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World

**KT provides AI care speakers to look after vulnerable elderlies in southern city**

Kim Joo-heon

472 words

14 April 2022

AJU NEWS

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English

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[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL --KT, the biggest telecom company in South Korea, will provide artificial intelligence-based care services for vulnerable elderlies suffering from dementia or depression in the southern city of Naju. The care robots can communicate with lonely residents and notify rescuers in case of an emergency. Smart AI speakers are **devices** hooked onto wireless internet networks. They can interact with users through verbal conversations. Users can request the speaker to "turn on music," "call my son," or ask about the weather or an upcoming important schedule. Because of the speakers' ability to talk, some speakers are commercially used for personal monitoring and care services. There were about four million AI voice assistant speakers in South Korea as of 2019.

The number of single-person households has been rapidly increasing in South Korea with a population of about 52 million. Government data released in 2021 showed that some 1.6 million are single households aged 65 or older. The proportion of old people who live alone is gradually increasing from 16 percent in 2000 to 19.6 percent in 2021. The number of lonely deaths also skyrocketed from 68 in 2011 to 1,145 in 2019. As of June 2021, 26,354 elderlies aged 65 or older were living in Naju, accounting for 22.6 percent of the total population.

KT said in a statement on April 14 that the company teamed up with Naju City to provide AI-based care speakers to take care of 70 old people. Care robot speakers capable of understanding the local dialect will ask how their masters are faring three times a day. Emergency workers will be dispatched to the homes of those who request help through their robot assistant. The AI speaker also has a built-in battery so that it can be carried outside or be used during power cuts.

In June 2021, KT provided AI speakers and internet of things (IoT) sensors to 100 single households in Gwangju some 268 kilometers (167 miles) south of Seoul. The telecom company would distribute speakers to some 500 households by the end of 2022. In April 2021, KT teamed up with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), a prominent state research institute, to develop a care service system that incorporates AI, big data, and information communication technology.

South Korea has adopted various technologies to prevent lonely death such as internet of things (IoT) sensors that can detect temperature, humidity and body movements in real-time. As of March 2020, Seoul has deployed 75,000 IoT sensors at the homes of single-household elderlies.

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**KT Corp.'s 1Q Earnings May Beat Street Views -- Market Talk**

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English

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0616 GMT - KT Corp.'s 1Q earnings may beat street views, partly supported by lower-than-expected marketing and labor costs, Korea **Investment** & Securities analyst Im Ye-rim says in a research note. She is bullish on the South Korean telecom giant's solid revenue growth from its wireless segment amid a growing number of 5G-service subscribers and from its business-to-business segment on corporate demand for messaging services. She forecasts KT's 1Q operating profit to increase 17% on year to KRW530.5 billion, 7.4% above the market consensus forecast. She raises the stock's target by 7.1% to KRW45,000 and maintains a buy rating. Shares are 1.0% lower at KRW35,600. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

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Entertainment

**KT to launch telemedicine pilot in Vietnam by 2022**

322 words

14 April 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

South Korean telecommunication firm KT said Wednesday it plans to launch a pilot telemedicine **platform** in Vietnam before the end of this year, with the aim of a soft landing within the next three years.

The service will be aimed at monitoring those who are suffering from chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and high blood pressure, allowing patients to check their health conditions, medications and workouts, and get access to counseling with Vietnamese medical professionals.

Vietnam's increased purchasing power is shooting up the demand for advanced medical service and pharmaceutical products, the company said in a statement.

KT will carry out the proof of concept of the telehealth service with Hanoi Medical University. Further conditions for the new business are being discussed with the Vietnamese government, drugmakers, dietary supplement makers and medical technology firms, KT added. Korean telemedicine company HurayPositive is also involved in the partnership.

The announcement came as KT's home country has deemed a digital healthcare service effectively illegal amid opposition from doctors here, with emergency COVID measures being the exception since 2020. Instead, KT has turned to overseas telemedicine markets, including Vietnam and Russia.

Ko Hun-seok, a KT official in charge of digital and bio health business, told a news conference Wednesday that he saw "little regulatory barrier with regards to telemedicine platform operation, remote prescribing and door-to-door medicine delivery in Vietnam," adding a soft landing in Vietnam may open the doors to the service expansion to the neighboring Southeast Asian countries.

In the meantime, KT and Hanoi Medical University will launch a joint research project to develop medical solutions for early detection of Alzheimer's disease, using KT's artificial intelligence platform.

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[Click here to see image](#)

Officials of KT, Hanoi Medical University and their partners gathered to discuss telemedicine service in Vietnam for chronic disease patients. (KT)

Document KORHER0020220413ei4e0008d

World

**KT partners with Hanoi Medical University to develop remote medical service platform**

Park Sae-jin

289 words

13 April 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Gettyimages Bank]SEOUL -- South Korea's top telecom company KT has partnered with a medical school in Hanoi to jointly develop a remote medical service platform for patients suffering from chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The partnership will become KT's bridgehead into Vietnam's telemedicine service market which is projected to grow at an annual rate of about 16 percent. Telemedicine services are based on the internet or phone networks. Doctors can remotely diagnose patients by directly speaking to them and accessing their medical records. The remote medical service is useful for providing healthcare for patients living in remote areas such as on an island or in the mountains where access to hospitals and professional medical services is limited.

KT has signed a cooperation agreement with Hanoi Medical University to carry out the proof of concept (PoC) demonstration of a telemedicine service. The service will include a self-care guide for diabetes and high blood pressure patients so that they can monitor their status and the daily intake of their medicines. The two sides would jointly develop an artificial intelligence-based medical solution for the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

KT said the telemedicine test platform would be released in 2022. "We will develop differentiated healthcare solutions and become the pioneer in the market by utilizing businesses based on our forward base in Vietnam," KT's AI and digital transformation convergence business division vice president Song Jae-ho said in a statement on April 13.

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## Toshiba; Toshiba Group and KT Collaborate on Quantum Key Distribution Pilot Projects in South Korea

631 words

11 April 2022

Journal of Engineering

JOENG

19

English

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2022 APR 11 (VerticalNews) -- By a News Reporter-Staff News Editor at Journal of Engineering -- Toshiba Corporation (TOKYO: 6502) (Toshiba), Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation (TDSL) and KT Corporation (KT) will collaborate in two pilot projects in South Korea using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD).

Toshiba Group has researched QKD technologies for over two decades. It ranks number one in the world\*1 for QKD-related patents, and has demonstrated QKD technologies and use cases with partners in Japan, the US and Europe. KT, the holder of the most QKD-network-related international standard approvals\*2, has promoted the development of Korea's QKD **ecosystem** by transferring technologies to small and medium businesses in South Korea, and has led the creation of next-generation quantum secure communications services for emerging applications such as drone communications, autonomous vehicles and data centers.

The first project is to evaluate quality of service (QoS) on a long-distance hybrid QKD network built with different QKD systems, over an approximately 490km long optical fiber network between Seoul and Busan. It is the longest\*3 QKD network yet built and demonstrated in South Korea, and is expected to demonstrate capabilities that will support deployment of QKD services throughout the country. The network is configured with a combination of QKD systems from Coweaver, WooriNet and Alian developed with technologies transferred from KT, and TDSL's long distance QKD systems with quantum key management system (KMS).

The evaluation criteria applied to the QKD network QoS were devised by KT and first approved as an international standard by the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in February 2022. This is the first ever application of the standard to QoS evaluation in a hybrid QKD network with QKD systems from multiple vendors. The evaluation will take place for 19 days, from March 28 to April 15.

The second project covers the testbed for an open QKD service (QKD-as-a-Service; QKDaaS\*4) that aims to expand the quantum industry ecosystem in South Korea and abroad. This testbed will be operational between Seoul and Daejeon for approximately two years from the summer of 2022, and used by various companies to support the development of next-generation services utilizing quantum technologies. The testbed will be operated as an open platform, and Toshiba Group and KT will use knowledge gained from operation and user feedback to improve QKDaaS.

In addition to those projects, KT, the chair of SG13 WP1 at ITU-T, and Toshiba Group, the chair of the QKD Industry Specification Group (ISG) at the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), will cooperate in promoting international standardization of QKD technologies. KT and Toshiba Group will also cooperate the development of next-generation QKD services and business models based on their respective experience in technology developments and testing pilot services.

Shunsuke Okada, an Executive Officer, Corporate Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Officer of Toshiba and President and CEO of TDSL said, "Toshiba Group has established industry partnerships in Japan, the US, the UK and Singapore to drive the early deployment of quantum secure communication by industrial sectors. We are excited to collaborate with KT in South Korea, and accelerate the global expansion of our QKD business."

Kim Ye-Han, Executive Vice President and Fusion Technology Institute Director of KT, said, "This QoS evaluation is significant for verifying the potential of commercial QKD services based on QKD systems from multiple vendors. KT will continue to invest in R&D not limited to QKD but also to core technologies for realizing the Quantum Internet. "

Keywords for this news article include: Asia, Toshiba, South Korea, Telecommunications.

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World

**KT aims to become comprehensive media group with production of original content**

Lim Chang-won

581 words

8 April 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL --KT, a top telecom company in South Korea, will accelerate the production and distribution of original **content** with the aim of becoming a comprehensive media group by utilizing its vast **infrastructure** despite concerns over fierce competition in the country's saturated **content** market. KT Studio Genie, launched in March 2021, will serve as a control tower that oversees media **content** capabilities of all KT units covering web novels, webtoons, music streaming and over-the-top (OTT) services. "We are confident that KT is South Korea's only business operator with a strong **content** business **infrastructure**," KT's customer business head Kang Kook-hyun said at a media event on April 7.

"Based on our successful experience in the media platform business, we will continue to grow in the content business and contribute to enhancing South Korea's status in the global market," Kang said, adding that KT is ready to face neck-through competition and create a win-win ecosystem, citing the worldwide popularity of K-content.

By promoting joint production with businesses with excellent production capabilities, KT would produce masterpieces that can compete globally and expand the supply of content to global OTT platforms.

For years, KT has made steady preparations to strengthen its media value chain by acquiring Altimedia, HCN and Media Genie or through business ties with competent companies such as CJ ENM. Altimedia absorbed by KT in 2021 is a domestic software solution developer for digital broadcasting. In March 2022, CJ ENM forged a strategic alliance with KT by investing 100 billion won in Studio Genie and agreed to cooperate in all directions from content investment to production, organization, and distribution.

Studio Genie has unveiled a lineup of 24 original dramas to be introduced sequentially from May. "We have strengthened our basic ability to present differentiated content by focusing on securing original intellectual properties and strengthening production capabilities over the past year," Studio Genie CEO Kim Chul-yeon said.

As a key window for the spread of KT content, sky TV will invest more than 500 billion won (\$407 million) for three years to secure 30 dramas and more than 300 entertainment shows. "We will greatly expand KT's composition of differentiated original content to grow into a brand worth one trillion won by 2025, and leap forward as a global IP operator," said sky TV CEO Yoon Yong-phil.

Genie Music invested 46.4 billion won to acquire a controlling 38.6 percent stake in Millie's Library, an online e-book subscription platform, in September 2021. The two companies would adopt AI technologies to offer personalized audio content services. Millie's Library with some 30,000 e-book content and some 1,000 audiobooks is the country's most popular online e-book subscription service with about 210,000 monthly active users.

KT has released a live commerce feature for its OTT service, Seezn. Live commerce services, which are virtually online home shopping shows, are normally provided through mobile shopping platforms or social media. The real-time show format video content has settled as a new form of entertainment among young consumers who communicate with show hosts to ask questions and participate in events to get special benefits such as discount coupons.

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, Biz&Company

## KT to expand media biz value chain with \$4.1 bn target by 2025

Pulse

418 words

8 April 2022

Maeil Business Newspaper

MAEIL

English

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South Korean telecom giant KT Corp. will invest 500 billion won (\$410.3 million) in the next three years with a focus on original **content** production for its streaming platforms and channels to become a leading player in the sector with a target revenue of 5 trillion won by 2025.

According to a business roadmap unveiled on Thursday, KT will expand its media and **content** lineup, with newly launched KT Studio Genie cranking out 24 originals by next year starting with a TV series tentatively titled 'There is no Goo Pil Soo,' starring actor Kwak Do-won and K-pop boy group Highlight member Yoon Doo-joon on May 4.

"KT Studio Genie has kept up efforts to show off differentiated original content based on new intellectual property rights and strengthened capabilities for original works. From this year, we will release best TV series and expand the distribution channels and production spectrum with various partners at home and abroad," said Kim Chul-yeon, CEO of KT Studio Genie.

Sky TV and Media Genie will integrate their TV channels into four with new names – ENA (from Sky), ENA PLAY (from NQQ), ENA PLAY (from DramaH) and ENA STORY (from TRENDY).

On top of that, Sky TV will invest more than 500 billion won over the next three years to secure 30 titles in its TV series lineup and create 300 original entertainment shows.

"Sky TV will create synergy with Media Genie, the newest member to the telecom group, to raise the brand awareness of ENA channels. By adding differentiated original works, we aim to reach a market value of 1 trillion won by 2025 as a global IP business operator," said Yoon Yong-phil, CEO of Sky TV.

KT last month forged a strategic partnership with CJ ENM for cooperation on content business. It is now planning to expand business cooperation at home and abroad in the creation of mega-hit series for the global market and distribution through over-the-top platforms.

"KT with the best infrastructure for content business will continue to increase its presence in the content business as it did in the media platform business and contribute to further raising global awareness for Korean TV series," said Kang Kook-hyun, head of customer business at KT.

KT shares closed 2.96 percent lower at 36,000 won in Seoul trading on Thursday.

[\[Source: KT Corp.\]](#)

[\[Source: KT Corp.\]](#)

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Business

**KT bets big on content biz, targets W5tr in sales by 2025**

506 words

8 April 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

South Korean telecommunications operator KT vowed Thursday to nearly double sales by 2025 through fostering its value chain in the media business focused on original content production and securing intellectual property rights.

KT Studio Genie, the firm's wholly owned content production subsidiary launched last year, will play a key part in the value chain by manufacturing original contents, the telecom operator said in a press briefing.

Through the value chain, KT expects to increase media-related sales revenue by 30 percent in four years to over 5 trillion won (\$4.1 billion) from the current 3.6 trillion won.

The content production studio plans to collaborate with other KT-backed content units including subscription-based e-book service provider Millie's Library and webtoon and web-novel platform Storywiz in securing IP rights. KT's music streaming unit Genie Music became the largest stakeholder of Millie's Library – the No. 1 e-book service provider by number of subscribers -- last year by acquiring a 38.6 percent stake in the firm for 46.4 billion won.

KT is currently planning an initial public offering for the e-book service provider which had 3.8 million subscribers as of September 2021, KT CEO Ku Hyeon-mo said at the firm's shareholders meeting last week.

The produced contents would be distributed with the help of Altimedia, a tech firm offering securities solutions for media businesses, which KT also acquired last year. With the telecom operator's acquisition of cable TV operator Hyundai HCN around the same time, which has been rebranded as Media Genie since, five more channels have been added to KT's initial seven channels under Sky TV.

KT Studio Genie plans to produce and release 24 original television dramas from May this year to end-2023, starring Hallyu megastars such as singer-actor Choi Si-won of Super Junior and Girls' Generation's Kwon Yu-ri. KT plans to provide the contents to other global streaming services as well.

Its latest partnership with CJ ENM will allow KT to hold hands with various global businesses in expanding the channels for content distribution, the firm said.

KT's latest announcement follows Ku's remarks at the general shareholders meeting held March 31 that KT is interested in transforming into a holding entity-like structure to accelerate growth and share value.

"With the success of our media platform business, we plan to see growth in the media contents production and ultimately contribute to improving Korea's status in the global market," said Kang Kook-hyun, KT's senior vice president in charge of customer business,

(mkjung@heraldcorp.com)

[Click here to see image](#)

From left are KT Studio Genie CEO Kim Cheol-yeon, KT's chief of customer business Kang Kook-hyun and Sky TV CEO Yoon Yong-pil pose for a photo at the telecom operator's press briefing for its contents business at a Seoul hotel on Thursday. (KT)

Document KORHER0020220407ei48000p1

Companies

**KT to build media value chain with \$4.1 bn content sales by 2025**

541 words

7 April 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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KT Corp., a major South Korean telecommunications company, on Thursday unveiled an ambitious goal to become the country's leading media and content group by strengthening its media value chain.

To achieve the goal, the company said it will strive to secure more intellectual property content and beef up its content production and distribution channels, targeting 5 trillion won (\$4.1 billion) in annual sales from its media and content business by 2025, up 39% from 3.6 trillion won in 2021.

"With various original IP and entertainment content we've accumulated over the past year, we will showcase well-made drama series from this year," said Kim Cheol-yeon, chief executive of KT Studio Genie, a content production subsidiary of the telecommunications giant.

At a press conference, he said KT Studio Genie will unveil a total of 24 drama series over the next year from this May.

KT Studio Genie, established in January of last year, creates drama series, film and entertainment content based on the original intellectual property owned by Storywiz, another KT affiliate focusing on webtoons and web novels.

[KT Studio Genie is a content production subsidiary of telecom giant KT](#)

Studio Genie distributes content on the KT group's platforms, including SkyTV, Olleh TV and KT SkyLife channel. It also uses KT's mobile-oriented platforms such as KTH and Seezn, a video streaming service.

As part of its efforts to widen distribution channels, KT last month [attracted 100 billion won in investment](#) from CJ ENM Co., Korea's entertainment powerhouse.

The two companies also agreed to set up a joint investment fund to explore business opportunities in the virtual media business arena using virtual reality and augmented reality technologies.

TALK OF SEEZN, TVING MERGER

Industry watchers said KT may eventually seek to merge Seezn with CJ's over-the-top (OTT) platform TVing.

"There are no concrete ideas on a merger of the two OTT services. But we're always open to such a possibility," said Kang Kook-hyun, chief of KT's customer business division.

