

and Sydney.

ASN Telecom partner and sales manager Scott Mains welcomed the collaboration. "In an era where connectivity is paramount, we are committed to providing our clients with state-of-the-art telecommunications solutions. Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise's innovative products, including their GPON solutions, align perfectly with our mission to deliver unmatched connectivity to new developments," he said.

ASN Telecom will leverage its experience in the construction industry to implement the industry blueprints rolled out as part of Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise's recently announced expanded partnership with Nokia in Australia and New Zealand.

France-based Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise was spun out of its namesake parent in 2014. China Huaxin Post and Telecom Technologies bought Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise that year, and continues to licence the name. Nokia bought the rest of the Alcatel-Lucent business at the same time.

However, the two entities have continued to find synergies and Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise and Nokia announced last month that they have developed hybrid network solution blueprints for specific industry verticals tailored to the ANZ market, including certification and training requirements. The joint solution blueprints are designed to help partners carve out a bigger slice of the enterprise digital transformation market. Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise and Nokia have already been delivering joint solutions across the APAC region, including hybrid PON solutions for the building and construction industries.

ALE country business leader for ANZ Maud Holvast said the new partnership with ASN Telecom has the potential to play a pivotal role in enhancing the network capabilities of a large number of upcoming developments. "With ASN Telecom's stellar reputation and expertise providing fibre to new commercial and residential property developments, there is a strong synergy with ALE's product portfolio," she said.

"Our industry blueprints tailored for the property development sector will vastly improve the connectivity for residents and create plenty of opportunities for ASN Telecom and ALE to enable advanced services to be rolled out quickly and effectively, at scale."

Dylan Bushell-Embling

Sydney conference mulls post-5G future

The track record of Australian operators and their vendor partners with delivering world firsts makes them strong contenders for early adoption of 6G. But the industry needs to start thinking about the transition to the future standard, according to NSW Telco Authority director of engineering Alison Port.

Port (right) yesterday told the Beyond 5G Connectivity Summit that: "Spectrum is a key enabler, so the earlier that can be defined the better," Port told the conference, which was held by the Connectivity Innovation Network, which the Authority has played a key role in developing. "Having that certainty will allow equipment vendors and device manufacturers to focus on developing compatible hardware and having ready ecosystems."



Port noted that "more spectrum is good" but added that "dedicated spectrum for

public safety organisations need to be catered for in upfront planning.”

Local efforts that the Authority played a key role in to develop a Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability were complicated by a government decision to sell off spectrum in LTE Band 26. Instead it has worked with MNOs to test the use of commercial networks’ RAN infrastructure to support PSMB.

Port said that government entities also need to consider whether new regulation is needed to “position Australia for success in 6G”, potentially dealing with issues such as electromagnetic emissions standards.

“National security risks assessed for 5G will increase with the proliferation of 6G and will need a planned approach,” she said, noting the Australian world-first to implement a de facto ban on Huawei and ZTE playing any role supplying carriers’ 5G networks.

6G can also be expected to create new challenges around infrastructure deployment due, she said. Council development planning rules need to be reviewed to ensure they don’t unnecessarily curtail the deployment of small cells where users are needed.

“For example, small cell transmitters based in homes could be made exempt from development approval,” she said. “What about permission to transmit? Do they need to go and register for frequency licenses?”

“To ensure a coordinated approach to interference, network operators would need to consider site ownership models. If you have a 6G site in your home, does it belong to you like a modem? Or does it remain the property of the network operator? Assuming you bought it, then should it be exclusively for your use? Or can anyone near your house access it?”

“Just like an extension of the wider 6G network, operators’ existing network towers will remain valuable infrastructure, providing umbrellas of coverage,” Port said.

“The network operators will also be keenly planning the best way to provision these facilities for the future. These are just a handful of considerations for an evolution beyond 5G.”

The summit featured presentations from Ericsson, Nokia and Samsung, as well as representatives of the network: Director and NSW government chief data scientist Ian Opperman, co-technical director Professor Yonghui Li and technical director Distinguished Professor Jay Guo.

Rohan Pearce

HAPS is hot again

High altitude platform stations are again becoming a “hot topic”, UTS Distinguished Professor Jay Guo yesterday told the Beyond 5G Connectivity Summit.

Guo (right) is the technical director of the Connectivity Innovation Network, which hosted the event. He is also leading a UTS team working on a key project for the network to bring 6G-style sensing capabilities to 5G networks.



HAPS is “old technology,” Guo said, but some of the technology has now matured. “Because you do not need a large satellite, we do not need to use expensive rockets... so the cost is really low,” he said. “The other thing is

because it's closer to the surface, it has low latency" supporting direct phone connections and broadband services in a platform's coverage footprint.

"So it's superb for emergency services, disaster recovery, rescue applications," he said, adding that the platforms can use solar power.

In the past one issue was stability against wind, he said, which could affect coverage. However, "in recent years, lots of technologies... have been developed to control the stability of this platform," he said. Antennas can adjust to compensate for movement to ensure stable connections, he said.

"This is becoming a hot candidate for 6G," Guo added.

He noted that Softbank's HAPSMobile and Lendlease last year announced they would form a joint venture to explore the local potential of HAPS. At the time a statement from the two companies said: "The flexibility of HAPS telecommunications systems based in the stratosphere can enable the provision of high-speed LTE and 5G connectivity to locations that have partial or no coverage from terrestrial base stations. HAPS-based connectivity solutions can act as a means of serving unconnected areas...

"This joint venture partnership will explore the feasibility of HAPS deployment in Australia with Lendlease acting as facilitator, and adding value through its understanding of the Australian market, is further testament to the strong relationship between the two organisations."

Guo also highlighted the announcement last year by the HAPS Alliance that the NT government had joined. The Territory government's space strategy, released in May 2022, detailed a plan to become the home of HAPS in the Indo-Pacific region and arguing that Alice Springs was an ideal location for HAPS launches.

Rohan Pearce

ACCAN reacts to TIO data

The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network welcomed the findings of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman's latest Annual Report showing that complaint numbers have declined notably in the last 12 months. However, ACCAN noted that mobile service complaints now account for 48% of all complaints, proportionally at their highest level in over six years. "While we understand this was partly attributed to the September 2022 Optus data breach, we agree with the Ombudsman of the necessity for consumers to have access to these services and get help when things go wrong," said ACCAN CEO Andrew Williams.

"It is positive to see an aggregate fall in complaints to the Ombudsman, with the decrease in complaints from small businesses being a particularly pleasing outcome. Conversely, the increase in complaints relating to financial hardship is of concern, and shows that the current cost of living situation is continuing to put pressure on households. This highlights the importance of the Government's current initiative to strengthen consumer protections in this area."

"Decreasing TIO complaint numbers is a great development, but the fact remains that this year alone Australians have lodged over one million complaints to their telecommunications providers. ACCAN agrees with the Australian Communications and Media Authority that this remains too high and we look forward to working with the