

Bharti ties up with global firms, kicks off ORAN tech plan

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 14 October

Bharti Airtel has tied up with global technology companies to develop products to power 4G and 5G networks based on Open Radio Access Network (ORAN) technology.

These companies include Rakuten, a Japanese e-commerce giant and 4G operator which is the first to launch commercial 5G services in Japan based on the new technology.

The others are Japanese hardware giant NEC, Taiwanese major Sercomm, cloud player Red Hat in the US, and start-ups like Texas-based Mavenir. Confirming the development, a top Bharti executive said: "We are passionate about ORAN and our strategy is to collaborate with the best in the world and help them in orchestrating products for 4G and 5G. We have set up our own R&D centre. Someone has to put together these disaggregated solutions so that they can be used together in the network. Our R&D team will perform that function."

In simple terms, ORAN is based on open platforms rather than the traditional proprietary technology offered by incumbent gear makers.

Instead of depending on both software and hardware from one vendor, telcos can now buy them from various players, reducing costs substantially. However, telcos require integrators to combine the various products to make a network run. That is what Bharti will do.

However, the executive made it clear that the company will also continue to work with incumbent gear makers such as Nokia and Ericsson who in turn will be competing with the new technology players in the game.



GAME PLAN

- The company has set up an R&D team to function as an integrator between different products and software
- Main aim is to ensure quality and lower price – not, like Jio, to provide technology to the world
- Firm has already developed small cells which are being deployed based on ORAN technology
- Globally, over 40 operators have shown interest in opting for the technology

For instance, Nokia has already joined the ORAN alliance. "Our aim is simple. We want to get the best quality and the lowest cost. We are not looking at becoming a R&D provider for the whole world," added the Bharti executive. The move is significant, as Bharti's strategy is clearly different from its key rival Reliance Jio which recently announced that it has developed an indigenous 5G network which it would like to export and sell to the world.

Bharti's aim, instead, is to collaborate with its partners for its own networks which, apart from India, extend across Africa, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. It has already tasted success in this collaborative approach. Bharti has developed

small cells in collaboration with start-up Altistar which can be used indoors and in enterprises as well as outdoors. It has already deployed them across the country with a view to enhancing the capacity of the network.

The advantage of the new technology is immense. It is expected to reduce 5G deployment costs by around 40 per cent, offer huge flexibility in the functioning of the network (making it easier to move capacity from one area to another) and reduce operators' dependence on incumbent gear makers.

Globally, over 40 operators have shown interest in opting for the ORAN technology but they are all waiting to see the results of Rakuten's launch of the first commercial 5G network based on ORAN in Tokyo and Nagoya. The new technology has also attracted the attention of many Indian tech firms. Tech Mahindra is one. Analysts say it has positioned itself to become an integrator.

Wipro and HCL Technologies are also in talks to enter the field. Companies like Sterlite Technologies which have tied the knot with Rakuten are helping in the development of the hardware.

OnePlus to invest ₹1,000 cr in India R&D

T NARASIMHAN
Chennai, 14 October

Unfazed by the surge in anti-China sentiment, smartphone maker OnePlus is committed to investing around ₹1,000 crore on research and development (R&D) and another ₹100 crore on retail expansion in the country, said a senior company official.

Additionally, the executive said that all of its TVs, including the Q and U series, will be manufactured in India from next year.

Speaking to *Business Standard* after launching the OnePlus 8T 5G, Navnit Nakra, vice-president and chief strategy officer, OnePlus India, said as part of its 'Make in India' initiative all of its smartphones are being manufactured

here. "OnePlus is dedicated to investing towards its manufacturing capabilities in India and will certainly be leveraging opportunities to build a robust manufacturing ecosystem in the country," said Nakra.

OnePlus has over 5,000 offline stores, including partnered stores, across the country, and plans to scale this up to 8,000 stores in the coming quarters. The ₹100 crore investment will help achieve this, the firm said.

Its biggest experience store, OnePlus Nizam Palace in Hyderabad, will be launched later this week, and 14 stores will be launched in the next six months. By next year, the company plans to cover 100 cities against 65 currently.

On the anti-China sentiment, Nakra said, "Socio-political factors are always



The firm will invest ₹100 crore more to expand retail presence to 8,000 stores

affecting those around us. We as a brand prefer to speak with our product. India continues to be a key market for OnePlus since our entry in 2014 and we remain

committed towards the region. Over the years, we have worked hard to strengthen our manufacturing capabilities in line with the 'Make in India' initiative and continue to expand our local presence".

In July, OnePlus expanded its smart TV portfolio with the launch of OnePlus TV's U and Y series, followed by OnePlus Nord for the mid-range smartphone segment, and OnePlus Buds for accessories.

Nakra said OnePlus regained the top spot in the premium smartphone category in the second quarter of 2020 with 29 per cent market share, according to Counterpoint data. In that quarter, it recorded its best-ever smartphone shipments. The contribution of OnePlus' ultra-premium segment to the overall portfolio grew to 25 per cent in 2019, from a mere two per cent in 2018.