KT said on Thursday it will spend 500 billion won over the next three years to secure 30 original drama series and produce over 300 entertainment programs via SkyTV.

[KT changes the name of its IPTV channel SkyTV to ENA](#)

In a show of its intensified efforts to revitalize its content business, KT plans to change the name of its TV channel Sky to ENA, coined by combining entertainment and DNA.

The telecom giant's latest investment comes as video streaming platforms have stepped up spending on original content.

Local rival Wavve, operated by Korea's top mobile carrier SK Telecom Co. and the country's three major broadcasters, has promised to invest 300 billion won in original content by 2023.

Global streaming service Netflix Inc. said in January it will [release 25 Korean-language drama series this year](#), including six original films and 18 series.

In 2021, it showed 15 Korean original programs, including Squid Game, the streamer's biggest show ever.

By Seung-Woo Lee

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In-Soo Nam edited this article.

[KT aims to strengthen its media value chain](#)

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Companies

**KT to build media value chain with \$4.1 bn content sales by 2025**

541 words

7 April 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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KT Corp., a major South Korean telecommunications company, on Thursday unveiled an ambitious goal to become the country's leading media and content group by strengthening its media value chain.

To achieve the goal, the company said it will strive to secure more intellectual property content and beef up its content production and distribution channels, targeting 5 trillion won (\$4.1 billion) in annual sales from its media and content business by 2025, up 39% from 3.6 trillion won in 2021.

"With various original IP and entertainment content we've accumulated over the past year, we will showcase well-made drama series from this year," said Kim Cheol-yeon, chief executive of KT Studio Genie, a content production subsidiary of the telecommunications giant.

At a press conference, he said KT Studio Genie will unveil a total of 24 drama series over the next year from this May.

KT Studio Genie, established in January of last year, creates drama series, film and entertainment content based on the original intellectual property owned by Storywiz, another KT affiliate focusing on webtoons and web novels.

[KT Studio Genie is a content production subsidiary of telecom giant KT](#)

Studio Genie distributes content on the KT group's platforms, including SkyTV, Olleh TV and KT SkyLife channel. It also uses KT's mobile-oriented platforms such as KTH and Seezn, a video streaming service.

As part of its efforts to widen distribution channels, KT last month [attracted 100 billion won in investment](#) from CJ ENM Co., Korea's entertainment powerhouse.

The two companies also agreed to set up a joint investment fund to explore business opportunities in the virtual media business arena using virtual reality and augmented reality technologies.

TALK OF SEEZN, TVING MERGER

Industry watchers said KT may eventually seek to merge Seezn with CJ's over-the-top (OTT) platform TVing.

"There are no concrete ideas on a merger of the two OTT services. But we're always open to such a possibility," said Kang Kook-hyun, chief of KT's customer business division.

KT said on Thursday it will spend 500 billion won over the next three years to secure 30 original drama series and produce over 300 entertainment programs via SkyTV.

[KT changes the name of its IPTV channel SkyTV to ENA](#)

In a show of its intensified efforts to revitalize its content business, KT plans to change the name of its TV channel Sky to ENA, coined by combining entertainment and DNA.

The telecom giant's latest investment comes as video streaming platforms have stepped up spending on original content.

Local rival Wavve, operated by Korea's top mobile carrier SK Telecom Co. and the country's three major broadcasters, has promised to invest 300 billion won in original content by 2023.

Global streaming service Netflix Inc. said in January it will [release 25 Korean-language dramas series this year](#), including six original films and 18 series.

In 2021, it showed 15 Korean original programs, including Squid Game, the streamer's biggest show ever.

By Seung-Woo Lee

leeswoo@hankyung.com

In-Soo Nam edited this article.

[KT aims to strengthen its media value chain](#)

Document ECODEN0020220407ei470005o



Companies

**KT aims to build media value chain with \$4.1 bn content sales by 2025**

538 words

7 April 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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[KT aims to strengthen its media value chain](#)

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**KT-business goal; KT to spend 500 bln won on original content over 3 yrs**

YNA

328 words

7 April 2022

05:00

Yonhap English News

YONH

English

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KT to spend 500 bln won on original content over 3 yrs

By Kim Han-joo

SEOUL, April 7 (Yonhap) -- KT Corp., a major South Korean telecom operator, said Thursday that it plans to invest 500 billion won (US\$410 million) over the next years to expand its lineup of intellectual property in media content.

As part of an ambitious goal to become the country's leading media group, KT said its media unit KT Studio Genie will first showcase 24 works of original content by next year.

In 2021, KT created the media unit to serve as the group's overarching control tower for its media content business, ranging from its video streaming platform Seezn to web novel unit Storywiz.

"Starting this year, KT Studio Genie will showcase well-made dramas and expand both distribution channels and production spectrum through partnership with businesses from both home and abroad," Kim Cheol-yeon, CEO of KT Studio Genie, said during a press conference.

The production company will first supply the titles to other affiliates under the broader KT Group, which operates a range of media platforms from internet protocol TV to video streaming service Seezn and holds 13 million paid media subscriptions.

The telecom giant's latest investment comes as video streaming platforms have stepped up spending on original content in South Korea amid the pandemic.

Local rival Wavve, operated by top carrier SK Telecom Co. and the country's three major broadcasters, has promised to invest 300 billion won in original content by 2023.

Global streaming service Netflix Inc. earlier said that more than 25 Korean-language works, including five original films, will be released this year.

Kim said KT aims to bring in annual revenue of 5 trillion won in its content and media sectors by 2025, up from 3.6 trillion won this year.

khj@yna.co.kr

(END)

Document YONH000020220407ei470028I



Features

## Epsilon CEO on networking and connectivity

Mike Leaño

863 words

6 April 2022

Frontier Enterprise

FRONSE

English

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Not having a network **infrastructure** is hardly a hurdle for organisations these days. Because of **cloud** models like network as a service (NaaS), enterprise IT professionals can conveniently rent networking components and operate their own networks from a software menu.

More importantly, such services help companies reduce costs as they won't have to build or maintain their own **infrastructure**.

In Singapore, one of the companies that offer NaaS is Epsilon Telecommunications, which in 2021 was [acquired by KT Corp](#), South Korea's largest telco. About a year earlier, Epsilon appointed Michel Robert as group CEO to develop and execute the company's growth strategy in key markets and verticals.

Frontier Enterprise recently got in touch with Robert and asked him about various topics such as Epsilon's business challenges, the decision to halt data centre projects in Singapore, and what his company is working on.

What are some of the benefits of being a KT subsidiary?

Following the acquisition, we now have a company shareholder with deep knowledge and experience within the telecom industry, and who shares a common vision of the future. We are looking forward to helping each other on our respective growth plans.

KT has a strong customer base in South Korea that requires international connectivity services, and we are able to add value with our KT counterparts to deliver a set of comprehensive solutions.

Furthermore, we now have inroads into South Korea with local access through KT's network and subsidiaries.

What changes do you think emerging technologies like 5G, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and Internet of Things will bring to the Epsilon business? How are you preparing yourselves and your clients for it?

The world is changing fast. Businesses in all sectors are being reinvented and constantly driven by the rapid adoption of digital transformation supported by cloud-based application models. On a personal level, social interaction continues to evolve as people from all walks of life have become even more intertwined with one another over social media and messaging apps.

The common underlying driver of all these technologies and their advances: cost-effective on-demand, high performance, and seamless network connectivity. It is this connectivity that fuels frontline systems from e-commerce to enterprise SaaS to connecting IoT devices.

While network providers are looking to deliver seamless, elastic connectivity in their core network infrastructure, enterprises are looking to make the procurement and management of network interconnection services as simple as possible through NaaS platforms. Software-defined networking, at its core, enables this flexibility by enabling programmable interconnection between data centres, clouds, internet exchanges, and international networks via a single platform.

We are currently delivering such an offering to our customers and partners – a connectivity platform called Infiny. Our teams are working to enhance and bring new features onto Infiny to better serve the fast-changing requirements of enterprises today.

How do you think the decision to lift Singapore's moratorium on data centre projects will influence network connectivity in the country?

We think Singapore's lift on the moratorium on data centre projects will further reinforce Singapore's position as the interconnection and a cloud hub of the region. We have customers asking for more colocation services and we're partnered with a data centre provider to ensure that we have the power and space to meet customer requirements.

What do you think are Epsilon's top business challenges in this age of COVID-19 and rapid digital transformation?

Like all businesses, we have been faced with the challenge of people working from home and very limited international travel. Our team has responded incredibly well, and we have made great progress over the past two years, despite the impact of the pandemic.

In terms of digital transformation, Epsilon is constantly looking into how we can make our systems and processes more efficient and effective for our customers and our teams. A core focus is the further development of the Infiny platform to help our customers procure and manage their connectivity services. Our internal teams are also using Infiny to support customers.

You were once Managing Director at Claranet. What specific lessons learned there are you able to apply at Epsilon? What was the most interesting part of working at Claranet?

While working at Claranet I learned about managing international teams and the importance of communication within an organisation. Additionally, I was fortunate to have led eight acquisitions and integrations of the acquired businesses. This experience was very valuable when selling Epsilon to KT and Daishin.

What are some of the most exciting technology developments in Epsilon's laboratories?

Infiny is one of our most exciting developments and it's continuously being improved by our teams. It is a NaaS platform for procuring and managing on-demand connectivity, which are our ethernet services such as data centre interconnect, cloud connect and remote peering, as well as our voice – global numbering services. We've made the platform open to our partners too with an API that allows users to integrate services in Infiny into their systems.

We are currently looking at adding more of our services onto the platform.

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Document FRONSE0020220406ei4600001

#Digital Currency

**KT launches beta version of NFT service platform Mincl**

Yeran Kim

134 words

4 April 2022

Smart Times

SMTIME

English

Copyright 2022. PRIME MEDIA GROUP Inc.

KT, a South Korea telecommunications company and the second-largest wireless carrier, has unveiled the beta version of its non-fungible token (NFT) service **platform** Mincl on Monday.

As suggested in its name "Mincle," a compound word from "minting" and "club," the **platform** will enable users to mint and use NFTs within the community.

"Mincl service is KT's first NFT business case. We will continue to work with others from various sectors to expand our NFT business and build the ecosystem," said Kim Young-sik, head of KT's DX platform business division.

The app is currently only available to Android users and the Apple iOS version will be ready in the future, but company has not specified a timeline.



Document SMTIME0020220404ei440000b



Companies  
**KT, NHN launch cloud subsidiaries**

249 words

3 April 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network

South Korea's second-largest wireless carrier KT Corp. launched a **cloud** computing subsidiary on Friday.

**Cloud** computing is the on-demand availability of computer system resources like data storage and computing power without the costs of building and maintaining data centers.

KT Cloud is a spin-off from the telecom company's cloud and internet data center businesses. The major data centers owned by KT Corp. will now be under KT Cloud.

The subsidiary is wholly owned by the parent company and aims to reach 2 trillion won in revenue by 2026.

KT Vice President Yoon Dong-sik was appointed as the cloud arm's CEO.

Going forward, KT Cloud plans to develop its own graphic processor units (GPUs) and artificial intelligence semiconductor chips.

[Logo of NHN Cloud](#)

Tech giant NHN Corp. also launched a cloud subsidiary on the same day.

Just like its KT counterpart, NHN Cloud is also a spin-off of the parent company's existing business in cloud management and artificial intelligence.

NHN began its cloud technology in 2014, specialized for the gaming industry.

The internet conglomerate's chief information officer Paik Do-min and the head of the cloud business Kim Dong-hoon were appointed as co-CEOs.

Paik is in charge of the company's direction and human resources management while Kim is tasked with overseeing its business strategy.

By Da-Eun Choi

max@hankyung.com

Jee Abbey Lee edited this article.

[Logo of KT Cloud](#)

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The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

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By Da-Eun Choi

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Jee Abbey Lee edited this article.

[Logo of KT Cloud](#)

Document ECODEN0020220403ei430002t

## **KT, NHN place big ambitions in the cloud**

415 words

1 April 2022

Korea JoongAng Daily

JOONAI

English

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Spin-offs of KT and NHN focusing on cloud computing officially started Friday, signaling Korean tech companies' shift to a whole new business horizon. Cloud computing refers to technology that allows the delivery of on-demand computing ...

Spin-offs of KT and NHN focusing on cloud computing officially started Friday, signaling Korean tech companies' shift to a whole new business horizon.

Cloud computing refers to technology that allows the delivery of on-demand computing services over the internet without the costs of building and maintaining data centers.

KT's cloud and internet data center (IDC) businesses will be run by KT Cloud. KT's major IDCs, including in southern Seoul's Gangnam area and western Seoul's Yeouido district, will be owned by KT Cloud.

Yoon Dong-sik, KT's Vice President, will be CEO. The company will be 100 percent owned by KT in exchange for 1.6 trillion won (\$1.3 billion) worth of non-cash assets given to the subsidiary.

The company aims to hit 2 trillion won in revenue by 2026, according to KT's press release.

The local cloud and IDC market is expected to grow at an average of 16 percent each year and reach 11.6-trillion-won in revenues by 2025, according to KT.

"The spin-off is meant to take the leading position in a fast-growing digital infrastructure market," KT said.

KT Cloud will focus on developing its own graphic processor units (GPU) and artificial intelligence (AI) semiconductor chips to support its AI cloud system. It will also share its IDC management expertise with overseas corporate clients, including in Uzbekistan.

"We plan to carry out active investments and partnerships so that KT Cloud may react flexibly to a fast-changing market," said President Yoon.

Tech company NHN's cloud spin-off NHN Cloud also officially started Friday.

The company, 100 percent owned by NHN, will take NHN's cloud business and enhance it.

NHN started developing its cloud technology in 2014, specializing in a system for games. Since then, it has grown into a sector making over 10 million won in revenue each month, according to NHN.

Paik Do-min and Kim Dong-hoon are co-CEOs. Paik will lead the company's internal businesses such as human resources and Kim will oversee the business direction and execution.

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

[Click here to see image](#)

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Document JOONAI0020220401ei4100105

## YouTube Music Threatens Melon's Top Spot in Korea

233 words

1 April 2022

Chosun Ilbo

DIGCHO

English

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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

, Tech

## KT adds self-moving disinfection robot, co-CEO Park resigns from nomination

Woo Soo-min and Lee Ha-yeon

389 words

31 March 2022

Maeil Business Newspaper

MAEIL

English

Copyright 2022 MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

South Korea's major wireless company KT Corp. has added self-learning and moving disinfection robots to its robotic fleet as a part of its effort to up non-telecom business revenue to 50 percent of its total revenue by 2025 through transformation into a digital **platform** operator.

KT held an online press conference on Wednesday to showcase the AI disinfection robots in two sizes due to be out in April.

KT's sterilization robots sterilize viruses and clean the air, using plasma technology that is safe to disinfect indoor spaces with human presence. With autonomous driving technology based on LiDAR and camera sensors, the robots are able to move themselves for UVC disinfection, air purification in both 5G and LTE network conditions.

KT pins high hope on its disinfection robots, which are the first commercialized self-driving plasma-type disinfection robots offered in monthly subscription service in Korea.

KT has been aggressively seeking to enhance robotics business after it vowed to transform into a digital platform company. It plans to increase the revenue from non-telecom business to 50 percent of the total by 2025, and the robots are expected to play an important role in achieving the goal.

The company plans to provide the disinfection robots to hospitals, hotels, public institutions and child-care and education centers to achieve this year's sales goal of 3,000-4,000 units for the robots, said In Jeong-soo, a researcher at the AI robot business division of KT.

To differentiate its robot services from cheap Chinese alternatives, KT will offer advanced platform service using a smartphone application to allow users to call, move and analyze the condition of the robots. As a nation-wide network service provider, KT also plans to provide 24-hour preemptive management service with collabo products in partnership with partner companies.

Meanwhile, Park Jong-ook, co-CEO of KT and Chief Safety Officer, on Wednesday offered to resign his board position a day before the company's annual general shareholders' meeting to vote on the nomination. His reappointment as insider director has been opposed by major stakeholders including National Pension Service due to his alleged illegal fundraising for politicians.

[Click here to view image](#)

Document MAEIL00020220331ei3v0008d

, Biz&Company

**KT to review shift to holding entity-like structure, prep for K-Bank IPO: CEO**

Pulse

341 words

31 March 2022

Maeil Business Newspaper

MAEIL

English

Copyright 2022 MAEKYUNG.COM Inc.

KT Corp. envisioning to become a comprehensive **platform** company is interested in shifting to a holding entity-like structure without going through a physical transformation and will ready initial public offering of app-based lender K-Bank toward the end of the year, according to the Korean wireless carrier's chief executive on Thursday.

"We are seriously considering a transformation into a holding company structure, albeit not a pure holding firm, and if this happens, KT's share price will have more room to rise," CEO Ku Hyeon-Mo answered a question from a shareholder during the company's shareholder meeting held in Seoul.

He shared IPO roadmap for KT's subsidiaries, e-book subscription platform Millie and internet-only bank K-Bank.

"We will prepare for K-Bank's IPO with a target date of late this year or early next year. Several shareholders including BC Card are supporting the IPO," Ku added.

KT shareholders approved the company's 2021 financial statements with consolidated revenue of 24.89 trillion won (\$20.55 billion) and an operating profit of 1.67 trillion won. The dividend payment for the fiscal year was set at 1,910 won per share, up by 41.5 percent from the previous year.

Shareholders also voted to amend the company constitution to add other assets to the form of dividend, which was limited to cash and stock, allowing for subsidiary shares to be paid as KT's dividend in the future.

They endorsed the appointment of Yoon Kyung-lim, head of KT Group's transformation division, as full-time board director, and former vice minister of science and ICT Yoo Hee-yeol, CEO of Cigna in Korea Benjamin Hong, and Sejong University professor Kim Yong-hun as outside directors

Meanwhile, KT Co-CEO/CSO Park Jong-ook stepped down from his post of full-time board director before the day's shareholder voting for his reappointment.

