COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Former Telstra finance director joins Inligo as it advances SE Asia, Australian fibre system plans

Inligo Networks has hired a former Telstra International executive to be its chief financial officer as it advances plans to build an undersea cable connecting Indonesia and Australia to the US as well as a terrestrial fibre link from Darwin to Melbourne.

Inglio chairman and CEO Brian Evans told CommsDay that Ramasamy Chockalingam has been appointed to head the company's finances. Chockalingam was the finance director for Telstra International, Asia for 12 years between 2007 and 2019. He has since worked in management consulting roles.

At Telstra, Chockalingam (pictured) was responsible for Telstra's regional subsea cable assets and regulatory compliance across its operating region.

"Chock's appointment will complete the current executive team providing significant financial knowledge and experience as Inligo moves into the construction phase of ACC-1. Finding a professional who has the depth of telecommunications and regulatory experience, not only within Singapore, but throughout the Asian region is a significant advantage for Inligo," Evans said.

In his new role Chockalingam will lead the global financial and regulatory functions of Inligo across Singapore, Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and the USA. He will be based in Singapore.

He joins an increasingly experienced management and board team. Board directors include former BT and Vodafone sales exec Simon Zettl, former Vodafone and Global Crossing exec Tim Gigg and former Indosat Oredoo, Vodafone and Cable&Wireless exec John Thompson. Former Vernet exec Ken Michael was appointed COO last month and a former Orange Business Services exec, Anthony Callanan, is the CTO.

Proposed routes of Inligo cables

Respected subcable marketing specialist APTelecom was also announced as a sales partner last year.

The CFO appointment comes as Inligo considers a shortlist of potential construction partners for its ACC-1 cable with a decision expected to be made next month. Similar efforts are also underway to evaluate potential construction contractors for its Unite Australian fibre system.

The ACC-1 cable intends to connect Darwin, Singapore, Guam and the US to a number of Indonesian destinations including Batam, Jakarta, Makassar and Mandao as well as Davao in the Philippines and Dili in Timor Leste. It is expected to be ready for service in 2025.
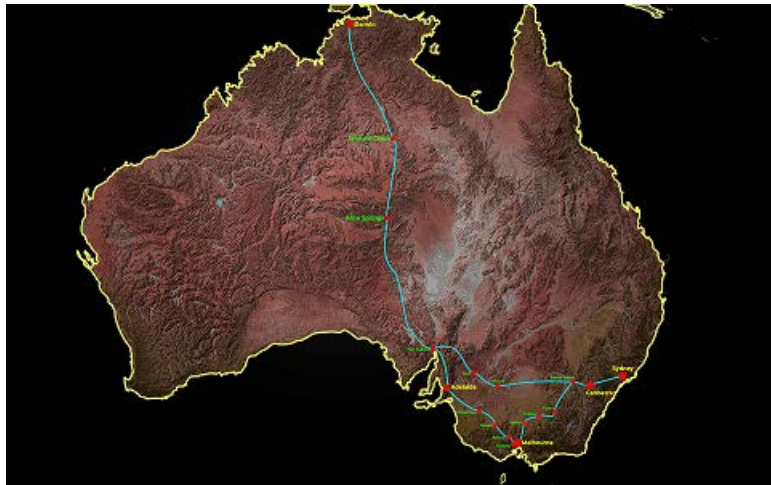
The Unite Cable is intended, in its first stage, to connect Darwin to Adelaide and then Melbourne, with a number of potential regional POPs, contingent on demand, in locations such as Alice Springs, Cooper Pedy, Murray Bridge and Ballarat.

The planned Unite cable system

Evans told CommsDay that Inligo intends to begin construction of both systems by the end of 2023. A second stage of Unite, to be built from 2024, would connect Adelaide to Sydney via Canberra, with an additional link from Melbourne to Sydney coming afterwards. "The benefit from both systems will be superior latency from Melbourne to Asia," he told CommsDay.

Two missing pieces at this stage are a publicly disclosed source of finance or a named customer. But Evans said that the company has foundation partners, who remain commercial in confidence at this stage but will be announced in due course.

Grahame Lynch

Optus issues $100m sustainability bond

Optus has joined the sustainable financing party that has proved increasingly popular with telcos and datacentre operators of late.

