NETWORK X AMERICAS

MAY 20-22, 2025
IRVING CONVENTION CENTER AT LAS COLINAS, DALLAS, TEXAS

BEYOND THE NETWORK: CXO PERSPECTIVES ON TELECOM'S EVOLUTION

Insights from the Forefront of America's Telecommunications Revolution

Featuring exclusive interviews with industry leaders from:

- Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
- BCN Telecom
- Paradise Mobile
- T-Mobile USA

Insights on:

- 5G Expansion
- Cloud-Native Networks
- AI in Telecommunications
- Security and Scalability
- Industry Collaboration

As presented at Network X Americas

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WHAT IS T-MOBILE'S STRATEGY AND TIMELINE FOR NATIONWIDE 5G SA EXPANSION?

Egil Gronstad, Senior Director of Technology Development and Strategy for **T-Mobile USA**, shares insights on strategy and timeline for nationwide 5G SA expansion.

Q: What is T-Mobile's strategy and timeline for nationwide 5G SA expansion?
A: T-Mobile launched nationwide 5G SA on our low band 600MHz spectrum back in August of 2020. Since that time, we have expanded our 5G SA network tremendously and for the last couple of years have operated a nationwide tri-band 5G SA network with three and four Component Carrier Aggregation at low-band and mid band FDD and with our goldilocks mid-band TDD spectrum at 2.5GHz. We will continue to expand our 5G SA network in geography and spectrum depth and introduce higher order Carrier Aggregation.

Q: What was the most important criteria for successfully launching 5G SA so early?
A: In addition to relentless focus and drive from our technology leadership team, there were a few other factors that helped enable this success. A good amount of clear spectrum at low-band and mid-band that could be dedicated for 5G was very important. This way, we could offer a user throughput experience comparable to 5G NSA while avoiding all the poor performance issues with Dynamic Spectrum Sharing. Another important aspect was to facilitate live 5G SA network test environments early in order to let chip set and device OEMs test and enable 5G SA on all 5G devices. Practically speaking, all 5G devices on our network today are 5G SA capable. When most of the devices are SA capable, it is easier to justify allocation of dedicated spectrum for 5G.

Q: What was your migration path for voice services on the 5G SA network?
A: Voice over NR was not available from our vendor and ecosystem partners at the time we wanted to launch 5G SA, so we had no other choice then to use EPS Fallback for voice in the beginning of our 5G SA journey. It was not a desired solution, but it worked OK as a bridge solution until VoNR became available and mature. We put a lot of effort into co-developing and optimizing VoNR with our ecosystem partners and we launched VoNR on our nationwide 5G SA network in June 2022. Today VoNR is outperforming VoLTE performance on most metrics and in most locations.

Q: How will T-Mobile leverage network slicing in 5G SA? Are there specific industries or applications you're prioritizing?
A: T-Mobile have been working with our vendors and ecosystem partners for several years to develop and refine network slicing and related solutions. We have been working with several industry partners to leverage network slicing to fulfil their special KPI requirements for new use cases. In October we announced T-Priority, the world's first dedicated network slice for First Responders and we have multiple other opportunities in the works which leverage network slicing. We've also deployed network slicing at special events where lots of people are gathered causing high load on the network and slicing comes in handy in environments like this to ensure reliable service for critical operations such as point of sales, ticketless entry and video broadcast backhaul. To date we've deployed slicing solutions at MLB All-Star week, the KPMG Women's PGA Championship and PGA Championship and the 2023 and 2024 F1 Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Q: T-Mobile is also leading the way in terms of 5G-Advanced. What excites you the most about this technology?
A: We are already halfway through the 5G journey, and by now the T-Mobile nationwide 5G Standalone network is very advanced already. We support network slicing, 4 CC DL Carrier Aggregation, 2CC UL Carrier Aggregation, UL MIMO, RedCap and other advanced 5G capabilities. 5G Advanced for T-Mobile is just a continuation of the 5G journey that we are already on. We will continue to drive our ecosystem partners and co-develop new R17 and R18 features and capabilities over the next several years. In addition, we already support AI solutions for the RAN to gain spectral efficiency, improve the user experience and enhance network performance.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF BROADBAND: STANDARDS, SECURITY, AND SCALABILITY

Dave Stehlin, Chief Executive Officer, **Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) Speaker**

In this exclusive interview, Dave Stehlin discusses key infrastructure challenges, the impact of supply chain security, and strategies to close the telecom workforce gap.

