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# POWER 100

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We're back again with *Capacity's* third annual Power 100 listing. As ever, this global index is made up of 100 of the most influential people in the wholesale carrier community. This year, we're pleased to have received the highest number of submissions to date, showing just how many prominent names we have in this industry.

A special thank you to Verizon for sponsoring this year's edition. *Capacity* would like to stress, that all those chosen in this listing was decided solely by our editorial team and had no input from any of our sponsors.

As always, the *Capacity* team had a difficult task in whittling down this list to only 100, as there are many individuals worthy of this index. We have once again have ended up with a nice mix of executives from all corners of the wholesale and ICT telecommunications world.



**Bob DeSantis**  
CEO  
365 Data Centers

Bob DeSantis is described as an accomplished executive who has held senior leadership positions in public and private, competitive and regulated companies within the communications, technology and energy industries. Over the last 12 months, he has led 365 to its most transactional year in the company's history, including three acquisitions and a power upgrade to its Tampa, FL data centre facility.



**Sarah McComb**  
Infrastructure Global Expansion, APAC Backbone  
Amazon

McComb's role was enabling Amazon's strategic investment in cloud infrastructure expansion in partnership with backbone network and data centre teams. Since then she's moved to a role with Amazon's Asia-Pacific backbone. McComb is also co-founder of the Women's Tech Forum, a networking community focused on empowering and supporting women across the cloud, telco and data centre infrastructure industries.



**Sanjay Bhutani**  
SVP  
AdaniConneX

With more than 28 years of executive experience working in the telecoms, IT & data centre industry in India, Bhutani is seen as one of the key influencers who helped shaped the data centre revolution in. Most recently he spearheaded the development and execution of strategy that led to the formation of AdaniConneX.



**Nigel Bayliff**  
CEO  
Aqua Comms

Bayliff is regarded as one of the leading authorities in the subsea cable industry and has used this to successfully run Aqua Comms for the last four years. Most recently he oversaw the delivery of the Havfrue project with Aqua Comms acting as the lead on project. The company was recently acquired by Triple Point for \$215 million.



**Ajay Chitkara**  
Director and CEO  
Airtel Business

Leading Airtel Business since 2018, Chitkara serves a base of 200 global enterprises, 2,000 large and 1 million medium/small businesses across India. The company portfolio is comprised of offerings across data connectivity, voice & messaging, cloud, data centre, security and IoT. Most recently, he oversaw the launch of the company's 5G-ready IoT platform that has the ability to connect billions of devices and applications.



**Mahesh Jaishankar**  
CEO  
Arc Solutions

With 20+ years of experience in carrier and wholesale telecoms, submarine cables and data centres in the Middle East and India, Jaishankar spearheaded the launch of Arc, a joint venture between EITC (du) and Batelco, back in 2019. As of late, he has led Arc's involvement in projects set to transform the Middle East, such as its partnership to deliver the Orient Express cable.



**Robin Khuda**  
Founder & CEO  
AirTrunk

In four years, Khuda has led the creation of Asia-Pacific's leading independent hyperscale data centre platform with 750+MW of capacity. He is also credited with rapidly establishing a regional hyperscale data centre platform for the cloud. One example is AirTrunk's TOK1 facility in Inzai, which is set to become one of the largest independent data centres in Asia, offering 300+MW of capacity.



**John Nolan**  
VP of Global Connection Management  
AT&T

Nolan has been in charge of the global roll-out of Verizon's APIs, which in turn has enabled its international and domestic carriers to deliver automated communication between systems. This work has been credited with driving the ITW Global Leaders' Forum vision to make commerce between carriers and customers seamless. He has also been a vocal advocate of diversity and inclusion in the industry.



**Andrew Schaap**  
CEO  
Aligned

During Schaap's tenure, he has successfully transitioned the company from a data centre provider to a wholesale operator with a unique model for scalable design and sustainability in the data centre space. He has also expanded Aligned into three additional markets, grown its business nearly three-fold and made it the first US data centre company to complete a \$1 billion sustainability-linked loan.



**Obaid Rahman**  
Head of Axiata Group Wholesale  
Axiata

With over 25 years of senior management experience in wholesale commercials, operations, strategy, transformation and industry relations with blue-chip telecom companies, Rahman is currently heading Axiata Group Wholesale, a newly formed wholesale arm of Axiata Group. He has been actively leading several key strategic initiatives, such as international subsea cables, corridor diaspora opportunities and IoT/M2M.

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**Sujit Panda**

CTO

**BDx**

Panda has been instrumental in BDx's rapid product deployments. Under his leadership, the BDx technology team has built a new-age DCIM platform from scratch, enabling customers to view power usage, sensor data and optimise all of their colocated assets. Additionally, he led the deployment of a powerful tool that allows customers to manage their IT workloads remotely via BDx data centres.

