INTRODUCING THE 2020 LIST



The most influential individuals charting the course for the next generation of global communications.









5G Series



Thank you for checking out our inaugural list of the 100 most influential people in the wide world of 5G products, technologies and services.

Much like the "Movers & Shakers" lists that Light Reading so famously ran a decade (or more) ago, this list is a factually sound, subjectively ranked compilation of the folks we think are the biggest influencers in the 5G universe. Relatively speaking, we think this group has the voices who cut through the industry noise; they have the power to say where 5G could go next and enough people paying attention to them that what they say could happen.

As you'd expect, there are a few CEOs in this list, but you'll also notice technologists, business development people who have engineering backgrounds, journalists, regulators, analysts and board-level executives who we wouldn't dare ignore if we're trying to find out what's coming next in this area.

5G is a global technology game changer, but it's not hitting every geography in the same way, all at once. That's why some folks on this list are in charge of networks that are still being built – and being vocal about what technologies they favor in their decisions. Some folks on this list are in charge of 5G networks that have millions of subscribers and are scaling up and out. Some are the stewards of the technologies that power all of this stuff and they're definitely people you should watch.

Any subjective exercise like this is rendered even more ephemeral because of how fast the technology changes, company priorities realign and how prolonged our current global pandemic keeps some economies depressed and slows down the pace of change across the globe.

The process of making a list like this is always a team effort. That team included veteran industry journalists like **Sue Marek** and **Martha DeGrasse**, who helped kick off our research. Light Reading's **Mike Dano** and Omdia analysts **Gabriel Brown** and **Dario Talmesio** were excellent sounding boards during this project and weighed in with opinions big and small throughout the process. Light Reading contributing editor **Nicole Ferraro** and Informa's **Francesca Greane** supplied the words I frequently lacked, the deadlines I tried to hit, and generally kept everything on schedule throughout.

Please do let us know your comments, who should have been on the list, who you think we should have left off and what voices from other industries the next iteration of this list should contain. My email address is harvey@lightreading.com.

I hope this list provides an excuse to cheer on your colleagues, jeer your competitors and remind us hacks that we're not as clever as we think.

Stay safe, wash your hands and, if you ever leave your house again, please wear a mask.

Phil Harvey
Editor-in-Chief
Light Reading



The 5G 100: Top 20

BY NICOLE FERRARO, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR, LIGHT READING AND PHIL HARVEY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, LIGHT READING.



Neville Ray

PRESIDENT OF TECHNOLOGY
T-MOBILE



Neville Ray has spent over 25 years working on wireless networks around the world and today serves as the President of Technology of T-Mobile. Ray joined T-Mobile USA (then VoiceStream) in April 2000 and has served as CTO since December 2010. In that capacity, he is responsible for the national management and development of the T-Mobile

wireless network and the company's IT services and operations. Neville Ray also serves on the Board of Directors of Next Generation Mobile Networks Alliance, an association of mobile operators, vendors, manufacturers and research institutes; as well as the Board of Governors of 5G Americas, an industry trade association.

Ray was an early driver of 5G with T-Mobile's 600MHz and mmWave deployment. This helped enable the company to turn on 5G in Sprint's 2.5GHz spectrum *in Philadelphia and New York City* shortly after the companies merged earlier this year. T-Mobile used what Ray calls a "layer cake" strategy for those deployments and intends to do so across the US, using highband, mmWave spectrum in dense urban areas, midband spectrum in broad metropolitan areas and lowband spectrum for nationwide coverage.



Durga Malladi

SVP AND GENERAL MANAGER 4G/5G

QUALCOMM



Durga Malladi has been with Qualcomm since 1998 when he first joined as an engineer. Over the past 18 years, he has worked on 3G and 4G systems, and was the project engineer of 4G LTE-Advanced in Oualcomm

Research (2008-2015), responsible for design, standardization, prototype implementation, precommercial operator trials and interoperability tests with vendors. Malladi oversees the 5G and 4G cellular projects in Qualcomm Research, spanning mobile broadband communications, mmWave-based backhaul and access systems, shared spectrum access, Internet of Things (IoT), mission critical services and cellular vehicular communications (C-V2X). He also leads the Systems Engineering department in Qualcomm Research.

