast, quiet and convenient air taxi service starting 2024. The aircraft can transport a pilot and four passengers and is designed to help reduce urban congestion and accelerate the shift to sustainable modes of transit. Founded in 2009, it employs around 1,000 people and has offices in Santa Cruz, San Carlos and Marina, California, as well as Washington DC and Munich, Germany.

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

Document WCPN000020220207ei2700001

SKT and Joby announce collaboration on air taxi service in South Korea

456 words
7 February 2022
FinancialWire
FNWIR
English

South Korean telecommunications company SK Telecom (SKT) (NYSE:SKM) and Joby Aviation Inc (NYSE:JOBY) disclosed on Sunday that a strategic collaboration agreement was signed by SKT's chief executive officer (CEO) Ryu Young-sang and Joby's founder and CEO, JoeBen Bevirt, under which the companies will collaborate to introduce emissions-free aerial ridesharing services across South Korea.

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((Distributed by M2 Communications www.m2.com))

Document FNWIR00020220207ei270025t

Smart Times

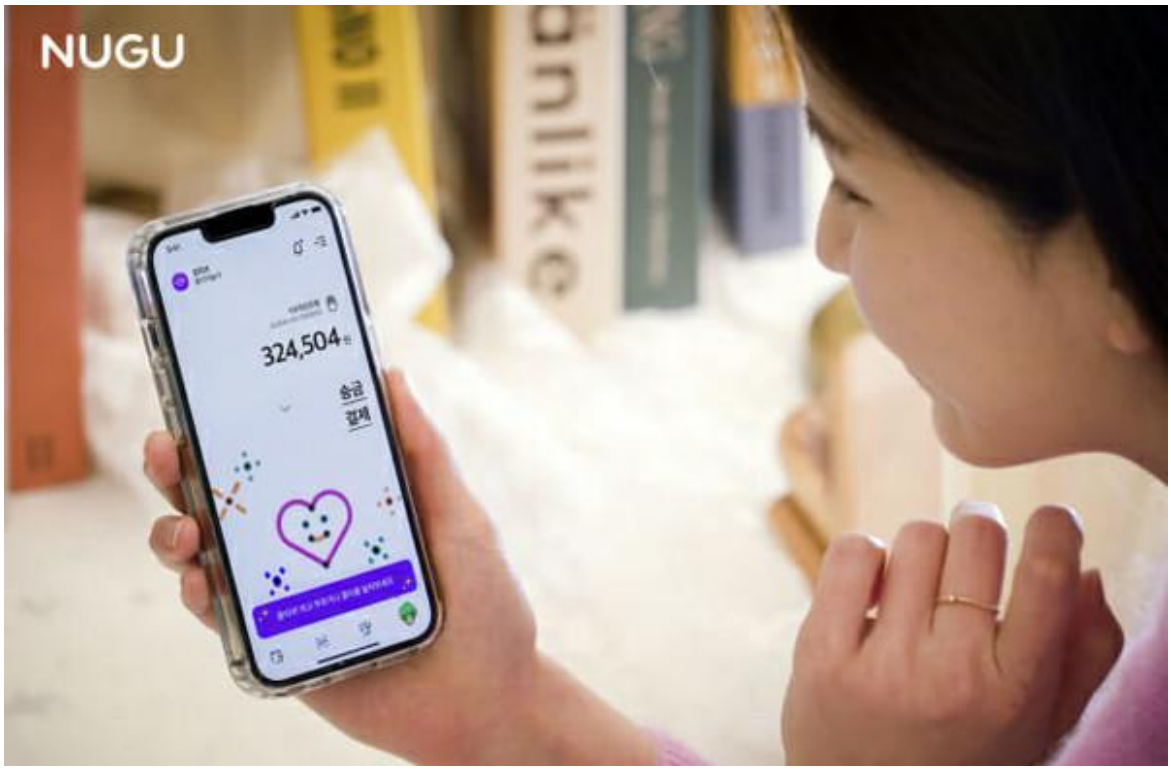
#AI
SKT applies 'AI banking service' to KB Kookmin Bank

minhyung lee
121 words
7 February 2022
Smart Times
SMTIME
English

SK Telecom (CEO Yoo Young-sang) announced that it has installed AI services using its AI **platform** 'NUGU Software Development Kit (NUGU SDK)' in 'Live Next', a banking app for Generation Z, launched by KB Kookmin Bank on the 7th.