Q: How is TIA working to establish new industry standards that ensure interoperability as broadband networks evolve, especially with the introduction of Wi-Fi 7 and beyond?
A: TIA has been helping the industry develop and manage standards for many decades. We are agnostic to technology and have driven and supported fiber, wireless, satellite, IoT and data center technical standards, among others. Additionally, our quality management and supply chain security process improvement systems are industry leading. As everything is now connected and as networks expand from the core to the consumer or business it is critical that we holistically look how standards ensure safety, security and interoperability.

TIA brings together industry experts, government policy makers and end users to develop and continuously evolve standards that address the most difficult industry problems. We currently have 5 active standards committees focused on structured cabling, mobile devices compatibility, cell towers, supply chain security, quality, and more.

Q: With increasing broadband demand, what are the key infrastructure challenges operators face today, and how is TIA supporting the industry in addressing scalability and deployment efficiency?
A: There is not a one size fits all when it comes to broadband network needs and designs. At the same time the definition of broadband is still evolving, and we can expect that bandwidth demands and anywhere access will continue to drive technology innovation. The industry is challenged to continually reduce cost while improving service.

There is also a growing gap in skilled workforce in the Tech and Telecom sector. TIA is directly addressing the workforce challenge through our Broadband Nation program aimed at attracting, training, and delivering talent to the industry. We are working with states broadband offices, service providers and community colleges to raise awareness of the training and job opportunities and connecting prospective students and employees to local resources.

Q: What advancements in AI-driven network automation are helping improve broadband efficiency, and how can service providers leverage these innovations to enhance performance and reduce operational costs?
A: Network planning and operations have used machine learning for years and advancements in AI will only speed cost reducing and operations quality improvement capabilities.

> "TIA is directly addressing the workforce challenge through our Broadband Nation program aimed at attracting, training, and delivering talent to the industry."

Q: As broadband networks become more complex, what strategies should operators prioritize to secure infrastructure from cyber threats, and how does TIA's work in supply chain security contribute to network resilience?
A: Security needs to be built into products and services, not added on. That means when designing a product or service, the organization needs to have a process to ensure every element, component and software feature can be traced back to its root to ensure it is secure. For example, our industry uses a huge amount of free and open-source software and ensuring it can be trusted is critical.

TIA's SCS 9000 is a process-based, network technology and device agnostic, independently certifiable standard developed to help evaluate and provide higher assurance that suppliers develop products and services with security built in from conception through the entire product lifecycle.

Given the rise in quality and security issues, we've also revitalized our Quality Standard work group to evolve our quality standard TL 9000 to meet the demand of our evolving ICT industry.

Q: What are the top 3 topics you are looking into discussing with your peers across the event?
A: The speed with which the industry will continue to integrate systems from the IoT device into the core and back again, in a way that guarantees safety and security.

"Given the rise in quality and security issues, we've also revitalized our Quality Standard work group to evolve our quality standard TL 9000 to meet the demand of our evolving ICT industry."

Industry collaboration on improving security and quality in our communications infrastructure.

Public and Private partnerships to solve the workforce gap.

Q: How does the TIA anticipate the new administration's policies will impact broadband strategies, and what key areas of investment or regulation should the industry prepare for?
A: They have made clear that effective and efficient use of government funds is paramount while building U.S. competitiveness.

MASTERING CLOUD NETWORKS: STRATEGIES FOR SCALABILITY, SECURITY, AND SUCCESS

Julian Jacquez, President & COO, **BCN Telecom**

Julian Jacquez, President & COO of BCN, shares key insights on overcoming cloud network challenges, ensuring seamless multi-location transitions, and future-proofing enterprise connectivity.

Q: What are the key challenges businesses face when implementing cloud network strategies, and how can they ensure a seamless transition across multiple locations?

A: Balancing existing legacy infrastructure with cloud network adoption is complex, especially when ensuring consistent performance, security, and scalability across locations. Businesses must embrace establishing multiple internet connections and utilize **software-defined networking (SDN)** to manage and secure those connections. Network management and automation are critical to optimize multiple forms of internet, prioritize traffic, and enhance redundancy and agility. A **cloud-native architecture**, combined with AI-driven network intelligence, can proactively manage performance and security.

