MOBILE STANDARDS SUMMARY

Q10 (JAN-FEB)

CONTENTS

OVERVIEW

The telecoms industry forms a vital part of the UK's society and economy. It connects the country and provides the basic infrastructure on which we build all elements of our digital lives, both social and economic. The UK has many advantages when it comes to telecoms and innovation broadly, but the sector is multifaceted and navigating a complex innovation ecosystem can be challenging.

Diversifying the supply chain to increase its resilience is part of the UK Government's response. Diversification means greater involvement for the SME sector, a recognised engine of growth for most industries.

As part of UKTIN's work to support SMEs looking to innovate within the supply chain, this document has been created to educate SMEs on mobile standards.

This report will include news of major developments of the key mobile standards, plus news on patent, patent trolls and IP infringement. A summary of the mobile standard organisations we are looking out for are below.

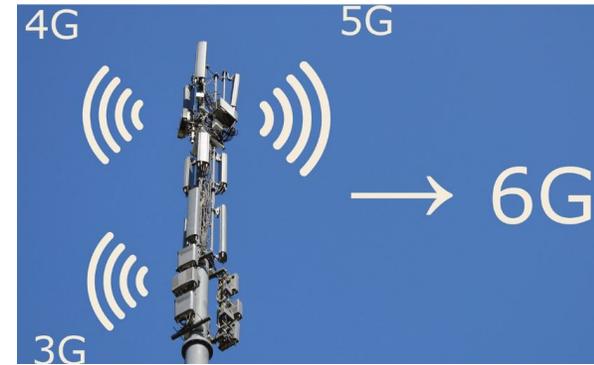| 3GPP	ETSI	IEEE	ITU-T	ITU-R	ANSI	O-RAN Alliance	IETF
The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) is an umbrella term for a number of standards organisations which develop protocols for mobile telecommunications.	The European Telecommunications Standard Institute (ETSI) is an independent, not-for-profit, standardisation organisation in the field of information and communications. It supports the development and testing of global technical standards in ICT.	IEEE Standards Association is a leading consensus building organisation that nurtures, develops and advances global technologies.	The International Telecommunications Union Telecommunications (ITU-T) Sector's mission is to ensure the efficient and timely production of standards covering telecoms and ICT worldwide.	The International Telecommunications Union Radiocommunication (ITU-R) sector's role is to manage international radio-frequency spectrum resources and to develop standards for radio communication systems.	The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) oversees standards and conformity assessment activities in the United States.	A world-wide community of mobile operators, vendors, and research & academic institutions with the mission to re-shape Radio Access Networks to be more intelligent, open, virtualised and fully interoperable.	Internet Engineering Task Force is the premier standards development organisation for the Internet. The IETF makes voluntary standards that are often adopted by Internet users, network operators, and equipment vendors.

SNAPSHOT OF KEY COVERAGE (JAN-FEB)

Reuters

EU takes China to WTO over high-tech patent royalties

telecompaper:::

Lenovo wins UK appeal in 5G patent infringement dispute with Ericsson

TELECOM TV
WHERE TELECOMS CONNECTS

3GPP's Release 20 work to include early 6G studies

BBC

Broadband firms urged to speed up their infrastructure sharing

KEY MEDIA CONVERSATIONS (JAN-FEB)

Disputes and battles in court over patents

Infringement issues are continuing to dominate the telecoms news agenda in the last quarter:

❖ **Lenovo wins UK appeal in 5G patent infringement dispute with Ericsson**
- Lenovo has won its appeal at the UK Court of Appeal concerning the company's dispute with Ericsson over use of 5G patents for its mobile phones. The UK court ruled that Lenovo is entitled to an interim cross-licence for the technology, in contrast to an initial ruling in December 2024 from the US International Trade Commission (ITC) that it had infringed patents owned by Ericsson. (telecompaper)