In August of last year, SK Telecom and KB Kookmin Bank signed an MOU for AI banking services based on artificial intelligence, and have continued to cooperate to install AI services in banking apps.

SK Telecom's AI&CO manager said, "SK Telecom opened the NUGU SDK in 2019 and is making collaboration cases with various external partners." We hope that it will become a catalyst that accelerates the.



Document SMTIME0020220207ei270005l

SK Telecom, Joby Aviation partner on urban air mobility services

322 words
7 February 2022
Telecompaper Asia
TELASI
English

South Korean operator SK Telecom has signed a **partnership** agreement with Joby Aviation, a US-based company developing an all-electric, 5-seat aircraft that can take off and land vertically (eVTOL). SK Telecom and Joby Aviation plan to work together to introduce emissions-free aerial ridesharing services to cities and communities across South Korea.

SK Telecom's CEO Ryu Young-sang and Joby's founder and CEO JoeBen Bevirt signed a collaboration agreement at Joby's manufacturing facility in Marina, California. The agreement will see the two companies introduce this form of transportation in support of the South Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport's “K-UAM” (Korean Urban Air Mobility) Roadmap, first announced in 2020.

With a maximum range of 150 miles (241 kilometers), a top speed of 200 mph (321 km/h), and a low noise profile that will allow it to access built-up areas, Joby's piloted aircraft is designed to provide emissions-free air travel.

SK Telecom is promoting the development of urban air mobility by leveraging its expertise in telecommunications, autonomous driving, precise positioning, and security to offer connected intelligence.SK Telecom is a member of the ‘UAM Team Korea'.

The partners plan to leverage SK's T Map mobility platform and UT ride hailing service to provide multi-modal journeys to customers integrating both ground and air travel. UT was established as a joint venture between SK Telecom and Uber in 2021, bringing together SK's T Map platform and Uber's ride sharing technology. Joby and Uber have been collaborating since 2019.

While Joby's aerial ridesharing service will be operated directly by the company and offered to passengers via the Joby app or the Uber app in core US markets, this announcement reflects Joby's strategy to partner with local companies committed to delivering customer service to launch its service in markets outside the US.

Document TELASI0020220207ei2700001

매일경제

, Biz&Company
SK Telecom partners with Joby Aviation for UAM takeoff in Korea

Woo Soo-min and Susan Lee
384 words
7 February 2022
Maeil Business Newspaper
MAEIL
English

South Korea's top wireless carrier SK Telecom Co. and Joby Aviation, a US-based aerospace company, have struck alliance to launch urban air mobility (UAM) in Korea.

SK Telecom announced on Monday that it signed **partnership** agreement with Joby Aviation at Joby's manufacturing facility in Marina, California. The two companies formed a regular consultative body for their UAM business and "mobility as a service" (MaaS) which allows users to plan, book, and pay for transportation through a single mobility **platform**.

"Close collaboration with leading global companies is crucial to securing leadership in future industries driven by UAM, autonomous driving, and robots," said Ryu Young-sang, CEO of SK Telecom.

SK Telecom launched a UAM task force (TF) that reports directly to the CEO at the end of last year to oversee research and investment at the same time.

Joby Aviation is the first UAM aircraft manufacturing company and electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) company to receive G-1 certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for civil commercial operations. Joby has also completed more than 150 miles during flight testing, setting the record for the longest eVTOL flight to date.

SK Telecom is planning to use Joby Aviation's experience in air flight testing with NASA at the Korean UAM Grand Challenge, hosted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) next year. The MOLIT's K-UAM Roadmap aims to commercialize limited UAM services by 2025 to mitigate traffic congestion in large cities.

SK Telecom will leverage its ICT infrastructures such as telecommunication and the T Map Mobility platform to make headway in the Korean UAM sector. It will use its expertise in telecommunications, autonomous driving, precise positioning, and security to build vertiports, designated landing and takeoff areas. SK Telecom will also develop connected intelligence, which connects apps and services on and off the aircraft.