**Harmeen Mehta**

Chief digital and innovation officer

**BT Group**

Drawing on a career during which she has worked for Qantas, British Airways, HSBC and Bharti Airtel, Mehta joined BT this year to head its new digital unit. In her new role, she will focus on the development and rapid delivery of innovative products, platforms and services in key areas such as healthcare and data to drive the company's digital transformation.

**Katia Gonzalez**Head of fraud and security, **BICS**Chair, fight against fraud group, **i3forum**

Working to raise awareness of fraud in wholesale, at BICS Gonzalez heads a global team from the Brussels office and is responsible for budget, strategy, portfolio, services and operations for the business line. Pioneering progress in the industry, Gonzalez also leads discussions between BEREC, ECC CEPT, i3Forum, the ITW Global Leaders' Forum, and GSMA.

**Inge Smidts**

CEO

**Cable & Wireless Communications**

Since Smidts' appointment in 2018, the company has led on a number of social and philanthropic ventures including Girls in ICT Day and Safer Internet Day. Under her leadership, the company reported that C&W Communications accounted for 15% of Liberty Latin America's overall revenue for Q4 of 2020 and revenues for the segment were up 4% compared to the same period in 2019.

**Michael C. Morey**

President &amp; CEO

**Bluebird Network**

Leveraging his 38 years of experience, Morey in 2020 shifted Bluebird's approach in response to Covid-19, meeting the accelerated demand for connectivity throughout the Midwest, and helping bridge the digital divide. That same year he helped launch SpringIX – the first Internet Exchange in Springfield, Missouri. The company is set to deploy fibre access to 500+ towers across nine states in the near future.

**Li Feng**

Chairman &amp; CEO

**China Mobile International Limited**

Dr Li has served as chairman and CEO of China Mobile International since 2016. Under his leadership, China Mobile International has launched the Hand-in-Hand programme to bring together various organisations from across the telecoms sector under the shared vision of providing seamless, borderless products and services worldwide. The programme has 27 members that serve more than 3 billion subscribers.

**Joseph Goodyer**

Managing Director

**Brodynt**

Goodyer is credited with taking the Brodynt business unit from zero revenue to a multi-million dollar business unit, with profitable EBITDA – which has led to our business being nominated for the third time running in the fastest growing companies in Europe by the Financial Times. With his customer-centric, "why not?" the company has seen significant growth in its business across the globe.

**Marc Ganzi**

President and CEO

**Colony Capital**

Ganzi founded Global Tower Partners in 2003, growing it to become one of the largest private towercos in the US. It was snapped up by ATC in 2013 and Ganzi went on to establish Digital Bridge Holdings, later acquired by Colony Capital. Last year Colony Capital appointed Ganzi president and CEO and is reported to be on track for its 2021 financial targets.

**Michael Ourabah**

Founder &amp; CEO

**BSO**

Under Ourabah's leadership, and as an independent company, BSO has maintained 20% year-on-year growth during the Covid-19 pandemic and expanded its network to 240+ PoPs connecting to stock exchanges around the world. During this time, the company also launched an employee engagement programme in the face of enforced work from home to improve BSO internal communications, mental health and foster morale.

**Keri Gilder**

CEO

**Colt Technology Services**

Gilder entered the role of CEO at the height of the coronavirus pandemic and since then has assisted the business and its partners as the whole world changed. A strong advocate of inclusion and diversity, she oversaw the formation of Colt's Inclusion and Diversity Council. Gilder recently launched Colt's new three-year strategy that ensures Colt has the agility needed to support enterprises.





**Ben Edmond**  
Founder and CEO  
Connected2Fiber

With over 20 years of industry experience working for companies such as Frontier, MCI, Time Warner Telecom and FiberLight, Edmond recently led Connected2Fiber to build The Connected World, a platform that enables operators and service providers to buy and sell connectivity. The Connected World includes more than 600 million unique locations as well as 5,800 network service providers.



**Paul Gampe**  
CTO  
Console Connect

In a role he has held for the last six years, Gampe leads the technical development of Console Connect's offerings in software-defined interconnection. In March 2021, the company extended its services to the port and resort of Aqaba in Jordan, in partnership with operator Naitel. The company also partnered Princeton Digital Group to launch a new point of presence at PDG's SG1 data centre in Singapore.



**Brian Carr**  
VP of carrier services  
Consolidated Communications

Carr has been the brains behind the wholesale side of the brand as he managed both the buy and sell side for most of the last two decades. He has applied a solid set of disciplines to the sales process, with revenues growing over the established target.



**Scott Willis**  
President and CEO  
DartPoints

Willis led the October 2020 acquisition of Metro Data Centers, a full-service provider of interconnection and data centre solutions in Ohio, extending presence beyond Texas and Iowa. The new facility offers colocation, cloud and carrier-neutral connectivity solutions, fortifying DartPoints' mission to develop carrier-neutral edge interconnection points in markets that need it most.