[\[Source: KT Corp.\]](#)

Document MAEIL00020220331ei3v000gq

### Three telecom companies establish ESG investment fund

412 words

29 March 2022

Korea JoongAng Daily

JOONAI

English

Copyright 2022 JoongAng Ilbo Co., Ltd.

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

## Toshiba Group and KT Collaborate on Quantum Key Distribution Pilot Projects in South Korea

Toshiba; PR Newswire

920 words

29 March 2022

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PRNASI

English

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Covering world's first application of ITU standard to evaluation of a long-distance hybrid QKD network, and a QKD service testbed that will expand the quantum industry **ecosystem**

TOKYO, March 29, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Toshiba Corporation (TOKYO: 6502) (Toshiba Corporation (TOKYO: 6502) (Toshiba), Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation (TDSL) and KT Corporation (KT) will collaborate in two pilot projects in South Korea using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD).

[https://mma.prnewswire.com/media/1774623/Toshiba\\_x\\_KT.jpg](https://mma.prnewswire.com/media/1774623/Toshiba_x_KT.jpg)

Toshiba Group has researched QKD technologies for over two decades. It ranks number one in the world\*1 for QKD-related patents, and has demonstrated QKD technologies and use cases with partners in Japan, the US and Europe. KT, the holder of the most QKD-network-related international standard approvals\*2, has promoted the development of Korea's QKD ecosystem by transferring technologies to small and medium businesses in South Korea, and has led the creation of next-generation quantum secure communications services for emerging applications such as drone communications, autonomous vehicles and data centers.

The first project is to evaluate quality of service (QoS) on a long-distance hybrid QKD network built with different QKD systems, over an approximately 490km long optical fiber network between Seoul and Busan. It is the longest\*3 QKD network yet built and demonstrated in South Korea, and is expected to demonstrate capabilities that will support deployment of QKD services throughout the country. The network is configured with a combination of QKD systems from Coweaver, WooriNet and Alian developed with technologies transferred from KT, and TDSL's long distance QKD systems with quantum key management system (KMS).

The evaluation criteria applied to the QKD network QoS were devised by KT and first approved as an international standard by the International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) in February 2022. This is the first ever application of the standard to QoS evaluation in a hybrid QKD network with QKD systems from multiple vendors. The evaluation will take place for 19 days, from March 28 to April 15.

The second project covers the testbed for an open QKD service (QKD-as-a-Service; QKDaaS\*4) that aims to expand the quantum industry ecosystem in South Korea and abroad. This testbed will be operational between Seoul and Daejeon for approximately two years from the summer of 2022, and used by various companies to support the development of next-generation services utilizing quantum technologies. The testbed will be operated as an open platform, and Toshiba Group and KT will use knowledge gained from operation and user feedback to improve QKDaaS.

In addition to those projects, KT, the chair of SG13 WP1 at ITU-T, and Toshiba Group, the chair of the QKD Industry Specification Group (ISG) at the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), will cooperate in promoting international standardization of QKD technologies. KT and Toshiba Group will also cooperate the development of next-generation QKD services and business models based on their respective experience in technology developments and testing pilot services.

Shunsuke Okada, an Executive Officer, Corporate Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Officer of Toshiba and President and CEO of TDSL said, "Toshiba Group has established industry partnerships in Japan, the US, the UK and Singapore to drive the early deployment of quantum secure communication by industrial sectors. We are excited to collaborate with KT in South Korea, and accelerate the global expansion of our QKD business."

Kim Ye-Han, Executive Vice President and Fusion Technology Institute Director of KT, said, "This QoS evaluation is significant for verifying the potential of commercial QKD services based on QKD systems from multiple vendors. KT will continue to invest in R&D not limited to QKD but also to core technologies for realizing the Quantum Internet. "



## About KT

KT is Korea's largest telecommunications company with a history of 137 years, and operates omnidirectional businesses in domain of telecommunications such as mobile communications, ultra-high-speed Internet, IPTV, Cloud, and enterprise solutions. KT has contributed greatly to the revitalization of the global market for the latest technology, such as commercializing 5G mobile communication for the first time in the world and developing the world's first international standard for QKD network. Recently KT has declared the evolution from traditional Telco to DIGICO\*5 and now focuses on shifting to digital such as AI, robots, UAM.

## About QKD

Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) is a secure cryptographic communications protocol that is used by two parties to encrypt and decrypt messages and generate a shared secret key known only to the two parties. QKD is the only solution theoretically proven to be secure against quantum computing attacks.

- 1: Based on EU Joint Research Center Technical Report, 2019, EUR29164 EN
- 2: Based on patent data from International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- 3: According to research by Toshiba, TDSL and KT as of March 2022.
- 4: A subscription type of quantum secure communication service where quantum crypto keys are delivered and exchanged between end users over QKD network by communication service provider
- 5: Digital Platform Company. KT aims to be a digital platform company that leads the ways to change the lives of customers and innovate other industries based on AI, Big Data and Cloud,

SOURCE Toshiba

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**Toshiba Corporation - Toshiba Group and KT Collaborate on Quantum Key Distribution Pilot Projects in South Korea Covering world's first application of ITU standard to evaluation of a long-distance hybrid QKD network, and a QKD service testbed that will expand the quantum industry ecosystem**

Toshiba Corporation published this content on 28 Mar 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 29 Mar 2022 05:08:08 UTC.

1,049 words

28 March 2022

Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

LCDVP

English

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March 28, 2022

Toshiba Corporation

Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation

KT Corporation

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\* Quantum Key Distribution <https://www.global.toshiba/ww/products-solutions/security-ict/qkd.html>

\* [Original Link](#)

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## CJ ENM to Acquire KT StudioGenie

175 words

23 March 2022

MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker

FDTRA

English

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### Deal In Brief

CJ ENM Co Ltd, a subsidiary of CJ Group, provides multimedia shoppertainment programs, has announced to acquire KT StudioGenie (KT Studio Genie), a **content** production subsidiary of carrier KT, for a consideration of KRW100 billion (USD82.3 million). Both the companies involved in the transaction are based in South Korea. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding the same day, setting a deadline for the acquisition 90 days after the announcement. As a result, CJ ENM will become a minority shareholder with nearly a 10 percent stake in KT StudioGenie.

Deal Value ( US\$ Million)	82.3
Deal Type	Acquisition
Sub-Category	Minority Acquisition
Deal Status	Announced: 2022-03-21

### Deal Participants

Target ( Company)	KT StudioGenie
Acquirer ( Company)	
CJ O Shopping Co., Ltd	

### Deal Rationale

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Asia - Biz

## Korea's CJ ENM Pumps \$82 Million Into Alliance With KT's Studio Genie

Patrick Frater

391 words

22 March 2022

Variety

VARTY

English

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South Korean entertainment conglomerate CJ ENM has struck a deal to invest in KT (formerly Korea Telecom). The first step in the new arrangement sees CJ invest KRW100 billion (\$82 million) in buying a stake in KT's Studio Genie.

"Studio Genie **investment** is aimed at increasing the competitiveness of CJ ENM channels such as tvN and OCN and OTT **content** from TVing," CJ ENM officials explained.

CJ ENM obtains the first rights to a "significant amount" of content produced by Studio Genie. In return, Studio Genie will strengthen CJ ENM's TV channels tvN and OCN as well as TVing, which is aiming to rival Netflix as Korea's top streamer.

KT will also provide media viewing data to CJ ENM enabling them to better understand viewing trends and plan for production. The announcement also made less specific reference to collaboration in the music businesses, the creation of a joint fund for real-world media projects and the establishment of a business cooperation committee.

The coming together is also expected to lead to joint planning and production of content including series and dramas. "Both companies can also co-produce global blockbuster content based on the high-quality plans secured by Studio Genie," the pair said in a statement.

Studio Genie is an assembly of KT's media and content businesses. These include StoryWiz (planning, producing and distributing content including webtoons and web novels); Milly's library (an online reading platform); and music streamer Genie Music.

The agreement with KT continues a period of furious deal-making by CJ ENM, which has struck an array of global and regional alliances. Earlier this year it completed its acquisition of the scripted content division of Endeavor Content.

CJ ENM's other deals have included an alliance with ViacomCBS and a minority investment in U.S. producer Skydance. In Japan, it has announced deals with Japanese terrestrial broadcaster TBS Group and with Toei Animation.

At home in Korea, CJ ENM has acquired production companies Mohawk Film, MMakers and MillionVolt, adding to a production array that already includes Studio Dragon, JK Film, Vlad Studio and Bone Factory. CJ ENM's TV powerhouse Studio Dragon itself includes subsidiaries: Culture Depot, Hua & Dam Pictures, KPJ and Kakao M joint venture Mega Monster.

Document VARTY00020220322ei3m000b5

Business

**CJ ENM to pump W100b into KT's media arm in K-content push**

344 words

22 March 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

South Korea's entertainment powerhouse CJ ENM is investing 100 billion won (\$82.3 million) in KT StudioGenie, a media arm of the domestic telecommunications firm, in a bid to establish bilateral ties for media **content** targeting global audience, a filing showed Monday.

The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding the same day, setting a deadline for the acquisition 90 days after the announcement. As a result, CJ ENM will become a minority shareholder with nearly a 10 percent stake in KT StudioGenie. Further details about the deal are under discussion, they said.

The deal will allow KT StudioGenie, a wholly-owned arm of KT, to have its media contents distributed through CJ ENM's pay TV networks such as tvN and streaming media service platforms such as Tving. KT's media arm will also co-produce contents with CJ ENM based on KT StudioGenie's intellectual property.

The two companies will also discuss further collaboration in the digital music business and ways to jointly create an investment vehicle and set up a committee comprised of executives from each company.

KT StudioGenie oversees a range of media content businesses ranging from content production to distribution. Its businesses include webtoons, web novels, a music streaming service and a satellite TV network.

The news came months after CJ ENM announced plans to split off its content production business in November to strengthen its move to target a global audience. The carve-out plan earlier this year was rumored to have been shelved.

"Our collaboration with KT will leverage CJ ENM's move to advance to a global total entertainment firm," Kang Ho-sung, chief executive of CJ ENM, said in a statement.

Shares of CJ ENM jumped 1.6 percent on Monday from the previous trading day's closing price. KT's share price was 0.6 percent higher.

[Click here to see image](#)

A screen grab of web-based drama series "Shh, Please Take Care of Him" (KT Summer Drama Collage)

Document KORHER0020220321ei3m00105

Companies

**CJ ENM to invest \$82 million in KT to strengthen OTT partnership**

667 words

21 March 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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South Korean entertainment powerhouse CJ ENM Co. said on Monday it will invest 100 billion won (\$82.3 million) in KT Studio Genie, a **content** production subsidiary of telecommunications giant KT Corp. to strengthen their **partnership** in original **content** production and distribution.

The **investment** will grant CJ, the producer of the Oscar-winning film Parasite, preferred rights to most of the original **content** created by KT Studio Genie and use it for distribution via CJ's platforms.

CJ ENM currently runs around 16 cable TV channels, including drama channel tvN and music channel Mnet as well as an over-the-top (OTT) platform TVing.

The two companies also agreed to set up a joint investment fund to explore business opportunities in the virtual media business arena using virtual reality and augmented reality technologies.

Music streaming is another potential area where each side could share its strengths, they said.

"The cooperation with KT, a leading media platform operator, will be a big boost to CJ's efforts to become a global entertainment company," said CJ ENM Chief Executive Kang Ho-sung after signing a memorandum of understanding with Yoon Kyung-lim, head of KT's group transformation division.

With the 100 billion won investment, CJ is expected to own about 10% of KT Studio Genie via a rights offering within the next three months.

[CJ ENM aims to become Asia's Marvel Studios](#)

#### KT TO WIDEN DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS

For KT, the deal is expected to widen its content distribution channels by utilizing CJ ENM's network.

KT Studio Genie, established in January of last year, creates drama, film and entertainment content based on the original intellectual property owned by Storywiz, another KT affiliate focusing on webtoons and web novels.

Studio Genie distributes content on the KT group's platforms, including SkyTV, Olleh TV and KT SkyLife channel. It also uses KT's mobile-oriented platforms such as KTH and Seezn.

The telecom giant said early last year it plans to [expand its content business with an investment of 400 billion won](#) by 2023.

The company said at the time it aims to secure an extensive library of more than 1,000 original intellectual property content and more than 100 drama content by 2023. KT will also create more than 30 original series in the next three years through KT Studio Genie, it said.

[KT Studio Genie is spending heavily to widen its content distribution channels](#)

#### ASIA'S MARVEL STUDIOS

CJ ENM has been aggressively pursuing acquisitions, aiming to capitalize on the global success of K-content ranging from TV series and movies to pop music groups, while competing at home with Netflix as well as Disney Plus, which landed in Korea last year.

In mid-November, CJ said it is [buying an 80% stake in Endeavor Content Parent](#) LLC, a US-based entertainment and talent agency behind the production of Oscar-winning film La La Land, for \$775 million. CJ said the purchase would strengthen its content creation and efforts to grow its business globally.

CJ Group Chairman Lee Jay-hyun also said in November CN ENM will [seek to establish additional production houses by genre](#) to ride on the global popularity of Hallyu or the Korean Wave, as part of the conglomerate's 10 trillion won investment plan to focus on four growth areas, including culture and platforms.

On Monday, shares of Genie Music, majority-owned by KT Studio Genie, finished up 16.1% at 5,900 won, on expectations that the KT-CJ deal would boost its music streaming business.

KT SkyLife Co. closed up 2% at 8,780 won, while KT Corp. ended up 0.6% at 33,100 won. CJ ENM finished 1.6% higher at 132,400 won.

By Han-Gyeol Seon

[always@hankyung.com](mailto:always@hankyung.com)

In-Soo Nam edited this article.

[CJ ENM CEO Kang Ho-sung \(left\) and KT Studio Genie chief Yoon Kyung-lim sign a content cooperation MOU](#)

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Companies

**CJ ENM to invest \$82 million in KT to strengthen OTT partnership**

668 words

21 March 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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[CJ ENM CEO Kang Ho-sung \(left\) and KT Studio Genie chief Yoon Kyung-lim sign a content cooperation MOU](#)

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## Companies

### Service robot maker Bear Robotics raises \$81 mn in Series B

508 words

16 March 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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South Korea's robotics startup Bear Robotics Inc. announced Wednesday it raised \$81 million in Series B **funding** from venture capital heavyweights.

Seoul-based IMM Private Equity led this round of **funding**, joined by the **investment** arm of KT Corp. dubbed KT **Investment** Inc., Smilegate **Investment** Inc. and DSC **Investment** Inc.

US food tech venture capital firm and accelerator Cleveland Avenue also participated in the Series B funding round. A former McDonald's chief executive founded the Chicago-based firm in 2015.

The accumulated funding amount for Bear now exceeds \$113 million. In 2022, Masayoshi Son's SoftBank led the startup's Series A, in which the robotics company received \$32 million.

## GLOBAL ADOPTION

Bear began mass producing its serving robot named Servi in South Korea two years ago.

Through sales and strategic partnerships, the Servi robots have delivered 28 million meals over a combined 539,130 kilometers in distance in Korea, Japan, and the United States.

In Korea, bakery chain behemoth Paris Croissant and family restaurant chains like TGI Fridays, VIPS, and On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina are using the robots. In neighboring Japan, the robots are found at barbecue franchise Yakiniku King thanks to its backer SoftBank.

Over in the US, Bear partnered with casual dining chain Chili's Grill & Bar, diner franchise Denny's and the Marriott hotel brand to name a few.

## PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION

Bear Robotics plans to diversify its product lineup and expand its reach beyond Korea, Japan, and the US.

At the Mobile World Congress (MWC) held a few weeks ago in Barcelona, the startup introduced a new robot it developed with telecom giant KT Corp.

The Seoul and Bay Area-based company is on a hiring spree across multiple sectors; namely autonomous driving, robotics and artificial intelligence. The startup has some 200 employees in Korea and the US.

The need for a serving robot came to its founder John Ha while working in the restaurant business.

He was a research scientist at Intel prior to becoming a technical lead at Alphabet Inc.'s Google. In recent years, he opened and closed a tofu soup restaurant as a side job.

[John Ha is the founder and CEO of Bear Robotics based in Seoul and Silicon Valley](#)

The founder said he wanted to relieve those in the restaurant business of repetitive tasks in order to focus on providing good food and service.

Its main product Servi uses LiDAR sensor and three-dimensional camera to detect its surroundings and deliver the service items to the table through autonomous driving.

"I hope to create a dining experience where the food and service, more than the robots, move the customers," Ha said.

The founder and CEO added Bear will continue to provide products that help people using self-driving technology beyond the hospitality market.

By Jeong-Soo Hwang

[hjs@hankyung.com](mailto:hjs@hankyung.com)

Jee Abbey Lee edited this article.

[Servi developed by Bear Robotics Inc. are used in S. Korea, Japan, and United States](#)

Document ECODEN0020220316ei3g0002z

**SoftBank-backed Bear Robotics raises \$81 mln for waitering robot rollout**

308 words

15 March 2022

13:00

Reuters News

LBA

English

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TOKYO, March 15 (Reuters) - SoftBank Group Corp-backed food service robot startup Bear Robotics has raised \$81 million in a Series B **funding** round with investors that include Cleveland Avenue, a venture capital firm founded by a former McDonalds chief executive.

Other investors include South Korean private equity firm IMM and telco KT Corp, the startup's co-founder and chief operating officer Juan Higueros told Reuters, declining to disclose the firm's latest valuation.

Bear Robotics has shipped more than 5,000 of its Servi food service robots, which carry food and drink between kitchen and tables on layers of trays, and partnered with industry players such as Denny's, Chili's and Pepsi.

The California-based startup aims to expand beyond its home market and Japan and South Korea, where it has partnered with SoftBank and KT respectively, into Europe and Southeast Asia amid industry labour shortages.

SoftBank led the startup's Series A round and has shifted to reselling robots from third parties and formed a joint venture with household goods maker Iris Ohyama in Japan.

