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# POWER 100

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SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE POWER 100 HAS GONE FROM STRENGTH-TO-STRENGTH YEAR-ON-YEAR, AND 2023 HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION. THIS YEAR CAPACITY'S TEAM RECEIVED MORE THAN 250 NOMINATIONS, MAKING A VARIED AND DIVERSE SET OF NOMINEES. WHAT REMAINS THE SAME, IS THAT THE LIST PROFILES TRAILBLAZERS, INNOVATORS AND LEADERS DRIVING THE GLOBAL DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SPACE. AS WE ENTER THE TOP 100'S FIFTH YEAR, THE LIST REMAINS LED BY CAPACITY MAGAZINE'S EDITORIAL TEAM AND IS NOT BASED ON INPUT FROM OUR COMMERCIAL PARTNERS.



**Andreas Schmidt**  
Head of international data  
A1 Telekom Austria

Schmidt is described as being a leader with entrepreneurial vision, and who innovates and delivers successful customer solutions under difficult conditions. He is responsible for A1's International Business Data Sales, International Business Data Procurement, International Business Data Presales and International Business Data Implementation teams, and accounts for operational expenditure, strategic realignment and market competition.



**Ajay Chitkara**  
Director and CEO  
Airtel Business

Under Chitkara's leadership, 2022 was a year of possibility for Airtel Business. Nxtra by Airtel became the first data centre company to deploy fuel cell technology in India, achieving 40% green energy across its data centre portfolio. He also spearheaded the successful launch of 5G for Business – India's largest 5G ecosystem for customers through partnerships and solutions.



**Peter van BURGEL**  
CEO  
AMS-IX

Van BURGEL is leading the transformation of AMS-IX from a global internet exchange into a market and thought leader in internet connectivity, online safety and sustainability. Under his guidance, AMS-IX has deployed 10 new locations globally during the last 12 months, leading the optimisation of AMS-IX operations through digital transformation and drove significant growth in profitability.



**Jim Fagan**  
CEO  
Aqua Comms

Fagan took over the helm of subsea connectivity provider Aqua Comms following his tenure as Global Cloud Xchange's chief strategy and revenue officer. Fagan will "lead the next stage of growth of the business" and was described as a "transformative and proven technology executive with 25 years of experience in telecom and IT," said Alan Harper, chairman of Aqua Comms.



**Mattias Fridström**  
Vice president and chief evangelist  
Arelion

Fridström has been a part of the Arelion (formerly Telia Carrier) team since 1996, holding numerous senior roles across the business, including chief technology officer. As vice president and chief evangelist, he supported Arelion's transition to a standalone company following its divestment from Telia Company. His knowledge of networks has been described as 'mind-boggling' and his passion as 'irrepressible'.



**John Slamecka**  
President - Business International  
AT&T

With experience that spans both wholesale and large enterprise businesses, throughout his 25-year career Slamecka has worked with Tier I service providers to transform AT&T's access buying strategy to improve its position in the market and lead its enterprise offering. In his current role, he leads AT&T's Mobility and Enterprise Solutions Business across most of the world.



**Obaid Rahman**  
Head of group wholesale  
Axiata Group Berhad

As the group head of wholesale at Axiata, Rahman is responsible for the company's wholesale and carrier services portfolio across its geographical footprint in Asia-Pacific, and has been pivotal in internally propelling its wholesale transformation from its traditional and legacy models. Earlier this year, Rahman was elected vice chair of the ITW Global Leaders' Forum board.



**Ana Nakashidze**  
CEO  
AzerTelecom

Having been named as CEO of AzerTelecom in 2020, Nakashidze has led the company through a post-pandemic transformation and a geo-political crisis, while securing a major realignment and other achievements. Her leadership and proactive guidance through crises have been instrumental in AzerTelecom achieving stability while maintaining efficiencies, increasing profit margins and extending its product portfolio into new areas.



**Bankim Brahmabhatt**  
President and CEO  
Bankai Group

The brainchild of Brahmabhatt in 1989, Bankai Group has grown to become a leader in international voice and SMS traffic. It has also expanded its business into digital financial solutions, network switching, revenue management, fraud management, monitoring solutions and enterprise resource planning solutions. In 2022, the company ventured into composittech, agrifood and media marketing with Bankai Films and Bankai Studio.



**Ivan Mihaljevic**  
SVP of connectivity, infrastructure services and customer experience  
BCE Global USA

Mihaljevic is credited as being integral to the success of BCE Global USA and BCE Global. He has built a results-oriented, performance-based team and forged unique business partnerships, enabling accretive revenue for BCE's companies and partners. Under his leadership, the company has continued investments in artificial intelligence and business intelligence, exceeding its predicted EBITDA for five consecutive years.

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**Matteo Gatta**  
CEO  
BICS

Since taking the reins of BICS in 2021, Gatta has overseen a number of milestones, including its partnership with Thales to explore the internet-of-things for enterprises without eSIM restrictions, as well as the launch of its communications platform as-a-service that enables enterprises to integrate communications services such as voice, SMS and WhatsApp messages into their services and workflows via APIs.