Parent Singtel said that Optus subsidiary Optus Finance has priced a AUD100 million 5-year fixed rate sustainability-linked bond which will be issued on 12 April 2023. The bond is guaranteed by Optus, denominated in Australian dollars, will carry a coupon of 4.577% per annum and will be drawn down under Optus Finance's AUD3 billion Australian Debt Issuance Programme. The notes will mature on 12 April 2028.

"The coupon rate of the SLB will be subject to a step-up margin of 0.25% per annum from the interest period commencing 12 October 2025 if the stated greenhouse gas emissions target is not met. The net proceeds from this issue will be applied by Optus to fund its ordinary course of business. BNP Paribas acted as sole lead manager and bookrunner for this issuance," SingTel said yesterday.

NBN Co last month issued a massive $2.1 billion green bond raise in Europe, while

AirTrunk said all of its $5 billion in financing was now linked to ESG outcomes, including a $650 million raise in Japan three weeks ago.

The NBN Co raise was priced at around 4.2%-4.4% and followed an earlier $800m green bond issue in Australia about a year ago.

<div align="right">Grahame Lynch</div>

AWS plans $13b local infrastructure spend to 2027, estimated $9b spend to date

AWS said yesterday it intends to invest more than $13 billion into its Australian infrastructure over the next five years, which it said would contribute some $35 billion to GDP and support 11,000 full time-equivalent jobs at local businesses by 2027.

AWS managing director for Australia and New Zealand Rianne Van Veldhuizen announced details of the spending plans yesterday. Amazon and its subsidiaries currently employ more than 7000 people in Australia.

The investment was a central focus of Van Veldhuizen's opening keynote to the cloud provider's summit in Sydney.

In January the company launched its first 'Local Zone' in Perth, as well as its second Australian cloud region in Melbourne, Van Veldhuizen's noted. In New Zealand it is investing some NZ$7.5 billion to open an Auckland region next year.

"I can also reveal that since we launched AWS here in 2012, we've already invested more than $9 billion already in Australia," the AWS MD said.

Prime minister Anthony Albanese welcomed details of Amazon Web Services plans to bolster its local cloud infrastructure over the next

The AWS Summit yesterday

half decade. "Digital transformation is integral to Australia's future prosperity," the prime minister said yesterday. "A whole-of-nation effort is required to ensure Australia and its citizens and businesses can be resilient, secure, and prosperous."

Albanese said that economic and infrastructure investment from cloud providers like AWS "helps create jobs, advances digital skills, boosts innovation, and uplifts local communities and businesses."

He added: "The Australian Government acknowledges AWS's investment into the nation over the past decade, and welcomes its planned investment over the next five years, the full-time jobs supported annually, and contribution to the nation's GDP."

Two other key themes Van Veldhuizen focused on were efforts to help customers drive down their costs, and sustainability. The former included working with NAB to optimise its cloud spend by taking advantage of the custom-built AWS Graviton processors, helping the bank find $1 million per month in savings. Van Veldhuizen also

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TOP SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Telstra CEO Vicki Brady

NBN Co CEO Stephen Rue

Vocus CEO Ellie Sweeney

Comms minister Michelle Rowland

ACMA chair Nerida O'Loughlin

TPG Telecom CEO Inaki Berroeta

ACCC commissioner Anna Brakey

Secretary, Regional NSW Rebecca Fox

Ericsson ANZ MD Emilio Romeo

Console Connect CTO Paul Gampe

Optus head of 5G Harvey Wright

AWS head of telco, Aus Nathan Hill

Shadow comms minister David Coleman

Vocus chief exec enterprise & gov't Andrew Wildblood

CEO, NSW Telco Authority Kylie De Courteney

Aussie Broadband chief strategy officer Jonathon Prosser

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Tuesday May 2, 2023

9.00 Vocus CEO Ellie Sweeney
9.25 Ericsson ANZ MD Emilio Romeo
9.50 Telstra CEO Vicki Brady
10.15 ACCC commissioner Anna Brakey

10.40 Morning tea sponsored by Maser
11.20 Cisco managing director, ANZ Service Provider Karen Negus: *"Business Models for Sustainability"*
11.40 ENE.HUB head of digital urbanism Adam Beck
12.00 Nokia managing director Australia & New Zealand Andrew Cope
12.20 Amdocs client relation director, Avi Samson: *"Accelerating your cloud journey"*
12.40 TPG Telecom CEO Inaki Berroeta

