

FutureNet Middle East & North Africa 2024

14-15 May 2024 / Virtual Event

<https://futurenetworld.net>

Day One: Tuesday 14 May 2024

08:30 **Breakfast & Registration**

09.15 **Keynote Presentation: Future Unleashed: Navigating 5G-Advanced, Multi-Cloud and AI Frontiers**

- e& UAE technology leadership
- 5G-Advanced evolution
- Multi-cloud and cloud native transformation
- Unleashing the power of AI.

Khalid Murshed - CTIO, e& UAE

09.35 **Keynote panel: Beyond Connectivity - Redefining the Telco**

- Beyond connectivity: where do telcos play and is the ecosystem ready?
- Driving value - assessing the ambitions of the telco today and the implications for the network
- Telco-Techco transformation: the drivers are clear but how far have we got and what needs to change
- The platform business & connectivity as a service: defining the model and the role of automation
- Hyperscale cloud providers and telcos: have we defined the roles and capabilities that can accelerate future business models?

Moderated by:

Jawad J. Abbassi - Head of MENA, GSMA

Marwan Bin Shakar - Sr. Vice President/Access Network Development, e& UAE

Mohammed Al-Badrani - Vice President - Operations, stc

10:15 **Keynote Panel: Telco to Techco - Capturing the opportunity.**

- Defining a techco: what do we mean?
- What has been achieved to date and what needs to change to truly leverage the opportunity?
- What are the commercial models and how can telcos drive value?
- Partnerships and the ecosystem - what is the roadmap?
- Tackling the legacy issues: technology, people & culture
- Operating models: How to accelerate the transformation

Moderated by:

Amir Abdelazim - Partner, Detecon International Former CTIO, Asiacell

Adnan M Kashwani - Vice President/E2E Cloud & Infrastructure Management, e& UAE

Ahmed Alsharaf - CTDO, stc Bahrain

Abdallah Nassar - VP Technology Operations, Afghan Wireless

10:45 **Networking break and refreshments**

11.30 **Panel Discussion: 5G Standalone - accelerating new ways to operate and automate 5G networks and extract value.**

- Defining the use cases: why do we need SA? What are the use cases that will drive success - IoT, private networks, slicing, something else?
- What's role do cloud native networks play? Does a cloud native foundation help or hinder SA deployment - driving automation in the process?
- Operational transformation: what does SA mean for transforming the whole OSS architecture for orchestration, assurance & fulfilment?
- Vendor choices: how should suppliers think about traditional vendors vs cloud native software and OTT suppliers?

Moderated by:

Matthew Reed - Chief Analyst, Service Provider Strategies, Omdia

Mohammed Zaidan - Senior Director Active & Core, Ooredoo Qatar

Augusto Barcia - Business Manager Telco and Edge Cloud Southern Europe Middle East and Africa, VMware, by Broadcom

Mohamed Hanafy - Senior Manager - Network Strategy and Digital Services, Telecom Egypt

12:00 **Presentation: Network & Service Automation - making the promise of 5G a reality**

- Implementing a digital operations model to manage the complexity of 5G networks: The path to success
- Automating the management of network functions across multiple clouds
- Operating and optimising 5G networks with ease whilst keeping costs low: the modern telco cloud platform
- Accelerating services, provisioning on demand and accelerating revenue: the role of automation & AI
- Cloud, data driven AI and new software architectures to accelerate 5G growth

Essa Y H M Haider - Director Network Planning and Design, Technology - Access Network & Rollout, Ooredoo Kuwait

12:20 **Panel Discussion: 5G Advanced: Harness the power of 5G Advanced to scale operations, improve productivity, and deliver new services**

- 5G Advanced use cases: where to place your bets and monetise the network
- Assessing the new features and benefits and identify customer value
- Leveraging AI/ML data collection and analytics and AI/ML technologies in core, RAN and network management
- Identifying new service opportunities with 5G Advanced and gain early mover advantage

Houda Chihi - Chief Engineer, Tunisia Telecom

Yousuf Al Azizi - GM Technology Strategy and Innovation (acting), Omantel

Tibor Fabry-Asztalos - Senior Vice President, Telecom Systems & Product Engineering, Dell Technologies

12.50 Networking Lunch

14:00 Panel Discussion: NaaS (Network as a Service): Delivering on the promise

- What are the business models and how to translate into actual services and monetise?
- The concept of marketplaces: what is the opportunity?
- Moving towards NaaS: Exposing, abstracting and orchestrating, what needs to change?
- Orchestrating key components in the network and provisioning effectively
- Leveraging automation and intent based closed loop to offer this as part of the 'as a service' paradigm
- Partnerships and the ecosystem – what is the roadmap?

