



20 WOMEN TO WATCH

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CAPACITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT ITS SIXTH ANNUAL 20 WOMEN TO WATCH POWER LIST CELEBRATING 20 NOTEWORTHY WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE WHOLESALE TELECOMS AND TECH SECTOR. THIS YEAR'S LIST BEAT 2022'S RECORD FOR THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS FROM THE MOST DIVERSE SET OF BUSINESSES FROM ACROSS OUR ECOSYSTEM. ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE AN INDEX THAT SHINES A LIGHT ON TRULY REMARKABLE WOMEN WHO ARE DOING FANTASTIC WORK.

**Sabine Sitterli**

Vice president, network infrastructure Europe, Middle East & Africa

Akamai Technologies

An industry veteran, Sitterli runs network deployments for Akamai. During the past 12 months, she has navigated all the intricacies involved in the crisis in Ukraine, managing to ensure the safety of Akamai contractors in affected areas and creating a dedicated platform contingency plan to provide effective traffic delivery.

**Sumita Gupta Sharma**

Director, network planning and build

Arelion

Sharma plays a pivotal role in Arelion's work in disaggregation, open optical networking and the convergence of IP and optical transmission network layers. Her team helped drive the global carrier's network closer to converging its IP and optical networking layers, and spearheaded the early adoption of open optical networking, accelerating the evolution past single-vendor networking.

**Ana Nakashidze**

Chief executive officer

AzerTelecom

Capacity

Nakashidze joined AzerTelecom in 2018 as deputy chief executive, and was appointed CEO in 2020. She has led the company through its post-Covid transformation and geopolitical crises, major realignment and latest achievements. Specifically, through organisational transformation, AzerTelecom is delivering outstanding results with increasing profit margins and extending its product portfolio into new areas.

**Vani Venkatesh**

Chief executive, global business

Bharti Airtel

As CEO of this US\$1.2 billion global business, Venkatesh has led investment in subsea cables and terrestrial fibre. She recently oversaw Airtel's partnership with Meta and stc to extend the 2Africa cable to India, which is set to boost the country's cable capacity, empower global businesses and bolster the digital economy.

**Shalini Lagrutta**

Chief executive officer

DXN Solutions

After joining DXN in March 2019 in a sales role, by 2022 Lagrutta was appointed DXN's new CEO. Her vision and stewardship propelled DXN to a highly successful year of growth with total sales increasing 91% from FY21 to US\$15.4 million and cash receipts increasing from US\$7.26 million to US\$16.63 million.



Melissa Acosta
Chief executive
Front Range Wireless

In November 2022, Acosta joined Front Range Wireless as its majority stakeholder. Since then, Acosta has been driving Front Range Wireless's transition to a woman-owned business enterprise, which is set to be official in 2023. To date, Acosta has onboarded a national network of subcontractors to meet a yearly build plan.



Carrie Chan
Vice president, cloud
communications and voice services
**HGC Global
Communications**

An industry veteran, during the last 12 months, Chan has built and established next-generation contact centre-as-a-service solutions that enable customers to enjoy the benefits of cloud technology while maintaining their existing methods of communication with direct customers using public switched telephone network access and termination.



Maïssa Jamli
Senior product manager, 5G &
Innovation
iBASIS

Capacity

Jamli oversees 5G enablement at iBASIS and is committed to solving the challenges and needs of 5G operators. She is heavily involved in conducting trials and proof of concepts in 5G standalone roaming and evangelising its use cases through educational panels, conferences, and her participation within the GSMA's 5G working groups.



Nancy Erba
Chief financial officer
Infinera

In addition to heading Infinera's global finance strategy, from planning, accounting and tax policy to investor relations, Erba also leads the development of the company's workforce. As executive sponsor of Infinera's All-In diversity, equity and inclusion programme, she works to accelerate the removal of barriers to progress in the tech industry, including those of gender.



Pascale Fromont
Vice president and general
manager of media
Intelsat

Fromont heads up the management, evolution and commercialisation of Intelsat's global media products and services. Specifically, she is responsible for the strategic planning of solutions that help media organisations grow their viewership and revenues, while fostering brand loyalty. Her engineering background and market expertise means she brings a unique perspective to her role.