1.00 Lunch
2.00 Infinera director, systems engineering Erwin Filmer
2.20 Comarch director of FSM R&D/Product Manager Tomasz Jacel
2.40 Sitetracker vice president of Asia Pacific Paul Butterworth
3.00 Red Hat director, solutions architecture - telco, media & entertainment Andrew McGee

3.20 Afternoon tea
3.40 Matsing EVP Leo Matytsine: *"Delivering high capacity fixed and mobile connectivity with Lens Antenna technology"*
4.00 Oliver Wyman partner, head of Communications, Media and Technology, Asia Pacific Felix Iblher and partner, communications, media and technology Zia Bhadiar
4.20 Internet Society Sr. Manager, Internet Technology Aftab Siddiqui

4.40 NSW government, secretary of regional services Rebecca Fox

Wednesday, May 3 2023

9.00 ACMA chair Nerida O'Loughlin
9.25 AWS head of telco, Australia Nathan Hill
9.50 NBN CEO Stephen Rue
10.15 Console Connect CTO Paul Gampe

10.40 Morning tea sponsored by Maser
11.20 Aussie Broadband chief strategy officer Jonathon Prosser
11.40 NSW Telco Authority CEO Kylie de Courteney
12.00 Comms Alliance CEO John Stanton
12.20 Shadow communications minister David Coleman
12.40 Vocus chief executive, enterprise and government Andrew Wildblood

1.00 Lunch
1.20-1.40 Video replay of Michelle Rowland's Edisons speech on the big screen
2.00 Optus head of 5G Harvey Wright
2.20 2degrees chief technology officer Martin Sharrock

2.40 Lightning talks (Seven minutes each)
Commscope speaker TBC
OneWiFi Head, RF Planning & Design Neil Robinson
DZS Malcolm Richards, VP APAC Software Sales
IMZI Caleb Steer, Director of Sales
Google speaker TBC

3.20 Closing session: Fireside Chat
MC Tim Webster talks with Aussie Broadband CEO Phil Britt
3.40 Close

noted AWS's Lift program for SMBs, which launched in Australia late last year and in New Zealand in February this year. The program offers access to AWS credits worth up to US$83,500.

On the sustainability front, Van Veldhuizen said: "At Amazon, we're on the path to powering our operations with 100% renewable energy by 2025."

The cloud provider has three renewable energy projects in Australia, and Van Veldhuizen announced that it planned to work with NZ renewable energy provider Mercury to source energy from the Turitea South wind farm. It is AWS's first renewable energy project in the country and will support the upcoming Auckland region launch.

WESFARMERS CLOUD PACT: Also announced yesterday at the summit were details of a five-year agreement with AWS and Wesfarmers OneDigital, focused on support for the data and digital platform delivery. The announcement makes AWS the preferred cloud provider across the Wesfarmers Group.

Wesfarmers OneDigital was launched in mid-2022 with a focus on omnichannel experience across the retail group, which includes high-profile brands such as Bunnings Warehouse, Kmart, Officeworks, and Target. Wesfarmers carries out some 1.5 million digital transactions and 210 million digital interactions every month.

Wesfarmers will establish an AWS Skills Guild for each division across the group.

Wesfarmers OneDigital managing director Nicole Sheffield said: "A critical part of this collaboration is AWS's support for our OnePass membership program, which has been built using AWS native services.

"We aim to grow this program to be an 'essential household helper' with customers using OnePass to receive free shipping across our retail brands on eligible purchases, with additional benefits for shopping in-store and exclusive offers. The wide range of services from AWS allows us to quickly build and run modern applications without having to worry about managing infrastructure."

Rohan Pearce

Aussie Broadband launches entry level 5G plan with uncapped speeds

Aussie Broadband has introduced new 5G mobile offers that will provide customers with fully uncapped speeds and varying levels of data allocations.

The Optus MVNO's new Fast Track Plan provides 30GB of uncapped speeds for $45 per month, while the top tier Future Now plan now offers 220GB of uncapped 5G for $70 per month, which represents an additional 20GB of data at no additional cost. Aussie is offering the first month free to new customers of each plan.

Announcing the new offerings, Aussie Broadband chief strategy officer Jonathan Prosser said the company has decided to buck the trend of shaping lower tier 5G plans to speeds of 150Mbs or 250Mbps, to compensate for the growing operational costs needed to support the potential 500Mbps speeds that 5G networks are capable of delivering.