"With more than 42 million people living in urban areas, South Korea offers a remarkable opportunity for Joby to make air travel a part of daily life, helping people to save time while reducing their carbon footprint," said JoeBen Bevirt, CEO of Joby, in a statement.

[Photo provided by SK Telecom Co.]

[Photo provided by SK Telecom Co.]

Document MAEIL00020220207ei27000rt

World
SK Telecom partners with U.S. eVtol company to bring air taxi service to S. Korea

Lim Chang-won
440 words
7 February 2022
AJU NEWS
AJUENG
English

[Courtesy of SK Telecom]SEOUL --SK Telecom, a leading mobile carrier in South Korea, tied up with Joby Aviation, a Californian venture-backed aerospace company that develops an electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft (eVTOL), to cooperate in urban air mobility (UAM), which is an **ecosystem** covering personal air vehicles and **infrastructure** such as a new navigation system, take-off and landing fields and charging technologies.

South Korea has formed UAM Team Korea, a public-private consultative body, to commercialize manned drone taxis in 2025, remote-controlled vehicles in 2030 and a fully autonomous service in 2035. As a member of UAM Team Korea, SK Telecom (SKT) is developing a mobile communication network for air taxis.

Under a strategic collaboration agreement,m Joby's experience in demonstrating eVTOL will be incorporated into SKT's information and communication technology infrastructure. Joby's eVTOL with a maximum range of 241 kilometers (150 miles) on a single charge can transport a pilot and four passengers at speeds of up to 321 km per hour.

The two companies would cooperate in all fields, including aircraft and mobility as a service, to introduce emissions-free aerial ridesharing services to cities and communities across South Korea. "By joining forces with Joby, a global leader in this field, we expect to accelerate our journey towards the era of Urban Air Mobility and lead the way on introducing this exciting new technology," SKT CEO Ryu Young-sang said in a joint statement on February 7.

The partnership reflects Joby's strategy to partner with local companies committed to delivering exceptional customer service and operational excellence to launch its service in select markets outside the United States. "With more than 42 million people living in urban areas, South Korea offers a remarkable opportunity for Joby to make air travel a part of daily life, helping people to save time while reducing their carbon footprint," said Joby CEO JoeBen Bevirt.

By leveraging its expertise in telecommunications, autonomous driving, precise positioning, and security, SKT aims to evolve into a "connected intelligence" leader that intelligently connects physical elements such as UAM aircraft, vertiports and ground transportation.

SKT and Joby intend to leverage SKT's T Map mobility platform and UT's ride-hailing service to provide multi-modal journeys. UT is a joint venture between SKT and American ride-hailing service operator Uber. Joby and Uber have been collaborating since 2019.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwlim34@ajunews.com

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cwlim34@ajunews.com
Document AJUENG0020220207ei270008d

SKT and Joby collaborate to bring air taxi service to South Korea

541 words
6 February 2022
00:00
MarketLine News and Comment
DTMNTR
English

SK Telecom and Joby Aviation have announced they will work together to launch emissions-free aerial ridesharing services to cities and communities across South Korea.

SKT's CEO Ryu Young-sang and Joby's founder and CEO JoeBen Bevirt signed a strategic collaboration agreement at Joby's manufacturing facility in Marina, California. The agreement will see the two companies work closely on introducing this revolutionary form of transportation in support of the South Korean Ministry of Land, **Infrastructure**, and Transport's "K-UAM" (Korean Urban Air Mobility) Roadmap, first announced in 2020.

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"By joining forces with Joby, a global leader in this field, we expect to accelerate our journey towards the era of Urban Air Mobility and lead the way on introducing this exciting new technology," said Ryu Young-sang, CEO of SKT.

"Collaborating with leading global companies is essential to securing leadership in future industries, which we are confident will be driven by the growth of UAM, autonomous driving, and robots."

Joby has spent more than a decade developing the technology behind its aircraft, completing more than 1,000 test flights and becoming the first, and only, eVTOL company to sign a G-1 (stage 4) Certification Basis for their aircraft with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Commenting on the partnership and the opportunity presented by the South Korean market, JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO of Joby, said: "We are thrilled to be partnering with the team at SKT who bring a wealth of relevant experience and technology to the table.

"With more than 42 million people living in urban areas, South Korea offers a remarkable opportunity for Joby to make air travel a part of daily life, helping people to save time while reducing their carbon footprint."