Bear Robotics charges a \$999 monthly fee for Servi in the U.S., which gives the robot a running cost of around \$2.75 per hour, Higueros said.

The startup plans to roll out two new robots this year, one that can detect air quality on the move and another that can carry deliveries from the lobby to upper floors of a building via the elevator.

Bear Robotics makes its products in South Korea, with the company relying on its head of manufacturing, who previously worked for Taiwan's Foxconn, to help navigate the "tough to manage" supply chain pressures, Higueros said.

(Reporting by Sam Nussey; Editing by Simon Cameron-Moore)

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**SoftBank-backed Bear Robotics raises \$81 million for waitering robot rollout**

306 words

15 March 2022

13:02

Reuters News

LBA

English

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TOKYO (Reuters) - SoftBank Group Corp-backed food service robot startup Bear Robotics has raised \$81 million in a Series B **funding** round with investors that include Cleveland Avenue, a venture capital firm founded by a former McDonalds chief executive.

Other investors include South Korean private equity firm IMM and telco KT Corp, the startup's co-founder and chief operating officer Juan Higueros told Reuters, declining to disclose the firm's latest valuation.

Bear Robotics has shipped more than 5,000 of its Servi food service robots, which carry food and drink between kitchen and tables on layers of trays, and partnered with industry players such as Denny's, Chili's and Pepsi.

The California-based startup aims to expand beyond its home market and Japan and South Korea, where it has partnered with SoftBank and KT respectively, into Europe and Southeast Asia amid industry labour shortages.

SoftBank led the startup's Series A round and has shifted to reselling robots from third parties and formed a joint venture with household goods maker Iris Ohyama in Japan.

Bear Robotics charges a \$999 monthly fee for Servi in the U.S., which gives the robot a running cost of around \$2.75 per hour, Higueros said.

The startup plans to roll out two new robots this year, one that can detect air quality on the move and another that can carry deliveries from the lobby to upper floors of a building via the elevator.

Bear Robotics makes its products in South Korea, with the company relying on its head of manufacturing, who previously worked for Taiwan's Foxconn, to help navigate the "tough to manage" supply chain pressures, Higueros said.

(Reporting by Sam Nussey; Editing by Simon Cameron-Moore)

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Document LBA0000020220315ei3f02mod

## Seoul-listed KT and Istanbul-listed Turk Telekom to cooperate in 5G technologies

Akin Nazli in Belgrade

198 words

7 March 2022

15:59

bne IntelliNews

BNEINT

English

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KT Corporation ([Seoul/030200](#)), formerly Korea Telecom, and Turk Telekom (TTKOM) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cooperate in a series of 5G and Internet of Things (IoT)-based fields, including Industry 4.0, smart cities, smart buildings with artificial intelligence (AI), security, autonomous driving, media services, **cloud** computing and big data, Turk Telekom [said](#) on March 1.

The agreement was signed in Barcelona during the Mobile World Congress (MWC).

In 2016, KT provided Giga LTE ([LTE](#) + Wi-Fi integration technology) solutions to Turk Telekom.

In 2021, Altimedia, an affiliate of KT Group, supplied middleware solutions for Turk Telekom's IPTV platform.

Also in Barcelona, Turk Telekom [announced](#) that it will cooperate with Istanbul-based [systemintegrator](#) Oline on 5G-based cloud-native virtualization solutions.

Turk Telekom has also [selected](#) network US-based software providers Mavenir and ComPro for an 4G/5G open vRAN pilot.

On February 28, Turkcell (TCELL) [deployed](#) commercial cloud native infrastructure clusters with the Oline utilizing Red [Hat](#) OpenShift platform.

On March 2, Turkcell [selected](#) Ribbon Communications (Nasdaq/RBBN) and Oline to virtualize voice interconnect services.

Document BNEINT0020220307ei37002xn



**Press Release: Fitch Ratings: KT's Digital Platform Strategy to Drive Long-Term Growth**

1,574 words

7 March 2022

05:14

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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The following is a press release from

Fitch Ratings:

Fitch Ratings-Seoul/Sydney-07 March 2022: KT Corporation's (A/Stable) digital platform strategy will support its long-term growth by combining its telecom and non-telecom businesses, Fitch Ratings says. We believe KT is well-positioned to drive structural earnings growth momentum in its media segments by engaging content creators and development services along the value chain. KT also plans to solidify its corporate business by expanding its services, including artificial intelligence, big data and cloud computing, which will help customers to digitalise their working process. We expect KT's wireless revenue and operating profit to continue to rise in 2022 with increasing 5G penetration on the back of growing data consumption in South Korea. We estimate 2021-2022 capex to be similar to 2020's as slightly lower capex for network upgrades is likely to be replaced with investment in other areas such as internet data centres, real estate and media content. We forecast KT's leverage will stay healthy with solid operating cash flows, supported by growth in its wireless operations and well-controlled capex. We estimate FFO net leverage edged up to 1.2x in 2021 from 2020's 0.9x. The report "What Investors Want to Know: KT Corporation" is available at [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com) or by clicking the link in this media release. Contact: Shelley Jang Director +822 3278 8370 Fitch Australia Pty Ltd, Korea Branch 9F Kyobo Securities Building 97 Uisadang-daero, Youngdeungpo-gu Seoul 07327 Jeong Min Pak Senior Director +822 3278 8360 Steve Durose Managing Director +61 2 8256 0307

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7 Mar 2022 00:14 ET \*Fitch Ratings: KT's Digital Platform Strategy to Drive Long-Term Growth

(MORE TO FOLLOW) Dow Jones Newswires

March 07, 2022 00:14 ET (05:14 GMT)

Document DJDN000020220307ei3700059



## **Fitch Ratings: KT's Digital Platform Strategy to Drive Long-Term Growth**

1,547 words

7 March 2022

Fitch Rating / Non Rating Action Commentary

FITRA

English

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Related Fitch Ratings **Content**:

What Investors Want to Know: KT Corporation: <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/10191621>

Fitch Ratings-Seoul/Sydney-07 March 2022: KT Corporation's (A/Stable) digital platform strategy will support its long-term growth by combining its telecom and non-telecom businesses, Fitch Ratings says. We believe KT is well-positioned to drive structural earnings growth momentum in its media segments by engaging content creators and development services along the value chain. KT also plans to solidify its corporate business by expanding its services, including artificial intelligence, big data and cloud computing, which will help customers to digitalise their working process.

We expect KT's wireless revenue and operating profit to continue to rise in 2022 with increasing 5G penetration on the back of growing data consumption in South Korea. We estimate 2021-2022 capex to be similar to 2020's as slightly lower capex for network upgrades is likely to be replaced with investment in other areas such as internet data centres, real estate and media content. We forecast KT's leverage will stay healthy with solid operating cash flows, supported by growth in its wireless operations and well-controlled capex. We estimate FFO net leverage edged up to 1.2x in 2021 from 2020's 0.9x.

The report "What Investors Want to Know: KT Corporation" is available at [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com) or by clicking the link in this media release.

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Document FITRA00020220307ei37000rt

## KT Inks MOU with Turk Telekom of Turkey

241 words

4 March 2022

Business Korea Daily News

BKORDN

English

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KT announced on March 3 that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Turkey's No. 1 telecom operator Turk Telekom to provide KT's various digital transformation (DX) services to Turkish customers.

Through an agreement signed at MWC 2022 in Spain, the two companies decided to expand business cooperation to various fields such as robots, smart cities, autonomous driving and media services based on 5G, AI, **cloud** computing and big data.

In 2016, KT provided Giga LTE (LTE + WiFi integration technology) solutions to Turk Telekom, Turkey's largest telecommunication operator. The Giga LTE solution offers a mobile speed of up to 1Gbps. The solution has enabled Turk Telekom to provide a 4.5G LTE service differentiated from its competitors.

In addition, Altimedia, an affiliate of KT Group, supplied middleware solutions for Turk Telekom's IPTV platform in 2021 and plans to steadily expand its supply.

<div class="lt-toolbar\_\_wrapper" style="left: 625px; position: absolute !important; top: 504px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><div class="lt-toolbar\_\_premium-icon"></div><div class="lt-toolbar\_\_status-icon lt-toolbar\_\_status-icon-has-errors lt-toolbar\_\_status-icon-has-6-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></div></div></div></div>

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Document BKORDN0020220304ei340002y

Page 54 of 131 © 2022 Factiva, Inc. All rights reserved.

World

**KT agrees to provide digital transformation services through Turk Telekom**

Lim Chang-won

256 words

3 March 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL --South Korea's top telecom company, KT, will provide various digital transformation services through its Turkish partner, Turk Telekom. Based on 5G, artificial intelligence, **cloud**, and big data, the two companies would expand their cooperation to various fields such as robots, smart cities, autonomous driving, and media services. KT said it has signed a memorandum of understanding for strategic partnerships with Turk Telekom on the sidelines of at MWC, an annual mobile device exhibition in Barcelona. "We will jointly develop KT's digital transformation capabilities in cooperation with Turk Telekom to suit the Turkish market," KT's group transformation division head Yoon Kyung-lim said in a statement on February 3.

Business ties between the two companies date back to 2016 when the Turkish company used KT's technology solution combining WiFi and long-term evolution (LTE), a standard for wireless broadband communication for mobile devices and data terminals, to provide customers with a 4.5G LTE service. KT's subsidiary, Altimedia, supplied middleware solutions to Turk Telekom's IPTV platform in 2021.

"KT and Turk Telekom have many things in common, such as building and distributing telecommunication infrastructure for the first time in both countries, so we hope to build 5G-based future technologies and continue cooperation," Turk Telekom CEO Umit Onal was quoted as saying.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwl34@ajunews.com

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/03/03/20220303131426339277.jpg>

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Document AJUENG0020220303ei330005I

## **KT, Turk Telekom partner on 5G, AI services**

123 words

3 March 2022

Telecompaper Europe

TELEUR

English

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South Korean operator KT has signed a **partnership** agreement with Turk Telekom, at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 in Barcelona, Yonhap news agency reports. KT and Turk Telekom will cooperate on 5G and artificial intelligence services.

The South Korean operator and Turk Telekom plan to expand cooperation in robots, smart cities and self-driving cars based on 5G, big data and **cloud** services, KT said. "We plan to cooperate with Turk Telekom to develop services tailored to the Turkish market based on our expertise in digital transformation", said Yoon Kyung-rim, head of KT's Group Transformation Division.

KT, in cooperation with Turk Telekom, also plans to introduce its data, network and AI services in Turkey.

Document TELEUR0020220303ei330008h



## **KT, Turk Telekom partner on 5G, AI services**

123 words

3 March 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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KT, in cooperation with Turk Telekom, also plans to introduce its data, network and AI services in Turkey.

Document TELASI0020220303ei33000gt

Entertainment

**[MWC 2022] GSMA to press streaming platforms on network cost-sharing: KT CEO**

Son Ji-hyoung Korea Herald Correspondent (consnow@heraldcorp.com)

527 words

3 March 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

BARCELONA, Spain -- The board of GSMA, the host of Mobile World Congress 2022, has greenlighted a plan urging video streaming service providers to share telecom carriers' costs of expanding broadband **infrastructure**, amid lingering conflicts over charging more network usage fees to those causing heavy internet traffic.

The plan was proposed by a policy group under GSMA, which called on global **content** providers including Netflix, Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+ to contribute more to the **ecosystem**, in exchange for their heavy traffic due to user downloads and video streaming, said Ku Hyeon-mo, chief executive officer of South Korean telecommunications carrier KT.

Ku is the only GSMA board member among Korean participants at MWC 2022.

"I can say that telecom carriers across the world have reached a consensus," Ku told reporters during a press conference Tuesday.

"It is a consensus to hold those causing an enormous amount of internet traffic and generating profit more accountable."

According to Ku, some 40 percent of mobile traffic stems from content providers and have caused internet speed to slow down or lag for others. To avoid such problems, telco carriers have often had to bear extra costs in maintaining internet service levels and speeds.

Of the three suggestions to charge content providers more for heavy usage, the most likely option is to create a state-sponsored fund designed to invest in setting up new broadband infrastructure.

GSMA cannot force each country's lawmakers to ratify the proposal immediately, as the agreement between telco firms is nonbinding, he added.

If implemented, consumers could also stand to benefit because the reduced cost of telecom carriers' capital expenditure for network expansion may lead to a cut in fees charged by the firms, according to Ku.

The proposal comes as disputes over cost-sharing for internet traffic have been escalating across the world.

Korea has been weighed down by such squabbles over who is more responsible for network-related costs, as seen in a high-profile case between SK Telecom's internet protocol TV arm SK Broadband and US-based Netflix over network usage fees.

A district court ruling in July ruled that content providers are obliged to pay for their network usage, giving SK Broadband the upper hand. Netflix appealed the decision, while SK Broadband filed a fresh lawsuit demanding Netflix pay network fees. SK Broadband has claimed that it was forced to install new infrastructure to keep up with its operations due to Netflix's heavy traffic.

Ku said the GSMA board decision "distances itself from controversies over network usage fees."

KT is the largest telecom carrier in Korea in terms of fixed-line and mobile subscribers combined. By mobile subscribers, KT is No. 2 following domestic rival SK Telecom.

Ku is serving his final year in his three-year term as KT's CEO since 2020.

[Click here to see image](#)

KT CEO Ku Hyeon-mo speaks during the press conference held on the sidelines of MWC 2022 in Barcelona, Spain on Tuesday. (Joint Press Corps)



World

## **KT commercializes all-in-one AI-based customer call center solution**

Park Sae-jin

399 words

2 March 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL -- KT cs, the customer service solution wing of South Korea's major telecom company KT, has commercialized an all-in-one artificial intelligence-based customer call center service solution that can be operated on web-based systems including web browsers. The new solution will help small-and-medium-sized companies save costs and increase the quality of services. An AI contact center (AICC) is an integrated **cloud**-based system solution that offers a variety of customer services such as chatbot, virtual voice agent, agent assist, and other customer service-related applications. The solution can basically receive calls and provide requested information or connect customers to human managers for inquiries that require detailed procedures.

Independent chatbot and voice agent systems are convenient customer service solutions but they are very expensive to manage and operate. Systems must be updated regularly to improve the conversation skills of robots and prevent security breaches. Human call center operators are also expensive and many small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) cannot afford to operate a call center.

KT cs has released "HiQri," a web-based AICC solution. Unlike conventional contact center management solutions that required operators to switch between application channels to provide customer services, HiQri can display customer inquiries from different channels including smartphone messenger apps, phone calls, web-based messenger programs and social media services through a single web page screen.

"HiQri was built on KT's accrued customer service know-how," KT cs said in a statement on March 2, adding that the solution focused on the "pain point" of customers. According to KT, South Korea's call center service market has been growing to stand at 11 trillion (\$9.1 million) in 2021. The market share of AICC in the call center service market was about 27 percent.

Thanks to the rapid development of AI-based call services, South Korea's SME operators are quick to adopt new robot-based call services. In February 2022, KT partnered with South Korea's hairdresser association to distribute an AI-based call assistant service. A robot assistant will receive incoming phone calls and customers can make reservations or ask questions using voice.

Park Sae-jin Reporter [swatchsjp@ajunews.com](mailto:swatchsjp@ajunews.com)

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/03/02/20220302105903115385.png>

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Document AJUENG0020220302ei320002t

## South Korea - Mobile Phones - Five Forces

2,987 words

28 February 2022

MarketLine Industry Profiles

DMRP

English

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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 (MVNO) 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 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 operators 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.







## Adriel Secures USD12.6 Million in Series B Venture Funding

202 words

28 February 2022

MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker

FDTRA

English

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### Deal In Brief

Adriel Inc, a US-based digital marketing platform that monitors and controls paid advertising across multiple channels, has secured KRW15 billion in Series B round of venture funding led by Shinhan Venture Investment with participation from Korea Investment Partners, LB Investment, KT Investment and Quantum Ventures Korea. With this series B investment, the valuation of Adriel has reached KRW20.7 billion.

Deal Value (US\$ Million)	12.6
Deal Type	Venture Finance
Sub-Category	Growth Capital/Expansion
Deal Status	Completed: 2022-02-23

### Deal Participants

Target (Company)	Adriel Inc.
Acquirer 1 (Company)	Korea Investment Holdings Co Ltd
Acquirer 2 (Company)	Quantum Ventures Korea
Acquirer 3 (Company)	Neoplux Co., Ltd
Acquirer 4 (Company)	LB Investment Inc
Acquirer 5 (Company)	KT investment Co., Ltd

### Deal Rationale

The funding will be used to focus on recruiting and nurturing talented people for service advancement and accelerating global business expansion of Adriel.

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Document FDTRA00020220304ei2s0004v



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Document FDTRA00020220224ei2n000au

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

663 words

27 February 2022

Korea Times

KORTIM

English

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

Samsung Electronics to unveil new Galaxy lap top

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

Entertainment

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

518 words

23 February 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

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

## KT to pay USD 6 mln in bribery settlement with US SEC

226 words

22 February 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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Korean operator KT has agreed to pay USD 6.3 million in a settlement of bribery claims with the US Securities and Exchange Commission. The US regulator found the operator violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by providing improper **payments** for the benefit of government officials in Korea and Vietnam.

According to the SEC's order, KT engaged in multiple schemes to make improper **payments** in Korea and Vietnam. The company lacked sufficient internal accounting controls over charitable donations, third-party **payments**, executive bonuses, and gift card purchases, the SEC said. As a result, KT employees, including high-level executives, were able to generate slush funds that were used for gifts and illegal political contributions to government officials in Korea who had influence over KT's business. Other employees were able to make **payments** in connection with seeking business from government customers in Vietnam.

In November 2021, South Korean authorities indicted KT and 14 executives for criminal violations related to illegal political contributions from the slush funds.

KT consented to the SEC's order without admitting or denying the findings that it violated the books and records and internal accounting controls provisions of the Securities Exchange Act. The company agreed to pay USD 3.5 million in civil penalties and USD 2.8 million in disgorgement.