❖ **EU takes China to WTO over high-tech patent royalties**
- The European Commission filed a complaint at the WTO against China's "unfair and illegal" practice of setting worldwide royalty rates for EU standard essential patents, without the patent owner's consent. It claimed China had empowered its courts to set worldwide rates for high-tech EU companies, notably in telecoms sector .The case concerns SEPs, affecting the likes of Nokia and Ericsson. (Reuters)

❖ **Huawei wins series of legal victories against Netgear over WiFi 6 technology**
- Huawei has won a series of legal victories against Netgear in its ongoing patent disputes over WiFi 6 technology used in Netgear's wireless routers, which potentially had far-reaching implications for Netgear's operations across Europe. Netgear's defence centred on FRAND licensing obligations and patent exhaustion. However, Netgear has since confirmed it has obtained a license to Huawei's WiFi 6 patents, "resolving all outstanding WiFi related litigation". (TechRadar Pro)

❖ **What this means for you - this quarter has continued to see a number of ongoing patent disputes, with battles dominating the standards news agenda over the last three months, especially when it comes to the licensing of 5G. This serves as a good reminder to SMEs to keep across evolving regulations in the sector, ensuring they adopt telecoms standards to protect themselves against potential disputes, especially against the big players in the market.**

KEY MEDIA CONVERSATIONS (JAN - FEB)

News from the telecoms standard bodies

- ❖ **3GPP's Release 20 work to include early 6G studies**
- - 3GPP's Rel-20 (Release 20), its upcoming set of updates and specifications, will feature tracks for the improvement of 5G as well as laying foundations for 6G (Telecom TV)
- ❖ **What this means for you –** For startups developing 6G technologies, understanding the trajectory of these regulations will enable them to future-proof their innovations for global standards, ensuring they stay ahead of the curve and plan for long-term growth in the telecom sector.

- ❖ **ETSI convenes new 6G group**
- - ETSI has launched a new group called the Industry Specification Group (ISG) on Multiple Access Techniques (MAT) for 6G mobile systems. This will explore and develop new techniques for improving how mobile networks handle data transmission, with a focus on areas like spectrum efficiency, power consumption, latency, and fairness for users. (Critical Comms)
- ❖ **What this means for you –** Although this group, alongside 6G, is still in its nascent stages, startups developing solutions within the mentioned areas should monitor upcoming outcomes from the group as these could prove to become the basis of new standards for 6G technologies.

- ❖ **O-RAN opens cals for participation for Global Plugfest event**
- - O-RAN has officially opened the call for applications for its Global Plugfest event, taking place in Spring 2025. Hosted by 23 operators and vendor-independent institutions, the O-RAN Global PlugFest Spring 2025 will take place in 8 venues and 18 labs around the world and is free of charge. (The Fast Mode)
- ❖ **What this means for you –** For startups working on O-RAN-based products or solutions, this is a unique chance to validate their innovations against O-RAN specifications in a collaborative environment, opening the door for networking opportunities with other operators, vendors and service providers

KEY MEDIA CONVERSATIONS (JAN-FEB)

Additional industry news

❖ **Samsung releases its 6G whitepaper**

- Samsung Electronics has published a 6G white paper titled "AI-Native & Sustainable Communication," detailing the latest trends the latest trends driving 6G standardization and next-generation mobile communications - including evolving market and technology needs, emerging services, key attributes of 6G and enabling technologies. (Samsung)

❖ **What this means for you –** Samsung's 6G roadmap presents a wealth of opportunities for telecom startups to position themselves as early-movers within the ecosystem by focussing on the priority areas mentioned including AI-powered automation, sustainable connectivity, non-terrestrial networks and security innovations.

❖ **Call to speed up UK broadband infrastructure sharing**

- The UK's major broadband operators are being urged to share existing infrastructure instead of installing new telegraph poles, with the aim of speeding up network deployment, easing community concerns, and avoiding visual clutter by using shared, pre-existing infrastructure. (BBC News)

❖ **What this means for you –** As established operators look to share and optimize their infrastructure, there's a growing need for technology that can manage shared networks efficiently. Startups developing tools for network management and optimization could find the UK an increasingly favourable market

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