**Ivan Landen**  
Founder and CEO  
Blue Wireless

Landen is credited as the first person to realise the vision of fixed wireless access as an alternative to fibre networks and scaling it globally with Blue Wireless, a provider of LTE/5G wireless managed network solutions. Since being founded, the business has grown from its origins in Singapore into global presence and continues to develop LTE/5G use cases for enterprises.

**Joshua Pang**  
Head of digital infrastructure  
Carlyle

As the head of digital infrastructure for private equity powerhouse Carlyle, Pang has been at the forefront of the firm's investments in data centre operators and telecoms businesses since he joined the firm in 2021. He has been the figurehead for Carlyle across all of the firm's telecom infrastructure investments including Involta Data Centers, Wyverd Fiber Group and Tillman Infrastructure.

**Ricky Chau**  
Chief strategy and customer officer  
CBC Tech

Upon joining CBC Tech in 2022 as chief strategy officer, Chau set about revitalising the company's vision, mission, and core values to better reflect its long-term strategic direction. Under his leadership, the company was rebranded as CBC Tech, aligning its value proposition to converge telecoms and tech, and transform CBC into a next-gen network as-a-service provider.

**Adil Alaskah**  
Chief technology officer  
center3

Alaskah leads the largest portfolio of data centres and international connectivity assets in the MENA region and was instrumental in the carve out of stc's MENA hub initiative, which eventually became center3. In his role, Alaskah has led the deployment of the first fully owned Saudi Vision Cable, increasing the resilience of Saudi cable landing stations in the Red Sea.

**Marisa Trisolino**  
CEO  
CMC Networks

Over the past 12 months, Trisolino played a pivotal role in launching CMC's Rapid Adaptive Network (C-RAN) Flex-Edge solution, which connects points of presence without needing to ship equipment or having a physical presence in-country. Under her leadership, CMC Networks has become the first and only service provider in Africa that is both MEF 3.0 SD-WAN and Ethernet certified.

**Colin Wang**  
Managing director  
China Mobile International, Middle East and Africa

Wang was named managing director of China Mobile International's (CMI) Middle East and Africa region in 2021. Most recently, he has overseen the launch of CMI's Oman Muscat MC1 point of presence in Barka. He also led the partnership between CMI and du, promoting the internet-of-vehicles in the UAE, focusing on supporting Chinese automobile manufacturers in the market.

**Keri Gilder**  
CEO  
Colt Technology Services

Gilder is a dynamic changemaker and is the driving force behind one of the industry's most exciting proposed acquisitions: Colt's intended purchase of Lumen EMEA. She has also worked hard to achieve 50/50 gender parity in Colt's executive leadership team and is working towards this echoing across the wider business through open and innovative programmes.

**Fergus Innes**  
Chief commercial officer  
Crosslake Fibre

Innes has been a driving force behind the phenomenal success of Crosslake Fibre's growth trajectory. He has been integral in the design of CrossChannel, the first subsea and terrestrial infrastructure build in more than 20 years that connects London to Paris, and builds commercial propositions that are crucial to the success of the next generation of digital assets.

**Marie Chabanon**  
Chief technology officer  
Data4 Group

As CTO, Chabanon holds a rather atypical position for a woman in the data centre industry. She has managed the exponential growth of the company by adapting her team's organisation and the sourcing of raw materials to build data centres in record time while testing solutions for a more sustainable construction.



**Abou Moustafa**  
Head of large and medium enterprise segment, datamena  
**du**

Under Moustafa's leadership, datamena's partner ecosystem has grown significantly over the last five years and enables partners to connect across a global footprint of digital hubs. In 2022, du saw its revenue grow 9.2% up from 2021. du's CEO cited its 5G network roll-out, fibre deployment, and focus on enterprise IT transformation as the driver for this momentum.



**Henry Lam**  
CEO  
**DCCConnect Global**

An industry veteran, Lam initiated the first Web3 Telecom DAO project, which attracted major Tier 1 regional carriers, such as Sparkle and Orchest, to participate in the project. He also launched the Internet Exchange automation initiative that enables users to establish an IX Port and connectivity services seamlessly with single touch provisioning using a network as-a-service model.



**Ivo Ivanov**  
CEO  
**DE-CIX Group**

Ivanov oversees one of the most interconnected internet exchanges globally and continues to lead the company as it expands its network footprint. Most recently, DE-CIX announced plans to set up an internet exchange company in Pakistan, in partnership with PTCL. It will be operated under a 'DE-CIX as a Service' model, which is due to complete technical implementation later this year.



**David Abt**  
Senior principal  
**Delta Partners**

Abt is considered an authority when it comes to expertise on wholesale projects. He has developed the international cloud and connectivity wholesale strategies for leading wholesalers, such as go-to-market, infrastructure and subsea investments. He has also supported the carve-out process of multiple towercos and infracos across Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia, specifically in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Australia.