Document TELASI0020220222ei2m0008e

AML / KYC

## **Korea's KT Corp to Pay \$6.3m for FCPA Violations**

Editors, Regulation Asia

363 words

21 February 2022

Regulation Asia

REGASI

English

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KT Corp maintained slush funds for nearly a decade which were used by executives and employees to bribe Korean and Vietnamese officials.

The US SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) announced that Seoul-based KT Corporation will pay USD 6.3 million to resolve charges that it violated the FCPA (Foreign Corrupt Practices Act) by providing improper **payments** for the benefit of government officials in Korea and Vietnam.

According to the [SEC's order](#), KT Corp - South Korea's largest telecommunications operator – maintained “slush funds comprised of both off-the-books accounts and physical stashes of cash” from at least 2009 until 2017 – which high-level executives and other employees used to bribe Korean and Vietnamese officials.

The bribes included gifts, entertainment, and “illegal political contributions” to members of the Korean National Assembly serving on committees relevant to KT Corp's business.

The SEC said KT Corp lacked sufficient internal accounting controls with respect to key aspects of its business operations – including in areas such as charitable donations, third-party payments, executive bonuses, and gift card purchases. The company also lacked anti-corruption policies or procedures with respect to donations, employment candidates, vendors, subcontractors, or third-party agents.

KT Corp consented to the SEC's order to pay approximately USD 3.5 million in civil penalties and USD 2.8 million in disgorgement – without admitting or denying the findings that it violated the books and records and internal accounting controls provisions of the FCPA.

The SEC has the authority to impose the penalty because KT Corp's ADRs (American depositary receipts) are registered with the SEC and traded on the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange).

As part of the agreement, KT Corp will report to the SEC every six months for two years on the status of its remediation and implementation of compliance measures.

The SEC said KT Corp did not self-report the FCPA violations but that it did cooperate with the SEC's investigation.

In November 2021, South Korean authorities indicted KT Corp and 14 executives for criminal violations related to illegal political contributions from the slush funds.

Document REGASI0020220221ei2I0002t



## KT launches Amazon's Alexa voice service on GiGa Genie AI speakers

159 words

21 February 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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South Korean telecom giant KT has introduced a new service that allows customers to access Amazon's voice assistant on its AI speakers to meet demand for English **education**, Yonhap news agency reports. KT has partnered with Amazon to launch the Dual Brain AI service, which integrates Amazon's Alexa virtual voice service into its GiGa Genie speakers to support both Korean and English languages.

The service is available on all 3.1 million GiGa Genie 3 **devices** in the country, providing users with access to global **content**, such as CNN and TedTalks, as well as digital audio books from Audible. A new display card feature has been installed on KT's AI speakers to allow customers to access information on a TV screen connected to the speaker.

KT has also announced plans to install the Alexa service on its GiGa Genie 1 and 2 devices before July.

Document TELASI0020220221ei2I0005o

, Photos

## **KT to pay \$6.3 mn to U.S SEC for creating slush fund in Korea and Vietnam**

93 words

21 February 2022

Maeil Business Newspaper

MAEIL

English

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South Korean telco KT has agreed to pay \$6.3 million to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for violations of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. KT whose ADRs trade on the New York Stock Exchange was found to have violated the books and records and internal accounting controls for engaging in "multiple schemes to make improper **payments**" in Korea and Vietnam from 2014 to 2017.

[\[Photo by Park Hyung-ki\]](#)

Document MAEIL00020220221ei2l000b6

Entertainment

**KT to pay \$6.3m to US SEC to settle corrupt practice charges**

415 words

19 February 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

KT, South Korea's largest telecommunications firm by sales, will pay a total of \$6.3 million to the US Securities and Exchange Commission to resolve charges for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, an SEC announcement showed Friday.

The SEC ordered the Seoul-based firm to pay \$3.5 million in civil **payments** and \$2.8 million in disgorgement and prejudgment interest within a month, more than two years after the US authorities started their investigation.

KT was accused of insufficient internal accounting controls provisions and making improper payments for the benefit of lawmakers and government officials in Korea and public officials in Vietnam.

In addition, KT was found to have no relevant anti-corruption policies or procedures with respect to donations, employment candidates, vendors, subcontractors, or third-party agents, which meant that there were no measures to curb the misconduct internally, the SEC said.

According to SEC, KT lacked internal accounting controls over expenses, including executive bonuses and purchases of gift cards, allowing managers and executives to generate slush funds. The misconduct took place in Korea from at least 2009 through 2017.

The Korean prosecution's indictment showed that KT's slush fund, worth 437.9 million won (\$393,600), went to 99 Korean lawmakers, while the incumbent Chief Executive Officer Ku Hyeon-mo was also involved. Ku and nine other KT executives were given a combined 46 million won fine as they faced a summary indictment, while court proceedings for four KT executives are underway.

In Vietnam, KT had sought to provide money to third parties connected to government officials in Vietnam to obtain government contracts between 2014 and 2018, the SEC filing also showed.

"For nearly a decade, KT failed to implement sufficient internal accounting controls with respect to key aspects of its business operations, while at the same time lacking relevant anti-corruption policies or procedures. Issuers must be sure to devote appropriate attention to meeting their obligations under the FCPA," Charles Cain, chief of the SEC Enforcement Division's FCPA Unit, said in a statement.

KT is subject to supervision by the US SEC, as the company's American Depositary Receipt -- a form of a share -- trades on the New York Stock Exchange. KT's common shares are listed on the Korea Exchange.

[Click here to see image](#)

KT Chief Executive Officer Ku Hyeon-mo (left) strikes a gavel at a shareholder meeting in March 2021. (KT)

Document KORHER0020220218ei2j0008d

## **KT pays \$6.3m penalty for 'bribing Korean and Vietnamese politicians'**

Alan Burkitt-Gray

468 words

18 February 2022

Capacity Magazine

CAPMAG

English

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The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said last night that KT had violated the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) by providing improper **payments** for the benefit of government officials in the two countries.

KT consented to the SEC's order without admitting or denying the findings that it violated the books and records and internal accounting controls provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and agreed to pay approximately \$3.5 million in civil penalties and \$2.8 million in disgorgement, a total of \$6.3 million, more than twice as much as the alleged Korean bribes.

KT now has to report to the SEC every six months for two years about "the status of its remediation and implementation of compliance measures".

The SEC has authority to impose the penalties because KT's American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), which is subject to the regulator's supervision.

Last night's decision follows only three months after a prosecutor in Seoul charged KT's CEO, Ku Hyeon-mo (pictured), and 13 other company with making illegal political donations.

According to the Korea Herald in November, Ku and the KT officials are suspected of having purchased commercial gift certificates using company funds before selling them to create a secret slush fund used to offer small-sized donations to 13 politicians in September 2016.

In the US, the SEC's Charles Cain, chief of its enforcement division's FCPA unit, said: "For nearly a decade, KT Corp failed to implement sufficient internal accounting controls with respect to key aspects of its business operations, while at the same time lacking relevant anti-corruption policies or procedures."

The SEC said that employees, "including high-level executives, were able to generate slush funds that were used for gifts and illegal political contributions to government officials in Korea who had influence over KT Corp's business".

It added: "Other employees were able to make payments in connection with seeking business from government customers in Vietnam."

Harry Cassin of the US-based FCPA Blog noted: "The slush fund in South Korea totalled around \$1.3 million." He added: "Between 2015 and 2016, KT Corporation also made payments of over \$1.6 million to three organizations at the request of high-level government officials. Two of the payments were made at the instruction of the Blue House, Korea's presidential residence and office."

In Vietnam, says the FCPA Blog, KT "arranged with a construction company ... to pay a bribe of about \$95,000 to a high-level official in 2014", and later booked "a \$200,000 payment to the construction company".

In September 2021 KT completed the acquisition of Epsilon Telecommunications for \$145 million.

Document CAPMAG0020220307ei2i0000p



## **Largest South Korean Telecommunications Co. Agrees to Pay the SEC to Settle FCPA Charges**

332 words

18 February 2022

ENP Newswire

ENPNEW

English

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Release date - 17022022

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According to the SEC's order, KT Corp., South Korea's largest telecommunications operator, engaged in multiple schemes to make improper payments in Korea and Vietnam. KT Corp. lacked sufficient internal accounting controls over charitable donations, third-party payments, executive bonuses, and gift card purchases. As a result, KT Corp. employees, including high-level executives, were able to generate slush funds that were used for gifts and illegal political contributions to government officials in Korea who had influence over KT Corp.'s business. Other employees were able to make payments in connection with seeking business from government customers in Vietnam.

'For nearly a decade, KT Corp. failed to implement sufficient internal accounting controls with respect to key aspects of its business operations, while at the same time lacking relevant anti-corruption policies or procedures. Issuers must be sure to devote appropriate attention to meeting their obligations under the FCPA,' said Charles Cain, Chief of the SEC Enforcement Division's FCPA Unit.

In November 2021, South Korean authorities indicted KT Corp. and 14 executives for criminal violations related to illegal political contributions from the slush funds.

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The SEC's investigation was conducted by Ilana Z. Sultan, Steven Susswein, and M. Shahriar Masud and supervised by Tracy L. Price.

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

Document ENPNEW0020220218ei2i00030

## **KT prepares to spin off its cloud business**

601 words

18 February 2022

Korea JoongAng Daily

JOONAI

English

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KT is sharpening its focus on the cloud computing business with a large-scale investment and a spin-off plan.

KT is sharpening its focus on the cloud computing business with a large-scale investment and a spin-off plan.

KT announced Feb. 15 that it will spin off its cloud business and call it KT Cloud.

On the same day came reports that the company invested 130 billion won (\$109 million) in MegazoneCloud, a local cloud service start-up, a deal later confirmed by the two companies.

The company is betting on the growth of cloud services after remote working and online classes boosted demand for on-demand computing services over the internet.

KT expects the spin-off to help the new company make the swifter decisions necessary for the fast-growing segment.

"[The spin-off] will allow for quick, flexible decision-making conducive to the nature of cloud and data center business while focusing on partnerships and investment," KT said in a statement.

Parent KT will own a 100 percent stake in KT Cloud in exchange for 1.6 trillion-won worth of non-cash assets given to the subsidiary.

The new subsidiary will come into existence in April after an annual general shareholders' meeting in March.

Yoon Dong-sik, KT's vice president, has been tapped as president of the new company.

Analysts struck a positive tone for the planned separation.

"If KT continues to keep the cloud business division, the unit could hardly receive a boost given the competition for resources and budget with other divisions handling 5G, finance or media content," said Kim Hoi-jae, an analyst at Daishin Securities.

"That structure would make it hard to swiftly respond to the fast-growing market," Kim said.

Kim predicted the spin-off will not be embroiled in the type of the controversy seen at Kakao and LG Chem given the small size of the cloud business.

"KT's cloud and data center business accounts for 1.8 percent of all sales last year," Kim said, "So, it won't likely erode valuation of the parent company."

KT's cloud and datacenter division brought in 455.9 billion won in sales, up 16 percent over a year earlier.

Kakao and LG Chem recently came under fire for spinning off profitable businesses and taking them public, a maneuver that shareholders of the parent companies resented.

In response to such concerns, KT said that it will change its articles of incorporation during the March shareholders meeting to distribute the shares of KT Cloud to existing KT shareholders should the subsidiary go public.

With over 8,000 clients, KT is the second largest cloud service provider in Korea after Amazon's AWS in terms of market share.

Ahn Jae-min, an analyst at NH Investment & Securities, projected that the new structure will allow the cloud unit to capitalize on the growing demand.

"The decision could help KT cement a leading position in the cloud business," the analyst said.

“More companies are tapping cloud services and public corporations vowed to shift to cloud-based software and platforms by 2025”

In the meantime, KT invested 130 billion won in MegazoneCloud, the largest cloud service provider in Korea, which helps cloud operators like KT and Amazon with daily IT operations and technical support for clients.

Both declined to specify the equity holding KT will own.

MegazoneCloud said that the investment is also intended to foster strategic partnerships in the cloud business.

BY PARK EUN-JEE [park.eunjee@joongang.co.kr]

[Click here to see image](#)

Document JOONAI0020220218ei2i00105

## **Largest South Korean Telecommunications Co. Agrees To Pay The SEC To Settle FCPA Charges**

319 words

18 February 2022

Exchange News Direct

EXNEWS

English

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The SEC's investigation was conducted by Ilana Z. Sultan, Steven Susswein, and M. Shahriar Masud and supervised by Tracy L. Price.

Related Materials

\* [SEC Order](#)

Document EXNEWS0020220218ei2i00001



## Cerence enhances cloud services capabilities in Korea

505 words

17 February 2022

00:00

MarketLine News and Comment

DTMNTR

English

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Cerence has enhanced its cloud services capabilities in Korea through new interoperability with KT's GiGA Genie, the company's voice-controlled virtual assistant.

Leveraging Cerence Cognitive Arbitrator, Mercedes-Benz Korea has signed on as the first automaker to bring this integrated capability to drivers of select models, including Mercedes-Benz S-Class, Mercedes-Benz EQS, Mercedes-Benz E-Class, Mercedes-Benz EQA, and more, in Korea via its Mercedes-Benz User Experience (MBUX), its intuitive infotainment and virtual assistant system.

KT, Korea's largest telecom operator and digital platform company, first introduced GiGA Genie in 2017 as an AI-powered television set-top box and integrated virtual assistant. Today, GiGA Genie provides its three million users with voice-enabled access to a wide variety of popular KT content and services, including music, video, games, shopping, general knowledge, and more. To further extend users' access to GiGA Genie, Cerence and KT have teamed up to bring GiGA Genie's smart capabilities directly into Cerence-powered automotive assistants via Cerence Cognitive Arbitrator. In the case of MBUX, drivers can, for example, say, "Hey Mercedes, how much did Parasite gross at the box office?" or "Hey Mercedes, what shall I have for dinner tonight?" MBUX intuitively knows where to route the request and how best to complete the driver's desired action, providing a streamlined, effortless user experience.

"GiGA Genie has been a driving force in the growing popularity of voice-powered assistants in Korea," said Kangrim Choi, SVP & Head of AI Mobility Business Unit, KT. "We are proud to partner with Cerence to bring GiGA Genie to an entirely new environment in a seamless, integrated offering that makes accessing the assistant's content, services and capabilities easy for drivers while on the go."

"Consumers globally have an ever-expanding digital life that spans a variety of assistants and services. As their ecosystems become more complex, interoperability is key, especially in the car," said Stefan Ortmanns, CEO, Cerence. "By leveraging our Cerence Cognitive Arbitrator to make GiGA Genie accessible via the automotive assistant, KT has firmly established its commitment to a simple, intuitive user experience. We are excited to team up with KT and support our long-term partner, Mercedes-Benz, as they bring this important capability to drivers of select Mercedes-Benz models in Korea."

Cerence Cognitive Arbitrator makes it fast and easy for automakers to build in-car voice systems that deliver co-existence between the wide variety of virtual assistants, third-party services, and content - including KT's GiGA Genie - available in today's global digital ecosystem. Through a single interface, Cerence Cognitive Arbitrator removes the complexity of whether the Cerence-powered assistant or GiGA Genie should execute a given task, giving drivers flexibility and enabling automakers to maintain their brand experience and data ownership. Cerence Cognitive Arbitrator serves as a voice router, listening, understanding and routing users' requests to best accomplish the task, without needing to specify which assistant should receive and complete the request.

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Document DTMNTR0020220218ei2h000iw

## LARGEST SOUTH KOREAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. AGREES TO PAY THE SEC TO SETTLE FCPA CHARGES

348 words

17 February 2022

US Fed News

INDFED

English

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 -- The Securities & Exchange Commission issued the following press release:

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For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [contentservices@htlive.com](mailto:contentservices@htlive.com)

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## **Largest South Korean Telecommunications Co. Agrees to Pay the SEC to Settle FCPA Charges**

359 words

17 February 2022

M2 Presswire

MTPW

English

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**\*SEC: KT Corp. to Pay \$6.3M to Resolve FCPA Charges >KT**

108 words

17 February 2022

23:53

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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17 Feb 2022 18:54 ET \*SEC Says KT Corp. 'Engaged in Multiple Schemes to Make Improper **Payments** in Korea and Vietnam'

17 Feb 2022 18:57 ET \*SEC Says KT Corp. Sufficient Account Controls, Which Led to 'Slush Funds' Used for Gifts and Illegal Political Contributions

17 Feb 2022 18:58 ET \*SEC: KT Corp. Consents to SEC Order Without Admitting or Denying Findings That it Violated Books and Records and Internal Accounting Controls Provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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February 17, 2022 18:58 ET (23:58 GMT)

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## **Largest South Korean Telecommunications Co. Agrees to Pay the SEC to Settle FCPA Charges**

323 words

17 February 2022

23:36

Newsfile

NEWFI

English

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Document NEWFI00020220217ei2h005xx

**Press Release: Cerence Expands **Cloud** Capabilities for Korean Drivers through Interoperability with KT's AI Assistant, GiGA Genie**

849 words

17 February 2022

13:00

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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Cerence Expands **Cloud** Capabilities for Korean Drivers through Interoperability with KT's AI Assistant, GiGA Genie

Cerence to collaborate with Mercedes-Benz Korea to bring this integrated capability to drivers of select Mercedes-Benz models in Korea via MBUX

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To learn more about Cerence, visit [www.cerence.com](http://www.cerence.com), and follow the company on LinkedIn and Twitter.