"Capping speeds effectively limits customers' full access to the capabilities of their 5G devices, and the service they are paying us for. It therefore doesn't pass that Aussie test of being good to people," he said.

"As Australians' need for speed and data increases, it's imperative that 5G users get access to the full bandwidth their devices need and deserve. We think this approach will not only better serve the needs of Aussie Broadband customers, but also the wider 5G market as more Australians merge onto the 5G network."

He said Aussie has a history of taking the path less travelled while planning its operational strategies. "Quite often the harder choice – both for our profit margins and infrastructure – is what would benefit those using our services or provide some healthy competition to create better offerings for everyone," he said.

On Aussie Broadband 4G and 5G mobile plans, if customers exceed their data allocations, mobile data is disabled until they purchase a data top up or a new billing cycle commences.

<div align="right">Dylan Bushell-Embling</div>

Telco capital intensity reached an all time high in Q4

Global telco "capital intensity" has reached an all-time high but not because of a surge in capex, and more because revenue declines outpaced capex declines. Despite this, EBITDA margins have remained healthy, according to a new MTN Consulting report.

In 2022, telcos represented $US1.78 trillion in revenues (-6% YoY), $US257 billion in labor costs (-5% YoY), and $322b in capex (-1% YoY). They employed approximately 4.572 million people as of December 2022, down 2.1% from the prior year.

Annualised capital intensity grew to an all time high of 18.1% in the fourth quarter, up from 17.3% a year earlier, driven by investments in the rollout of 5G as well as fibre networks for backhaul and fixed broadband services, MTN Consulting said.

The top spending operators by capital intensity during the quarter include Japan's Rakuten, which is reaching the peak of spending for the deployment of its greenfield mobile network and had an annualised capex to revenue ratio of 145.1%. Meanwhile the Philippines' Globe Telecom had the highest capital intensity among established operators at 57.8%. China Mobile was the top capex spender in 2022 in terms of dollar value, at US$27.5 billion. Notably, eight of the top 20 operators by 2022 capex spend achieved double digit growth rates for 2022.

The decline in revenue was in large part attributable to factors including the impact of the spin-off of AT&T's WarnerMedia unit on its headline revenues, which fell 44% year-on-year as a result, according to MTN Consulting.

Among the top 20 operators by revenues, 12 posted declines in Q4, with some recording double digit decreases, the research firm said. These included all three major Japanese operators, KDDI (-12.6%), Softbank (-11.6%),and NTT (-11.4%) as well as America Movil (12.5%) and the UK's BT (-11%). By contrast, India's Airtel saw the strongest growth in revenue, up 13.9%.

Despite rising capital intensity and stalling revenue, the sector has maintained a healthy EBITDA margin of 34% during 2022, the report found. EBIT margins also remained within the historic range of 13-18%, at 14.6% for the calendar year. Telcos have been cutting their sales and marketing spending as well as general administrative costs.

The report predicts that telcos will continue reducing their headcount and revamping their processes in the current year. Telco industry headcount has already been reduced from 4.67m a year ago to 4.57m in Q422.

But to increase and sustain profitability, telcos will have to implement dramatic measures to optimise their cost structure, some of which will transform the conventional telco business model, MTN Consulting warned. Cost optimisation measures will include automation, core network sharing, network slicing, and deeper partnerships with webscale cloud providers.

<div align="right">Dylan Bushell-Embling</div>

Datacentres tipped to become battery energy storage centres

Datacentres have a role to play in helping Australia meet its net zero carbon emissions targets by contributing to a sustainable grid, according to Schneider Electric VP of IT business Joe Craparotta.

Speaking at Schneider Electric's Australian Innovation Summit, Craparotta said datacentre sustainability and scalability will be critical to meeting the demands of an increasingly digital Australia, while also supporting its net zero carbon emissions targets. To meet these targets, datacentres will not just need to be more energy efficient, but be rearchitected to support the storage of green energy, he said.

"Currently, Australia is at the forefront of the hybrid data technology architecture that will define the fourth industrial revolution and, in line with this, our datacentre infrastructure needs to be both advanced and adaptive to handle today's business needs, while anticipating success factors for the future," Craparotta said.

"This also means that every site, irrespective of size, needs to be scalable according to demand. In the future, even smaller data centres will become battery energy storage centres, supporting energy transition targets."

