

MWC 2022: ALL THE TOP B2B NEWS FROM THIS YEAR'S MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS

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ABSTRACT

Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 is now at an end, but what a week it's been. After a virtual show in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, many of the top mobile companies returned in Barcelona to show off their latest products and services. MWC Barcelona (formerly, but still commonly referred to as Mobile World Congress) is an annual exhibition organized by the GSMA and dedicated primarily to the mobile communications industry. The event is held in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain at the Fira de Barcelona Gran Via, usually in February or early March. It is attended mainly by device manufacturers, network equipment vendors, representatives of wireless operators and the press, among others. The name of the event has changed over the years. The origins of the event date back to the business conference "Pan-European Digital Cellular Radio" (the original working name of the GSM mobile system) held in Brussels in 1987. The name "GSM World Congress" was first used in 1990 when the event was held in Rome. Over the next few years, the event moved to a new city each time, passing through Nice, Berlin, Lisbon, Athens and Madrid, before taking place in Cannes in 1996. The event was held in Cannes for ten consecutive years, and since 2003 it has been called the 3GSM World Congress. In 2006, the event moved to Barcelona and was held at the Fira de Barcelona Montjuc. In 2008, the GSM Association, which had been established in 1996 and had shown increasing interest in the event, completed the purchase of the exhibition, changing its name to Mobile World Congress for the first time. The GSMA endorsed the 2008 International Mobile Gaming Awards, which ran at the event from then until 2012. In 2011, the GSMA announced a long-term deal to continue hosting the event in Barcelona until 2023.

KEYWORDS: *Mobile World Congress, GSMA, Mobile industry.*

WHERE TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNITY COMMERCE CONVERGE

MWC Barcelona is the largest and most influential event for the connectivity ecosystem. Whether you're a global mobile operator, device manufacturer, technology provider, vendor, content owner, or are simply interested in the future of tech, you need to be here.

Why? Because it's the one time of year where everyone who's anyone comes together under one roof. Tens of thousands of senior executives from the top global companies, international governments and trailblazing tech businesses converge at MWC Barcelona to make decisions.

Thought leaders become change-makers new ideas turn into business deals and networking means remarkable connections.

It's the place to find out where the industry, your business and your career are headed. Miss out on MWC Barcelona, miss out on the next 12 months.

"It's hard to believe that the chatter around 5G started to become louder at MWC 2014, eight years ago when the Samsung Galaxy S5 (opens in new tab) was launched. Since then the pandemic and the following lockdowns have changed how business is done. The conversation is now clearly focused on the transformative impact 5G can have on everything around us. It now feels right to bring MWC back to its B2B industrial roots after a decade when the headlines were dominated by new smartphones that didn't really bring much to the table after the first iterations. So, like the previous years, expect to hear a lot about IoT, AI, Edge computing, Blockchain, analytics, robotics and automation. Oh and the Metaverse of course". Desire Athow, Managing Editor, TechRadar Pro

"After a year away as a virtual event, it's good to see the appetite for Mobile World Congress is still there. Although not all the big vendors will be present, it should still be an exciting show for tech fans across many industries. This could be the first time we get a proper look at 6G networks, even if just as a proof of concept, as well as maybe finding out what blockchain actually does and how it can help the mobile industry. And with 5G networks now firmly set in place across the world, I'm hoping to see and hear more about some amazing use cases that make the most of superfast connections". Mike Moore, Deputy Editor, Tech Radar Pro

INTEL UNLEASHES NEW XEON PROCESSORS FOR THE NETWORK AND EDGE

Not every company is waiting until MWC kicks off to announce new products and services. Take Intel, which just unveiled new Xeon processors designed specifically for network and edge deployments.

The Intel Xeon D-2700 and D-1700 are built on the company's Ice Lake platform and feature integrated AI and crypto acceleration, built-in Ethernet and various other features that cater to common network and edge workloads.