Successful transitions require **strategic partnerships** with providers that offer flexible, scalable solutions, ensuring businesses modernize without disruption while maintaining control and reliability. Embracing project management philosophies during the service delivery process with an approach that involves dedicated project managers and coordinators ensure all parties are collaborating for the best possible outcome.

Q: What best practices should enterprises follow to future-proof their cloud networks and maintain a competitive edge?

A: Enterprises should focus on these key areas:

Scalability - The ability to expand and grow bandwidth requirements over time, is key. Organizations must be positioned to take advantage of whatever trends are at play in the market as needs evolve. Partner with a platform that will embrace all of the connection mediums that exist today and be positioned for those being considered in the future.

Agility - SD-WAN and cloud-based networking enable seamless cloud integration and intelligent traffic management, delivering scalability and adaptability, ensuring the network can handle evolving workloads, emerging technologies, and increasing data demands without compromising performance.

Security - Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) and **SASE** ensure strong protection for hybrid environments. Whether on the front end or as the organization progresses, the concepts of SASE to deliver security in the network and security at the edge must be embraced. Engage with partners who are the leading voices in these critical areas for the best outcome.

Adaptability - Hybrid workforces must be accounted for based on the current policies of an enterprise, or in anticipation of what may come, to ensure secure, seamless access. From SD-WAN overlays to security frameworks, every layer must be adaptable to a changing landscape.

Aligned Strategies - Achieving Network, SD-WAN, and Security Alignment under a coterminous model, ensures the flexibility to pivot, course-correct, and adapt without being locked into misaligned contract lifecycles. This approach ensures seamless scalability, enhances decision-making, and supports the long-term evolution of a cloud network.

Automation - AI-driven analytics and predictive insights **enhance performance and self-healing capabilities**. thought leaders who are communicating and demonstrating, embracing AI.

Future-ready networks aren't just infrastructure - they're enablers of business innovation and competitiveness.

Q: Can you share examples of successful partnerships that have helped enterprises achieve greater agility and business success?
A: Today's enterprises engage through multiple channels— internally from different functional organizations and externally through one or more technology service providers. Whether sourcing network and overlays from a single provider for seamless integration or coordinating across multiple partners, alignment of goals and timelines is critical to achieving success.

Collaboration between carriers, service providers, and cloud platforms is essential. SD-WAN with multi-cloud connectivity enables direct, optimized access to cloud applications while maintaining security and compliance. Additionally, integrating carrier-grade security with AI-driven threat detection strengthens protection for distributed workforces.

Successful enterprises must leverage strategic partnerships to build agile, scalable, and cloud-ready networks that support continuous growth and innovation.

Q: How can enterprises balance the need for customization with the simplicity of a fully managed network solution?
A: Organizations need networks that align with their unique operations but often struggle with the complexity of managing them. The key is partnering with a provider that offers tailored solutions with end-to-end lifecycle support—from design to deployment and ongoing optimization. A single point of contact for service and support ensures seamless execution, proactive issue resolution, and an exceptional customer experience.

For multi-location businesses, **commonality across network elements is essential for ease of management.** Establishing standardized network configurations—such as uniform access requirements, a consistent SD-WAN solution, and centralized management—simplifies operations, enhances visibility, and ensures seamless scalability. By adopting a repeatable framework, enterprises can efficiently replicate their network strategy across locations, reducing complexity while maintaining flexibility where needed.

Q: How can mid-sized enterprises achieve enterprise-grade network capabilities without the complexity of a large-scale IT operation?
A: Mid-sized businesses need enterprise-level **performance, security, and scalability** but often lack the resources to manage complex networks. A provider offering **fully or co-managed, carrier-agnostic solutions with a dedicated point of contact** can bridge the gap. By prioritizing **excellence in deployment, proactive monitoring, and ongoing support**, businesses can focus on growth while ensuring their network is always optimized for success.

THE FUTURE OF CLOUD: SCALING FOR AI, MONETIZATION, AND THE NEXT-GEN TELCO

Zlatko Zahirovic, Chief Technology Officer, **Paradise Mobile**

In this exclusive interview, Zlatko Zahirovic shares his insights on the rapid evolution of cloud technology, the infrastructure race driven by AI and LLMs, and the challenges operators face in keeping pace.