While Joby's aerial ridesharing service will be operated directly by the company and offered to passengers via the Joby app or the Uber app in core U.S. markets, this announcement reflects Joby's strategy to partner with local companies committed to delivering exceptional customer service and operational excellence to launch its service in select markets outside the U.S.

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Document DTMNTR0020220209ei260003n

Asia Pacific Telecommunications Insight
Industry Trend Analysis - South Korea Well-Placed To Pursue AI, Metaverse For Digital Transformation

1,148 words
28 January 2022
Fitch Solutions Industry Research Reports
BMIAA
English

Key View:

* The South Korean government will spend KRW9trn (USD7.5bn) on its 'Digital New Deal' strategy over 2022 to cultivate the evolution of disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and the **metaverse**.

* South Korea's inherent level of digital maturity and the government's consistent efforts to foster a fertile environment for digital transformation make the country well-placed to achieve the targets outlined in the strategy.

South Korea's New Deal was unveiled in 2020 in response to the Covid-19-induced economic crisis, with digitalisation being outlined as the key to recovery. The strategy will run until 2025, aims to create 903,000 new jobs and is centred around three pillars: Digital, Network and AI, referred to as 'DNA'. At the same time the government also revealed the 'Green New Deal' to create sustainable infrastructures and promote renewable energy in industry.

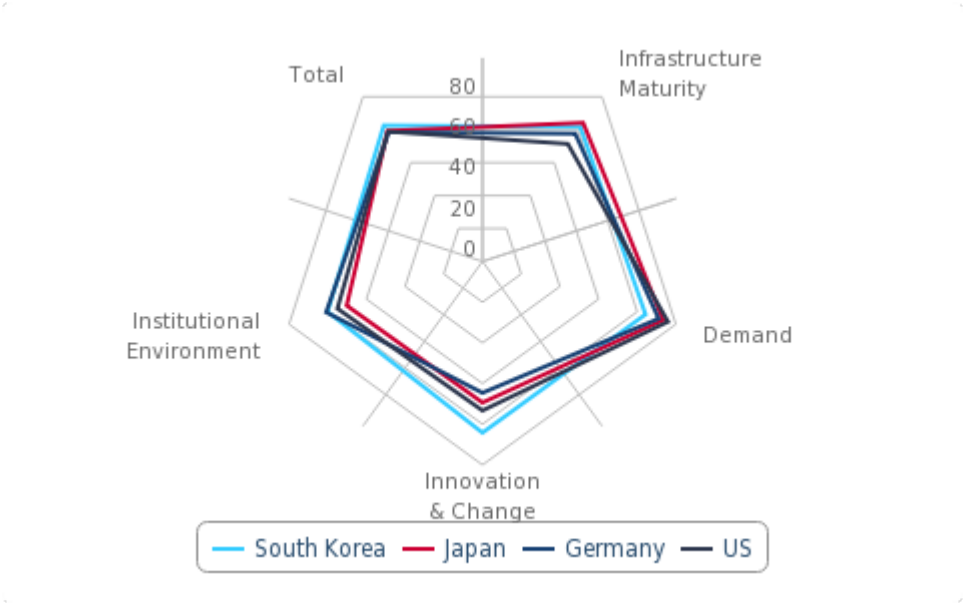
The earmarked 2022 investment of KRW9trn is an 8.4% uptick from the KRW8.3trn (USD6.85bn) invested in 2021 and nearly two-thirds has been allocated to developing data networks and accelerating the adoption of AI. The government has outlined 2025 as the target year for adoption of AI and 5G across all industries and public sector operations and, by the end of 2022, plans to have established an additional 310 types of AI learning data, up from the 170 currently available which include human voice and natural languages.

Perhaps the most ambitious part of the strategy is the plan to create a Korean metaverse (K-Metaverse) which is being supported by a KRW34bn (USD28.4mn) investment in 2022 and will no doubt leverage the huge global popularity of Korean culture and entertainment to achieve the target of becoming the world's fifth-largest metaverse market by 2026. To accomplish this, the government is collaborating with 220 metaverse companies to establish a 'metaverse academy' where 40,000 people will be trained to become experts in the new paradigm by 2026 and a Korean language academy will also be created in the metaverse to facilitate foreign engagement with Korean content.