Intel told that the chips deliver "breakthrough performance" across use cases such as security appliances, enterprise routers and switches, cloud storage, wireless networks, AI inference and edge servers.

GSMA CONFIRMS THERE WILL BE NO RUSSIAN PAVILION AT MWC 2022

The organisers of Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona have confirmed there will be no Russian Pavilion at this year's event and that certain companies and executives from the country will be barred from attending due to international sanctions. The Russian Pavilion is one of several country-specific stands that usually populate the halls of MWC and are usually organised by investment bodies or government departments to showcase companies and startups from their nation. Industry body the GSMA said it would adhere to sanctions imposed by the US, UK, EU and others on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine but said it did not expect any major impact on the show, which is due to be staged in its traditional spring timeslot for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

DELL WANTS TO HELP ACCELERATE A MAJOR MOBILE INDUSTRY SHIFT

Dell has taken the wraps off a new range of hardware, software, and services that will make it easier for operators to build networks that take advantage of open and cloud architectures (opens in new tab) in the 5G era.

The Dell Telecom Multi-Cloud Foundation comprises hardware, orchestrator management software and support for integrated telecom platforms from the likes of Red Hat, VMware and Wind River. Dell is also adding bare metal orchestrator modules to its software, meaning operators can deploy and lifecycle manage the entire cloud foundation stack.

The shift to a cloud-native model will make networks more scalable and cost-effective, allowing mobile operators to rapidly roll out new services and reduce costs. Meanwhile technologies such as Open RAN will enable a shift away from highly integrated, proprietary equipment and allow operators to mix and match innovations from multiple vendors and use commoditized hardware.



Image credit: Shutterstock

HPE LAUNCHES NEW PRIVATE 5G OFFERING

HPE has announced a new private 5G offering designed to bring the benefits of high-speed, high-bandwidth private networking to industry and enterprise.

The new service is said to enable "seamless inter-working" across private 5G and Wi-Fi, thereby helping business capitalize on the wide area coverage offered by 5G and the cost benefits of Wi-Fi in indoor environments. HPE says its private 5G solution is pre-integrated with radio access capabilities from a number of vendors, which means it can be rolled out rapidly and in a flexible manner. Data growth is creating countless new opportunities across many industries, but superfast, stable and secure connectivity is essential to enable these digital experiences. Together, HPE's private 5G solution and Aruba Wi-Fi technology promises a complete private networking solution that helps to optimize the working environment, as well as giving telcos new opportunities to grow their enterprise business.

NOKIA TO DEPLOY MACHINE LEARNING TO TACKLE 5G COMPLEXITY

Nokia has lifted the lid on plans to deploy machine learning (ML) techniques to address 5G network complexity. The company's new Intelligent RAN Operations solution is said to enable operators to improve network quality and efficiency, while also cutting costs and emissions. To make this possible, the service uses ML to automate a selection of common network management tasks, which improves the ability to identify and rectify network issues promptly. Nokia says human error is also eliminated from the equation, thereby eliminating another source of risk. Nokia's Intelligent RAN Operations helps operators deliver 5G services in the most efficient and effective way possible. Through intelligent machine learning, it boosts network performance, quality, and the subscriber experience whilst reducing power consumption and operational costs.

HUAWEI: 5G IS RAPIDLY GATHERING STEAM, BUT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Solid state drives (SSDs) could drive traditional hard disk drives (HDDs) to the brink of extinction in the data center as early as 2025, Huawei predicts. The company's VP of Data Storage, Fupeng Zhang, explained that the falling price and superior performance of flash storage are squeezing HDDs from the market. Zhang says the process will be a gradual one, but anticipates that SSDs will account for as much as 80% of non-archival data center storage by 2025, up from roughly 30% today.

The global 5G rollout is quickly gathering pace, paving the way for new consumer experiences and improved productivity across various industries, says Huawei.

According to Ding, the 5G ecosystem has developed rapidly since rollout first began, driving "re-markable commercial success" for early adopters.