**Cynthia Perret**Fiber program manager,
submarine cables**Meta**

Overseeing the deployment of new submarine cables for Meta (formerly Facebook) in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, Perret was instrumental in developing the 2Africa subsea cable project. Her work navigating the complexities of the endeavour and various global challenges, and managing the collaboration between the build's multiple partners is credited as being "impressive".

**Mirjam Kühne**

Chair

RIPE Labs

Kühne assumed the chair of RIPE Community in 2020, and since then has been called an "inspiring and dedicated leader". Previously, a community builder at RIPE NCC for 10 years, Kühne has a knowledge of the internet community and collaborates with various stakeholders, including those from the technical, security, academic and government sectors.

**Antonella Sanguineti**Head of product management for
secure cloud and networking
solutions**Sparkle**

Capacity

Sanguineti's contribution to Sparkle is multifold: while driving the company's portfolio transformation to an enterprise business with the introduction of innovative technology. She is also an active promoter of the company as a contributor to MEF's development of standardisation for the telco ecosystem and her engagement as co-chair of the Integrated Trust Network initiative.

**Maxie Reynolds**

Chief executive

Subsea Cloud

Reynolds was one of the first women to work in technical areas in offshore oil and gas platforms. With a background in cybersecurity, red teaming and underwater robotics. A thought leader in data centres, edge, hyperscale needs and environmentalism, she also has a key role in the new paradigm of submarine network architecture.

**Takayo Takamuro**

Managing director

Telehouse Europe

Takamuro was appointed managing director of Telehouse Europe in October 2022, after holding the role of deputy managing director since 2021. Throughout her career, she has trailblazed pathways closed to women, demonstrating boldness in breaking away from traditional stereotypes. Looking ahead, Takamuro is focusing on spearheading Telehouse's next growth phase.

**Ellen Velickovska**

Co-founder and managing director

telXira

The last 12 months have been transformational for telXira and in 2022, Velickovska oversaw investment into the company's communications platform-as-a-service offering. This involved introducing an array of new features, including expanded omnichannel chat features, automated provisioning, smooth agent management, text to speech, complex filtering options, further enterprise pricing features, and automated GUI for Email2SMS.

**Ruby Castellanos Castillo**

Country manager Argentina, Chile, Paraguay

Ufinet

A 22-year veteran of the company, Castillo leads Ufinet's southern cluster with an important goal: to solidly expand the business area. Lately, she has focused on the growth of fibre to the home projects under a wholesale model in Argentina and Paraguay, with priority in areas with poor connectivity.

**Jennifer Parkhill**

Director of strategy

Verizon Partner Solutions

Capacity

Parkhill leads Verizon Partner Solutions' strategy implementation and program management team. She is responsible for the execution of key strategic initiatives and engaging with key cross functional teams. She also supports the work of the GLF, leads Volunteering for VPS, and recently graduated from VLeads, Verizon's leadership programme.

**Seham Al Aamri**

Manager international roaming

Vodafone Oman

Al Aamri was instrumental in establishing the international roaming business of Vodafone Oman's start-up team. Prior to the team's launch, Al Aamri secured all of its service contracts related to international roaming, such as Data Clearing House and GSMA registration. This resulted in Vodafone Oman achieving international roaming coverage at 75% of its destinations.

**Nasreen Ibraheem Ali**

Wholesale director

Zain Sudan

With more than 16 years' experience in both international fixed and mobile operators, Ibraheem Ali heads Zain Sudan's wholesale department. She has a strong track record of leading significant projects to successful delivery. A holder of a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, Ibraheem Ali is a strong advocate of women empowerment and gender equality.

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Business intelligence for the global carrier industry

Big Interview

Vodafone Ukraine's Vasyl Latsanych tells *Capacity* how the company has kept connected

Feature

Capacity explores the role of private equity in subsea cable investment across Latam and the Caribbean

The infrastructure trifecta