**Vincent (Yi) Zhu**  
Director of Global Wholesale Business  
China Unicom Europe

In his role Zhu oversees the company's wholesale subsea and terrestrial cable offerings and global network solutions across Europe. During the pandemic, the business supported its customers with the services such as remote working, cloud desktop, video conferencing and its IT Cloud Station. 2020 also saw the launch of its OTT Vertical Team in Enterprise Business and the internet transformation of its mobile business.



**Raul Martynek**  
CEO  
DataBank

Martynek led the successful acquisition of zColo, the colocation arm of Zayo Networks, which expanded DataBank's footprint from 20 data centres in nine markets to 64 in 29 markets. This deal gave DataBank a national-scale platform and made it one of the largest privately held US data centre providers. He also led a \$30 million dollar strategic investment in EdgePresence, adding modular edge data centre capabilities to the portfolio.



**Donald Tan**  
CEO  
China Telecom Global

Tan has been a part of the China Telecom Global team since 2013 when he served as executive vice president of network & product. Since his appointment as CEO in September 2020, the company has partnered IoT provider INCE in the commercial launch of an NB-IoT roaming product for China. It also launched a new cross-border ultra-low latency solution Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Exchange route.



**Tom Brown**  
CEO  
DataGryd

As many companies suffered during the global pandemic, Brown's leadership skills made DataGryd an even stronger company in the industry. His planning and implementation of strategy has increased the revenue growth of the company. He manages to keep his company competitive in the industry as well as remain a leading owner and operator of data centres.



**Marisa Trisolino**  
CEO  
CMC Networks

Trisolino joined CMC Networks as CEO in 2018 after many years in Brussels as regional director for AT&T, where she had a successful career in a variety of roles including sales, supplier management and strategic planning. An accomplished and energetic leader, at CMC Networks, Trisolino has secured direct access to the Microsoft Azure Peering Service, increasing access to its broad range of cloud services.



**Ivo Ivanov**  
CEO  
DE-CIX International

Ivanov joined DE-CIX in 2007 and has had his present role since 2017. Under his management, the company has formed a strategic partnership with cable company EllaLink to promote and enhance a new low latency path between South America and Europe. "Latency is the new currency of our digitalised world," he says. "Everything, everywhere, will be digital – and every millisecond counts ...."

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**Oliver Coughlan**

CEO, Caribbean and Central American operations  
**Digicel**

Coughlan took on the role as CEO of Digicel's Caribbean and Central American operations in mid-2020, after a turbulent time for the group. Coughlan had previously run the group's Pacific Island businesses and moved to Jamaica to take over, where he brought in a deal with Turkcell to sell customers digital services instead of minutes and megabytes.

**Diego Matas**

COO  
**EllaLink**

Matas had years of experience in the industry before he became COO of EllaLink four years ago: Cable & Wireless, Global Crossing and then Interoute, running the Spanish end of the businesses. At EllaLink he's formed a strategic partnership with DE-CIX to promote and enhance the company's low-latency path across the South Atlantic, directly connecting Brazil and southern Europe.

**Manjari Govada**

Principal  
**Digital Colony**

Govada manages Digital Colony's European digital infrastructure investments and opportunities and also serves on the board of directors of Vantage Europe. Prior to Digital Colony, she was at BlackRock, in the alternative solutions group, focused on direct special situation investments across various alternative asset classes, geographies and sectors.

**Sara Baack**

CPO  
**Equinix**

As the chief product officer at Equinix, a role she has held for the past eight years, Baack leads the development of Platform Equinix as well as all customer-facing offerings. Specifically, she is responsible for product management and all development and engineering across the company's portfolio. In April 2021, Equinix partnered Quintillion to connect its Arctic ground station to Equinix's Seattle data centre.

**Bill Stein**

CEO  
**Digital Realty**

Under Stein's leadership since 2014, Digital Realty has executed a series of transformational transactions that have sharpened the company's strategic focus and significantly enhanced its product offerings. Before being CEO, he was CFO and earlier chief investment officer. Stein has overseen a quadrupling of the company's total enterprise value, as well as its inclusion in the S&P 500 Index.

**Michel Robert**

CEO  
**Epsilon Telecommunications**

Robert played an instrumental role in establishing Epsilon's partnership with Aviatrix to deliver a market-leading multi-cloud solution for enterprises and managed service providers. Epsilon Cloud Networking addresses the advanced requirements for enterprises and managed service providers across the globe and are helping them to grow in the cloud without barriers.

**Shalini Lagrutta**

Global head of sales  
**DXN**

Lagrutta has a successful track record in the telecoms and data centre industry that spans over 20 years. Her experiences encompass management, P&L, leadership, sales, account management and product management in tech companies. She has been instrumental in winning a Boeing Defence Australia supply contract worth around \$700,000, and in securing a \$1.5 million data centre module contract with Newcrest Mining.