Speaking at an event hosted by Huawei ahead of MWC 2022, upwards of 200 mobile operators have now deployed commercial 5G networks, serving more than 700 million end users.



Image credit: Future

Huawei at MWC 2022 veiling a whole host of new mobile and computing devices as it looks to rebound from a difficult few years.

Among the new launches is the Huawei MateStation X, the company's first all-in-one PC. Built around a 28.2in 4K touchscreen, the PC is powered by an AMD Ryzen 5000H Series processor, 16GB RAM and 512GB storage, along with Wi-Fi 6 as standard.

Huawei says the MateStation X offers ultimate customization when it comes to posing and tuning, making it ideal for home workers. Thanks to the company's multi-screen collaboration service, it can also link seamlessly with other Huawei smartphones and tablets, meaning you can click and drag files or other items across devices, giving easy access to the data you need.

There's no news on availability, release dates or price just yet, but Huawei says it'll provide updates soon.

Credit to Bobby Hellard from our sister publication, IT Pro (opens in new tab), for this picture that captures our imagination.

The PixLab X1 is Huawei's first printer and it turns out to be a bit of a surprise. Running on Huawei's own HarmonyOS operating system, the PixLab X1 is an all in one printer, offering scanning and copying functions alongside just printing.

As a laser rather than inkjet unit, this could be a great SMB printer, although we don't know whether it offers color printing or just monochrome. Huawei says that it will be the industry's first printer to feature a toner cartridge designed for easy pigment replacement, so a nudge towards the growing environmental-friendly market.

GSMA REVEALS OPTIMISTIC PREDICTIONS FOR A 5G FUTURE

To mark the opening of the show, MWC organisers the GSMA has revealed its latest Global Mobile Economy Report, examining the current state of the worldwide market.

Unsurprisingly, it's good news when it comes to 5G, with the report claiming that the total number of 5G connections is now expected to reach one billion in 2022 as usage grows rapidly around the world.

This is largely thanks to widespread investment in 5G technology across the world, with the global coverage gap shrinking from a third of the population to just 6%.

The report predicts that by the end of 2025, 5G will account for around a quarter of all mobile connections, and more than two in five people worldwide will live within reach of a 5G network. Last year, mobile technologies and services generated \$4.5 trillion of economic value, equating to 5% of global GDP - which is set to grow to \$5 trillion in 2025.

However, the GSMA adds that there is still work to be done, as it estimates 3.2 billion people, or 41% of the global population, are still not using mobile internet.

BULLITT GROUP UNVEILS ITS FIRST RUGGED 5G HOTSPOT AND UK MVNO

Ruggedised devices are growing increasingly popular as more industries embrace handheld and mobile products, but wireless hotspots have so far failed to get the tough upgrade. Now, Cat Phones maker Bullitt Group has revealed the Cat Q10, its first rugged 5G hotspot designed for use in some of the toughest conditions around. Able to survive extremes of hot and cold temperatures, the Cat Q10 features an IP68 dust and water-proof rating, and can survive a drop onto steel from six feet/1.8 metres.

The company says the Cat Q10 will offer ultra-fast 5G connectivity far ahead of 4G or LTE wherever there is good cellular network coverage, with up to 32 devices able to connect to a single hotspot. It also sports a swappable 5300mAh battery that offers up to 10 hours of usage from a single charge, and also offers fast recharging.

There's no concrete details on pricing just yet, but the Cat Q10 will go on sale in Q2 2022, the company says.

In a slightly puzzling move, the company also announced it has partnered with Transatel and EE to launch an MVNO for use in the UK market. Bullitt Connect will offer voice, text and data services to both consumer and industrial customers, including the likes of the gig economy or logistics market.

2022 is shaping up to be the year when manufacturers battle out to find out who can charge a smartphone the fastest. Realme announced that its GT NEO3 can reach a staggering 150W with a cable with future models reaching 200W. Just a few hours later, archrival Oppo released its very own 150W charging technology with plans to push it to 240W, one capable of charging a 4500mAh battery in nine minutes, that's 540 seconds.