Whilst Korea's metaverse plans are certainly enthusiastic, we note that the concept and the technologies that will underpin it are incredibly nascent at this point in time and will require sustained investment on a greater scale than has already been observed to reach full realisation. The designated KRW34bn represents just 9% of the entire 2022 budget for the Digital New Deal and whilst we suspect the government wants to make early progress towards creating the K-Metaverse, its relatively low level of spending indicates an element of caution and the decision to prioritise other less ambitious elements of the digital transformation first.

These elements include what the government calls 'social overhead capital', the most significant of which will focus on ensuring that autonomous vehicles and associated technology will be integrated into 67% of the country's roads. 20% of the government's 2022 KRW9trn investment has been allocated towards making this happen.

South Korea Among The World's Top Performing Digital Markets
Selected Markets Digital Maturity Index, 2020



Note: Scores out of 100, with high scores denoting greater digital maturity. Source: Fitch Solutions

South Korea is well-positioned to capitalise on each of these disruptive verticals. South Korea is ranked at the top of our proprietary Digital Maturity Index, outperforming in both Asia and worldwide with a score of 82.6 out of a potential 100. The country benefits from a high volume of technological demand from its tech-savvy population, an impressive level of infrastructure maturity and as observed above, a government with a strong appetite for innovation.

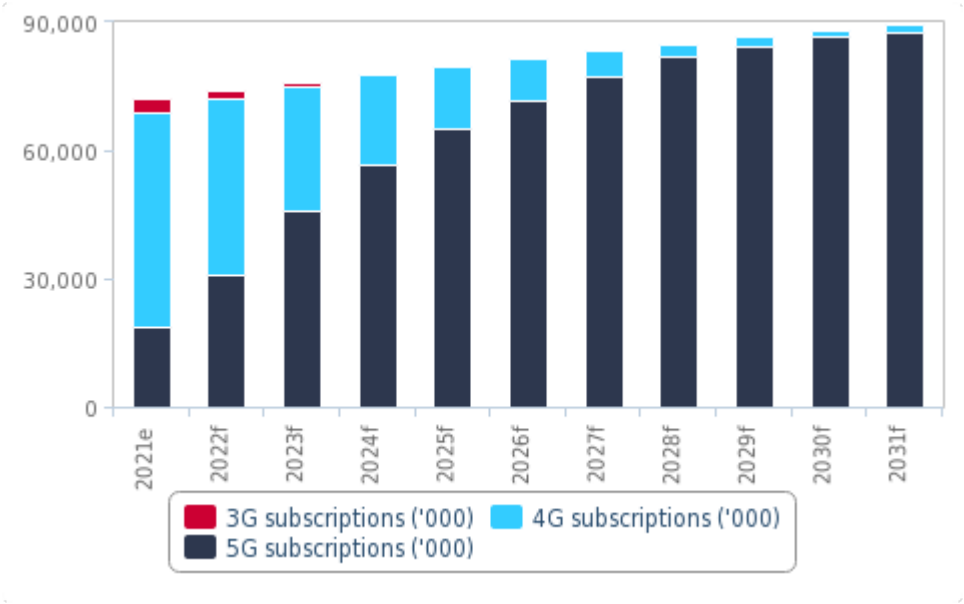
5G is the driving force behind digital transformation and South Korea's position as a regional and global frontrunner in 5G has also contributed to the conducive environment for the development of disruptive verticals. Our mobile market forecasts anticipate that 5G will become the leading technology in South Korea by 2023 when it will account for 60% of total mobile connections. By the end of our forecast period in 2031 we expect 87.6mn 5G connections, representing around 98% of the mobile market.

As a result of these factors, many Korean technology players are looking beyond their traditional product offerings and towards Industry 4.0 verticals. For example, South Korea's leading telecommunications company SK Telecom (SKT) announced in 2021 that it would be reinventing itself as a digital-first player by creating a new business responsible for non-mobile tech development.

Impetus for this move comes from the country's fertile environment for exploration of Industry 4.0 verticals, as well as saturation in the mobile market: penetration reached 135.6% at the end of 2020, another indicator of South Korea's advanced technology status.