**Nan Chen**

Head of the One Network  
**Ericsson**

Chen, who is also founder of the MEF Forum, created telecoms software company CENX, which Ericsson bought three years ago and renamed The One Network. Now the business, based in California, is dubbed an internal technology acceleration unit that is virtually a start-up, taking Ericsson towards cloud-native telecoms.

**Randy Brouckman**

CEO and Co-Founder  
**EdgeConneX**

Brouckman led the successful acquisition of EdgeConneX by EQT Infrastructure in late 2020 from its previous private equity owners. Following the EQT acquisition, EdgeConneX lowered its cost of capital. The deal allows the company to accelerate its growth and meet the demand that it is seeing in the market and to further scale its business.

**Frehiwot Tamiru**

CEO  
**Ethio Telecom**

Frehiwot is an IT entrepreneur who became CEO in July 2018. She's been readying what's still a monopoly in a country of 112 million, for competition, likely from MTN and Vodafone. The government wants to sell a 45% stake in the company, though no one has announced the process yet: Frehiwot has hired KPMG to advise. And she's expanding 4G, using Huawei and ZTE, and wants 5G in 2022.

**Balcha Reba***Director-general***Ethiopian Communications Authority**

Like Frehiwot Tamiru, CEO of Ethio Telecom Balcha Reba is in for a testing year. He was appointed to the ECA in September 2019 as the government moved slowly to liberalisation. As of April, he has just two applications for two licences to compete with Ethio Telecom, but he also has to regulate the sell-off of a 45% share of the current monopoly operator.

**Carl Grivner***CEO***Global Cloud Xchange**

In the last year, Grivner has successfully led Global Cloud Xchange (GCX) out of bankruptcy and has restructured the company in a way that will allow it to generate greater profits for its shareholders. The new partnerships he has made has allowed GCX to invest in new technology and solutions, making GCX reputable in the telecoms industry.

**Brett Lindsey***President and CEO***Everstream**

Lindsey facilitated three acquisitions in 2020: LightBound fibre assets in Indianapolis and Rocket Fiber in Detroit, both closed; plus the announced acquisition of network assets from Uniti, which will increase Everstream's network by more than 65% to a total of 25,000-plus route miles and launch Everstream into additional major metro areas in Pennsylvania.

**Michael D Francois***Global network infrastructure tech lead***Google**

Francois's responsibilities include matters related to cloud computing, undersea fibre, terrestrial fibre, network planning and engineering, data centre outside plant, colocation, peering, streaming, content distribution and global latency optimisation. His team develops infrastructure serving Africa, the Middle East and Europe, including subsea routes in the Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean.

**Kevin Salvadori***Director of Network Investments***Facebook**

Overseeing Facebook's network investments, Salvadori recently announced the double subsea cable projects Echo and BiFrost connecting Singapore and Indonesia to North America. Echo is being developed in partnership with Google and XL Axiata and has a completion date of 2023. While BiFrost is being built in collaboration with Telin, a subsidiary of Telkom and Keppel, due to go live in 2024.

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**Jayne Stowell***Strategic Negotiator, Global Infrastructure***Google**

With a career spanning more than 25 years, Stowell leads construction and development of Google's subsea cable projects. The most recent of these is the 7,100km Grace Hopper cable connecting the UK, US and Spain. A notable figure in the subsea sector, Stowell serves on the executive committee of the International Cable Protection Committee, as well as executive director of SubOptic.

**Marc Dyman***Chief revenue officer***Fiberlight**

Dyman implemented a complete self-service set of tools for pricing for wholesale customer base. He launched flat-rate dark-fibre product to enable cost-effective pricing into data centres in the metro. He worked to implement new tracking tools for wholesale customer project management via site tracker.

**Louise Easterbrook***CFO***GSMA**

What a time to be CFO of the mobile industry's giant trade association: Easterbrook, who's been CFO since 2014, saw huge annual growth rates via Mobile World Congress and the other events that funded the GSMA's activities, until February 2020, when everything collapsed. It's been a tough time for this former Vodafone executive and it will take years to build it back up.

**Jessica Rosenworcel***Acting chairwoman***FCC**

President Joe Biden confirmed Rosenworcel as the acting chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission within hours of his inauguration. She is a passionate advocate of net neutrality – the principle that internet service providers should not give preference or restrict certain types of traffic – and under her, with Biden's support, this is again likely to become US policy. She was also an early advocate of open RAN.

**Carl Roberts***Partner***Hadaara Consulting**

An industry veteran of more than 30 years, Roberts has held senior positions at Epsilon, Verizon, MCI, WorldCom Global One and IBM. Now heading Hadaara Consulting, his focus is on providing strategic advice to C-level executives in ICT. Roberts received his first lifetime achievement award – from Capacity – in 2015 and chairs the GCA judging panel again in 2021.



**Ravindran Mahalingam**  
*Senior VP, international business*  
**HGC Global Communications**

Under Mahalingam, HGC Global Communications is embracing 5G edge computing and achieving breakthroughs to meet the demand for latency-sensitive applications – such as gaming and driverless cars. HGC's local fibre network reaches more than 90% of the population of Hong Kong, providing backhaul for most of the city's leading mobile service providers.