**Rolf Nafziger**  
Senior vice president  
**Deutsche Telekom Global Carrier**

At the helm of an outstanding and talented team, Nafziger is a leading force in the industry's transformation to 5G through a number of initiatives. Under his leadership, Deutsche Telekom Global Carrier also participates in a number of breakthrough industry initiatives, most recently Rolf and his team were one of four members of the ITW Global Leaders' Forum internet of things working group.



**Matt Mercier**  
Chief financial officer  
**Digital Realty**

After rising through the ranks having joined Digital Realty in 2006, January 2023 saw Mercier named CFO and, most recently, him serving as senior vice-president for global finance and accounting. In his new role as CFO, Mercier will lead the company's global corporate finance organisation, including treasury, capital markets, investor relations, financial planning and reporting, accounting and tax.



**Marc Ganzi**  
CEO  
**DigitalBridge**

Ganzi continues to dominate in the investment of digital infrastructure through his company DigitalBridge. At the end of 2022, DigitalBridge acquired an ownership stake in AIMS Group from TIME dotCom Berhad, and in February of 2023, DigitalBridge and Brookfield completed acquiring a 51% stake in GD Tower from Deutsche Telekom for roughly €17.5 billion.



**Anand Ramesh**  
Senior vice president of advanced technology  
**EdgeConneX**

Ramesh has held the role of senior vice president, advanced technology, at EdgeConneX since October 2021. In his role, he leads and evaluates innovative edge data centre technologies related to power supply and distribution, heat removal and construction optimisation through modular design principles. He has designed waterless ultra-high efficiency cooling solutions, with PUEs comparable to evaporative cooled solutions.



**Michel Robert**  
CEO  
**Epsilon Telecommunications**

Since leading the US\$145 million acquisition of Epsilon by KT Corp and Daishin Private Equity, Robert is continuing to strengthen the collaboration between KT and Epsilon. As a result, Epsilon now has a nationwide footprint across KT's network infrastructure with seamless access to connectivity and colocation services in South Korea via three new points of presence across Seoul.



**Jim Poole**  
Vice president, business development  
**Equinix**

Having the responsibility for identifying and initiating new digital ecosystems for Equinix, Poole leads developing edge strategies focused on 5G, private wireless, multi-access edge, subsea cable and satellite communications. Equinix recently confirmed plans to build an International Business Exchange data centre in Montreal, Canada - bringing the company's data centre footprint to 16 in Canada and 245 in total.

**Katherine Ainley**  
*CEO, UK and Ireland*  
**Ericsson**

Ainley joined Ericsson back in 2021 from BT where she served as managing director of ventures in enterprise and CEO of Tikit. She leads Ericsson's accelerated network deployment as 5G technology presents the UK and Ireland with a key opportunity to rebuild following the effects of Covid-19 and increased demand for connectivity and ongoing digital transformation efforts.

**Martijn Blanken**  
*CEO*  
**EXA Infrastructure**

Over the last 12 months, Blanken and EXA's team have welcomed a number of milestones. This includes a second new diverse terrestrial transport route between Spain and Lisbon; a fibre connection through the England-France Channel Tunnel in collaboration with Colt; a partnership with FibreConnect to build its Italian backbone; and a €39 million investment in network infrastructure in Barcelona.

**Jessica Rosenworcel**  
*Chairwoman*  
**Federal Communications Commission**

Two years into her role as FCC chairwoman, Rosenworcel has confirmed plans to establish its new Space Bureau and Office of International Affairs leading the United States's policy and licensing matters related to satellite and space-based communications, as well as managing the engagement of foreign and international regulatory authorities, such as the MoU between Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore and the FCC.

**Cengiz Oztelcan**  
*CEO*  
**Gulf Bridge International**

With Oztelcan's guidance, GBI inked a partnership agreement with Alliance International Management on digital infrastructure services in the Middle East. Under the partnership, the digital infrastructure services will be delivered using GBI's Smart Network, which uses subsea and terrestrial fibre assets. Its Smart Network was also used during the Qatar 2022 World Cup to support the country's capacity needs.

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

In September 2022, 3i Infrastructure closed its acquisition of GCX for US\$550 million. The new ownership provides capital to expand GCX's network and service portfolio with further investments in telecoms infrastructure, strengthening GCX's global network reach. Grivner's leadership re-energised the global team, answering opportunities with innovative routing solutions such as Gulf Europe Transit and Mediterranean Express.

**Ricardo Orcero**  
*Senior strategic negotiator*  
**Google**

Pivotal to the development of the 45,000km 2Africa subsea cable, along with many other cable systems during his decades-long career in telecoms, Orcero has vast experience in working with both carriers and hyperscalers identifying, planning and investing in the build of next-gen internet infrastructure. He now works for Google as part of its global infrastructure team.

**Kemal Hawa**  
*Shareholder*  
**Greenberg Traurig**

Hawa is an attorney in the digital Infrastructure sector globally, representing many of the world's largest financial sponsors and companies. In 2022, he led more than US\$4 billion in digital infrastructure MandA transactions, and more than US\$10 billion overall. At the end of 2022, he represented EdgeCore Digital Infrastructure in its US\$1.2 billion sale to the Partners Group.