Craparotta (right) said the data centre sector is facing pressure to transform to be able to support Australia's increasingly digital lifestyles while still meeting sustainability targets. The three areas that need priority to support growing infrastructure include architecture, sustainability, and responsibility.

"Sustainability is becoming a key marker of success for Australia's datacentre," he said, noting that globally, datacentres are projected to account for 1-2% of energy consumption. "To support this transition we must have greater reporting transparency and consistent metrics for benchmarking and alignment across organisations."

Every deployment of new datacentres, including regional and local edge data centres, represents another opportunity to reduce Australia's carbon infrastructure targets and align with the new energy landscape, Craparotta said. But the clock is ticking fast to make these changes in time to have maximum impact.

For businesses to meet the individual carbon reduction goals they have set for themselves, they will need to pursue collaborations between the producers of technology and those who employ it, Craparotta added, noting that in enterprise and

hyperscale data centres, over 85% of potential sustainability reduction resides in Scope 3 emissions.

"The combination of technology, power usage, and operational efficiency has an exponential impact on data centre sustainability. If we are going to meet net zero targets, the entire ecosystem needs to work together, and we are in a unique position to support this process end-to-end," he said.

Dylan Bushell-Embling

FCC proposes stricter licensing regime for international carriers

The US Federal Communications Commission has published a draft proposal seeking to revamp its licensing regime for international carriers.

Under the draft, the FCC is seeking comments on a range of proposed changes to the licensing process for foreign carriers, including new information disclosure and renewal requirements for existing licensees.

If adopted, the new rules could impose additional reporting and administrative burdens on international carriers licensed in the US, including those from Australia and NZ such as Telstra and Vocus.

"The overarching objective of this proceeding is to adopt rule changes that will enable the Commission, in close collaboration with relevant Executive Branch agencies, to better protect telecommunications services and infrastructure in the United States in light of evolving national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy risks," the commission said.

At the core of the proposal is a call for a "one-time collection of foreign ownership information" from existing international licenses, dubbed international section 214 authorisation, together with a requirement for a renewal of their authorisation every 10 years. In parallel, the FCC said it is also looking for comment on an alternative approach that would require all international licensees to "periodically" update information to the commission so it can "review the public interest and national security implications of those authorisations based on the updated information."

The proposed rules are targeted at gaps to the commission's oversight of international licences, the commission continued. While all such authorisation are referred to the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector, informally known as Team Telecom, for approval, the commission said there is currently no process for assessing licensees after the granting of the initial authorisation.

"As a result, the Commission has long had significantly incomplete and outdated information regarding international section 214 authorisation holders with reportable foreign ownership," the commission said.

The absence of a formal process for reviewing international licensees first came to light following the commission's refusal of an application from China Mobile in 2019, which in turn birthed concerns over existing licensees China Telecom and China Unicom as well as Pacific Networks and ComNet, both owned by China fund CITIC. The commission has since revoked all previous authorisation to the Chinese carriers.

FCC's current proposal is seeking comment on a range of new disclosure requirements for licence applicants, including potentially, a 5% threshold for foreign ownership to trigger disclosure, geographical footprint of services, the use of foreign-owned managed network service providers and information on cross border facilities.

Further, the FCC also wants comments on whether it should require cybersecurity certification from applicants, as well as a declaration on "whether or not they use equipment of services identified in the commission's 'covered list' of equipment and services deemed "to pose an unacceptable risk" to US national security.

<div align="right">Tony Chan</div>

TikTok banned on government devices

Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said he had authorised a decision to ban the use of the TikTok app on Australian government issued devices.

"After receiving advice from intelligence and security agencies, today I authorised the Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department to issue a mandatory direction under the Protective Security Policy Framework to prohibit the TikTok app on devices issued by Commonwealth departments and agencies. The direction will come into effect as soon as practicable," he said.

Exemptions will only be granted on a case-by-case basis and with appropriate security mitigations in place.

The direction said: "The TikTok application poses significant security and privacy risks to non-corporate Commonwealth entities arising from extensive collection of user data and exposure to extrajudicial directions from a foreign government that conflict with Australian law."

"This direction does not impact the use of the TikTok application on personal devices. However, entities that accept the risks of the use of personal devices to access official or classified system data (i.e. pursuant to remote access arrangements including Bring Your Own Device or equivalent policies), must provide access to that data through non-persistent and full remote access solutions, approved by the Chief Security Officer, as opposed to using the native storage and applications on the personal device," the direction added.