Moderated by:

Francis Haysom - Partner and Principal Analyst, Appledore Research

Hacene Sali - Senior Director Network Enterprise Architecture Roadmaps & Planning, e& UAE

14.30 Presentation: Telco-Techco: How to see everything as a service

- As a service thinking & mindset change to achieve innovation at speed
- How to scale: Reskilling & new ways of working
- Levelling up abstraction and increasing reliability and quality
- How to use decoupling as a service/open APIs to do customisation easier and better
- Is AI the window of opportunity to create a real platform business?

Michal Patryk Debicki - VP of Solution Development , Reailize, a B-Yond Company

14.50 Panel Discussion: Telco as a Platform: Driving new revenue with APIs and Platform Models for telcos -based network operations: unlocking the potential of 5G monetization

- Monetising APIs: How can telcos capitalise on network APIs?
- Which APIs will be most valuable in the short and long term?
- The risk/reward of emerging commercial models
- What is the role of the telco?
- What do services look like as network capabilities are exposed?
- Mentality shift vs investment challenge
- Network exposure & opening telecoms up to the API economy: what needs to be done?

Moderated by:

Emma Buckland - Principal Analyst, STL Partners

Yousuf Al Azizi - GM Technology Strategy and Innovation (acting), Omantel

Atul Purohit - Head of Technology, Cloud & Network Services, EMEA, Nokia

15.20 Networking break and refreshments

15.50 Panel: Integrating Gen AI to develop smarter networks and transform customer experience

- Practical steps: What is the roadmap to transform CX today?
- Using Gen AI models to create more simplified and cost-efficient digital twins for scenario planning and improving CX
- Leveraging tools for service creation and hyper-personalization, essentials in delivering an exceptional subscriber experience
- Looking ahead: Customer experience driven automation, innovation and new possibilities – what can we expect to see in the next 18 months?

Moderated by:

Joe Hurman - Senior Consultant, STL Partners

Zeyad Abuhelal - Performance Director, stc

Hanadi Ayoub - SVP & Head of IT Strategy, du

Puru Dwarakanathan - General Manager IT Strategy & Architecture, MTN Group

Fatih E. Nar - Technologist and Chief Architect, Red Hat

16.20 Panel Discussion: How to enhance customer experience with automation in a 5G era

- Monitoring a complex 5G network environment: Accessing network, subscriber, device and application data across a disaggregated topology
- Leveraging automation to access, analyse and action on data in near real-time: our journey and results to date
- How intelligent network data is creating new value
- New 5G services: what are CSP's doing to ensure they are meeting changing customer expectations?

Amir Abdelazim - Partner, Detecon International Former CTIO, Asiaccell

Dima Mousa - Director of Product management, planning and capacity , du

16.50 FutureNet MENA Awards Ceremony

Day Two: Wednesday 15 May 2024

08:30 Breakfast & Registration

09:15 Keynote Panel: AI in Networks: Cutting through the hype

- The rise of AI: what does it really mean for networks and network operations & what is the true opportunity?
- How much is AI being used in networks today & how do we bridge the gap and really modernise networks?
- Addressing the disconnect between what technology can enable and what telcos are really ready to adopt
- What is the timeframe we can expect for CSPs to adopt AI in networks?
- Unleashing the potential of AI: the building blocks and where to start

Moderated by:

Emma Buckland - Principal Analyst, STL Partners

Stelios Savvides - CTO, Vodafone Oman

Chadi S ElHajj - Vice President/Network Automation & Orchestration, e& UAE

Emmanuel Lartey - General Manager Network Strategy & Architecture, MTN Group

Puneet Sethi - Head of Tools & Automation, TCTS (Tata Communications Transformation Services)

09:45 Keynote Presentation: GenAI in Network Operations: A gamechanger?

- What role will Generative AI play in future autonomous operations and will this be a gamechanger?
 - Gen AI and operational efficiency: where to start?
 - The catalyst and engine for a next generation operation model or hype?
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10:05 Keynote Panel: Leveraging Gen AI for enhanced business performance: How to unlock the potential

- Gen AI to transform the deployment, management and operation of the network and revolutionise and drive value to the telco business
- Gen AI for new services, enhanced customer experience, network operations: where to start?
- How to integrate Gen AI across the business: Do we need to rethink operating models?
- What are the operational challenges and how to mitigate the risks
- Where is the value for a telco beyond cost savings? What new market/service opportunities can GenAI unlock?