Q: How do you see cloud of today evolving in the next 2-3 years, and what key challenges do you think the industry needs to address?
A: I see cloud evolving tremendously in the next year and even more so in the next few years. What's not fully covered or discussed is the dramatic ramp-up in server farms and data centers being built worldwide to support large language models (LLMs) and beyond. These operations are massive, with big tech companies investing hundreds of billions into them. It's hard to predict exactly where this will land, LLMs like ChatGPT came out very suddenly into the public view and many users that I know of can't imagine a world without it now which is incredible as it more or less did not exist in our lives only a few years ago.

This shift has triggered a next-gen arms race to build compute infrastructure capable of handling these LLMs at even greater scale. The cloud of today and tomorrow will need to accommodate these workloads. I believe tools like ChatGPT, for people who really understand their potential, will become even more embedded in daily use. Over time, they'll get more user-friendly, making it easier for people to see how they can benefit from them. Eventually, they'll just become part of life—like how voice assistants today can already handle simple tasks. Imagine saying, "Alexa, order me a USB-C docking station," and it not only finds a product but also checks your setup, knows you have a 120Hz gaming card, a 144Hz 4K display, filters for products rated 4.4 stars or higher, stays under $50, and even delivers it to your hotel because it knows you're out of town on the delivery date.

One of the biggest challenges for cloud operators is still cost. But with more data centers going up, prices will come down over time, making cloud compute cheaper and more accessible. That, in turn, will make people even more productive.

Q: Can you share a real-world example of how cloud technologies are already making an impact today, and what lessons operators can learn from it?
A: As we speak, I'm using GSuite for email, just messaged my business partners on GChat, took a call from a colleague in Spain over WhatsApp, and downloaded a Call of Duty update on Steam. Later tonight, my wife will put on Blind Date on Netflix to see which couple makes it. We use cloud technology all the time, often without even thinking about it. Many applications have been cloud-native since day one, and we sometimes take that for granted.

Operators already know that telephony as a business model is fading—first with the decline of POTS, and now even over cellular. WhatsApp calling, once just a workaround for long-distance charges, is now the go-to method for everyday calls, even locally. Beyond that, optimizing networks for applications is something we take seriously. It's not just about keeping up with current use cases but also about preparing for the next generation of products and services. That's something all operators need to focus on to stay relevant.

The adoption of cloud by operators has been somewhat lukewarm. There are multiple reasons for this, including cultural factors and the mindset that operators should keep on-premises infrastructure for core operations. It makes sense to move cautiously, but other considerations come into play. Operators provide commoditized infrastructure services like calling and internet—things that are indispensable, especially with emergency response access layered on top.

Historically, operators haven't been the most forward-leaning when it comes to technology adoption. Many Tier 1 and Tier 2 operators already own and operate their own data centers (or central offices), some of which have been paid off for decades—or even longer. There's the challenge of sunken costs and the instinct to "use what you already have." But as cloud-based services continue to dominate, operators will need to adapt and rethink how they approach infrastructure to stay competitive.

We've dived head first into the cloud infrastructure space and have built the most advanced network as a result of it, a network that's built for not just today but for the future.

"One of the biggest challenges for cloud operators is still cost. But with more data centers going up, prices will come down over time.."

Q: What role do partnerships and collaboration play in advancing cloud and edge monetization strategies, and how can industry players work together more effectively?
A: Partnerships are key. No one is going to buy GenericGermanTelecom Ltd.'s cloud-based platform and expect it to take business away from the major players. Chances are, it'll be clunky, non-functional, and disjointed, never reaching the scale needed to be cost-effective for customers. That's why partnerships matter. Over the next few years, you'll see telecoms doubling down on collaboration to avoid becoming the "dumb pipe," while cloud platforms focus on building services that tap into massively underserved markets—and yes, they are woefully underserved right now.

One thing that always makes me chuckle is how underutilized and underinvested home-based virtual assistants are when it comes to natural language capabilities and real utility. There's so much money left on the table. Here are just a few examples of how cloud, AI, and telecoms could work together to create real monetization opportunities:

- **Scenario 1**
  Zlatko: Hey VI, I'm going to Portugal. Can you check if I have a travel roaming plan, and if not, add one to my account on July 15? I'll be there for two weeks.
  VI: "I've confirmed with your telecom that a roaming pass has been scheduled to be added on July 14 for two weeks. The total is $40. You're all set—have a great trip!"

- **Scenario 2**
  Zlatko: Hey VI, the World Cup final is in a few days. Can you make sure I have access to watch it?
  VI: "I've purchased the World Cup Final live stream for you and added a calendar reminder in your inbox. Go Spain!"