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February 17, 2022 08:00 ET (13:00 GMT)

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**Cerence Expands Cloud Capabilities for Korean Drivers through Interoperability with KT's AI Assistant, GiGA Genie**

835 words

17 February 2022

13:00

GlobeNewswire

PZON

English

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(END)

Document PZON000020220217ei2h00065

**KT's 2022 Earnings Likely to Gain From Expanding Digital Services -- Market Talk**

146 words

17 February 2022

01:26

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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0126 GMT - KT Corp.'s 2022 earnings are likely to gain from its expanding digital services, says Daiwa Capital. The **investment** bank raises its EPS forecast for the South Korean telecom giant by 2.5% this year after strong 4Q earnings results led by its **cloud**-computing and digital-transformation services for business clients. Daiwa is bullish on KT's guidance for business-to-business and digital-transformation services to continue to grow and account for 50% of its total revenue by 2024 from an estimated 40% in 2021. It raises the stock's target price by 2.5% to KRW35,500 and keeps an outperform rating. Shares are 0.2% lower at KRW32,300. (kwanwoo.jun@wsj.com)

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

February 16, 2022 20:26 ET (01:26 GMT)

Document DJDN000020220217ei2h0006b

**KT Corporation - KT establishes 'kt cloud', a company specialized in Cloud/IDC**

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115 words

17 February 2022

Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

LCDVP

English

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KT establishes 'kt cloud', a company specialized in Cloud/IDC

The text version of this document is not available. You can access the original document here.

\* Original Link

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Document LCDVP00020220217ei2h000ul



## Payta Lab Raises USD10.11 Million in Series B Funding

196 words

16 February 2022

MarketLine Financial Deals Tracker

FDTRA

English

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### Deal In Brief

Payta Lab Co., Ltd, a South Korea-based startup that operates a non-face-to-face order payment solution 'Pass Order', has raised KRW12.1 billion (USD10.11 million) in Series B **funding** round led by A-Ventures, with participation from KB **Investment**, Korea Growth Finance, and KT **Investment**. Lotte Ventures and The Wells **Investment** also participated as follow-on investments. Suyong Kwak is the CEO of Payta Lab.

Deal Value (US\$ Million)	10.16
Deal Type	Venture Finance
Sub-Category	Growth Capital/Expansion
Deal Status	Completed: 2022-02-15

### Deal Participants

Target (Company)	Payta Lab Co., Ltd
Acquirer 1 (Company)	Korea Growth Finance Investment Management Co., Ltd
Acquirer 2 (Company)	A ventures
Acquirer 3 (Company)	Lotte Ventures
Acquirer 4 (Company)	KB Investment Co., Ltd.
Acquirer 5 (Company)	The Wells Investment
Acquirer 6 (Company)	KT investment Co., Ltd

### Deal Rationale

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Document FDTRA00020220216ei2f000av

, Photos

## KT to spin off cloud and IDC business

139 words

16 February 2022

Maeil Business Newspaper

MAEIL

English

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KT Corp. will demerge its cloud and internet data center (IDC) business into a subsidiary, tentatively named KT Cloud Co., to bolster future growth engine, Korea's telecom major said Tuesday. The parent will own 100% of KT Cloud, or 17,712,048 shares worth 1.77 trillion won (\$1.48 billion). Yun Dong-sik, vice president and KT's cloud expert, will lead KT Cloud – the fourth spin off under CEO Ku Hyeon-mo. In 2021, KT's cloud and IDC business raised 455.9 billion won in revenue, up 16.6% from a year ago, accounting for 1.8% of KT total revenue, but KT see great growth potential in the field. KT shares were trading .0.78% higher at 32,250 won Wednesday morning.

[\[Photo by Yonhap\]](#)

Document MAEIL00020220216ei2g0008e

Companies

**KT to join MBK, IMM in Megazone Cloud's \$400 mn funding**

411 words

15 February 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network

KT Corp., South Korea's No. 2 telecom operator, has decided to invest 130 billion won (\$110 million) in Megazone Cloud Corp., the country's largest cloud services provider, according to people with knowledge of the matter on Monday.

KT is taking part in Megazone's Series C funding round of 530 billion won (\$440 million), along with MBK Partners and IMM Private Equity. The largest-ever fundraising for a Korean cloud computing firm helped it gain unicorn status, or a company with a valuation of over \$1 billion.

MBK Partners and IMM Private Equity will each be investing 200 billion won in Megazone, the first South Korean business partner of Amazon Web Service (AWS).

The investment is expected to lead to a partnership between KT and Megazone and to speed up KT's transformation into a digital platform.

KT has chosen artificial intelligence, big data and cloud computing as its core pillars. To that end, it is considering spinning off its cloud-based services and internet data centers into new companies in the first half of this year.

The latest deal is set to become KT's second major investment of over 100 billion won in a startup since its investment in K Bank, its digital banking unit in 2019.

In the same year, KT participated in Megazone's Series A funding via its venture capital unit KT Investment Inc.

Megazone in 2012 was selected as the first Korean partner of Amazon Web Service (AWS) as then an in-house division of Megazone Corp., which provides computer system design services.

With the country's cloud service market projected to exceed 5 trillion won in revenue this year, established IT services providers such as Samsung SDS Co. and LG CNS Co. are venturing into the market.

NHN Corp., South Korea's first-generation game developer, is splitting off its cloud services business into a separate entity in April of this year, a move seen as part of an effort to attract substantial funding from outside investors.

"Cloud business requires a large amount of initial capital to secure infrastructure," said an industry source.

"By splitting off cloud services into a new subsidiary, they can raise money from strategic investors to finance their full-fledged entry into the market."

By Si-Eun Park and Jun-Ho Cha

seeker@hankyung.com

Yeonhee Kime edited this article

[Click to view image](#)

Document ECODEN0020220215ei2f0002x

Companies

**Genie Music sets itself apart with focus on metaverse, NFTs**

433 words

14 February 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network

Audio streaming platform Genie Music Corp. has held four metaverse concerts for K-pop singer Jamie Park so far this month.

At one point during the concerts, up to 300,000 concertgoers logged on to watch the metaverse concert LISTEN.

Genie Music, a subsidiary of KT Corp., specializes in the production and distribution of music content. The company collaborated with Haegin Co. to host the concert on the latter's online game platform PlayTogether.

The four concerts were respectively timed with the Korean, North American, Southeast Asian, and European time zones in mind.

Over the course of two days, Google Search results for Jamie Park and K-pop skyrocketed more than 1,000% in Southeast Asia. In Taiwan, searches related to Genie Music surged 800%.

Metaverse concerts are part of Genie Music's new business plans to target the global market.

"We began hosting metaverse concerts to differentiate ourselves in the already crowded audio streaming industry," CEO Park Hyun-jin said. "This year onward, we will launch new businesses in the metaverse, NFT, and AI-based music production sectors."

Park is a veteran in B2C marketing, having served at the parent company KT's marketing department for years.

Telecommunication and audio streaming markets are similar in that the competitors have to battle it out within set market boundaries.

In terms of competing for users' time, the streaming service providers not only compete against each other but also with other content providers such as Netflix or Naver Webtoon.

"In a market where the pie size is fixed, growth is unlikely unless you can create new services," Park said.

This is why the new CEO is turning to NFTs.

Park's plan is to turn live concert streaming footages, past music ranking, or even related data into tokens.

"Genie Music has a large amount of data that can satisfy music fans' needs."

Artificial intelligence-based music production is set to grow as well.

The company will increase the amount of background music, sports team anthems, and ASMR (autonomous sensory meridian response) content created by AI.

The Genie Music AI ASMR service that began last November saw a triple-fold jump in usage this month.

"With the increasing number of users in their teens and 20s, we will continue to increase the AI ASMR content," explained Park.

The company is also eyeing ways to incorporate the AI-created music business into the metaverse.

By Han-gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

Jee Abbey Lee edited this article.

Page 95 of 131 © 2022 Factiva, Inc. All rights reserved.

[VR content by Genie Music's own idol group SF9](#)

Document ECODEN0020220214ei2e0005m



Companies

**Genie Music to set itself apart with focus on metaverse, NFT**

434 words

14 February 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

Copyright 2022. KED Global News Network

Audio streaming platform Genie Music Corp. held four metaverse concerts for K-pop singer Jamie Park so far this month.

At one point during the concerts, up to 300,000 concert goers logged onto watch the metaverse concert dubbed L1STEN.

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Park is a veteran in B2C marketing, having served at the parent company KT's marketing department for years.

Telecommunication and audio streaming markets are similar in that the competitors have to fight each other within the set market boundary.

In terms of competing for users' time, the streaming service providers not only compete against each other but also with any other content providers such as Netflix or Naver Webtoon.

"In a market where the pie size is fixed, growth is unlikely unless you can create new services," Park said.

This is why the new CEO is turning to NFTs.

The plan is to turn live concert streaming footages, past music ranking, or even related data into tokens to sell. Park said, "Genie Music has a large amount of data that can satisfy music fans' needs."

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The company is eyeing ways to bring the AI-created music business onto metaverse.

By Han-gyeol Seon

always@hankyung.com

Jee Abbey Lee edited this article.

[VR content by Genie Music's own idol group SF9](#)

Document ECODEN0020220214ei2e0002w

## KT Focusing on Global AI and Cloud Businesses

401 words

11 February 2022

Business Korea Daily News

BKORDN

English

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Starting with an artificial intelligence (AI) speaker **partnership** with Amazon, KT is expanding the scope of cooperation with Amazon. In the process of KT's transition to a digital **platform** company (Digico), this **partnership** is expected to provide a bridgehead for KT to explore overseas markets.

KT announced on Feb. 10 that it will release GiGA Genie Dual-Brain AI that combines Amazon's AI assistant Alexa and KT's AI speaker GiGA Genie. This service allows customers to use KT's GiGA Genie AI and Amazon's Alexa AI on a single GiGA Genie speaker. Anyone who uses GiGA Genie 3 can use it without purchasing a separate service. It will also be applied to GiGA Genie 1 and 2 in the first half of 2022. The number of GiGA Genie users in Korea stands at about 3.1 million.

Respective call names can initiate GiGA Genie and Alexa. That is to say, you can say "Genie" for the GiGA Genie Service and "Alexa" for the Alexa Service. However, Alexa can offer English services only. Customers can use original content such as foreign music, news, sports broadcasts, and podcasts provided by the Alexa Service.

Major services offered via Alexa include the radio streaming service Tune-in, news and information services such as CNN, Fox, and TED, Amazon Audio Book Service Audible. The KT AI speaker can be linked to more than 130,000 Alexa-only service apps (Skills) and more than 140,000 internet of things (IoT) devices, too.

KT and Amazon have been preparing to expand joint businesses since 2021. GiGA Genie Dual Brain AI is the result of the two companies' cooperation.

In addition, the two companies are in talks over the introduction of multi-cloud services between Amazon Web Services (AWS) and KT Cloud in the cloud computing sector and KT Studio Genie, Amazon Studio, and Spotify in the content business.

<div class="lt-toolbar\_\_wrapper" style="left: 568px; position: absolute !important; top: 394px !important; bottom: auto !important; z-index: auto;"><div class="lt-toolbar\_\_premium-icon"></div><div class="lt-toolbar\_\_status-icon lt-toolbar\_\_status-icon-has-no-errors" title="LanguageTool - Spelling and Grammar Check"></div></div></div>

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=87408>

Document BKORDN0020220211ei2b00032

**KT on course to become digital platform company**

411 words

10 February 2022

Korea Times

KORTIM

English

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KT's AI secretary service, installed at a bakery in Seoul, helps a store owner by taking reservations, in this Oct. 25 photo. Courtesy of KT

By Baek Byung-yeul

KT's business strategy to become a digital platform company, providing media, a mobile platform, artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing services, is making successful changes, generating meaningful earnings performance.

The telecommunications company unveiled its earnings for 2021, Wednesday, and 40 percent of its sales occurred in its non-telecommunications businesses. The company announced that its sales and operating profit for 2021 stood at 24.89 trillion won (\$20.8 billion) and 1.67 trillion won, respectively, up 4.1 percent and 41.2 percent from a year ago.

The company had aimed to generate an operating profit of more than 1 trillion won in 2022, but achieved the goal earlier than expected.

'We achieved our 2022 operating profit target early in 2021 thanks to stable sales growth in the telecom sector and the expansion of the business-to-business platform business through our digital transformation effort,' Kim Young-jin, the chief finance officer of KT, told investors.

Kim added that the company will achieve around 50 percent of its sales from business-to-business services and digital platform services by 2025, excluding traditional telecommunications, such as wired and wireless telecommunications and internet service sectors.

The company's DIGICO B2B division, which supervises cloud computing, AI and the internet data center (IDC) business for corporate customers, generated sales of 2.03 trillion won, up 2.5 percent year-on-year. Among these B2B services, cloud computing and the IDC business saw double-digit growth of 17.6 percent.

'In the recent government-led Digital New Deal and Green New Deal projects, KT is the only company in Korea that can provide integrated network, IDC and cloud services,' the CFO said, adding, 'We plan to focus on securing orders in the public sector by all public institutions' cloud conversion plans.'

Sales for the DIGICO B2C division, which supervises paid TV services and other mobile platform businesses, grew 5.8 percent year-on-year thanks to the expansion of mobile pay and media businesses.

Its internet protocol television (IPTV) service saw a 6.1-percent increase in sales year-on-year to retain the top market share position. This increase was possible due to the steady rise in the numbers of subscribers, the company added.

Document KORTIM0020220210ei2a00007

## **RUSSIA: MTS AND SOUTH KOREA'S KT CORPORATION TEAM UP IN DATA CENTERS AND AI**

137 words

10 February 2022

Business World Magazine

BUWMAE

English

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Russian mobile operator MTS and South Korean telecom company KT Corporation have signed a cooperation memorandum to set up a joint venture to build data centers, develop solutions based on artificial intelligence and produce media **content**, MTS said on February 9 in a statement.

MTS will use KT Corporation's experience and expertise in construction and exploitation of data processing centers on the territory of Russia.

The companies will develop solutions with artificial intelligence by merging KT's voice recognition service GiGA Genie and video analytics solutions by MTS AI, MTS' unit.

Under the memorandum, the firms will produce media content and launch it on the global market through MTS' e-cinema Kion and KT's subsidiaries StudioGenie and Seezn. (Prime/Business World Magazine)

Document BUWMAE0020220210ei2a0002u

**Public.**

**Afk Sistema OAO - MTS and Korea's KT Corp to cooperate in data centers, AI solutions, media content**

Afk Sistema OAO published this content on 09 Feb 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 15 Feb 2022 15:54:53 UTC.

125 words

9 February 2022

Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

LCDVP

English

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

MTS and Korea's KT Corp to cooperate in data centers, AI solutions, media content

MTS and Korea's KT Corp to cooperate in data centers, AI solutions, media content

\* [Original Link](#)

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Document LCDVP00020220215ei2900ir4



**MTS, KT to partner on data centres, AI services, media content**

114 words

9 February 2022

Telecompaper Europe

TELEUR

English

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Russian operator MTS has signed a memorandum on strategic cooperation with the Korea's KT. The parties will together launch data centres and develop joint AI services and media content.

MTS and KT will form a joint venture, using the know-how of KT to build and operate data centres in Russia. The partners will also develop AI services using the GiGA Genia speech recognition service from KT and AI systems from MTS AI, a subsidiary of MTS.

The joint production and global promotion of media content will be carried out using MTS' Kion media platform, together with KT units StudioGenie and Sneeze.

Document TELEUR0020220209ei29000jh



**MTS, KT to partner on data centres, AI services, media content**

114 words

9 February 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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Document TELASI0020220209ei29000gp



**Russia's MTS, Korea's KT Corp to partner on data centres, AI**

160 words

9 February 2022

12:46

Reuters News

LBA

English

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MOSCOW, Feb 9 (Reuters) - Russia's largest mobile operator MTS on Wednesday said it had signed a deal with South Korea's KT Corp to develop data centres, AI-based solutions and media **content** projects.

MTS is one of several Russian companies developing services beyond its core business, including MTS Bank, e-commerce and streaming service KION. In December it signed a deal to acquire biometrics company VisionLabs.

MTS in a statement said it plans to leverage telecom service provider KT's experience as a data centre operator in building and managing MTS's cloud facilities in Russia.

"In addition, the companies plan to strengthen their strategic partnership in developing joint solutions leveraging AI technology, combining KT's GiGa Genie voice recognition service and MTS AI's solutions in video analytics," the statement said. (Reporting by Alexander Marrow; Editing by Mark Porter)

Released: 2022-2-9T13:46:36.000Z

Document LBA0000020220209ei2902hnt

**Russia's MTS, Korea's KT Corp to partner on data centres, AI**

158 words

9 February 2022

13:11

Reuters News

LBA

English

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"In addition, the companies plan to strengthen their strategic partnership in developing joint solutions leveraging AI technology, combining KT's GiGa Genie voice recognition service and MTS AI's solutions in video analytics," the statement said.

(Reporting by Alexander Marrow; Editing by Mark Porter)

Released: 2022-2-9T13:11:50.000Z

Document LBA0000020220209ei2902ktp

## MTS and KT Corporation signed a memorandum

488 words

9 February 2022

AK&M

AKMENG

English

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MTS and KT Corporation signed a memorandum on strategic cooperation in the development of new business areas, including the creation of data centers, joint solutions based on artificial intelligence, as well as media **content**. This is stated in the MTS message. According to the terms of the memorandum, MTS plans to use KT's experience and expertise in the construction and operation of data centers in Russia. To do this, the companies plan to create a joint venture. MTS and KT intend to develop a strategic **partnership** in the development of joint solutions using AI technologies by combining KT's GiGA Genie voice recognition service and video analytics solutions from MTS AI, a subsidiary of MTS. The memorandum also provides for the joint production of media **content** and its launch on the global market through **partnership** with the multimedia **platform** KION from MTS and subsidiary media companies KT - StudioGenie and Seezn.