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

As the bearer of Capacity Media's first Lifetime Achievement Award, Roberts continues to contribute to the development and education of the industry both through his consulting firm, Hadaara Consulting, as well as speaking at numerous *Capacity* events throughout the year, and various thought-leadership activities. Roberts has also served as head judge for the Global Carrier Awards since 2020.

**Cliff Tam**  
*Senior vice president, global data strategy and operations, international business*  
**HGC Global Communications**

Tam is credited with solving the pain points of OTT and internet companies that are strengthening their business capacities. Using his extensive experience, he has successfully introduced the EdgeX by HGC partnership to bridge gaps between edge infrastructure and OTT demands in the ecosystem, especially among emerging Asian markets, to accelerate times to market and secure user experiences.

**Ricardo Martins**  
*Vice president of messaging*  
**iBASIS**

Since joining in mid-2020 as part of the acquisition of NOS International Carrier Services in Portugal, where he was the head of voice and messaging sales, Martins' team has doubled the company's messaging revenues three years in a row, and has helped iBASIS to diversify its services from its strong voice legacy into multiple new service areas.



**Andrés Sánchez**  
CEO and managing partner  
**Identidad Technologies**

In line with Identidad's new vision, Sánchez guided the company in broadening of its scope of work and began offering managed services. As a result, he led the company to win an outsourcing deal to become Liberty Latin America's exclusive gateway for international long distance and A2P in 22+ countries across the Caribbean and Latin America.



**Andres Madero**  
Chief technology officer, Latin America and Caribbean  
**Infinera**

As co-chair for MEF and as Open Networking Foundation's Cluster Lead for LATAM, Madero has been leading the conversation on optical network innovation around Latin America for the past 10 years. In his role, he engages with service providers in the region, giving them oversight on industry trends while demonstrating the business value of Infinera's edge portfolio of networking solutions.



**David Wajsgras**  
CEO  
**Intelsat**

Since joining Intelsat as CEO in April 2022, Wajsgras has been leading the group into its next chapter. He has adopted an approach of GEO, MEO, LEO and stratospheric (HAPS) platforms to meet the growing needs of customers. His first 12 months have been focused on creating long-term value and driving innovation, while shaping the future of the satellite industry.



**Veer Passi**  
Group CEO  
**Kalaam Telecom Group**

As group CEO, Passi has successfully led Kalaam's digital transformation from a prepaid calling card company in Bahrain to one of the top data service providers in the MENA region with revenues exceeding US\$100 million and licensed operations in Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He has led four acquisitions for Kalaam, expanding its footprint to 53 points of presence globally.



**Nic Rudnick**  
Group deputy executive chairman  
**Liquid Intelligent Technologies**

Rudnick has led Liquid for more than 20 years, building it into one of Africa's largest technology companies with an independent fibre network spanning more than 105,000km across the continent, as well as data centres and cloud services. He recently oversaw acquisition of Telrad, an Israeli-based technology company, using its kit and expertise to build broadband wireless access networks across Africa.



**James Flitton**  
Vice president EMEA infrastructure, access and business development  
**Lumen Technologies**

Flitton has been successfully driving business growth and transformation, enabling Lumen customers to achieve outcomes that make a real difference to their business and their customers. While at GTT and since 2021 at Lumen, he has led M&A due-diligence, post-merger integration and divestitures, supporting deals totalling US\$10 billion, integrating people, networks, business processes and systems ensuring synergies are fully realised.



**Funke Opeke**  
CEO  
**MainOne**

MainOne under Opeke's guidance continues to thrive, following its acquisition by Equinix in 2022. MDXi Apollonia, the data centre subsidiary of MainOne, received its Tier III Constructed Facility certification (TCCF) from the Uptime Institute. Most recently, MDXi Data Center (an Equinix Company) signed a strategic partnership with AMS-IX to operate and grow Internet Exchange services in West Africa.



**Pascal Menezes**  
Chief technology officer  
**MEF**

Menezes has been instrumental in driving the technology and service standards that underpin digital transformation across the communications industry. As co-founder and CTO of MEF, he leads the organisation's technology roadmap focused on connectivity, digital services, cybersecurity, edge computing, and service provider automation for cloud-scale deployments and additional connectivity services such as SD-WAN, and cybersecurity services like SASE and Zero Trust.



**Aaron Russell**  
Head of edge production infrastructure and connectivity  
**Meta**

Russell has served in a variety of leadership roles at Meta, including managing people within its edge, network engineering and network investments. One of his most significant contributions is his involvement in building the 2Africa subsea cable program, which supports Africa's growing broadband expansion. He also led many of the company's external connectivity initiatives, helping to improve Meta's global network.



**Andrew D Lipman**  
Partner  
**Morgan, Lewis and Bockius**

With more than 40 years of experience in the telecoms industry, Lipman has been involved in nearly every significant development in the communications industry. He assisted DigitalBridge on antitrust and foreign direct investment related to its acquisition of a majority stake in GD Towers and advised CBRE Investment Management's acquisitions of regional fibre-to-the-home providers, including Gateway Fiber and KwiKom Communications.

