



AT THE CENTER FREQUENCY

An e-Newsletter from Anatech Electronics

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What's News...

Satellite-direct-to-standard-phone communications

The FCC International has granted Lynk Global a license to begin commercial offerings of satellite-direct-to-standard-phone communications that is designed to address gaps in carriers' outdoor coverage footprint. Lynk will deploy 10 non-geostationary orbit satellites in low-earth orbit (LEO) and will operate between 617 and 960 MHz for space-to-earth transmissions and airwaves between 663 MHz and 915 MHz for earth-to-space transmissions with earth stations outside the U.S. The first satellite was launched in April and Lynk plans to launch three more later this year and then will begin offering commercial service.



First Wi-Fi Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)

Enea today announced the launch of the first Wi-Fi Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) service management solution for service providers to launch and monetize Wi-Fi services. The Enea Aptilo Wi-Fi Service Management Platform as a Service (SMP-S) is hosted as a dedicated instance per customer at Amazon Web Services (AWS). Each customer gets a self-contained, secure service that also can be deployed as a hybrid service to enhance existing Wi-Fi service management software.

A Word from Sam Benzacar

It's Getting Crowded in Low Earth Orbit

By Sam Benzacar



You may not have noticed, but the commercial spacecraft business is booming. Its growth is expected to be more than \$6.7 billion by 2027, from almost nothing less than half a decade ago. It's expanding like a cottage industry in which an enterprise interested in building a satellite constellation to deliver global broadband services or even SIGINT can rely on multiple companies working together to build the complete turnkey package, arrange the launch details, and provide "after-sale" support, for a fee.

Make no mistake, I'm all for it, not least because it is boosting the fortunes of RF and microwave companies but also because it has the potential to close the digital divide, globally, for the first time. You can already see Starlink satellites at night arrayed like Christmas lights in the sky, and while these spacecrafts are designed to deorbit and burn up eventually, it's inevitable that some will not, adding to the growing amount of space debris that the European Space Agency currently estimates at more than 30,000 bits larger than 1 cm, 70% of which are in low-Earth orbit.

ESA's disclaimer notes that its models suggest this is only about a third of what's actually out there. The rapidly increasing number of spacecrafts in low-Earth orbit is also causing a significant number of "close encounters," known as conjunctions, between active satellites and other objects in heavily congested orbits.

The good news is that there is a concerted effort to address the space junk problem, such as ClearSpace-1, a spacecraft envisioned by ESA and operated by the Swiss start-up ClearSpace SA expected to be deployed in 2026. Its goal is to demonstrate the viability of rendezvousing with, capturing, and safely bringing down a large derelict object for a safe atmospheric reentry. Its first effort will be to remove from orbit a 112-kg defunct upper-stage rocket part launched in 2013. With any luck, it will be a resounding success that leads to further efforts to declutter space.

A leading mobile operator in Europe has already deployed the solution to authenticate users through their SIM card credentials. Providers can add greater security using a secure Wi-Fi SSID (802.1x) at every access point and combine this with mobile core integration and SIM authentication for robust security.



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Wi-Fi 7 Gaining Traction

Wi-Fi 7 is emerging as one of the most important areas of investment in new connectivity technologies, according to a report from the Wireless Broadband Alliance (WBA). The findings, released by the WBA as part of the WBA Annual Industry Report 2023, reveal more than a third of service providers, technology vendors, and enterprises already have plans to deploy Wi-Fi 7 by the end of next year. Wi-Fi 7 will boost current Wi-Fi capabilities with multilink operation and time-sensitive networking, while leveraging the 6 GHz spectrum dynamically with automatic frequency coordination. The report also noted that Wi-Fi 6E has now become the de facto industry standard with 53% having already deployed the technology and another 44% planning to adopt it in the next 12 to 18 months.



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Nokia to Lead 6G Project

Nokia will lead the Hexa-X-II project, the second phase of the European 6G flagship initiative. This new phase will expand the Hexa-X partner list to 44 organizations that are tasked with creating the pre-standardized platform and system view that will form the basis for many inputs into future 6G standardization. The Hexa-X-II project has been awarded funding from the European Commission and is the next significant step toward bringing together key industry stakeholders in Europe. The goal of both Hexa-X and Hexa-X-II is to establish Europe as a leader in 6G. Hexa-X-II aims to provide connectivity to people in developing countries as well as to the under-served members of developed countries.

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