Consequently, we believe there is little opportunity for organic growth left in the mobile market and operators will have to look to alternative revenue streams like AI, the Internet of Things (IoT) and the metaverse. SKT announced in 2021 that it intends to add the metaverse to its portfolio and we find it likely that the operator will play a key role in the government's own K-Metaverse plans. In July 2021, SKT launched 'Ifland', a metaverse platform based on social virtual reality (VR). In an effort to boost its capability in this area, SKT acquired Seoul-based VR content producer ViveStudios.

5G Uptake Bodes Well For Industry 4.0 Verticals
South Korea Mobile Market Forecast, '000 (2021-2031)



<TD>e/f = Fitch Solutions estimate/forecast. Source: Operators, Regulator, Fitch Solutions

In our view, downside risk to the Korean government's large-scale investments as part of the Digital New Deal stem largely from a comparative lack of comprehensive regulatory frameworks. In terms of AI, South Korea has sweeping targets for its application but limited regulations. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MSIT) has outlined plans to create an AI regulatory framework by 2025, but clearly this will run concurrently with the technology's development in the country. Much of the work so far has involved creating non-binding ethical guidelines rather than concrete regulations in an effort not to interrupt the development of AI.

Another downside risk for South Korea's rapidly advancing digital transformation is cybersecurity, particularly given the intense geopolitical tensions with the North and the latter's tendency to use cyberattacks as a means to threaten and damage South Korean state infrastructure. As a result, much of South Korea's cybersecurity efforts so far have been reactive rather than pre-emptive. That said, the Digital New Deal does include a cybersecurity component (K-Cyber) that recognises the need for enhanced cybersecurity capabilities amid the more sophisticated threat and highlights SMEs, individuals and industry as three key areas that require government support to mitigate cyber risk.

Document BMIAA00020220213ei1s0000k

Sigfox Secures USD300 Million in Venture Funding

176 words
27 January 2022
MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker
FDTRA
English

Deal In Brief

Sigfox SA, a France-based provider of secured communication services with the help of internet of things (IoT), to offer hybrid (Cellular + Sigfox) solution for IoT, has secured USD300 million from Salesforce Ventures, Intel Corp, Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co Ltd, SK Telecom Co Ltd, TotalEnergies SE and Air Liquide SA, and other investors.

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Deal Value (US$ Million)   300
Deal Type                  Venture Finance
Sub-Category               Growth Capital/Expansion
Deal Status                Completed: 2022-01-27
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Deal Participants

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Target (Company)
SIGFOX SA
Acquirer 1 (Company)   Total S.A.
Acquirer 2 (Company)   Salesforce Ventures
Acquirer 3 (Company)   Intel Corporation
Acquirer 4 (Company)   SK Telecom Co., Ltd.
Acquirer 5 (Company)   Samsung Electro-Mechanics Co Ltd
Acquirer 6 (Company)   Undisclosed Company
Acquirer 7 (Company)   Air Liquide SA
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Deal Rationale

Document FDTRA00020220216ei1r0003k

Search Summary

Text	virtual real estate or virtual properties or digital real esate or digital real assets or digital properties or metaverse properties or digital plots or virtual plots or virtual land or virtual reality platform or manufacturing simulation or virtual simulation or digital twins or virtual manufacturing or immersive learning or mixed-reality learning or metaverse learning or VR learning or AR learning or VR training or virtual recruitment or 3d training or training metaverse or virtual retail or virtual shopping or virtual clienteling or omnichannel shopping or humanising digital retail or immersive virtual stores or 3d virtual store or metaverse shopping or virtual clothing or virtual goods or gaming or digital avatar or digital character or virtual game or 3D avatars or virtual reality or interoperable VR space or digital financial ecosystems or metaverse wallets or robo advisory or virtual financial data or digital bank branches or digital touchpoint or blockchain wallets or digital wallets or digital wedding or virtual wedding or virtual event or virtual concert or virtual theme park or virtual classroom or virtual learning or virtual school or immersive learning or devices or OEM or infrastructure or cloud or data anlytics or aritifical intelligence or cybersecurity or privacy or payments or platform or partnership or connectivity or hardware or CRM or content or ethics or sustainability or education or digital inclusion or ecosystem or venturing or funding or investment or metaverse or CDN or cables
Date	In the last year

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