Malladi has been deeply intertwined with Qualcomm's 5G story. As head of R&D, he was responsible for working with standards groups on the development of 5G technology, and to ready chipmaker Qualcomm to take advantage of its commercial release. Now Malladi's role is to help ensure that readiness pays off by successfully selling Qualcomm's chipsets to handset makers and others. Indeed, Malladi forecasts smartphones as *just the beginning* for 5G and that it will soon become core to enterprise applications, loT and beyond. Given the company is betting all its chipsets on 5G, Qualcomm should hope Malladi's sales pitch meets reality.



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Jeff McElfresh

CEO AT&T COMMUNICATIONS



Appointed CEO of AT&T Communications in 2019, Jeff McElfresh is a 25-year veteran at the company who has cycled through the executive ranks, previously as President of AT&T Communications

Technology and Operations Group, as well as AT&T's Intellectual Property group, Labs and Foundries, and CEO of AT&T's Vrio.

As the former head of AT&T's Technology and Operations group, which houses the company's 5G initiatives, and as current CEO of AT&T's largest division, in charge of the company's network transformation, McElfresh is a major player in 5G and his opinions can shape everything from the direction of services to the infrastructure itself.

Under McElfresh's leadership, AT&T will complete a nationwide buildout of true 5G technology this summer, in its lowband, 850MHz spectrum, keeping the carrier in the competitive US 5G race with Verizon and T-Mobile.

Charlie Ergen

CHAIRMAN DISH NETWORK



American billionaire Charlie Ergen is the Chairman of Dish Network, a company he founded in 1980. Today, he oversees Dish Network's long-term business development and strategy as well as the company's emerging

wireless division.

With T-Mobile, Verizon and AT&T committed to 5G deployments in the US, Ergen holds the power to determine whether or not Dish will indeed create a fourth nationwide 5G network operator. As the company acquired hoards of spectrum over the years, its intentions for what to do with it have been unclear. Ergen announced the company's plans to spend roughly \$10 billion constructing a high-speed, nationwide 5G network. But only up to \$500 million is to be spent in 2020, and there's reason to believe that the COVID-19 pandemic will hamper these efforts. As we look to understand the future of 5G, the proper entrance of Dish Network into the space would alter the landscape for operators and consumers alike. As such, Ergen's decisions and statements here should be followed closely.



Caroline Chan

VP AND GM, 5G
INFRASTRUCTURE DIVISION,
NETWORK PLATFORM GROUP



Caroline Chan is General Manager of 5G Infrastructure Division within Intel's Network Platform Group. Chan has overall responsibility for Intel's global network infrastructure strategy and solution development as it relates

to 5G. Since joining Intel in 2009, Chan has worked closely with telecommunications vendors, operators and application developers to advance strategy and marketing in virtual RAN, mini Cloud-RAN and mobile edge computing technologies. Before leading the 5G infrastructure division, she spent six years at Intel as Director of Wireless Technology and Strategy. Prior to Intel, Chan had a 15-year career at Nortel Networks, culminating in her role as Director of 4G Wireless Product Management.

Chan has expressed firm belief that 5G is to be transformational not just for Intel but for all businesses going forward. (Indeed, Chan seems to believe in 5G so much that her Twitter handle is @CarolineChan5G. Commitment!) That dedication should pay off, with Intel seeking to stand out as the company best positioned to leverage the cloud, network and edge to accelerate proof of 5G's use cases. Under Chan's leadership, Intel has recently signed on as a founding member of the new 5G Open Innovation Lab (5G OI Lab) in Seattle (along with NASA and T-Mobile), working with startups to fuel the development of new 5G capabilities. Intel stands to gain from excitement around 5G applications, but it also has a sizable role to play in making them seem possible. As Chan wrote in a blog post about 5G OI Lab: "There is an explosion of opportunities, but to make them a reality requires the kind of collaboration this lab offers, enabling established companies like Intel and startups alike to build, accelerate and bring innovative 5G solutions to market."