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**Frédéric Schepens**  
Group CEO  
Bayobab

Inspired by Africa and its potential, Schepens has played a pivotal role in the business strategy formulation #GrowAfrica and strengthening MTN GlobalConnect's financial position, growing the business into multiple business lines and generating more than US\$500 million in assets and revenues. Schepens is described as an inspirational leader who uses innovation to advance the business and the sector.



**Sarah Mills**  
Chief revenue officer  
Neos Networks

Mills is an experienced and celebrated business leader, with 25 years' experience as a business development professional in the telecoms sector. Neos has continued to invest in the expansion of its full-fibre network across the UK, now operating a 34,000km national network. Mills played an integral role in this growth, leading several projects in support of the UK's full-fibre ambitions.



**Neven Dilkov**  
Founder and CEO  
Neterra

As founder and CEO of Neterra, Dilkov has nearly 30 years of experience in the IT and telecoms field. In 2022, Neterra built and opened SDC 2, a new data centre in Sofia, Bulgaria. Dilkov is also the founder and owner of NetIX and has been developing many other large-scale business projects such as Neterra.TV, Neterra.Cloud, NetFleet.bg and the Sofia Data Center.



**Gabriel Navarro Assad**  
CEO  
Neutral Networks

Navarro leads a group of 600 telecoms professionals that aims to break paradigms in the sector through a wholly neutral fibre optic network to democratise operators' businesses, help reduce the digital divide and increase Mexico's digital competitiveness. With a multimillion US dollar investment, Neutral Network's NEXT transnational network between Mexico and the US marks the company's first border-crossing network.



**George Szlosarek**  
CEO  
neutrality.one

With more than 25 years of telecom industry experience behind him, Szlosarek continues to push neutrality.one to explore new opportunities. He is leading neutrality.one's involvement in a soon to be announced global infrastructure project that will offer new diverse routes between Europe and the GCC region, and has driven partnerships with the likes of Batelco, STC, Teridion and Kolibrić Telecom.



**Felix Seda**  
General manager  
NJFX

Felix Seda is devoted to bringing young talent and fresh perspectives into the telecoms industry by spearheading several initiatives to encourage the education, engagement, and advancement of young professionals. He created the Millennials in Telecom Reception at Pacific Telecommunications Council in 2020, encouraging young telecom employees to network with each other and seek out industry veterans willing to provide guidance.



**Tommi Uitto**  
President of mobile networks  
Nokia

Uitto joined Nokia in 1996. Since then, he has held senior roles in sales, product management and research and development. This year alone, he and his team launched anyRAN software, helping mobile operators and enterprises to extend their options for building and evolving their radio access networks, while Zain Jordan selected Nokia to supply 5G RAN equipment throughout Jordan.



**Michael Wheeler**  
Executive vice president of global IP network  
NTT

Wheeler has led the Global IP Network division of NTT into one of the leading wholesale IP providers in the world, according to global rankings Radar by Qrator and CAIDA's AS Rank. Wheeler is a highly respected executive who helps shape the conversation on the most important industry trends, from talent acquisition, retention and diversity to network security, internet-of-things, artificial intelligence and technology innovations.



**Alper Tunga Burak**  
CEO  
Odine

Under Burak's leadership, Odine has been setting a standard for systems integrators and how to help operators transform its network from a monolithic legacy to a disaggregated, software-defined and virtual network. Specifically, Odine has deployed one of the biggest global telco clouds for Turkcell with the company achieving 70% savings in Capex and Opex over three years.



**Sohail Qadir**  
Vice president of wholesale  
Omantel

Qadir has played a significant role in transforming business practices in the Middle East, particularly in GCC countries. Over the past 12 years, he has taken a leading position in multiple subsea cable consortiums and has advocated for the sharing of infrastructure in terrestrial fibre and subsea cables. He facilitated Equinix's entry into Oman by forming a joint venture between Omantel and Equinix.



**Ayotunde Coker**  
CEO  
**Open Access Data Centres**

Under the leadership of Coker, Open Access Data Centres (OADC), a pan-African data centre company, has undergone a transformation in the less than 18 months since its formation. The organisation moved rapidly to build, deploy and start operating 35 open access, carrier-neutral facilities as part of the first phase of a five-year investment programme, driving the transformation of digital Africa.



**Sam Altman**  
Co-founder and CEO  
**OpenAI**

With the release of ChatGPT, Altman and OpenAI were thrust into the spotlight as the creator of the most popular AI chatbot in the market, noted for marked improvements in performance across reasoning, retention, and coding compared to previous versions. Since ChatGPT 4.0's launch in March 2023, OpenAI has expanded its partnership with Microsoft in a multibillion-dollar investment.