**Nic Rudnick**  
*CEO*  
**Liquid Intelligent Technologies**

2021 saw Rudnick lead a complete rebrand of Liquid Telecom to Liquid Intelligent Technologies, marking its shift into a one-stop-shop technology group. The new brand also reflects the expansion of its cloud business, cyber security services and other technologies, added to its existing telecoms and connectivity capability. At the start of the year the company raised \$840 million in funding to support its growth strategy.



**Ajay Joseph**  
*CTO*  
**iBasis**

Joseph successfully deployed IPX network for 4G roaming services and reached the top-three position globally. The iBasis IPX network offers mobile operators the largest reach with a maximum of route redundancy with advanced analytics to monitor their different types of traffic. Under him, the company has deployed eSIM technology globally in two years, connected to more than 700 mobile networks.



**Laurinda Pang**  
*President of global customer success*  
**Lumen Technologies**

As the new chair of the ITW Global Leaders' Forum, Pang presides over forum meetings, leads discussions and oversees the strategic development of the forum which has 30 of the largest ICT service providers as members. With more than 25 years of telecoms experience, she manages enterprise customer relationships at Lumen, leading the company's wholesale business and operational results.



**Geoff Bennett**  
*Director, solutions and technology*  
**Infinera**

Bennett has more than 25 years' experience in data communications, including IP routing with Proteon and Wellfleet; ATM and MPLS experience with FORE Systems; and optical transmission and switching experience with Marconi. A speaker and author on his specialist subjects, he is skilled in translating technical trends into business messages and authored the book Designing TCP/IP Internetworks.

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**David Tudehope**  
*CEO*  
**Macquarie Telecom Group**

Tudehope co-founded Macquarie Telecom Group with his brother in 1992 and last November saw its market capitalisation surpass A\$1 billion after a six-month streak during which the share price increased 170%. Repositioning seven years ago to capitalise on cloud growth and digitalisation, Tudehope says today 70% of profit is derived from cloud, data centre and cyber security, with 30% from telecoms.



**Susanna Kass**  
*Co-founder*  
**Infraprime**

The former COO of eBay, Kass has 30 years of clean energy and data centre experience. She has previously led renewable power projects and data centre contracts with Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Equinix and Walmart and the UN Sustainable Development Goals programme appointed her as its data centre advisor.



**Funke Opeke**  
*Founder and CEO*  
**MainOne**

Opeke founded West Africa's leading communications services and network solutions provider which built West Africa's first privately owned 7,000km subsea cable. In 2021, the company expanded its Cloud Connect service, delivering direct access to public cloud providers such as Microsoft and AWS. In September 2020, Opeke was named Woman of the Year at the Global Women in Telco & Tech Awards.



**Malcolm Johnson**  
*Deputy secretary-general*  
**ITU**

Now in his second four-year term, Johnson is credited with modernising ITU's physical security, improving internal coordination and digitalising processes. Johnson has initiated much of ITU's work relating to climate, was an early pioneer of remote working and, during his time as director, introduced gender parity policies which saw female participation increase from less than 20% to more than 40%.



**Frank Rey**  
*Senior director of global network infrastructure*  
**Microsoft**

Rey sits at the heart of Microsoft's infrastructure deployments and developments, which over the last 12 months have included plans to spend billions of dollars in building 50 to 100 new data centres a year, as well as Infinera's subsea network field trial over the MAREA subsea cable – a joint venture between Facebook, Microsoft and Telxius – using its ICE6 optical engine



**Frederic Schepens**  
Group executive and CEO  
**MTN GlobalConnect**

Heading MTN's wholesale operation out of Cape Town, Schepens is vocal in his belief that everybody deserves the benefits of a modern connected life. Focused on customers to enhance and commercialise solutions, he is regarded as a results-driven executive who specialises in new technologies and models that enhance the well-being of people. He previously held senior positions at Vodafone and BICS.



**Alper Tunga Burak**  
CEO  
**Odine Solutions**

Regarded for his leadership and vision at Odine Solutions, Burak drew on a 30-year career across cloud and telecoms to form a team of more than 100 engineers who are now revolutionising the wholesale market. The end-to-end, systems and software integration powerhouse shifts telcos from their legacy IT to virtualised infrastructure that minimises capex and opex.



**George Szlosarek**  
CEO  
**neutrality.one**

Szlosarek launched neutrality.one in 2020, offering software-defined networking over its private network, connecting 120+ points of presence in 56 cities, dedicated internet and SD-WAN reach to over 180 countries, cloud connectivity and managed security services. He partnered with Taeknizon to connect enterprise cloud deployments in Asia and the Middle East with SD-WAN.