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NOTICE
Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investors Education and Protection Fund (IEPF)
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 124(6) of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Investors Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ('the Rules'), Special Dividend of Rs. 500/- per share declared by the Company for FY 2013-2014, which has remained unclaimed for seven consecutive years is due for transfer to IEPF on January 15, 2021.
The corresponding shares on which dividend are unclaimed for seven consecutive years shall also be transferred as per the procedure laid down in the Rules.
The shareholders may please note that the list of shares which are liable to be transferred to IEPF has been updated on the website of the Company at <http://www.strides.com/investor-iefp.html>
In case the shareholder fail to claim the above dividend by January 15, 2021, all the shares (whether held in physical or electronic form) shall be transferred by the Company to the designated demat account of IEPF Authority.
The concerned shareholders may note that upon such transfer, they can claim the said shares along with dividend(s) from IEPF, for which details are available at www.iepf.gov.in and also on the website of the Company at <http://www.strides.com/investor-iefp.html>
For further information, concerned shareholders may contact the Company or the Registrars and Share Transfer Agents, M/s. KFin Technologies Private Limited at the following address:

Strides Pharma Science Limited Strides House, Bilekahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru – 560 076 Tel no. 080 6784 0000/ 0290 Email: investors@strides.com	KFin Technologies Private Limited Unit: Strides Pharma Science Limited Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31-32, Gachibowli Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad – 500 032 Toll Free No.: 1800 4258 998 Email: einward.ris@kfintech.com
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For Strides Pharma Science Limited Sd/-
Manjula Ramamurthy
Company Secretary
Place : Mumbai
Date : October 15, 2020

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Transfer of Dividend/ Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Account
NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the provisions of Section 124 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act"), read with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules"), all dividend(s) remaining unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date of transfer to Unpaid Dividend Account are required to be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority established by the Central Government.
Shareholders are requested to note that dividend declared by the Company during the financial year 2013-14, which remained unpaid/ unclaimed for a period of seven years will be transferred to the account maintained by the IEPF Authority on or after January 24, 2021. The corresponding equity shares in respect of which dividend remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven consecutive years are required to be transferred to the Demat Account of the IEPF Authority as per the procedure set out in the Rules. The details of the concerned shareholders, whose shares are liable to be transferred to the IEPF Authority are made available on the website of the Company www.hdfclife.com
The Company is making all the efforts to deliver individual notices/ intimations to the shareholders through post or email. However, in view of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a possibility that shareholder(s) may face some difficulties in receiving the physical copy of the notice delivered to their registered address. In such cases this Notice may please be considered as individual notice in compliance with the Rules.
Concerned shareholder of the Company may claim dividend declared during the financial year 2013-14, up to January 10, 2021, failing which the Company, in compliance with the said Rules shall transfer the unpaid/ unclaimed dividend for FY 2013-14 and the corresponding equity shares to the Account maintained by the IEPF Authority without any further notice on or after the due date of transfer.
No claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unpaid/ unclaimed dividend amount and the corresponding equity shares transferred to the IEPF. Shareholders may claim the unpaid/ unclaimed dividend amount and corresponding equity shares transferred to IEPF including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, from the IEPF Authority by making an application in Form No. IEPF-5 and after following the procedure prescribed in the Rules, details of which are available on the website of the IEPF Authority www.iepf.gov.in
For any queries, shareholders may contact KFin Technologies Private Limited, the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company at Tower - B, Plot No 31 & 32, Selenium Building, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032 (Contact Person: Krishna Priya M. - Manager, E-mail id : einward.ris@kfintech.com, Contact No.: 040-67162222 / 79611000).
For HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited
Sd/-
Narendra Gangan
EVP, Company Secretary
& Head - Compliance & Legal
Date: October 14, 2020
Place: Mumbai

Centre mandates all ministries, public depts & CPSUs to use BSNL, MTNL services

The Centre has mandated all ministries, public departments and public sector units to use telecom services of state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL). "The government of India has, inter-alia, approved the mandatory utilisation of capacities of BSNL and MTNL by all ministries/departments of government of India, CPSEs, central autonomous bodies," a memorandum issued by the

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said. The memorandum dated October 12, was issued to all secretaries and departments under the central government following consultation with the finance ministry. The Department of Expenditure's note accompanying the memorandum mentioned that the decision to mandate the use of BSNL and MTNL telecom service was taken by the Cabinet. **PTI**

3.9 MN FLYERS IN SEPT, 66% LOWER THAN LAST YEAR: DGCA

A total of 3.94 million domestic passengers travelled by air in September this year, 66 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year, the country's aviation regulator DGCA said on Wednesday. With Go Air and Vistara slowly adding more flights, India's largest airline, IndiGo's market share came down to 57.5 per cent from an all-time high of 60.4 per cent in July. GoAir doubled its market share from 3.8 per cent in July to 6.7 per cent in September, while Vistara's market share increased from 4.2 per cent in July to 6.6 per cent. Starting October, both GoAir and Vistara have further increased flights. GoAir announced an addition of over 100 new flights in its domestic network, including from its base Mumbai, besides other cities such as Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai. India resumed flights in domestic circuit on May 25 after a gap of two months. Airlines are allowed to operate a maximum of 60 per cent of their pre-Covid domestic flights.

MARKET SHARE %

IndiGo Spicetlet Air India
Vistara GoAir Air Asia
India Others

June

IndiGo	60.4
Spicetlet	6.2
Air India	15.7
Vistara	9.1
GoAir	0.6
Air Asia	3.8
India	4.2
Others	0.6

September

IndiGo	57.5
Spicetlet	6.0
Air India	13.4
Vistara	6.7
GoAir	6.6
Air Asia	9.4
India	0.4
Others	0.4

"WE WILL WATCH FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR 10 DAYS AND THEN WE WILL HAVE NO HESITATION TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY TO 75%
HARDEEP SINGH PURI
Civil aviation minister

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