Separately, Dreyfus said that the government had recently received the Review into Foreign Interference through Social Media Applications and its recommendations remain under consideration.

Earlier. TikTok said that it stored data of Australian users in Singapore and the United States and that it collected comparatively less data than other apps. It said for example that it did not collect precise locational data on users.

Last night the China foreign ministry said it: "has lodged solemn representations to Australia over its ban of TikTok on federal gov't devices. A digital security issue shouldn't be used as a tool for abusing national security, manipulating national power and unreasonably cracking down on foreign firms."

Shadow cybersecurity minister James Paterson was critical of what he saw as the slow reaction of the government in directing the ban. " I have been calling on the Albanese government to act on this issue for ten months now since TikTok admitted in a letter to me in July last year that our data is accessible by their employees in main-

land China. And ever since that point, we've known that is a risk to the data security and privacy of Australians. But there have been many other revelations since, and I've written to the Minister of Home Affairs and Cyber Security. I wrote to the Prime Minister about it, and I've been calling on them publicly to do it, particularly in the last few months when so many of our allies and friends have acted and Australia has not."

<div align="right">Grahame Lynch</div>

Greg Wyler's E-Space signs global collaboration with e&

E-Space, the new satellite venture of Greg Wyler, the founder of both O3b and One-Web, said it has signed a deal with Dubai-based e&, formerly Etisalat, to collaborate on global Internet of Things and other digital services.

The announcement reads like a top ten hot technology list, with the companies pledging to focus on "the creative development of cloud-native digital and IoT solutions optimised with edge-based artificial intelligence." On a more conventional note, the collaboration will leverage e&'s terrestrial infrastructure and E-Space's space system, including its upcoming low earth orbit constellation and "unique device capabilities," which likely refers to E-Space's acquisition of CommAgility, a standalone developer of embedded signal processing and radio frequency modules.

Going back to the marketing spiel, the companies said the aim is to create "new business models to elevate IoT and digital transformation agendas of governments and large-scale enterprises worldwide." The partners also pledged to jointly develop global IoT use cases offering speeds ranging from kilobits per second to megabits per second. "There are tremendous opportunities in the terrestrial domain that can be amplified with the use of newer generation space systems coupled with edge AI," Wyler said. "We're bringing real-time information with advanced automation to create entirely new suites of global capabilities to advance humanity, improve the planet and automate business processes for greater operational scale and efficiency with reduced costs."

While E-Space has yet to start debut its satellites, the company has outlined lofty goals for its constellation, which it says will be the most sustainable satellite network in history, featuring "extremely compact and lightweight satellites" that Wyler said could also help remove space debris. The company also promises a "point-to-point" LEO system that eliminates the need for "hundreds or thousands of ground-based gateways."

<div align="right">Tony Chan</div>

ERICSSON AND INTEL TARGET MALAYSIA 5G B2B

Ericsson and Intel have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on 5G use cases in Malaysia. The companies said they intend to leverage their "respective technology expertise to show how communications service providers can accelerate 5G adoption and expand their business-to-business engagements based on 5G use cases." Specific segments identified by the partners include manufacturing, transport and logistics.

ITALY SUSPENDS CHATGPT ON PRIVACY CONCERNS

Italian regulators have imposed a temporary block on artificial intelligence platform ChatGPT over privacy concerns. The Italian Data Protection Authority pointed to a recent data breach of the ChatGPT system, which exposed information on users and their chat history to third parties for its decision and have given OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT about 3 weeks to respond with corrective measures. At the same time, the Italian agency also highlighted the lack of regulatory oversight over ChatGPT's "massive collection and processing of personal data" while training the AI. The Italian authority's actions follow the issuance of a broad call to slow the development of AI by some of the biggest names in technology and industry, including Bill Gates and Elon Musk. ChatGPT is currently banned in public schools across New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania, as well as markets such as the US, France and India.

MORE WINS CULTURE PLAUDITS

More has been named on the Smart50 Workplaces Winners List for its approach to people and culture. The list recognises 50 Australian small and medium enterprises for their approaches to hiring and retention. More CEO Andrew Branson said: "It's really encouraging that the judges recognised that More is a great place to work and has numerous industry leading benefits for our staff." The CEO said that encouraging a strong and rewarding workplace culture is a been a strategic focus. He said staff benefits include "birthday leave and a $150 birthday gift, spotter's fee referral bonuses, free home internet and mobile plans, mobile phone handset finance, AFL and BBL season tickets, spin the wheel for prizes on work anniversaries and great customer reviews, and monthly massages in the office."