Tami Erwin

EVP AND GROUP CEOVERIZON BUSINESS



Tami Erwin is EVP and CEO of Verizon Business Group, where she helps businesses, governments and communities connect to the global economy with intelligent edge solutions and prepare for digital

transformation, innovation and accelerated growth in the 5G era. Before being named CEO of Verizon Business Group, Tami played a crucial role in the evolution and growth of Verizon's wireline and wireless business segments. She was also head of operations for Verizon Wireless.

Erwin is a vocal proponent for Verizon's 5G prospects, particularly around telehealth and other video-based solutions, and she has led the company's partnerships with various health and public safety institutions to demonstrate the use case for Verizon's 5G Ultra Wideband network. Erwin also championed the company's purchase of *videoconferencing provider BlueJeans* earlier this year, hinting that it could be installed on 5G devices in the future. Ultimately, she is the one to watch as Verizon aims to prove 5G's transformative powers through strategic industry partnerships.

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Li Zhengmao

GENERAL MANAGER CHINA TELECOM



Li Zhengmao joined China Telecom Group as General Manager in January 2020, leaving his post as VP of China Mobile, and trading places with former China Telecom executive Gao Tongging. Prior to working at China

Mobile, Zhengmao was also an executive at China Unicom.

As an exec with three of China's big, state-run telcos, Zhengmao has had a large hand in the country's efforts and plans to roll out widespread 5G. Indeed, all three telcos launched 5G services in 50 cities in late 2019. Following his success turning China Mobile into the market leader on 5G, Zhengmao is now being tasked with helping China Telecom with its own 5G plans. Despite the impact of COVID-19, Zhengmao remains committed to China Telecom's goal of building out 300,000 basestations this year, covering over 300 Chinese cities. He further projects that China Telecom's 5G service will reach 60-80 million subscribers by the end of 2020, rivaling the reported subscriber total for all three Chinese telcos as of end of April (though data suggests that China's 5G numbers overall may be vastly overstated).

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Tareq Amin

CTO RAKUTEN MOBILE



CTO of Rakuten Mobile, Tareq Amin is responsible for driving end-to-end network evolution, service assurance and automation of the cloud-native 4G/5G network. He is further responsible for overseeing all aspects

of the network transformation, technology development and automation. Prior to joining Rakuten Mobile, Tareq served as SVP of Technology Development and Automation for Reliance Jio, as well as Vice President of Carrier Solutions for Huawei.

With Tareq at the helm, Rakuten is creating a virtualized network from the ground up – with NEC providing the 5G core – and leading the industry's move to virtualized, cloud-native, open wireless networks. While the company delayed its 5G launch by a few months due to COVID-19, it began testing its core network this summer (in partnership with Spirent) with plans for a 5G rollout later this year. Further, Tareq shared at Light Reading's 5G Networking Digital Symposium that in the next 14 to 16 months, the company will move all network functions into the new NEC-built 5G system, essentially eliminating its 4G core.



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Jong-Kwan Park

SVP AND HEAD OF 5GX LABS **SK TELECOM**



Jong Kwan Park is responsible for the research and development of ICT and network-related technology at SK Telecom. He leads the development of LTE-A, 5G networks and devices, next-generation OSS, virtualization,

connected car and quantum cryptography communication technology. Park joined SK Telecom in 1997 and has served as the company's mobile core network and service specialist for more than 20 years. As the leader of Core Network Lab since 2012, Park also completed the successful LTE & LTE-A deployment in South Korea.

As the South Korean telco's 5G head, Park was one of few who had reason to celebrate this year as the company's 5G business *helped drive up revenue*, despite SKT seeing a 6.4% decrease in operating income in part due to COVID-19. SKT added 564,000 5G subs in Q1 2020 to reach 2.65 million, its highest growth since launching over a year ago. With South Korea at the forefront of 5G rollout and adoption, Park is certainly leaving his mark on the space.