**Christel Heydemann**  
CEO  
**Orange Group**

Heydemann is Orange's first female CEO, a role she has held since April 2022. In February 2023, she unveiled the company's Lead the Future plan that will see it repackage its business-to-business activities and capitalise its core business. Having worked for the likes of Alcatel-Lucent and Schneider Electric, she is also an ambassador of the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society.



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

As CEO of Orange International Carriers since 2019, Rochas has succeeded in stabilising the wholesale connectivity provider's annual revenue at €1 billion for the third year in a row, consistently offsetting the decline of the large legacy voice business. This was achieved by developing new revenue streams with messaging, bandwidth services, CDN, cybersecurity, EVPL, IP Transit and Call Collect Numbers.



**Jeremy Villalobos**  
Chief operating officer  
**Orchest**

As COO of Orchest, an orchestration and last mile delivery company, Villalobos is described as the driving force behind automation in the Latin American market. He helped the region leapfrog ahead of other more challenging regions globally thanks to its software, MEF-compliant APIs and invaluable relationships in the region. He also played a pivotal role in the company's rebranding in November 2022.



**Wouter van Hulsten**  
Founder and CEO  
**PAIX Data Centres**

Somewhat of a multi-hyphenate, van Hulsten is the founder and CEO of PAIX Data Centres, founded the Africa Data Centres Association in 2018, and most recently founded the Accra-IX internet exchange in 2023. Under his leadership PAIX Data Centres completed its US\$20 million Series B funding by Africa50 and now operates two data centres, with a further three under development.



**Dan Pitt**  
President  
**Palo Alto Innovation Advisors**

Pitt has been a fixture in the open networking community for more than a decade. Among his many industry contributions, including serving as a former executive director of the Open Networking Foundation, the industry forum that launched software-define networking. He has also been a contributor to the MEF standards body and acts as selection committee chair, for the prestigious Anita Borg Technical Leadership Award.



**Marc Halbfinger**  
CEO  
**PCCW Global**

Halbfinger has helmed the business as it moved from a telecoms company into a more agile and dynamic technology-led business. Following PCCW Global's acquisition of Console Connect, Halbfinger has overseen a paradigm shift in which the Console Connect became the first carrier to complete a full SDN overlay of PCCW's MPLS network leveraging automation giving control of global network connections to customers.



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

Salgame leads Princeton Digital Group, a developer and operator of internet infrastructure. Prior to founding the company in 2017, Salgame led and transformed internet infrastructure and TMT businesses in Tata Communications, Cisco Systems and Verizon Communications. It has become one of the fastest growing Pan Asian players with 20 data centres in 14 cities across 5 countries and secured capacity of 600MW.



**Josh Snowhorn**  
Founder and CEO  
**Quantum Loophole**

Under Snowhorn's direction, Quantum Loophole has become one of the first companies to expand data centres on a gigawatt-scale, uniquely addressing the scalability, connectivity and cost-efficiency needs of multiple carriers. The company has broken ground on its QLoop network, a 40-mile hyperscale fibre ring connecting its 2,100-plus acre Quantum Frederick data centre development in Maryland to the Ashburn, Virginia ecosystem.

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**Tony Staffieri**  
President and CEO  
Rogers Communications

Staffieri and the Rogers team have cleared approvals for its US\$15 billion buyout of Shaw Communications, creating the second-largest telco in Canada. Staffieri first joined the company in 2012 as its chief financial officer, before serving as interim president and CEO between November 2021 to January 2022. He was made the permanent president and CEO in January 2022.



**Marcos Peigo**  
CEO and co-founder  
Scala Data Centers

In his 20-year career, Peigo has led numerous tech-based initiatives, including his sustainable data centre business, Scala Data Centers. The new colocation player has approached business, as well as environmentalism, in Latin America through its Sustainable Operation Program. It has become the first data centre company in the region to operate with 100% certified renewable energy.



**Steven Carlini**  
Vice president of innovation and data centre, energy management business unit  
Schneider Electric

Carlini leads the energy management business unit's office of innovation and data centre solutions – a team focused on spearheading Schneider Electric's data centre, digital energy, and residential businesses. A prominent thought leader in data centre and energy research, most recently he's added new researchers to the widely established team and has honed its focus on innovations such as battery storage and hydrogen.



**Laurinda Pang**  
CEO  
Sinch

In April 2023, Pang announced her appointment as the new CEO of Sinch. Pang enters the role with more than 25 years of executive leadership experience and most recently served as president of global customer success at Lumen Technologies, with responsibility for its enterprise customer success organisation. She was also chair of the ITW Global Leaders' Forum between 2020 and 2022.



**Yue Meng Fai**  
Chair, SEA MEWE 6  
Senior director of consortium cable engineering, Singtel

As one of the driving forces behind the 19,200km SEA-ME-WE 6, subsea cable system, Meng Fai is an active contributor and thought-leader in the subsea cable sector. The new long-haul route will deliver will offer one of the lowest latencies available between Southeast Asia, Middle East and Western Europe, as well as an additional layer of diversity and resilience between Singapore and France.