**Anne Morel**  
SVP, global carrier sales  
**Orange International Carriers**

Anne is responsible for overseeing the global sales strategy and business development of wholesale services for Voice, Data, Mobile and Security. Anne has actively contributed to its strategy, growth and transformation into one of the industry world leaders. Prior to working in international wholesale, Anne held various management positions, including as MD of Orange in the UK.



**Letitia James**  
Attorney General  
**New York state**

James is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York and the woman who this year tackled a cohort of unnamed telcos over net neutrality lobby activity. Prior to that, in 2013, she was elected Public Advocate for the City of New York and became the first woman of colour to hold citywide office – she is also credited with transforming the Public Advocate's office to be “a formidable engine for change”.

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**Emmanuel Rochas**  
CEO  
**Orange International Carriers**

Appointed in 2019, Rochas has capitalised on his extensive wholesale experience to build Orange IC's portfolio and implement its new strategy. A GLF member, diversity advocate and digital transformation pioneer, he is credited with cementing a leading position in voice revenues, enhancing the network offer with new cables, accelerating PoP deployments to 450 by 2020- end, and developing CDN solutions.



**Gil Santaliz**  
CEO and founder  
**NJFX**

Santaliz successfully established a physical, digital gateway in New Jersey for new subsea cables to connect North America to Europe and South America. He enabled NJFX's unique model offering customers access to both subsea and terrestrial routes, with a model built around collaboration, working closely with partners to grow a true carrier-neutral ecosystem.



**Sunil Bharti Mittal**  
Executive chairman  
**OneWeb**

With his terrestrial empire established, last year Mittal became co-owner and executive chairman of OneWeb. Taking the firm from bankruptcy to launch with ambitions of global coverage by 2022, Mittal has applied a Midas touch, adding wholesale to the portfolio and courting investments from Softbank and Eutelsat to reposition what was an ailing satellite firm for a new era in space coms.



**Michael Wheeler**  
Executive VP, global IP network  
**NTT Ltd**

Under Wheeler's leadership, the global IP network became one of the top-rated wholesale IP backbones in the world. Wheeler has overseen the expansion of the network into more than 20 new markets, including Toronto, São Paulo, Boston, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Manchester, Dublin and Marseille. He is the executive sponsor of the network security working group at the ITW Global Leaders' Forum.



**Dino Andreou**  
CEO  
**OTEGlobe**

Andreou joined OTEGlobe as CFO in 2000 and has contributed significantly to the creation, development and establishment of its business in south-east Europe's wholesale telecoms market. He has sat on the board of directors for OTEnet Cyprus since 2004. Prior to OTEGlobe, Andreou held the position of financial director at Global One Communications Hellas SA.





**Marc Halbfinger**  
CEO  
PCCW Global

Having served as CEO of PCCW-HKT Group for the past 20 years, Halbfinger is regarded as an industry veteran and thought-leader, having served as chair of the ITW Global Leaders' Forum, the ITW Founders Council and a member of the board of governors at Pacific Telecommunications Council. Most recently the company launched its globally connected eSIM service to support global IoT deployments.



**Joe Natale**  
CEO  
Rogers Communications

Following 12 years at Telus Corporation – as president, CEO and CCO – Natale was appointed president and CEO of Rogers in 2017. A born leader, at the start of his career Natale co-founded PNO Management Consultants; it was acquired by KPMG in 1997, and they hired Natale as managing partner of business transformation.



**Drew Bernstein**  
General manager  
PLD International

Since joining as GM in 2016, Bernstein has restructured PLD International with a focus on setting organisation-wide profit targets, changing commercial commission structures and setting new goals for the company. Previously CEO of KeKu and VP of operations at Unison Communications Inc, he has repeatedly leveraged his skills in technology, operations, marketing, finance and management to grow several companies.



**Natalia Kryuchkova**  
VP of Carrier Business and Sales  
Rostelecom

Having joined Rostelecom in 2004, Kryuchkova now leads the businesses relationships with global carriers in voice and data services as well as strategic planning and the development of new products and services. In July 2020, Kryuchkova lead the development of the TEA NEXT project, a next-gen fibre-optic network connecting Russian western and eastern borders delivering 96 dark fibre pairs valued at \$500 million.



**Rangu Salgame**  
Chairman, CEO and co-founder  
Princeton Digital Group

In three years, Salgame has grown PDG's portfolio to 18 data centres across four countries, with total capacity of 350MW. He led delivery of PDG's Shanghai data centre campus and \$360 million capital raise with OTPP. Regarded as a transformative growth leader who brings strategic, business and technology capabilities, he adheres to a three-pronged investment strategy: acquisition, carve-out and development.

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**Pravin S Bhandarkar**  
Founder and CEO  
RtBrick

An Open BNG advocate, Bhandarkar's vision for a new cloud-native approach to building and operating broadband networks is reaching a point of acceleration. Helping shape the future cloud-native technology that will define the industry for years, Bhandarkar recently delivered a new Consolidated BNG on a low-cost bare-metal switch, by expanding the range of networking silicon with RtBrick's IP routing software.