Johan Wibergh

GROUP CTO VODAFONE



Johan Wibergh started his career in software development and system integration working for Diab Data AB and Bull AB. He joined Ericsson in 1996, initially to deliver internal IT solutions, and then went on to lead

the creation of Ericsson's managed services business. He also served as executive vice president and head of the networks segment, where he led all aspects of business strategy, R&D, product management and sales. Wibergh joined Vodafone and the Executive Committee in May 2015 as group technology officer. He's also chair of the NGMN.

As Group CTO, Wibergh heads up Vodafone's global technology strategy, putting the company's efforts in 5G squarely in his lap. Over the years, Wibergh has been restrained in his comments about 5G, repeatedly urging the industry <u>not to "over-hype"</u> the technology's possibilities. However, he has also been consistent in his belief that 5G will be "ten times" more cost-efficient for operators than 4G.

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Enrique Blanco

GROUP CTO/CIO TELEFONICA



Enrique Blanco joined Telefónica 30 years ago after three years working for ITT in digital switching software design. He developed his professional career in Telefónica's Spanish operating business and has held

various director roles in the operations division related to development and management systems, partners and networks. Blanco was named Chief Technology Officer within the Global Resources Division of Telefónica SA in September 2011.

With Blanco at the technology helm, Telefónica has ruled out working with a single vendor for its 5G core, believing it is essential to privacy and security to have multiple partners. To ensure Telefónica realizes its vision, Blanco is using his considerable influence in the market to urge vendors to get behind open source and cloud-native technologies.

Erik Ekudden

CTO ERICSSON



Erik Ekudden began his career with Ericsson in 1993. Throughout his time with the company, Ekudden has worked on mobile systems research and he oversaw teams that created tech and multimedia functionality that

are integral to today's smartphones. Ekudden has also worked closely with Ericsson customers to create global mobile systems for 3G, 4G and 5G. He was named CTO in 2017.

Ericsson has gone all in on 5G, and Ekudden has championed the company's positioning for scaling up global 5G. In its *June 2019 Mobility Report*, Ericsson said it plans for its 5G networks to reach an estimated 1.9 billion people worldwide in the next five years, and for more than 60% of all mobile subscribers in North America to be on 5G by 2024. The company also stands to benefit further from restrictions on Huawei from the US and UK.



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David Wang

PRESIDENT OF ICT STRATEGY & MARKETING, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE ICT INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGING BOARD **HUAWEI**



Whatever your politics, you simply can't ignore Huawei's influence on 5G. Mr. Wang Tao (David Wang) joined Huawei in 1997 and has served in several capacities spanning R&D, product development, technical

sales, and executive roles. Currently, Mr. Wang serves as Chairman of the Investment Review Board, President of ICT Strategy & Marketing and Deputy Chairman of the ICT Infrastructure Managing Board.

As head of Huawei's ICT division, Mr. Wang's leadership will be instrumental in figuring out how the company maintains its footing in the 5G space as it deals with an increasingly turbulent political scene that has the US, the UK and sometimes other nations elevating non-Chinese suppliers and doubling down on strategies that leave Huawei out of tomorrow's major 5G markets.

Claudia Nemat

MEMBER OF THE DEUTSCHE TELEKOM AG BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION DEUTSCHE TELEKOM



Claudia Nemat has been a member of Deutsche Telekom's Board of Management since 2011 and has been responsible for Technology and Innovation since January 2017. Prior to joining Deutsche Telekom AG,

Nemat spent 17 years working for McKinsey&Company where she was co-leader of the global Technology Sector.