- **Scenario 3**
  Zlatko: Hey VI, I need to buy some groceries. Can you help me out?
  VI: "I've checked your fridge and ordered all the standard groceries that are running low. Also, since you've been watching Max Miller's *Tasting History* on YouTube, I've ordered the ingredients for ancient Roman cheese. The total is $211. Bon appétit!"

The key point? All of this is *already* possible today. These aren't futuristic ideas—they could be happening in the background right now, driving revenue while making life more convenient and enjoyable. Businesses that recognize these opportunities and leverage partnerships to build seamless, intelligent cloud-based services will have a massive advantage. We at Paradise are very much interested in working with companies that have this kind of mindset, to make things more effortless and seamless for our customers and the general population - it's what we all deserve.

Q: Why is participating in this event important for you, and what makes it a must-attend for industry leaders?
A: NetworkX Americas is one of the most important platforms for **driving the future of connectivity**. The discussions happening here—on Open RAN, cloud-native networks, AI, and edge computing—are shaping the industry's next decade.

For me, it's essential to be part of the conversation because:

- **We're building a next-gen telecom model** at Paradise Mobile, and learning from both established players and innovators is crucial.
- **It's an opportunity to challenge traditional telecom thinking**—how we monetize networks, how we deploy infrastructure, and how we create real value beyond just connectivity.
- **The shift to cloud-native telco is happening now**—and this event brings together the best minds working to accelerate that transformation.

Q: Who are you most looking forward to meeting at the event, and what key discussions do you hope to have?
A: I'm particularly looking forward to connecting with:

- **Cloud hyperscalers (AWS, Google Cloud, Microsoft Azure)** to explore deeper integration between telecom and cloud services.
- **AI-driven network automation providers** to discuss how we can optimize Open RAN and edge compute deployments.
- **Other greenfield operators & MVNOs** who are also building from the ground up with a cloud-first approach.
- **Enterprise & fintech leaders** who see 5G and edge computing as a game-changer for their industries.

LEVERAGING CLOUD TO UNLOCK REVENUE

Sam Tabbara, CEO, **Paradise Mobile**

In an insightful interview Sam Tabbara shares Paradise Mobile's journey of building a cloud-native network from the ground up.

Q: How should service providers decide what belongs in the cloud, and what pitfalls should they avoid?

A: It really depends on your starting point. If you're a brownfield operator with legacy vendors and hardware that can't easily be virtualized, your cloud journey is going to look very different from a greenfield like Paradise Mobile. We built everything from the ground up on commodity x86 hardware, running all our workloads in containers— whether that's at the cell site, data center, or public cloud. This means our network operates seamlessly across all environments, with the same cloud-native tools, processes, and automation running end-to-end.

For brownfield operators, it's objectively more complex because there's always legacy considerations. Moving to the cloud has to be analyzed by function, based on two key factors: elasticity and real-time performance. Things like AI-driven automation, subscriber management, and network analytics are great for the cloud because they scale dynamically. But ultra-low latency functions like real-time RAN packet processing? Those are better suited for the edge.

A big challenge is that many legacy RAN vendors aren't truly cloud- native—they're still catching up to the Open RAN players like Mavenir, who designed their solutions for cloud from day one. That's why we've been very deliberate about only working with software-based vendors that can run on any cloud, not just in theory but in real-world production environments.

Common pitfalls to watch out for:

- **Cloudifying everything just because it sounds good** – Some workloads may not belong in public cloud. Also if your vendors aren't truly cloud-native, you'll end up with a messy vendor-imposed spaghetti architecture that doesn't deliver the promised benefits.
- **Not properly understanding and predicting operational realities** – Cloud data transfer costs can add up fast if you're constantly moving massive amounts of data back and forth without a cloud-first data architecture strategy.

Q: How can service providers use cloud to unlock new revenue streams?