KT Corporation is one of the largest providers of integrated wired and wireless telecom services and a provider of ICT solutions in South Korea. By the end of 2020, KT Group served 57.2 million customers, including 22 million mobile subscribers, 14.2 million fixed-line subscribers, 9 million fixed broadband users and 12 million pay TV subscribers. Subsidiaries, branches and representative offices of KT operate in 15 countries. KT Group develops and offers solutions in the field of video analytics and security, AI, IoT, media and esports, has a network of data centers in Korea and Asian countries, providing various digital services on their basis. KT promotes the OTT TV platform Seezn and produces video content at its affiliated studios KT Alpha, Skylife TV and Studio Genie. PJSC "Mobile TeleSystems" (MTS, TIN 7740000076) together with its subsidiaries serves about 100 million mobile subscribers in Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, Turkmenistan. The company also provides fixed-line and cable TV services in all federal districts of Russia and in Ukraine. The authorized capital of MTS is 199.84 million rubles (1998381575 outstanding ordinary registered shares). MTS' RAS net profit for the first half of 2021 increased by 25.58% to 33.38 billion rubles from 26.37 billion rubles a year earlier. Revenue increased by 3.7% to 180.2 billion rubles from 173.74 billion rubles, gross profit - by 2.9% to 92.41 billion rubles from 89.79 billion rubles, profit before tax - by 30% to 40.2 billion rubles from 30.82 billion rubles. MTS net profit (attributable to shareholders) under IFRS for the second quarter of 2021 increased by 46.5% to RUB 17.2 billion from RUB 11.8 billion a year earlier. Revenue increased by 10.6% to 128.6 billion rubles from 116.2 billion rubles, adjusted OIBDA - by 10.2% to 57.2 billion rubles from 51.9 billion rubles, operating profit - by 15.5% to 30.4 billion rubles from 26.3 billion rubles.

Document AKMENG0020220209ei29001jn



## **MTS, South Korea's KT Corporation team up in data centers, AI**

136 words

9 February 2022

09:21

Prime News

PRTASS

English

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MOSCOW, Feb 9 (PRIME) -- Russian mobile operator MTS and South Korean telecom company KT Corporation have signed a cooperation memorandum to set up a joint venture to build data centers, develop solutions based on artificial intelligence, and produce media **content**, MTS said on Wednesday in a statement.

MTS will use KT Corporation's experience and expertise in construction and exploitation of data processing centers on the territory of Russia.

The companies will develop solutions with artificial intelligence by merging KT's voice recognition service GiGA Genie and video analytics solutions by MTS AI, MTS' unit.

Under the memorandum, the firms will produce media content and launch it on the global market through MTS' e-cinema Kion and KT's subsidiaries StudioGenie and Seezn.

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Document PRTASS0020220209ei2900209



## **MTS, South Korea's KT Corporation team up in data centers, AI**

136 words

9 February 2022

09:20

Prime News

PRTASS

English

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Document PRTASS0020220209ei29001xh

**OAQ MTS - MTS and Korea's KT Corp to Cooperate in Data Centers, AI Solutions, Media Content**

OAQ MTS - Mobilnye TeleSistemy published this content on 09 Feb 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained herein. Distributed by PUBT, unedited and unaltered, on 09 Feb 2022 08:33:14 UTC. 577 words

9 February 2022

Public Companies News and Documents via PUBT

LCDVP

English

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**MTS and Korea's KT Corp to Cooperate in Data Centers, AI Solutions, Media Content**

MOSCOW, Russia - Mobile TeleSystems Public Joint Stock Company ("MTS" or "the Company") (NYSE: MBT; MOEX: MTSS), Russia's largest mobile operator and a leading provider of media and digital services, together with KT Corporation ("KT"), a leading Korean company in information and communications technology (ICT), have signed a memorandum of strategic cooperation to develop new business directions, including building data centers and joint AI-based solutions, as well as media content projects.

According to the terms of the agreement, MTS plans to leverage KT's expertise as Korea's largest data center operator in building and managing MTS's cloud facilities in Russia. In addition, the companies plan to strengthen their strategic partnership in developing joint solutions leveraging AI technology, combining KT's GiGa Genie voice recognition service and MTS AI's solutions in video analytics. The memorandum also provides for joint production and global distribution of media content under a partnership between MTS's KION multimedia platform and KT's subsidiaries StudioGenie and Seezn.

MTS President & CEO Viacheslav Nikolaev commented: "MTS has gained the opportunity to learn from and work together with our Korean partners, who bring first-rate expertise in localizing data processing and storage for global internet services. On our side, MTS's ecosystem can offer unique capabilities in developing and deploying computer vision and video analytics, which are of interest to our partners. And, of course, MTS and KT's combined audience of tens of millions of viewers can get expanded access to Russian and Korean films - and in the future to our joint media content."

KT President Yun Kyounglim said: "By collaborating with MTS, Russia's largest telecom operator, we have the opportunity to expand Digico KT's capabilities globally. Based on Korea's best IDC business competency and AI capability accumulated by AI One Team, we will make our best efforts to lead the global market, and we look forward to contributing to the cultural development of the two countries by sharing K-contents recognized worldwide."

**About KT Corporation**

KT Corporation is one of South Korea's largest providers of integrated wireline and wireless telecom services and a provider of ICT solutions. By the end of 2020, KT Group served 57.2 million customers, including 22 million mobile subscribers, 14.2 million fixed-line subscribers, 9 million fixed broadband users, and 12 million pay TV subscribers.

KT's operations span subsidiaries, branches, and representative offices in 15 countries. KT Group develops and offers solutions across video analytics and security, artificial intelligence, information technology, and media and e-sports. The company operates a network of data centers in Korea and other Asian countries that host a variety of digital services. KT operates the Seezn TV streaming platform and produces video content under its subsidiaries KT Alpha, Skylife TV, and Studio Genie.

\* [Original Link](#)

**Disclaimer**

MTS - Mobile TeleSystems OJSC published this content on 09 February 2022 and is solely responsible for the information contained therein. Distributed by [Public](#), unedited and unaltered, on 09 February 2022 08:35:21 UTC.

Document LCDVP00020220209ei29008yf

## **Savills Korea, KT to jointly deploy submarine cable in APAC**

191 words

9 February 2022

Telecompaper Asia

TELASI

English

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Savills Korea and KT have agreed to jointly develop a submarine cable in APAC. The new cable, with a total length of 9,000 km, will land in 6 APAC countries, connecting South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore.

Under the terms of the agreement, KT will conduct consulting based on its experience in design, construction, and operation of submarine **cables**. KT will also participate as a strategic investor. Savills Korea will be in charge of asset management, services such as business planning and implementation, attracting investors, contracting, and licensing.

KT has submarine cable infrastructure in Korea, including the Asia-Pacific Gateway (APG) and New Cross Pacific Cable System (NCP).

Savills Korea is the South Korean branch of Savills, a global real estate service provider established in 1855, and provides consulting services in commercial real estate businesses, including data centers. Savills Korea reports it was involved in data center transactions with a total of 140MW in the Seoul metropolitan area, including two data centers established and operated by a joint venture between Equinix and GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund.

Document TELASI0020220209ei290005I

**Table: KTIS Corp. FY Standalone Net KRW24.94B Vs KRW7.39B**

87 words

9 February 2022

08:04

Dow Jones Institutional News

DJDN

English

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KTIS Corp. - South Korea  
FY ended Dec. 31  
Figures in Korean Won  
Standalone

	2021	2020
Revenue	KRW468.00B	KRW453.64B
Operating Profit	KRW14.41B	KRW9.00B
Net Profit	KRW24.94B	KRW7.39B

Results are preliminary and unaudited.

Source: Financial Supervisory Service - Korea

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(END) Dow Jones Newswires

February 09, 2022 03:04 ET (08:04 GMT)

Document DJDN000020220209ei2900125



World

## **KT works with MTS to build internet data centers in Russia**

Lim Chang-won

316 words

9 February 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL --South Korea's top telecom company will set up a joint venture with Mobile Telesystems (MTS), a leading mobile network operator in Russia. They will work together to build internet data centers in Russia, cooperate in artificial intelligence-based video and voice solution technology, exchange media **content**, and secure intellectual property rights. Under a memorandum of understanding, KT will support the establishment and operation of data centers in Russia by utilizing its know-how. Many servers, routers and switches are managed autonomously at internet data centers. The South Korean company will help MTS upgrade its AI video security solution, promote IP co-production between KT's media subsidiaries and an over-the-top **platform** run by MTS.

"It will be an opportunity to upgrade KT's digital transformation capabilities," KT's group transformation division head Yoon Kyung-lim said in a statement on February 9. He said that the partnership with MTS would serve as an opportunity to introduce KT's DNA to the world.

Through cooperation in the AI smart speaker sector, MTS can grow as a platform operator. "We look forward to expanding the media market through cooperation in MTS' computer vision and video analysis capabilities and content exchanges between the two companies," MTS CEO Vyacheslav Nikolaev was quoted as saying.

In 2021, KT adopted an AI-based data management solution to effectively manage internet data centers and reduce electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Because servers and computers generate a lot of heat, data centers use electricity to control the air temperature and humidity inside the building. If a data center fails to keep its machines cool, servers will break down.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwlim34@ajunews.com

<https://image.ajunews.com/content/image/2022/02/09/20220209111009808102.jpg>

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Document AJUENG0020220209ei290002t

## KT's platform for trading NFTs opens next month

379 words

8 February 2022

Korea JoongAng Daily

JOONAI

English

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KT will open its non-fungible token (NFT) trading platform KT NFT next month, kicking off with NFTs of webtoons and web novels published by its web content subsidiary KT Storywiz. KT NFT platform will start as a beta service for the first half of ...

KT will open its non-fungible token (NFT) trading platform KT NFT next month, kicking off with NFTs of webtoons and web novels published by its web content subsidiary KT Storywiz.

KT NFT platform will start as a beta service for the first half of this year as laws on cryptocurrencies and digital assets are still in the process of taking shape in Korea, the telecom company said on Tuesday.

It will offer webtoon and web novel NFTs and then expand to other assets that KT owns, ranging from sports to real estate. Detailed plans have not been decided, according to a KT spokesperson.

The telecom has been accelerating its digital asset businesses in recent months.

Its Kosdaq-listed internet service subsidiary, KT Alpha, signed an agreement with the Korea Real Estate Investment & Trust (Koreit) and crypto trading platform Huobi Korea on Jan. 14.

Through the deal, the three companies will jointly develop a trading system for virtual real estate assets and other items.

On Jan. 17, the company also carried out a 400-billion-won (\$334 million) stock swap with Shinhan Bank to collaborate on artificial intelligence (AI) and the metaverse. Through the deal, KT acquired a 2.1 percent share of Shinhan Financial Group and Shinhan Bank acquired 5.46 percent of KT shares.

On Jan. 22, KT sold five digital NFT cards of its baseball team KT Wiz to celebrate its first-ever winning of the Korean Series last year.

"NFT is an important keyword to lead digital innovation, but we need a healthy ecosystem for the long term growth of the industry as a whole," said Kim Young-sik, senior vice president of KT's digital transformation unit. "KT will lead the ecosystem using the capabilities and assets that it owns."

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

[Click here to see image](#)

KT will start its non-fungible token (NFT) trading platform KT NFT next month. [KT]

Document JOONAI0020220208ei28000ul

Entertainment

**KT to join submarine cable project connecting Asia**

299 words

8 February 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

South Korean telecommunication firm KT announced Monday plans to take part in a new 9,000-kilometer subsea cable project reaching six countries in East Asia and Southeast Asia, as an owner and operator.

With the new project, KT aims to meet a growing corporate demand for greater **connectivity** to achieve digital transformation.

KT signed a memorandum of understanding with real estate consulting firm Savills Korea on Monday to launch and operate the submarine cable, connecting six countries -- Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines.

KT will carry out a strategic investment in the cable as a member of a consortium dedicated to the project, while it will provide consulting for the cable architecture, construction and operation. Savills Korea will play a role of attracting more investors to the project and managing legal procedures such as contracting and licensing.

"We expect the subsea cable market to grow further as we see more demand for cloud services and over-the-top media services across Asia," Shin Soo-jung, head of KT Enterprise, said in a statement.

KT has yet to determine how much it will invest and which city or cities it will be wired.

So far, three coastal cities in Korea -- Busan, Geoje in South Gyeongsang Province and Taean, South Chungcheong Province -- are linked to subsea fiber cables. KT owns a stake in two such cables -- the Asia Pacific Gateway and New Cross Pacific Cable System.

[Click here to see image](#)

A visual concept of a fiber optics network cable (123rf)

[Click here to see image](#)

Shin Soo-jung (left), head of KT Enterprise, and Savills Korea CEO Lee Soo-jeong pose for a photo during a signing ceremony at a KT office in Songpa-gu, Seoul, Monday. (KT)

Document KORHER0020220207ei28000xd



## KT and Savills plan subsea cable linking 6 APAC countries

511 words

7 February 2022

Optical Networks Daily

OBSERV

English

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KT and Savills Korea announced plans for a new 9,000 km submarine cable system linking 6 countries in APAC: South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Philippines, and Singapore.

Savills Korea and KT held an MOU signing ceremony at KT's Songpa office building located at Songpa-gu, Seoul. KT will conduct consulting based on its years of experience in design, construction, and operation of submarine **cables**. KT will also participate as a strategic investor. Savills Korea will be in charge of Asset Management, services such as business planning and implementation, attracting investors, contracting, and licensing. The partners are seeking support from global **cloud** operators and telecommunications operators.

KT also participates in the Asia-Pacific Gateway (APG) and New Cross Pacific Cable System (NCP) projects.

Savills Korea is the South Korean branch of Savills, a global real estate service provider established in 1855, and provides consulting services in commercial real estate businesses, including data centers. Savills Korea was involved in data center transactions with a total of 140WM in the Seoul metropolitan area, including two data centers established and operated by a joint venture between Equinix and GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund.

Crystal Soojeong Lee, CEO of Savills Korea commented "The partnership with KT is a fruit of our consistent effort to broaden the extents of services we provide. Unprecedented synergy effect is expected through Savills' abundant network and KT's professional technology."

Soo-jung Shin, the head of KT Enterprise added "Demand derived from services such as DX-based cloud services and OTT falls upon not only South Korea, but the entire Asian region and submarine cable industry is anticipated to expand even further. We look forward to reinforcing our hegemony in the market in cooperation with Savills Korea."

<https://en.savills.co.kr/insight-and-opinion/savills-news/205201/20220207-savills-kr---kt-mou>

[Equinix and Singapore's GIC to build 2 hyperscale data centers in Seoul](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 [Data Centers](#), [Equinix](#), [Korea](#)

Equinix and GIC, SINGAPORE'S sovereign wealth fund, agreed to form a US\$525 million joint venture to develop and operate two xScale data centers in Seoul, Korea. GIC will own an 80% equity interest in the joint venture, and Equinix will own the remaining 20% equity interest. The two facilities under this joint venture, to be named SL2x and SL3x, are expected to provide more than 45 megawatts (MW) of power capacity to serve the unique core workload...

[READ MORE](#)

[Digital Realty opens carrier-neutral data center in Seoul](#)

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 [Data Centers](#), [Digital Realty](#), [Korea](#)

Digital Realty inaugurated its first data center in South Korea. Digital Seoul 1 (ICN10) will serve as a gateway to global expansion for enterprises in Korea to scale their digital business into new markets globally, and vice versa. ICN10 is a multi-story, 12-megawatt facility spanning 22,000 square feet and is strategically located in the northwest region of Seoul within the Sangam Digital Media City, a newly developed urban planning zone populated...

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Document OBSERV0020220208ei2700003

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## Game Developer -Play Together Collaborates with Genie Music to Host **Metaverse** Music Talk Show 'L1STEN'

639 words

7 February 2022

ENP Newswire

ENPNEW

English

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Release date - 04022022

Genie Music wants everyone to 'L1STEN' to this **Metaverse** Music Talk Show' .

In collaboration with the Korean AI audio platform Genie Music, Mobile game developer HAEGIN will be premiering the metaverse music talk show 'L1STEN' in its mobile casual social network game 'Play Together'.

The metaverse music talk show 'L1STEN' is a new type of concert that mixes music and game, reality and virtual reality. For the past 3 months, both companies worked together to prepare a lively experience for the in-game concert. The audience will feel as if they are at a real concert, seeing the in-game avatars of the artist and featuring singers performing on a virtual stage that's being lit up by dazzling stage lights.

L1STEN will premiere on Feb. 4th 7pm UTC+9 with 'JAMIE' Park Jimin as the first guest. First making her name on the music audition TV program 'K-Pop Star' as a teenager, JAMIE is a solo female artist that is well known for her musical talents and has established her own music world. She will be appearing on stage in front of and communicate with the global users in the metaverse world of Play Together.

The concert will feature songs that represent the life story of JAMIE. All songs have been handpicked by JAMIE herself. The concert will also premiere the stage performance of the song 'Pity Party' that was released on Feb. 3rd. After the concert Jamie will be meeting her fans in a special place within Play Together.

The 1st concert of the musical talk show series 'L1STEN', featuring JAMIE, will be free for everybody. The concert will also be held 3 times on Feb. 5th for the global fans.

### ABOUT PLAY TOGETHER.

PLAY TOGETHER is a multiplayer casual social-network title where players can enjoy everything they want. The game provides an interesting life-like experience that fans of casual and sandbox genres may be familiar to, with an addition of various content and unique interactions. The game allows players to progress freely in a non-linear fashion. Players can customize their characters and houses by purchasing various items and socialize with their global friends without borders. Since worldwide release in April 2021, PLAY TOGETHER placed in the 1st at Top free games chart on the App Store and Google Play in Taiwan and Vietnam. The game is currently available in all countries except China in 12 languages.

Follow Us Download PLAY TOGETHER on the App Store and Google Play.

Check out issues on PLAY TOGETHER official Facebook, Instagram, and Discord.