Nemat has been persistent and outspoken in her belief in 5G as a winner for DT and has pushed to stay ahead of the game, with DT starting commercial trials of 5G in 2018 (and in some cases overly ambitious, like "launching" 5G before acquiring spectrum). In last year's spectrum auction, Deutsche Telekom was the biggest spender, paying nearly €2.2 billion (US\$2.5 billion) on 40MHz of paired spectrum in the 2GHz band, as well as a 90MHz block in the 3.6GHz range. Nemat seems to believe that if you build it they will come, in that she thinks a successful 5G build-out will create new business models by presenting a solution to meet industry requirements. With that perspective, Nemat sees multiplayer gaming as the possible 5G *killer app*. It remains to be seen how that investment and firm belief in an as-yet hazy future will pay off, but under Nemat's leadership, the company's goal is to cover 99% of Germany's population with 5G technology by 2025.



Tommi Uitto

PRESIDENT, NOKIA MOBILE NETWORKS GROUP NOKIA



Tommi Uitto is President of Nokia's Mobile Networks Business Group, His previous roles include leading worldwide sales of MN and heading Nokia Networks' business in Western Europe. Uitto has also played a part in

introducing and rolling out 3G and LTE technologies, and he was in charge of the LTE Radio Access business line at the time 4G services were first launched in Korea, Japan and Scandinavia. Uitto was appointed president of Nokia Mobile Networks in 2018, replacing Marc Rouanne.

As the head of Nokia's Mobile Networks Business Group, Uitto is charged with bringing 5G to market. After a disappointing failure to land multi-billiondollar contracts with any of China's three main service providers earlier this year, *Nokia announced it would* retreat from China's 5G RAN market. The company has since inked partnerships in Taiwan, with Chunghwa Telecom (in a *split arrangement* with Ericsson) and *Taiwan Star Telecom*. But whether Nokia can overcome its 5G missteps in recent years and emerge a leader here will fall heavily to Uitto to sort out.

Shyam Mardikar

GROUP CTO - MOBILITY RELIANCE JIO



Given that this list is all about influence and potential – and not necessarily 5G market share – we think Reliance Jio's top technology exec is in a spot where he commands a lot of industry attention. The former

Bharti Airtel CTO's voice will be heard again and again as Jio moves forward with its own 5G network, one that may be the most vertically integrated network of its kind. Mardikar has often said that his vision for a 5G network is for a network that adapts itself to its customers' needs, and having the hardware and software completely in Jio's control means that the network can be customized to fit specific needs and use cases.

Billions in investments have been flowing to Jio's parent company, Jio Platforms, in recent months, with Internet giants looking to build applications and services for the more than 300 million customers that Jio's pure-play 4G network has amassed over the last three years. Jio's platform, reach and potential means that Mardikar, even without a 5G network, has a megaphone that the whole industry will undoubtedly hear.



Takehiro Nakamura

VP, 5G R&D NTT DOCOMO



Having joined NTT Laboratories in 1990, Takehiro Nakamura is today VP and Managing Director of the 5G Laboratory for NTT DoCoMo, Inc. Nakamura has spent much of his career engaged in standardization

activities for the W-CDMA, HSPA, LTE/LTE-Advanced and 5G. He has also been Acting Chairman of Strategy & Planning for the 5G Mobile Communications Promotion Forum (5GMF) in Japan since October 2014.

NTT DoCoMo announced earlier this year that 40,000 customers had already signed up to its 5G offering. But due to COVID-19, it also acknowledged supply chain problems and suggested it may not reach its target of 2.5 million subscribers by the end of the year. Still, despite any slowdowns, NTT DoCoMo will surely remain a major 5G player as Japan's largest telco. With a career's worth of experience working in standardization, and several years focused on 5G, Nakamura is a critical voice in the 5G standards process.

Mari-Noëlle Jégo Laveissière

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GROUP, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OFFICER ORANGE



Mari-Noëlle Jégo-Laveissière joined Orange Group in 1996 to manage a collection of shops on the Paris left bank. After launching the online shop in the 2000s, she joined Wanadoo and contributed to the launch of ADSL, the

first routers and VoIP. Two years later she moved to Poitou-Charentes as regional manager overseeing technical and commercial services for consumer and corporate customers. On her return to Paris, she coordinated the Home marketing teams until 2009 and then became Director of R&D and Director of the International & Backbone Network Factory. She now heads up the Technology and Global Innovation Division.