WA SEEKS MORE SMALL CELLS FOR MT AUGUSTUS

WA's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is seeking to expand coverage within the Mt Augustus Tourist Park. The department has issued a request for tender to provide coverage at three locations within the park, including Flintstone, Mt Augustus Road and Edney's Lookout. The park is home to the world's biggest rock, Burringurrah, which is twice the size of Uluru. The department wants small cells that can operate without mains power and provide emergency call services.

NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES MINISTRY

Newly elected NSW Premier Chris Minns yesterday detailed his government's first full ministry. Jihad Dib will take on customer service and digital government, as well as emergency services and youth justice. In the former role he replaces retired Liberal MP Victor Dominello, who was widely seen as one of Australia's more tech-savvy MPs. The new minister for regional NSW, Tara Moriarty, is likely to have some visibility of state government efforts to boost connectivity outside metro areas. Moriarty also holds the agriculture and Western NSW portfolios. Anoulack Chanthivong has been tapped for minister of innovation, science and technology, as well as taking on better regulation and fair trading, industry and trade, and corrections.

10 YEARS AGO IN COMMSDAY

The Coalition has stated that its FTTN-heavy NBN rollout will cost A$20.4 billion in capital expenditure and be completed by 2019, with download speeds to range between 25-100Mbps for all Australians by as early as 2016. And 90% of those within the fixed-line footprint will have access to speeds of 50Mbps-100Mbps once the project is finished, assuming NBN Co's satellite and fixed-wireless solutions are delivered on time.

Unveiling the Coalition's long-awaited broadband policy at a press conference in Sydney, Opposition leader Tony Abbott and shadow comms minister Malcolm Turnbull explained that an FTTN rollout offers the flexibility for a fibre upgrade down the track while providing Australians with speeds "five times faster" than they are today by 2016. However, those who want fibre to their home will have to pay for it themselves.

Under the Coalition plan, which will require total funding of A$29.5 billion, some 70% of Australians will receive FTTN technology. All greenfields estates will receive FTTP: one-fifth of Australians, or 2.8 million people, once the rollout is complete. The Coalition will retain Labor's plan to serve the 7% of Australians in rural and regional areas with wireless and satellite technology.

Turnbull explained that any FTTN rollout should be done with the view of upgrading to FTTP. "That might be five years' time, 10, 15 years – it might be never. But putting that additional fibre capacity out to the fibre distribution point, it's very cheap to do that. It's how you provision fibre-on-demand; it's how you provision upgrades," he said.

LATEST SHARE PRICES

Company name	Chg %	Last price	Change	Volume	Market cap
Aussie Broadband Limited	+0.32%	3.1100	+0.0100	255,260	743.962M
Comms Group Limited	-2.86%	0.0680	-0.0020	215,772	25.774M
Chorus Limited	+0.90%	7.85	+0.07	192,308	3.486B
Field Solutions Holdings Limited	0.00%	0.0620	0.0000	927,625	47.352M
Global Data Centre Group	0.00%	1.2950	0.0000	56,808	100.069M
Hutchison Telecommunications (Australia) Limited	0.00%	0.0440	0.0000	34,500	597.19M
Macquarie Telecom Group Limited	-1.03%	57.68	-0.60	3,864	1.248B
Megaport Limited	-3.53%	4.1000	-0.1500	1.702M	653.651M
NEXTDC Limited	0.00%	10.71	0.00	2.444M	4.908B
Superloop Limited	-0.85%	0.5800	-0.0050	521,110	284.882M
Spark New Zealand Limited	0.00%	4.6800	0.0000	716,632	8.848B
Swoop Holdings Limited	0.00%	0.2750	0.0000	10,087	57.342M
Symbio Holdings Limited	-0.82%	1.8150	-0.0150	143,969	154.245M
Telstra Group Limited	+0.71%	4.2500	+0.0300	35.109M	49.017B
TPG Telecom Limited	+1.44%	4.9300	+0.0700	972,240	9.204B
Vonex Limited	-2.63%	0.0370	-0.0010	487,577	13.739M
Webcentral Limited	0.00%	0.0900	0.0000	115,161	29.433M