### ABOUT HAEGIN

HAEGIN is a developer of mobile games based in Seoul, South Korea. Led by 20-year industry veteran Youngil Lee, a founding member of Com2uS Corp. well-known for the global hit RPG Summoners War, HAEGIN has received substantial investments from the Storm Ventures Fund, Tencent, and other key investors in the game industry. Since founding in 2017, HAEGIN has grown to include over 100 people who work passionately to create uniquely entertaining games that players from all over the world can enjoy. Its first title, Homerun Clash is a fresh take on the arcade-style home run derby genre with more than 5 million downloads and is currently the 13th and 17th highest grossing sports game on Google Play and the App Store respectively. After successful debut of futuristic close-quarter action title Overdox and multiplayer golf brawl title Extreme Golf, HAEGIN launched their latest casual social-network title Play Together on April 2021. The company is planning to utilize its expertise in developing global hits to expand its lineup in the future, including sports game, RPG, and more.

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



World

**KT to work with Savills Korea to establish submarine cable in Asia-Pacific region**

Kim Joo-heon

379 words

7 February 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Gettyimages Bank]SEOUL --Through collaboration with the South Korean branch of Savills, a global real estate services provider based in London, South Korea's top telecom company KT will build a 9,000 kilometer (5,592 miles)-long submarine fiber-optic cable network that will connect six Asia-Pacific region countries including South Korea, Japan and Singapore targeting rapidly growing demands for high-capacity data delivery **infrastructure**. Submarine **cables** are key facilities that enable communication between countries and continents. About 90 percent of the data is delivered between countries using optical **cables**. According to global telecommunication equipment company Cisco, the world's annual Internet usage is projected to increase by 220 percent to 4.8 zettabytes in 2022 from 1.5 zettabytes in 2017. One zettabyte is one billion terabytes.

KT said in a statement on February 7 that the company signed a memorandum of understanding with Savills Korea to establish and operate the submarine optical cable network. The two companies will also cooperate to secure global cloud and telecommunications service operators. While Savills Korea carries out asset management projects such as contracting, licensing and attracting investors, KT will be in charge of the construction and operation of the new fiber-optic cable network.

"Demand derived from services such as digital transformation-based cloud services and over-the-top (OTT) falls upon not only South Korea, but the entire Asian region and submarine cable industry is anticipated to expand even further," KT's enterprise division head Shin Soo-jung was quoted as saying. KT said there have been growing demands for the stable operation of submarine cables due to the popularization of OTT video services and digital transformation of companies. The global OTT market is expected to reach \$1,039 billion by 2027.

KT currently has the widest submarine cable infrastructure in South Korea including the Asia-Pacific Gateway. The cable was demonstrated in the 2018 Winter Olympics in the eastern ski resort of Pyeongchang to cover South Korea and eight other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Kim Joo-heon Reporter jhkim123@ajunews.com

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jhkim123@ajunews.com

Document AJUENG0020220207ei27000gp



World

**K-pop singer Jamie to perform in **metaverse**-based music and talk show**

Kim Joo-heon

338 words

4 February 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Courtesy of Genie Music]SEOUL --Jamie, South Korea's singer who gained popularity by winning the first season of survival audition program "K-pop Star," will showcase her new English single "Pity Party" on a **metaverse**-based live music and talk show. The 24-year-old singer will sing and interact with global fans using her avatar in an online virtual fan meeting event. **Metaverse** is a virtual world that can be accessed using smartphones, PCs, or **virtual reality** headsets. Users can engage in various social and cultural activities using their personalized characters called "avatars."

Genie Music, the online music service wing of South Korea's largest telecom company KT, said in a statement that Jamie will be invited to "L1STEN," a metaverse-based live music and talk show at 7 p.m. (1000 GMT) on February 4. Through collaboration with mobile game company Haegin, Genie Music will hold the event through "Play Together," a metaverse gaming platform with more than 4 million daily active users.

Jamie will go back and forth between reality and virtual space in a four-dimensional live performance. After the performance, Jamie will move to an online fan meeting venue and communicate with fans for about 15 minutes. During the performance, Jamie will also collaborate with a virtual singer.

"A totally new four-dimensional music and talk show was created by combining exotic content music with games through a metaverse space," Genie Music official Kim Jung-wook was quoted as saying.

Jamie, who spent her childhood in Thailand attending a British international school, garnered attention during the K-pop Star audition in 2012 after singing "Rolling in the Deep." With her fluent English skills, she has participated in a K-pop talk show called "After School Club" on Arirang TV as a host.

Kim Joo-heon Reporter jhkim123@ajunews.com

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jhkim123@ajunews.com

Document AJUENG0020220204ei240002t

World

**KT provides cloud computing service for metaverse-based education platform**

Park Sae-jin

289 words

4 February 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

Copyright 2022. AJU NEWS CORPORATION

[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL -- South Korea's top telecom company KT and its information technology service wing KTDS have provided a **cloud** computing backup service to a domestic **metaverse**-based **education platform**. The telecom company integrated its artificial intelligence chatbot solution capable of answering customers' questions and complaints.

A **metaverse** is an online virtual world where users can access using a computer, smartphone, or a **virtual reality** (VR) device. The virtual world can create various environments so that users can communicate or engage in social activities, attend classes, or play games with other users. According to Emergen Research, a market research firm, the global **metaverse** market is projected to reach \$828.9 billion in 2028.

KT said in a statement on February 4 that the company provided its cloud computing backup service for "Elifun," a metaverse-based education platform operated by Etoos, a domestic online and offline education service company. KTDS provided an AI-based robot processing automation (RPA) solution package including AI chatbot and big data-based customer prediction solutions.

Using KTDS' metaverse development solution, Etoos launched Elifun in December 2021. The metaverse-based online education platform can create virtual classrooms and study rooms. The platform can also provide students with daily tests and AI-based study managers.

"The cloud backup service and AI-based RPA solution have become a strong foundation that houses new education business models integrated with study platforms and metaverse solutions," KT's cloud and data center business division head Yun Dong-sik was quoted as saying.

Park Sae-jin Reporter swatchsjp@ajunews.com

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Document AJUENG0020220204ei2400001

Entertainment

## **KT to set up medical checkup centers in Russia with Medsi Group**

365 words

4 February 2022

The Korea Herald

KORHER

English

(c) 2022 The Korea Herald

South Korean communication technology firm KT said Thursday it would join hands with Russia's Medsi Group to establish health checkup centers in the country, which has been experiencing a lack of access to medical **infrastructure** for clinical diagnostics.

The two companies look to complete a feasibility review of the medical centers in Moscow and Vladivostok within this year, according to KT. The new centers will feature Korean-style health examination services, reflecting Russians' inclination to medical tourism in Korea, which hosted 30,000 visitors from the country each year before the COVID-19 outbreak, it added.

KT's digital transformation division will also work to develop systems for remote delivery of health care services and use artificial intelligence and cloud technology to enhance the telemedicine capacity. KT's technologies will be integrated with Medsi, which operates over 90 private medical centers across Russia in cities including Moscow, St. Petersburg and Izhevsk.

The two companies also announced plans to set up a joint venture in Russia in the future, in a move to secure a footing for further expansion to other cities in Russia and its bordering countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The joint project will lay a cornerstone for a health care belt in Russia connecting its major cities, not only Moscow and Vladivostok, but others as well, said KT's head of group transformation, Yoon Kyung-lim.

"We aim to contribute to Russian citizens' health care management and boost KT's digital health care business, by setting up a first batch of the health care belt across Russia that connects cities including Moscow and Vladivostok," Yoon said in a statement.

The news came a few months after Medsi's parent company Sistema signed an agreement to cooperate in the area of health care in late 2021. Under the terms, Sistema and KT also agreed to develop an internet data center in Russia.

[Click here to see image](#)

Meds Group Chairwoman Elena Brusilova (left) and KT's head of group transformation Yoon Kyung-lim pose for a photo during a signing ceremony held at Sistema headquarters in Moscow. (KT)

Document KORHER0020220203ei24000gp

## **MEDSI and KT Corporation have agreed to cooperate**

402 words

3 February 2022

AK&M

AKMENG

English

(c) 2022 AK&M Information Agency

MEDSI Group of Companies and KT Corporation signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare. This was reported by AFK Sistema. Within the framework of the **partnership**, which develops previously reached agreements on cooperation between AFK Sistema, whose **investment** portfolio includes MEDSI, and KT Corporation, it is planned to implement a joint project on the territory of the Russian Federation to create a network of innovative diagnostic centers where a wide range of check-up programs will be available to patients. The level of medical care in clinics will correspond to the most modern world practices of diagnosis and treatment of patients. In the new medical institutions, the area of each of which will be from 1.5 thousand m<sup>2</sup> to 3 thousand m<sup>2</sup>, patients will be able to undergo a wide range of express examinations – from complex to narrow-profile. The opening of the first two centers in Moscow and Vladivostok is planned for next year.

To implement further cooperation, a visit of the MEDSI delegation to the Republic of Korea is planned to familiarize with the work of Korean check-up diagnostic centers. MEDSI doctors will be able to undergo additional professional training both on the basis of Korean clinics and during trainings on the basis of MEDSI medical centers. KT Corporation is the first and largest telecommunications company in the Republic of Korea, founded in 1885 and operating in the field of information and communication technologies for more than 135 years. It is a multidisciplinary investment holding that unites such business areas as media, healthcare, real estate, finance and energy. One of the priority directions of the company's business development is innovations in digital business and in the field of biological health. MEDSI Group of Companies is a leading federal network of private clinics providing a full range of medical services - from primary admission and emergency medical care to high-tech diagnostics, complex surgical interventions and rehabilitation. GC MEDSI includes 91 clinics in Russia. Among them are 41 clinics in Moscow and the Moscow region (primary admission clinics, clinical diagnostic centers, children's clinics, clinical hospitals, smartLAB digital clinics), 50 clinics in the regions of Russia. MEDSI Group's assets also include medical wellness, a sanatorium, and a Home Help service. More than 4 thousand doctors work in MEDSI. MEDSI Group's revenue in 2020 amounted to 25 billion rubles.

Document AKMENG0020220203ei23002mh

## KT SELECTS KEYSIGHT 5G DEVICE TEST SOLUTION FOR 5G.

447 words

1 February 2022

Telephone IP News

TIPM

NA

Volume 33; Issue 2

English

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KT Corporation, formerly Korea Telecom, a South Korean mobile operator, has selected Keysight's 5G device test solution to verify advanced 5G new radio (NR) features critical in delivering industry-leading 5G services.

KT is committed to delivering quality nation-wide 5G **connectivity** services to consumers and businesses. The two companies initiated a collaboration more than five years ago to advance the development of 5G technology. KT selected Keysight's Protocol Research & Development (R&D) Toolset to accelerate the launch of 5G mobile **devices** that support the latest 5G NR specifications defined by 3GPP, the global standards organization. This includes 3GPP Release 16 specifications, which device makers use to support advanced 5G features.

Keysight is pleased to strengthen our collaboration with KT, a company currently supporting more than five million 5G subscribers in Korea, said Cao Peng, vice president and general manager for Keysight's wireless test group. Keysight's early availability of 3GPP Rel-16 test and conformance verification capabilities enables KT to deliver advanced wireless connectivity services, benefitting both consumers and enterprises.

KT was the first Korean telecommunications provider to launch 5G service in standalone (SA) mode, which reduces latency and power consumption for smartphone users. Keysight's Protocol R&D Toolset uses a flexible user interface that enables KT to create and execute test cases that verify 5G NR signaling protocols. The toolset also enables KT to debug errors and fully analyze results in frequency range 1 (FR1) spectrum for both 5G NR non-standalone (NSA) and SA mode.

Keysight's 5G device test solutions address a wide range of design, conformance and performance validation requirements of a growing global 5G ecosystem consisting of more than 180 mobile operators with commercial 5G networks and nearly one hundred and seventy 5G device vendors. KT and other leading 5G mobile operators in Korea, China, Japan and the U.S. rely on Keysight's 5G protocol, radio frequency (RF) and radio resource management (RRM) test toolsets to verify 5G products in accordance with industry standards and carrier acceptance plans prior to market introduction.

### About Keysight Technologies

Keysight delivers design and validation solutions that help accelerate innovation to connect and secure the world. Keysight's dedication to speed and precision extends to software-driven insights and analytics that bring tomorrow's technology products to market faster across the development lifecycle, in design simulation, prototype validation, automated software testing, manufacturing analysis, and network performance optimization and visibility in enterprise, service provider and cloud environments. Keysight generated revenues of \$4.9B in fiscal year 2021.

For more information, visit <https://www.keysight.com> or call 303/662-4748.

Document TIPM000020220126ei2100003

## KT Successfully Tests 30 km-long Fronthaul on Commercial Network

246 words

25 January 2022

Business Korea Daily News

BKORDN

English

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KT has successfully tested 30-km long-distance fronthaul in cooperation with Nokia, a global telecommunication equipment giant.

Fronthaul is defined as the fiber-based connection in RAN **infrastructure** between the baseband unit (BBU) and remote radio head (RRH).

As fronthaul currently supports a distance of up to 20 km, it is impossible to operate a wireless base station if the distance exceeds 20 km. For this reason, mobile carriers provide LTE and 5G services through regional stations.

KT is the first mobile operator in Korea to apply 30 km-long fronthaul technology to commercial 5G and LTE networks. Experts predict that this technology will ramp up the efficiency of network investment and operation by boosting the centralization of distributed units that process digital signals of wireless networks.

Commercialization of 30 km long-distance fronthaul technology is expected to be possible after replacing most of KT's network equipment with Nokia equipment.

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<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=86611>

Document BKORDN0020220125ei1p0002t

World

## **KT and Nokia verify fronthaul technology covering 30 km in commercial networks**

Lim Chang-won

268 words

24 January 2022

AJU NEWS

AJUENG

English

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[Courtesy of KT]SEOUL --In cooperation with Nokia of Finland, South Korea's top telecom company KT has successfully verified a long-distance fronthaul covering 30 kilometers (18.6 miles), laying the foundation to expand coverage and increase stability and convenience in wireless network operation. Fronthaul technology transmits wireless data signals collected from base stations to the central device.

Fronthaul is defined as the fiber-based connection in radio access network (RAN) **infrastructure** between baseband units and remote radio head. Flexible fronthaul configurations have become an essential ingredient for balancing the latency, throughput and reliability demands of advanced 5G applications. Next-generation RAN is resulting in increased fronthaul fiber deployment and a greater reliance on multiplexing, virtualization and split fronthaul architecture.

Existing fronthaul supports up to 20km intervals. If a wireless network fails, engineers from the central office should visit regional offices, leading to delays in rapid failure recovery. KT became the first Korean company to apply 30km long-distance fronthaul technology to commercial networks in both 5G and LTE.

KT said its new technology would increase network investment and operation efficiency. "KT will make consistent efforts to research and develop network structures for 6G evolution in the future while configuring a network that satisfies both 5G coverage and quality at the same time," KT's infrastructure research center head Lee Jong-sik said in a statement on January 24.

Lim Chang-won Reporter cwl34@ajunews.com

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cwl34@ajunews.com

Document AJUENG0020220124ei1o00001

Companies

**Megazone Cloud to attract up to \$336 mn for 2023 IPO**

479 words

20 January 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

ECODEN

English

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Megazone Cloud Corp., a leading cloud service provider and the first Korean business partner of Amazon Web Service (AWS), plans to attract 300 billion won to 400 billion won (\$252 million to \$336 million) in Series C Funding. Korea's telecom operator giant KT Corp., which participated in the Series A Funding via its subsidiary KT Investment Inc., is reportedly considering direct investment this time around.

If clinched, the investment will raise the cloud company's valuation to around 2 trillion won (\$1.7 billion) from the current 1.5 trillion won. The South Korean company was valued at around 600 billion won in the second closing of the Series B Funding last June.

The cloud firm's annual sales jumped from 253 billion won as of end-2020 to 900 billion won last year, putting the company in the black for the first time. These performances have been reflected in the corporate value increase, market watchers said.

Megazone Cloud is a managed service provider (MSP) that offers cloud service introduction, design, embedment and operation. The firm garnered huge attention in 2012 when it was selected as the first Korean partner of AWS. Formerly a cloud division within Korean IT company Megazone, it spun off in 2018. The cloud firm has more than 3,700 corporate clients and manages offices in the US, Canada, China, Japan, Hong Kong and Vietnam.

In the Series A Funding that took place in 2019, Megazone Cloud received a combined 49 billion won from 23 investors including state-run Korea Development Bank (KDB), Kakao Investment Co. and KT Investment. In the Series B Funding from 2020 to 2021, the firm attracted a combined 190 billion won from investors including Salesforce Ventures, global software company Salesforce's investment arm.

Megazone Cloud will use the investment to secure IT talent and for global business expansion, as well as to prepare for its initial public offering. Beyond the leading MSP, it aims to become an integrated digital platform that offers non-fungible tokens (NFTs), artificial intelligence and virtual human services. Last year, the firm selected KB Securities Co. as the bookrunner aiming for an IPO in 2023.

Meanwhile, Korea's cloud service market is rapidly growing as many corporates accelerate their digital transformation. Korean MSP Bepin Global Inc. announced last October it will seek 200 billion won in investment. In January 2021, [Bepin's CEO Lee Han-joo said](#) he aspires to cultivate Bepin to become a company with an enterprise value of 20 trillion won in 10 years.

Cloocus Co., Microsoft's Korean partner and cloud solution company, is also planning for the next funding round. It attracted 23.5 billion won in Series A Funding in 2020.

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Jihyun Kim edited this article.

[Megazone Cloud Corp.](#)

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## Megazone Cloud to attract up to \$336 mn for 2023 IPO

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20 January 2022

The Korea Economic Daily Global Edition

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English

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Megazone Cloud Corp., a leading cloud service provider and the first Korean business partner of Amazon Web Service (AWS), plans to attract 300 billion won to 400 billion won (\$252 million to \$336 million) in Series C Funding. Korea's telecom operator giant KT Corp., which participated in the Series A Funding via its subsidiary KT Investment Inc., is reportedly considering direct investment this time around.

If clinched, the investment will raise the cloud company's valuation to around 2 trillion won (\$1.7 billion) from the current 1.5 trillion won. The South Korean company was valued at around 600 billion won in the second closing of the Series B Funding last June.

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Jihyun Kim edited this article.

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