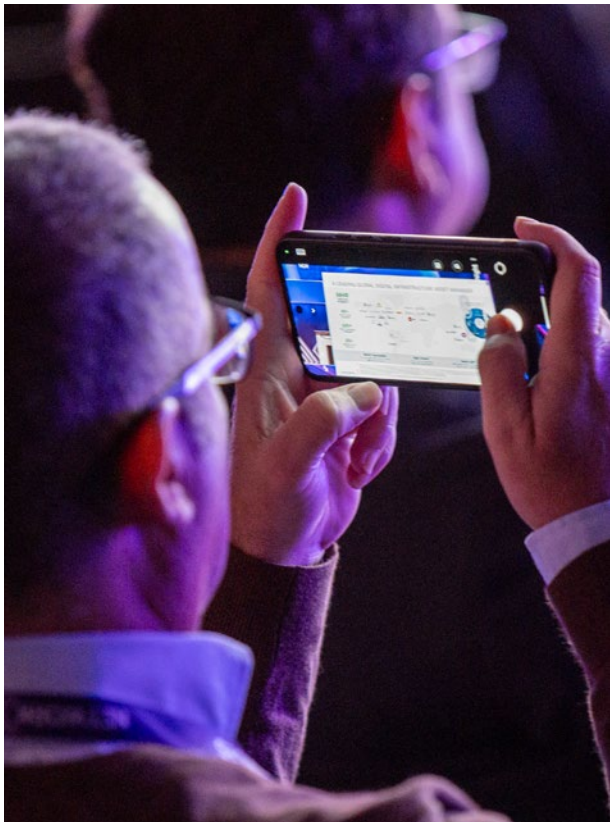
A: The biggest challenge in telecom is speed to market. As an industry, we've spent decades building the world's most reliable networks, but we've also let startups and tech giants disrupt us—from messaging apps replacing SMS, to SD-WAN eating into managed services revenue. Telcos have been stuck providing the "dumb pipe" while other companies captured the real value on top of it.

Cloud if done as part of a tech-co transformation changes the game. For the first time, operators can directly participate in the next wave of services beyond just selling connectivity. But we have to act fast and rethink how we operate.

Key ways to monetize cloud-powered networks:

- **Network slicing for enterprises** – Instead of selling one-size- fits-all connectivity, businesses can get dedicated network slices tailored to their needs—like ultra-low latency for financial trading or high bandwidth for media production.
- **Cloud-native applications** – Security, AI-driven automation, edge computing—these are all services telcos can bundle and sell rather than leaving that revenue to hyperscalers.
- **API-driven ecosystems** – By exposing network capabilities through APIs, we enable developers and enterprises to build network-aware applications that integrate directly with our platform.

At Paradise Mobile, we designed our cloud-native architecture to be modular and developer-friendly. This means enterprises can integrate and innovate at cloud speed, without waiting months for telco processes to catch up.



Q: How can operators handle the massive amount of IoT data without overload?
A: For us, **pushing cloud capabilities to the edge** has been a game changer. Traditional networks send all IoT data to a centralized cloud, which leads to congestion and inefficiencies. Instead, we use:

- **Edge processing** – Instead of sending every single data point to the cloud, we process data closer to the source, reducing bandwidth usage and speeding up responses.
- **AI-driven analytics** – Machine learning can detect patterns, predict failures, and automate network optimizations before problems even happen.
- **Smart data filtering** – Most organizations are drowning in data but missing the signals that matter. We ensure our AI models prioritize actionable insights rather than overwhelming teams with raw information.

The biggest issue in legacy telcos is too much manual decision-making. Most teams still react to problems rather than preventing them, and because of siloed structures, the people closest to the data often don't have the authority to act on it. That's why automation and AI-driven decision-making are key to managing the explosion of IoT data.

Q: What cloud advancements are improving network performance, reliability, and recoverability?
A: Cloud-native technology is transforming how networks operate:

Containerized networks – At Paradise, 100% of our network functions are microservices-based and cloud-native. This gives us agility to scale and update networks without downtime.

AI-powered automation – AI detects faults, predicts congestion, and automates network optimizations in real-time. We have numerous case studies internally to show how process improvement and automation led by better automated data analysis is exponentially faster. For example instead of traditional network operation centres, manually monitoring alarms, and opening tickets reactively, we have used the majority of the network data that DOESN'T traditionally get analyzed and filtered out because it's not "service impacting" warnings … and automatically learn for both outages and performance bottlenecks to build better automated pro- active routines. This has allowed us to automate everything from pro-active monitoring, to automated dispatching, and completely eliminated the need for a traditional NOC.

Multi-cloud disaster recovery – By distributing workloads across multiple cloud environments, we ensure high availability and *zero service interruptions* even in the event of failures.

This approach helped **Paradise Mobile** launch **Bermuda's fastest network within six months**—a recognition confirmed by **Ookla speed tests**. It proves that cloud-native networks don't just look good on paper; they also **deliver real-world performance gains**.