Honor on the other hand unveiled its HONOR Magic4 handset that can be charged wirelessly at 100W. In comparison, Tesla's Level 1 charging or "trickle charging" delivers 1400W to an electric vehicle.

QUALCOMM IS BRINGING FASTER 5G TO MORE DEVICES

Qualcomm took the opportunity to launch a host of new products and partnerships at MWC this year - too many to summarize effectively here.

The thread that connects all the announcements together, however, is an ambition to bring 5G support to more devices (and device types) and optimize performance to the greatest possible extent.



Image credit: Future

HUAWEI AND AWS TAKE TO THE STAGE

Kicking off day at MWC is a keynote session featuring AWS CEO Adam Selipsky and Huawei's Rotating Chairman Guo Ping.

Selipsky dedicated his speech to the opportunities arising from the interplay between cloud, AI and 5G technologies. Specifically, he highlighted the ability to deliver a new generation of apps that demand rapid speeds and low latency, in sectors ranging from autonomous vehicles to entertainment, robotics and industry.



Adam Selipsky, AWS CEO, spoke about the opportunities relating to the interplay between 5G and cloud. Image credit: Future

Ping, meanwhile, used the session as a platform to reiterate his company's refusal to back down from the international stage, despite sanctions affecting its ability to operate in US and European markets.

"To see the future, we need to look up, above the politics, partisanship and rhetoric," said Ping.

"Many people ask whether Huawei will retreat from the international market. But the answer continues to be, no. We are committed to helping customers who choose us to achieve the greatest business success."



Guo Ping, appearing virtually during a keynote session at MWC 2022. Image credit: Future

MEET THE THINKPAD X13S

Lenovo has launched a new always-connected laptop for business users, the ThinkPad X13s.

The X13s will be the first laptop to feature Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8cx Gen 3 compute platform, which delivers mmWave 5G connectivity and a whopping 28-hour battery life for workers on the move.

"ThinkPad X13s promises to end power anxiety and delight users with AI accelerated collaboration experiences and hyper-speed connectivity wherever they happen to be," said Jerry Paradise, VP Global Commercial Product Portfolio, Lenovo PC and Smart Devices.

The laptop will hit the market in May, starting at €1399.

ORANGE TO SWITCH OFF 2G AND 3G ACROSS EUROPE BY 2030

Orange will switch off its 2G and 3G networks in Europe by the end of 2030, paving the way for network modernization and spectrum refarming that will boost more advanced and efficient 4G and 5G services.

The Paris-based telecoms group is Europe's fourth largest mobile operator, with divisions in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain. It will adopt a two-stage approach, with the timeline for the shutdowns depending on each country's circumstances.

In France, 3G coverage is greater than 2G, meaning the latter will be decommissioned first in 2025, before 3G is turned off in 2028. In other territories, 3G will be switched off by 2025 and then 2G no later than 2030.

META SAYS MODERN NETWORKS ARE INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THE METAVERSE

Meta has revealed it is working closely with mobile operators in an effort to prepare networks for the so-called metaverse.

The company says the metaverse will demand "vast enhancements" in network capacity and a significant shift in the way networks are architected, due to the scale and complexity of the experiences it will enable, connecting virtual and physical worlds.

"Today, we're at the start of the next transition as we build for the metaverse. But creating a true sense of presence in virtual worlds delivered to smart glasses and VR headsets will require massive advances in connectivity. Bigger than any of the step changes we've seen before. Things like remote rendering over edge compute cloud and wide-scale immersive video streaming will take entirely new types of networks," said Mark Zuckerberg, Meta CEO.

"We need to create connectivity infrastructure that can evolve as fast as technology does. So we'll continue to work with partners that share this vision for the next computing platform – supporting breakthroughs in this ecosystem over the next decade to make sure people around the world can participate in the metaverse we're all building."

