

Network preparations as businesses drive for 5G connectivity

As many are still trying to bed-in the 4G technology, the world outside is looking to bigger things as 5G lurks on the horizon. This could potentially be a game changer for CSPs, not due to the technology itself, but because the demand is being driven from industry.

Corporates offer big opportunities and potentially larger rewards, but they are impatient. They want progressive innovation that can enhance their offering and if CSPs stumble, they could lose control to new network competitors.

Corporate desire for 5G

5G addresses many of the latency problems with 4G; it offers fast speeds with lower delays and high capacity. As corporates look to Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to conduct business, they require 5G to ensure safety, security and customer experience.

This demand has pushed many CSPs to bring forward their plans for 5G, with some predicted to launch corporate-level 5G as soon as 2018. This is all in a bid to not miss out on those lucrative corporate accounts.

With businesses investing in their own technology, there is a fear that they could enter the market and create their own network if CSPs do not work quick enough. However, network providers should not overreact as they have established infrastructure and knowledge on their side.

Establishing a robust roadmap to achieve 5G, ensuring the network works seamlessly, and can scale for IoT, is the best focus for CSPs.

5G connectivity

Gartner predicts that the number of connected things globally will reach 20 billion by 2020. The opportunity for CSPs is vast, so ensuring network efficiency and readiness should be top of the agenda.

It does not come without challenges. The costs involved are significant. CSPs need to invest in the network and ensure that systems are flexible enough to cope with the increase in demand. Federating networks will be key to utilise existing specialist systems and providing a one-screen view of the network to ensure efficiency.

Experience has showed CSPs that a variety of installation issues always occur, which need to be tested and addressed prior to a wide roll-out. Taking practical steps with a robust plan to understand, monitor and control the network will provide CSPs with the tools to combat 5G challenges.

CSPs must be progressive with 5G, so corporates do not step over them. Utilise the years of knowledge to your advantage and work with businesses to build relevant network functionality that copes with the demands of a 5G world.

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