**Guillaume Boutin**  
CEO  
Proximus

Telecoms engineer Boutin has been CEO of Proximus – formerly Belgacom – since December 2019, when he replaced Dominique Leroy. A Frenchman, he was appointed for six years, tasked with continuing the digitisation of the group and implementing a transformation plan. That includes taking on the 100% ownership of BICS in February at a cost of €569 million to buy out MTN and Swisscom's shares.



**Andy Bax**  
COO  
Seaborn Networks

The man who successfully saw Seaborn through Chapter 11, Bax conceived, developed and oversaw the strategic shift from pure wholesale transport capacity provider with a single subsea network to what is now a regional provider of transport, Ethernet, and IP services. A hands-on leader and a well-known personality in the industry, Bax also drives initiatives that bring younger and more diverse individuals to the subsea community.



**Tareq Amin**  
Group CTO  
Rakuten

Amin is a disruptor. He spent more than five years as technology development and automation at India's Reliance Jio, which blew a hole in that country's mobile market – forcing nine operators to merge into two. For the past three years he's been CTO at Rakuten, the Japanese group that is trying to do the same with KDDI, NTT DoCoMo and SoftBank. Last October Rakuten Mobile launched cloud-based 5G.



**Avner Papouchado**  
Founder and CEO  
Serverfarm

A pioneer of data centre management as a service, Papouchado combines real estate acumen with a strategic understanding of data centre. His focus is on automating IT management, environmental sustainability and level setting balance sheets. Last year, Serverfarm added 14MW to its Toronto data centre – reusing the structure to cut embodied carbon 75% – and updated its InCommand platform.



**Steve Collar**  
CEO  
SES Networks

Collar previously led O3b Networks, where he guided the company through the successful build and launch of its NGSO constellation, leading it to become the fastest-growing satellite operator in history by 2015. Acquired by SES the following year, Collar was appointed CEO in 2018. The firm is now linking digital satellites to data centres and recently partnered with the government of Kazakhstan.



**Christian Michaud**  
SVP, usage based services, voice and mobility  
Tata Communications  
VC of the board, i3forum

Throughout his career, Michaud has operated at the vanguard of the industry's migration to data, fixed mobile and the increasing impact of OTTs. He is credited with transforming the wholesale voice carrier business and has contributed to the growth of new services. Today he drives strategies to deliver revenue growth while overseeing 1,800 relationships with mobile, voice and internet providers.



**Elisabetta Romano**  
CEO  
Sparkle

Romano builds and scales businesses with a forward-thinking and problem-solving approach. CEO since August 2020, she is taking Sparkle "beyond connectivity", transforming it from a wholesale carrier into a global MSP, through the deployment of large-scale infrastructure and innovations in SD-WAN, SASE and other areas. Romano is praised for her strategic thinking and ability to execute.



**Danielle Royston**  
Founder and CEO  
TelcoDR

Following her time as CEO of cloud-native revenue management software company Optiva, Royston now heads up TelcoDR, a public cloud transformation specialist. With more than 25 years of enterprise software experience, Royston supports telcos "sort through the noise" and deliver her infamously unfiltered take on the public cloud – sharing insights every CSP C-level needs to know.



**Olayan M. Alwetaid**  
Group CEO  
stc

Appointed in March 2021, Alwetaid has more than 20 years of experience across the Middle East telecoms and energy sector. He started his career at stc as senior vice president for consumer sector, before which he was CEO of stc Bahrain. In addition, he heads the boards of directors of several stc subsidiaries, such as Channels, Integral and Contact Center Company.



**Adel Hamed**  
CEO  
Telecom Egypt

Hamed was Telecom Egypt's chief international and wholesale officer before he became CEO in 2019, and he took on the transformation of the company within weeks. Two years on, he's announced plans to create a new subsea system that will outline the African continent. It forms the shape of a harp, and will be called Harp, for Hybrid African Ring Path. He's also partnering to enable new digital services.



**Bevan Slattery**  
Founder and chairman  
Superloop and Megaport

Slattery's LinkedIn profile lists six companies that he is running as chairman, founder or co-founder. But he hasn't had time to add HyperOne, a planned 20,000km Australian fibre network that will cost \$1.5 billion. "The first truly private national backbone with more bandwidth than every other backbone ever built," he said in February. It is aimed at markets for space, cloud and satellite, as well as new subsea cable landing points.



**Monique Lanne-Petit**  
Founder  
Télécoms Sans Frontières

Founded in 1998, Lanne-Petit's Télécoms Sans Frontières focuses on emergency-response technologies. 2020 saw the non-profit on the ground responding to the Beirut port explosion, Tropical Storm Eta, the Moria fire emergency, the Balkan migration crisis and the ongoing Syrian crisis. Solutions delivered include setting up call centres, offering free internet connection with Wifi access and the deployment of satellite lines.