MEDIA TEK IS COMING FOR QUALCOMM'S SMARTPHONE CROWN

MediaTek has announced two new premium chipsets designed for flagship 5G mobile devices: the Dimensity 8000 and Dimensity 8100.

Launched at MWC 2022, the new SoCs add an additional tier to the company's existing portfolio, filling a performance gap between the recently launched Dimensity 9000 and the less performant Dimensity 1300.

The Dimensity 8000 series chips bundle four Arm Cortex-A78 cores, an Arm Mali-G610 MC6 GPU and MediaTek's latest AI processing unit, a combination the company says delivers "the most power-efficient performance in its class".

AN ANDROID SMARTPHONE, BUT MORE SECURE

Sikur One, a new security-focused business smartphone. The phone is manufactured by Brazilian company Multilaser, and Sikur provides a modified and slimmed-down version of Android, which utilizes Zero Trust principles to offer an additional layer of protection.

The Sikur One can also be locked or wiped remotely, in the event it's lost or stolen, minimizing the chances that sensitive corporate data ends up in the wrong hands. You can't buy the phone from Sikur direct, only via resellers, but the company says it expects the device to sell for roughly \$500.

According to the analyst house, smartphone sales rose by 6% in 2021, rebounding from the 12% drop off in 2020 caused by pandemic lockdowns.

Gartner says the arrival of 5G support in mid-tier smartphones was a significant driver of upgrade purchases, with Chinese brand Xiaomi enjoying the greatest level of growth (29%).

However, the outlook isn't entirely positive; the global chip shortage and ongoing supply chain disruptions are expected to limit market growth.

FUJITSU 5G vRAN INNOVATION COULD CUT EMISSIONS IN HALF

Fujitsu has announced it will launch new vRAN technology that the company claims could slash base station emissions by 50%, in addition to offering end users a higher quality of service.

The innovation makes use of artificial intelligence to optimize the allocation of compute resources, thereby enabling a high level of performance with low power consumption.

This month, the new vRAN technology will be made available to network operators for testing, before rolling out globally at a later date.



Image credit: Shutterstock / Suwin



Image credit: TechRadar

GSMA CELEBRATES A "VIBRANT" MWC

With MWC 2022 now drawing to a close, organizers the GSMA have released a celebratory alert hailing a positive show.

Around 60,000 people from almost 200 countries are thought to have attended the show (with Around 500,000 unique virtual and daily viewers on MWC22 and partner platforms), with more than 1,900 companies showing off their latest products and updates.

"Nothing beats MWC in person, and it was exciting to bring our community – which is so passionate about connectivity – back together to discuss the opportunities that lie ahead," said GSMA CEO John Hoffman.

"On behalf of the GSMA, I would like to thank all of our attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, and partners who came together to make MWC22 so productive, safe, and successful. I also want to thank Barcelona City Council, Generalitat de Catalunya, the Ministry of Economy and Digital Transformation, Fira de Barcelona, Tourism de Barcelona, the L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Mobile World Capital, and the people of Catalonia and Spain. Your support is unwavering, and your creativity, hospitality, and perseverance continually inspire us."

MWC BARCELONA 2023 & 4YFN 2023

We unlock the full power of connectivity so that people, industry and society thrive. Mobile has been at the forefront of innovation for over three decades. From the Nokia 3210, to the Tesla Model S, we continue to build upon our revolutionary successes – evolving technology and looking forward to a future that early tech pioneers could never have dreamed of.

As well as innovation in technology, the connectivity industry offers the world new opportunities, new revenue streams, new landscapes and even new vocabulary. Welcome to the hyperconnected and hyperreality world!

Every generation has a mission. Ours is digital everything. And it is going to take all of us, every industry –and every community to get there.

Be a part of the technological shift at MWC Barcelona 2023.

27 February – 02 March 2023.