**Enrico Bagnasco**  
CEO  
Sparkle

Bagnasco was appointed CEO of Sparkle in November 2022 after serving as the company's chief technology officer. In his previous role, he adopted a holistic approach of infrastructure, to support the uptake of digital services, 5G and the internet of things through a complete redesign of technical programs, digitalisation of company processes, innovation of network architecture, and massive scale deployment of infrastructure.



**Bruno Lopez**  
President and group CEO  
ST Telemedia Global Data Centres

Under Lopez's leadership, the group has experienced remarkable growth with a 30% CAGR in revenue and 45% CAGR in EBITDA during the past five years despite facing headwinds such as stiff competition and volatile regional and global business climates. The business has also expanded into four new markets during the Covid19 pandemic based on strong global customer demand.



**Mohammed Al-Abbadi**  
Group chief carrier and wholesale officer  
stc group

Al-Abbadi has been in his role at stc since January 2020. His strategy is focused on driving Saudi Arabia's digital transformation, wholesale business growth, and diversification through existing asset monetisation, network expansion, adjacency exploration and unconventional offerings. The business has also invested in several subsea cables such as 2Africa, Saudi Vision Cable and operates as an interconnect hub to cables landing in the kingdom.



**Bevan Slattery**  
Founder and CEO  
SUBCO and HyperOne

As founder and CEO of SUBCO and HyperOne, Slattery has helped transform the digital infrastructure industry to better connect Australia with the world. His largest SUBCO project is the Oman Australia Cable (OAC) which went live in October 2022. In March 2023, he announced plans to deliver a new diverse cable landing for OAC in the new interconnection hub of Salalah, Oman.



**Mohamed Nasr Eldin**  
CEO  
Telecoms Egypt

Eldin, Telecom Egypt's new CEO, is a former executive of PCCW Global and Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. He has said his priorities as CEO "include developing and diversifying the mix of services to suit our rapidly evolving customer needs, providing distinguished customer experience at all levels and expanding our customer base".



**Eloy Rodríguez Villa**  
*Chief wholesale officer*  
**Telefónica Global Solutions**

Since joining Telefónica in 1993, Rodríguez has played an active role in driving the change that has transformed the company's activities. During his tenure he implemented a new culture of excellence, focussed on reskilling and upskilling teams, while championing digital transformation, driving the automation and digitalisation of the company's business processes and customer interaction.



**Amar Huzaimi Md Deris**  
*Executive vice president, TM Global*  
**Telekom Malaysia Berhad**

Since taking the reins of TM Global in 2018, Deris has steered the business's transformation from a traditional wholesale service provider to a digital enabler, increasing revenue by 7% CAGR between 2018 to 2022. His efforts include deploying fibre at 5G sites, providing high-speed broadband access and establishing edge facilities to support its edge compute platform and TM's Internet Exchange.



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

Under Camplin-Warner's management, the division has seen increased growth, which has contributed to Telstra International now representing 10% of Telstra's overall EBITDA. Outside of this, he leads and sponsors the Global Leaders Forum Accelerator programme, an executive leadership programme designed by telco leaders to support and enable the next generation C-Leaders of international connectivity businesses.



**Ellen Velickovska**  
*Co-founder and managing director*  
**telXira**

As managing director and co-founder of telXira, Velickovska's goal was to challenge the business messaging market's status quo and provide user-centric solutions that are delivered with customer service end-to-end. In 2022, Velickovska's focussed on and invested in telXira's communications platform as-a-service, which enables local and global carriers to enter the business messaging market and deliver omnichannel services.



**Mario Martín**  
*CEO*  
**Telxius**

Martín played an instrumental role in Telxius' recent collaboration with América Móvil to launch a brand-new submarine cable, Tikal. He also played a key role in enabling the success of Telxius' recent shareholding restructuring, in which Telefónica and Pontegadea now own 70% and 30%, respectively. His focus is on adding value on top of subsea cable infrastructure and delivering end-to-end digital infrastructure.



**Kurtis Lindqvist**  
*CEO*  
**The London Internet Exchange (LINX)**

Leading LINX's expansion into Africa with its LINX Nairobi project, Lindqvist has been an ambassador for the company and its expansion into next-gen internet exchange points with the introduction of new products from closed user groups to the Microsoft Azure Peering Service. Lindqvist was previously CEO of Netnod for more than 10 years and sat on euro-IX's board for 20 years.



**Christian Koch**  
*Edge strategy*  
**TikTok**

Koch has been significantly influential across digital infrastructure for more than a decade. He has held roles at prominent technology companies such as Twitter, Microsoft and now TikTok, and at data centre and connectivity startups Digital Realty and Megaport. He also founded the New York Network Operators group and served on the board of the Seattle Internet Exchange and the Toronto Internet Exchange.



**Nik Willetts**  
*CEO*  
**TM Forum**

Willetts is passionate about the digital revolution and the impact technology and telecoms can have on business, cultural, societal and environmental issues. Responsible for driving TM Forum's strategy and direction, he works closely with its 700-plus membership to transform their businesses. He has proudly led the development of the Forum's diversity, equality and inclusion policies, with 50% female representation in his senior leadership team.