Q: How does cloud adoption future-proof networks for AI, edge computing, and 6G?
A: Cloud isn't just about making today's networks better—it's about making sure we're **ready for what's next**.

- **AI-driven automation** – Future networks (whether we call it 6G or not) will be built on AI optimization. Cloud-native AI models will drive everything from network orchestration to predictive maintenance.
- **Edge-powered low-latency services** – Think AR/VR, self-driving cars, industrial automation—all these require ultra-fast, local processing, and cloud-native edge computing is the only way to deliver it at scale.
- **Software-defined everything** – Traditional networks rely on expensive, proprietary hardware. We run all our network functions on standard x86 servers, meaning we can deploy new services with a software update rather than a multimillion-dollar hardware swap.

At **Paradise Mobile**, we built our network to be **AI-native and software-defined from day one**. That means we're not just **keeping up** with the future—we're **helping define it**.

Q: How is Paradise Mobile using cloud to build next-gen networks, and what can others learn?
A: Paradise Mobile is a **cloud-native operator from day one**. No legacy baggage, no retrofitting—just a modern, software-driven network that scales like the internet.

> "At Paradise Mobile, we designed our cloud-native architecture to be modular and developer-friendly."

Lessons for other operators:

- **Go truly cloud-native** – Don't just migrate old systems to the cloud—build with microservices, containers, and open APIs from the ground up.
- **Automate everything** – AI-driven orchestration and open-source tools allow us to automate entire workflows, eliminating manual network operations.
- **Embrace Open RAN and open standard** – We're not lockedinto proprietary vendor roadmaps. We can integrate best-of-breed solutions from across the industry and deploy new innovations faster than traditional carriers.
- **Think beyond connectivity** – By making our network developer- friendly, we're empowering enterprises, startups, and innovators to build on top of our platform—just like cloud hyperscalers have done.

Paradise Mobile isn't just another telco. **We're building the blueprint for the future of telecom**.

SAM'S PARIS ENCORE!

Catch his insightful Network X interview from last year right here

BOOST MOBILE'S AI-POWERED REVOLUTION: ENHANCING 5G NETWORKS AND CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Amit Bhardwaj, SVP, **Boost Mobile**

In this exclusive interview, Amit Bhardwaj discusses what benefits have been achieved so far thanks to the developments and technologies Boost Mobile has built.

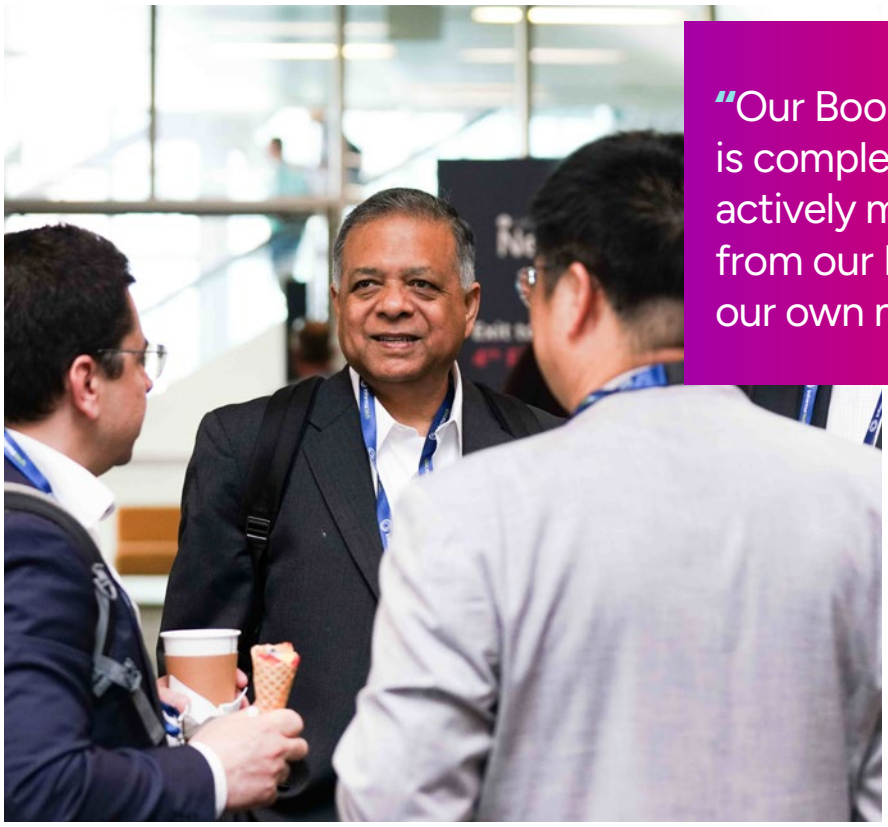
Q: How is Boost Mobile utilizing AI to enhance network performance? What tangible benefits have been achieved thus far, and how do you envision maximizing AI's potential in the future?
A: At Boost Mobile, we've built the world's first cloud-native Open RAN pure 5G network, infused with the latest technology using a true vendor agnostic Open RAN architecture that runs on a stand-alone core. We built our network with key principles in mind – cloud-native scalability, latest SW adaptation and network operation efficiency. All of these principles are supported by AI/ML, which is at the core of each network element.