Moderated by:

Francis Haysom - Partner and Principal Analyst, Appledore Research

Imran Shaikh - CTO, Virgin Mobile UAE

Puru Dwarakanathan - General Manager IT Strategy & Architecture, MTN Group

Islam Azab - Director/Analytics & Automation Solutions, e& UAE

10:35 Networking break and refreshments

11:20 Presentation: The Cloud Native Telco and the shift to AIOps: next generation operating models

- Navigating the operational complexity and challenges with 5G & Edge
- Re-thinking operating models for a new generation of services
- Speed & adaptability: enabling the capabilities to accelerate new functionality and achieve scalability
- Operational efficiency: ensuring shorter time to market for new services

Dr. Ayman Elnashar - VP Technology Strategy, e& UAE

11:40 Panel Discussion: The journey to Cloud Native and network monetisation

- What are the key applications that can be enabled by a fully virtualized cloud network?
- Key challenges for the implementation
- Providing the architecture and frameworks to enable plug and play IT and networks
- The roadmap to fully automated operations with cloud native software
- Data security – addressing the concerns
- The role of the hyperscaler today

Moderated by:

Matthew Reed - Chief Analyst, Service Provider Strategies, Omdia

Nezar Alhuzaimi - Solution Architect Senior Consultant, stc

Pramod Chinchansure - Head of Technology Operations, Vodafone Oman

Mohamed Hanafy - Senior Manager - Network Strategy and Digital Services, Telecom Egypt

12:10 Presentation: Autonomous Networks: Unlocking value for the digital service provider

- New customers & new opportunities: realising the on-demand promise of 5G, IoT, EDGE & AI – models for success & use cases
- End-to-end service lifecycle automation: delivering operational agility, and an improved customer experience
- Accelerating innovation: Enabling a new ecosystem & engagement models
- Towards autonomous networks: roadmap to acceleration

Sam Keys-Toyer - Head of Business and Portfolio Development, Managed Services Networks, Ericsson

12:30 Panel Discussion: New operating models, ecosystems and partnerships: breaking down the barriers

- Organisation, structure and culture: why is this still a barrier?
- Getting the mindset right: people, culture & attitude – what needs to be done?
- Hyperscaler collaborations and discovering the right model
- How to accelerate the adoption of new operating models

Wilson Xavier - Senior Research Director Telecom & IT Services Research – META Region, IDC

Abdallah Nassar - VP Technology Operations, Afghan Wireless

Dr. Jassim Al Awadhi - Senior Director Transformation, du

13:00 **Networking Lunch**

14:00 **Panel: The Future Telco – Moving from data-driven to intent driven to drive autonomous networks**

- Reality or pipe dream? Are autonomous operations a realistic ambition?
- Unleashing the power of intent-based network operations
- Balancing higher autonomy levels while keeping full control of the network
- Turning intents into full autonomous operations: practical steps to success

Moderated by:

Christian Maitre - Founder (Former Deputy CIO, Orange Group), Caspera-Lab

Yaser Albehzad - Vice President/Internet Operations, e& UAE

Dimas Mousa - Director of Product management, planning and capacity, du

Shabir Ali Murtaza - Technology Projects Program Manager, Ooredoo Oman

14:30 **Panel Discussion: Intelligent Assurance: Unlock value and accelerate to customer centric 5G operations**

- Accelerating new service introduction and enabling new revenue streams
- Service fulfilment – enabling new services and products to be ordered and deployed efficiently
- Transforming network and service performance through closed loop assurance and AI
- Implementing the closed loop at multiple levels in the network to dramatically address threats as well as performance and quality issues in the network
- Developing a framework for automated/policy enabled service assurance

Pramod Chinchansure - Head of Technology Operations, Vodafone Oman

Shabir Ali Murtaza - Technology Projects Program Manager, Ooredoo Oman

15:00 **Panel Discussion: Service Lifecycle Automation: Overcoming 5G complexity for scale and monetisation**

- Integrating functions of service orchestration and service assurance with a common data model
- Automate the lifecycle management pre-5G, and 5G mobile and digital services across physical and cloud-based network: keys to success
- Orchestration, inventory & topology, and assurance working together to design, orchestrate, and assure closed loop services
- The role of unified inventory to provide a common data plane for automated service orchestration and service assurance

Houda Chihi - Chief Engineer, Tunisia Telecom

15:30 **Closing Keynote Fireside Chat: Towards Net Zero: How to accelerate sustainability efforts efficiently**

- How can automation and AI be leveraged to drive sustainability?
- Understanding the role of data in driving energy efficiency and sustainability
- Leveraging cloud native and building a more energy-efficient software-based telco
- Integrating new processes, energy saving features and technologies to minimise energy consumption in the network: Where to prioritise and measuring the impact

Adnan M Kashwani - Vice President/E2E Cloud & Infrastructure Management, e& UAE