**Alexandre Pébereau**  
*CEO and founder*  
**Tofane Global**

With the success of iBasis in voice, Pébereau is now replicating the successful model in internet of things and messaging. In 2022, he raised investment through private equity funds, institutional financial investors, and Tier 1 banks to secure his sixth acquisition in the IoT space, with the acquisition of Simfony. Pébereau's Tofane Global then secured its seventh acquisition when self-funded the DIMOCO Messaging deal.



**Iñigo García del Cerro**  
*CEO*  
**Ufinet**

Under the direction of del Cerro as CEO, Ufinet has continued its geographical expansion across Latin America and with double-digit growth in its main financial and commercial indicators. At the same time, the company has increased its market value year-on-year, generating value for its shareholders and the companies it serves, by continuously adapting to different and new markets and competitive environments.

Capacity

**Yuriy Kurmaz**  
CEO  
Ukrtelecom

Kurmaz is a leader of Ukrtelecom, under his command the company managed to adapt to war conditions and provide services in severe times for both the army and the critical infrastructure. A steadfast leader in times of crisis, Kurmaz has worked hard to ensure Ukrtelecom's employees and their families were fully supported and evacuations to shelters were organised.

**Eric Cevis**  
President, global wholesale  
Verizon Partner Solutions

Cevis is described as embodying a rare trifecta of attributes, rarely possessed by one person. He consistently delivers and overachieves on key business results, motivates and inspires his team through exceptional leadership and vision, and fosters an inclusive and positive culture where kindness, integrity, equity and inclusion take centre stage, which is routinely acknowledged and felt across the entire company.

**Kim Gunnelius**  
Co-founder and managing director  
Verne Global Finland

Under Gunnelius' direction, Verne Global Finland achieved carbon neutrality in 2021, several years ahead of its competitors, and is advancing toward a carbon-negative, climate-positive operation. He also oversaw the effort to recycle heat generated by servers for district heating networks and the acquisition of Ficolo (now Verne Global Finland) by Triple Point's Digital 9 Infrastructure for €135 million.

**Jarrod Nink**  
Chief executive, wholesale and international  
Vocus

With 12 new major fibre cables and new entrants into the market, Nink and his team are a year into deploying close to US\$1 billion in new subsea and terrestrial projects. These include Vocus becoming the first to market with 400Gbps Wavelength Ethernet services, Project Highclere, a new 1,000km subsea cable, and Project Horizon, a new 2,000km fibre route.

**Margherita Della Valle**  
Chief executive officer  
Vodafone Group

Valle served as CFO of the group since July 2018, before being appointed CEO in April 2023 following Nick Read's departure. Her previous roles within Vodafone include deputy CFO from 2015 to 2018, group financial controller, CFO of Vodafone's European region and CFO of Vodafone Italy. She joined Omnitel Pronto Italia, which later became Vodafone Italy, in 1994.

**Ehsan Ahmadi**  
Founder and CEO  
Vox Solutions

Ahmadi is leveraging machine learning into optimising the messaging world, focusing on the safety, efficiency and CX of authentication processes. He is credited as the first person to highlight the challenge that flash calling poses to mobile network operators, leading to the development of the first and only solution in the market to block or monetise A2P voice traffic.

**Marc Dyman**  
Executive vice president of Kinetic Business and wholesale  
Windstream

Dyman leads one of the largest wholesale groups in rural North America which enables carriers to gain access to their customer's difficult to reach locations in rural areas. His teams have developed an access portfolio that enables SD-WANs via PON-based networks, as well as cell site backhaul requirements for MNOs by bringing fibre to support mobile networks 5G requirements in rural America.

**Chris Wood**  
CEO  
WIOCC Group

Wood has contributed significantly to Africa's digitisation imperative, ensuring the ability of WIOCC Group clients to deploy scalable, value-added services through extensive infrastructure investment and improvement. This includes the launch of pan-Africa data centre provider, Open Access Data Centres and constructing 35 open-access, carrier-neutral data centres. WIOCC also landed the Equiano and 2Africa international subsea cable systems into key African locations.

**Eli Katz**  
CEO and founder  
XConnect

Over the past year, Katz has been focused on restoring trust in communication for the voice and messaging ecosystems. He has empowered XConnect's customers to build trust in telecoms with the launch of its portfolio of trust services. Katz was appointed to the board of the i3 Forum in February 2023 and is also active with the Trust in Communications working group at MEF.

**Sunil Gupta**  
Co-founder and CEO  
Yotta Data Services

Nicknamed the Data Center Man of India, Gupta's proven leadership has successfully delivered Asia's largest and world's second-largest Tier IV data centre, and the first and only facility in India to be with Uptime Institute's Gold Tier Certification of Operational Sustainability. Yotta is also targeting underserved Asian markets with a pipeline of investments in countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Big Interview

MEF's James Williams discusses the limitless world of business messaging

Feature

Now in its fifth year, *Capacity* unveils the 2023 honourees of the Power 100 index

POWERING THE INDUSTRY