Q: What AI-powered solutions has Boost Mobile implemented to improve customer support experiences? Can you share any measurable outcomes to date? Additionally, are there plans to incorporate conversational AI or predictive analytics into these efforts?
A: From billing systems and SIM provisioning platforms to Open RAN elements and network data for performance and customer experience insights, we're operating with automation and will continue to enhance our network's use of automation. We've also partnered with critical players in the AI/ML space to build upon our automation journey. Additionally, our in-house teams use AI/ML across all aspects of the network – from process to execution.

Our Boost Mobile Network is complex and we are actively migrating subscribers from our MVNO platform to our own network platform. All of the subscriber migrations and customer experience is tracked using AI generated metrics, and we've seen significant improvements in our customer porting process as well as SIM activations.

In parallel to our work migrating customers to our own network, we've also continued to focus on improving the overall network experience for our customers. We use AI generated analysis for actionable inferences to help mitigate performance issues with devices connecting to our network. One clear example is the excellent work we did in the NYC market where Boost Mobile is now the overall best network compared to the other nationwide operators.

Q: What is Boost Mobile's strategy for targeting the enterprise market? How does leveraging an Open RAN network benefit businesses?
A: Open RAN allows us to work with a system that is vendor agnostic where we can deploy countless solutions that best suit the needs of our customers. It's not a one size fits all. It's truly Open and flexible, as well as scalable, both in terms of scale up and scale down that makes our solutions cost efficient for our customers, while uncompromising on the security and quality of the latest technology.



> "Our Boost Mobile Network is complex and we are actively migrating subscribers from our MVNO platform to our own network platform."

We already have a presence in the enterprise segment through EchoStar's Hughes brand. However, under the Boost Mobile brand, we are determined to help Hughes increase their footprint within enterprise via our cloud-native Open RAN 5G network.. Our network was designed to offer choice and flexibility that other networks cannot. And enterprise is an area in which network flexibility is critically needed. From network slicing and SW-driven solutions to on-prem solutions, Boost offers a wide variety of products and solutions wanted and needed by the enterprise customer base.

Recently, we've announced some wins within the government sector, including supplying the first commercial RIC solution over our Open RAN network at Ft. Bliss. We have additional examples of tapping into a variety of government, DoD and private network solutions.

Q: In light of the merger with EchoStar, what role do you foresee non-terrestrial networks (NTN) playing in the evolution of Boost's mobile network? Can you outline the anticipated timeline for these developments?
A: It's simply about seamless connectivity. EchoStar has its own satellites and spectrum. Leveraging NTN with the latest terrestrial Open RAN network we've built, uniquely positions us to offer seamless connectivity across the globe.

There will be a lot of progress throughout 2025 within the NTN and terrestrial network aggregation space. The full solution is expected in the near future.

Q: Could you elaborate on ORCID, the results achieved so far, and the broader vision for the lab?
A: ORCID or the Open RAN Center for Integration & Deployment serves as a "living laboratory" that combines both lab and field testing and evaluation activities. At the lab, qualified vendors are able to test their elements against a complete commercial-grade Open RAN "stack" as well as evaluate Open RAN elements by mixing and matching them with those of other vendors, instead of simply validating a single vendor's stack.

ORCID was a major win for both EchoStar, Boost Mobile's parent company, as well as Open RAN and the connectivity industry in general. We're proud of leading and helping shepherd this initiative into fruition.

ORCID lab is located in Cheyenne, WY. We have multiple test lines supported by lab and field sites. All sites are up and running, including nearly 500 test cases focused on interoperable Open RAN and multi-vendor systems.

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