Orange launched its first 5G commercial service in Romania in late 2019, at which time Jégo-Laveissière said the company would continue expansion in early 2020, with Europe as the initial focus, and that 2020 would be "the 5G year." She can't be blamed for not knowing then that 2020 would instead be "the pandemic year" causing European countries including Austria, Czech Republic, Portugal, France and Spain to delay spectrum auctions. Beyond COVID-19 setbacks, Orange has also been vocally frustrated about Germany's decision to reserve 5G spectrum for industrial groups.



Cristiano Amon

PRESIDENT QUALCOMM



As President of Qualcomm, Cristiano Amon is responsible for oversight of all activities related to the company's semiconductor business. Previously, Amon spent three years as copresident of Qualcomm CDMA

Technologies (QCT) – overseeing Qualcomm's products and services businesses – in addition to serving as SVP of Product Management, in charge of the company's wireless chipset portfolio. Amon first joined Qualcomm in 1995 as an engineer. Before that, he was CTO of Vésper, a wireless operator in Brazil and held positions at NEC, Ericsson and Velocom Inc.

Despite an industry slowdown due to COVID-19, Qualcomm and Amon believe 5G will deliver a solid 2020 for the company overall. The company told investors on an earnings call in April that it still expects global 5G handset shipments this year of between 175 and 225 million, with Amon citing US operators being ahead of pace with 5G deployments and purchase of 5G phones increasing in China. Analysts remain quite skeptical that the 5G hype will translate to consumers buying devices. But as the provider of core 5G connectivity chips for most of the world's early 5G phones, it's certainly in Qualcomm's and Amon's best interest to keep the faith.



Jonathan Davidson

SVP AND GENERAL MANAGER, MASS-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE CISCO



Jonathan Davidson is the current SVP and General Manager of Cisco's Mass-Scale Infrastructure Group. Prior to assuming that role, Davidson spent much of his career in various senior leadership roles at Cisco,

including as SVP and General Manager of Cisco's Service Provider Business and SVP and GM of Service Provider Networking. In his capacity at Cisco, Davidson oversaw the company's partnership with T-Mobile to build out T-Mobile's virtual packet core in preparation for 5G. As operators invest in expensive 5G builds, Davidson sees Cisco as well-positioned, and perhaps best-positioned, to help mobile operators monetize their networks, accelerate the market release of new services and establish enterprise use cases. Maybe it's a tad flattering to have Cisco so high on a 5G list, but the company is putting its weight behind helping operators "decrease cost of deploying 5G infrastructure by up to 35%" by helping telcos move more quickly to cloud-native infrastructure.



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THE 5G 100: 21-100

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*Please note, a free virtual event pass to 5G World is subject to approval, and available



September 22-24 Virtual Event

5G is already playing a key role in revolutionizing the way that North America works in the digital era. The rollout is now in full swing, but BIG questions remain about how exactly 5G will redefine the telecoms industry and beyond. The BIG 5G Event is back 2020 to answer these defining questions. The virtual event will bring together 1,800+ attendees from across the whole 5G ecosystem to hear from some of the region's most influential players as they present and discuss the newest 5G developments, the hottest 5G debates, the future of 5G infrastructure and, crucially, shine a light on the next generation services that 5G will enable.

SDEAKEDS INCLUDE



*Please note that only service providers and enterprises qualify for complimentary access to this event



THE 5G EXCHANGE IS TAKING CONTENT SUBMISSIONS!

The 5G Exchange, the first industry portal for all things 5G, launched May 2019 on Light Reading. The 5G Exchange is an exclusive resource designed to provide operators with critical insight on emerging trends and technologies enabled by 5G.

The 5G Exchange cuts through the barrage of marketing noise and provides the industry with vetted educational resources related to 5G developments.

Submit your content for review, and if approved, that content will be hosted and featured on The 5G Exchange for FREE.



We want to hear your thoughts on the 2020 5G 100:



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