Convergent Expansion: Mobile - Wi-Fi Convergence, 5G & the IoT

Description: Mobile operators are facing demands to handle ever-greater volumes of data and at the same time to support a wide range of new applications that are emerging from the growth of M2M (Machine-to-Machine) communications and the IoT (Internet of Things).

So far the response has been largely on the technical front, although a small number of operators are actively pursuing opportunities in M2M and the IoT. The technical responses have been primarily in two areas. One is in the development of standards to permit seamless interworking of mobile and Wi-Fi networks for both data and voice traffic, in order to reduce costs and improve coverage and capacity. The second is in starting the process of defining 5G as the next generation mobile standard with a view to being able to cater for all likely future requirements that are anticipated from the development and growth of the IoT.

This report looks at progress in defining 5G and its likely scope, and at progress in developing seamless roaming between Wi-Fi and mobile networks. It then looks at the other areas MNOs need to consider, including the business models, systems and processes that will require change for operators to address the new M2M and IoT markets.

It concludes with recommendations for actions to be taken by MNOs if they are to successfully manage the transition.

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