**Mike Sievert**  
President and CEO  
T-Mobile US

Sievert has headed T-Mobile US since a few days after the merger with Sprint completed in April 2020. He took over from John Legere, who had transformed the operator into an "un-carrier". After eight years with the company, Sievert is following Legere's uncompromising stance – saying, "the carriers and the cableopoly have consistently over-promised and under-delivered when it comes to broadband access."



**Juan Carlos Bernal**  
CCO  
Telefónica Global Solutions

Bernal is responsible for Telefónica's business unit that covers network data, collaborative and digital solutions (cloud, IoT and security), satellite services, voice, messaging and roaming, which earns roughly €1 billion in revenue per year. He leads an international team of 250 employees globally, focused on digital transformation of commercial activities and managing relationships with B2B customers, carriers and OTTs.

Capacity

**Rolf Nafziger***SVP, Deutsche Telekom Global Business and Deutsche Telekom Global Carrier***Telekom Deutschland**

A leading force in telecoms, Nafziger's influence extends across the marketplace; over the last 12 months he has been involved in the first inter-operator blockchain network for roaming and led the Global Leaders' Forum working group on handling critical IoT traffic, which resulted in the first IPX provider SLAs. Now heading the recently created international business, Nafziger is driving future-oriented topics even beyond wholesale

**Craig Levy***COO***TPG Australia**

Appointed in August 2020, Levy has been with TPG since 2014 and has more than 24 years of experience in telecoms in Australia and South Africa. He has taken responsibility for integrations after several acquisitions, including the reverse takeover of SP Telemedia, the acquisition of AAPT and the acquisition of the iiNet group of companies.

**Staffan Göjeryd***CEO***Telia Carrier**

From a massive 70+ Tbps traffic spike to Telia Carrier's divestment, Göjeryd consistently delivered during 2020. The network grew substantially, adding 30 PoPs across Europe, North America and Mexico, and today over 65% of the global routing table is directly connected to AS1299. Telia Carrier was the first Tier 1 provider to implement RPKI routing security.

**Eric D. Cevis***President***Verizon Partner Solutions (Wholesale)**

Cevis is a leader who believes in giving back. Over the last year he has worked on the Global Leaders' Forum's first ever gender and inclusion white paper and supported businesses with digitalisation and continuity during the pandemic. He chairs the advisory board for Black Resource Association of Verizon Employees and the National Eagle Leadership Institute, among other initiatives.

**Oliver Camplin-Warner***CEO***Telstra International**

Driving growth during the pandemic, Camplin-Warner spearheaded investment and last year Telstra announced plans to increase bandwidth by more than 1.5Tb, open new PoPs around the globe, and upgrade in-country circuits. Telstra saw record capacity growth in Taiwan and the Philippines, and Camplin-Warner has strengthened the infrastructure base, leading Gartner to recognise its intra-Asian and Pacific networks.

**Maja Summers***Senior submarine commercial manager***Vodafone Carrier Services**

A 2020 winner in the Global Women in Telco & Tech Awards, Capacity named Summers the Best Woman in Subsea for her work across the industry. Summers has had a more than 15-year career in subsea working for Cable and Wireless as head of submarine systems engineering and for Apollo as operations director. She joined Vodafone Carrier Services in 2016 and holds a PhD from London Southbank University.

**Rafael Arranz,***COO, cable business***Telxius**

Miami-based Arranz had been with the Telefónica group for many years – following a telecom engineering degree from Madrid's Polytechnic University – before joining its Telxius infrastructure spin-out and moving to the US five years ago. There he's been looking after the Tannat subsea cable from Argentina to Brazil, as well as the Junior, from the US to Brazil.

**Chris Wood***CEO***WIOCC**

In 2020, Wood oversaw the completion of WIOCC's multi-million-dollar infrastructure investment programme in South Africa, creating an alternative to traditional wholesale capacity providers in the market. Focused on investing in and expanding WIOCC's hyperscale network across Africa, under his leadership, similar investments in metro and national infrastructure are now under way in other key markets.

**Alexandre Pebereau***CEO***Tofane Global**

Under Pebereau's leadership, Tofane Global has acquired and integrated five international carrier businesses. In March 2020, this included NOS International Carrier Services, boosting iBASIS's size, reach and innovation. A mentor to start-ups and scale-ups driving innovation, Pebereau is credited with increasing female inclusion at the company from 24% to 36%.

**Eli Katz***CEO and founder***XConnect**

As CEO of XConnect, Katz has led the strategic direction of the company since 2005 when it launched its interconnection and number registry services, through to the number information services provided today. Last year XConnect saw a 75% growth in business, carrying out over 13 billion queries for its customers and adding 17 more countries to its portfolio of Mobile Number Portability databases.



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Business intelligence for the global carrier industry

## Feature

The leading connectivity trends across the Latin America region

## Big interview

Laurinda Pang, chair of the Global Leaders' Forum, on uniting the industry in 2020

