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capacity

Business intelligence for the global carrier industry



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Turn to pages 32-33 for an interview with
Telecom Egypt MD & CEO Adel Hamed



WOMEN TO WATCH

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CAPACITY IS PROUD TO PRESENT ITS FIFTH ANNUAL 20 WOMEN TO WATCH POWER LIST CELEBRATING 20 NOTEWORTHY WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE WHOLESALE TELECOMS AND TECH SECTOR. THIS YEAR'S LIST RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS SINCE WE LAUNCHED IN 2018, CREATING AN INDEX THAT SHINES A LIGHT ON WOMEN ACROSS THE SPACE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED MASSIVE RESULTS OR REACHED MAJOR MILESTONES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, WHILE BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS IN THE PROCESS



Hena Jalil
 Managing director, global CIO
BT Digital

Described as a transformational technical leader and engineer, Jalil oversees BT's global security, cloud and networking services to multinational companies. As a part of a newly formed team, she is driving the IT transformation required to enable the UK's FTTP build. Prior to this, Jalil served as IT, digital and data director at Openreach.



Virginie Hollebecque
 VP and head of regional business for EMEA
Ciena

Hollebecque assumed the role of VP and head of regional business in May 2021. In this role her focus is on pursuing new business initiatives in routing, switching and advanced services. Specifically, she works closely with customers to understand their pain points, cultural differences and unique needs.



Jaya Deshmukh
 Executive VP of strategy and transformation
Colt Technology Services

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Having previously worked for Google Cloud, Deshmukh has spent the last nine months leading Colt's strategy, product suite and critical partnership programme. Within her first six months, Deshmukh built cross-functional teams, drilled down in the data and presented her vision for Colt's future to the board, winning her the deep respect of her team.



Shally Jannif
 Regional CEO – Pacific Group
Digicel Group

In 2019, Jannif became the first Fijian to hold the position of regional CEO at Digicel and is the only female CEO at the group. Under her leadership Digicel Pacific was sold to Telstra, valued at US\$1.85 billion. During the Tonga subsea cable outage, Jannif helped to coordinate Digicel's repair and reconnection work.



Leslie Wolff Golden
 Global head of capital formation and investor relations
DigitalBridge

Golden is described as having worked tirelessly across DigitalBridge's global limited partners base, driving many new relationships and expanding existing ones. She has been instrumental in the successful launch and fundraising for DigitalBridge Partners II, the firm's second flagship fund that closed at \$8.3 billion, roughly \$6 billion above target.



Sylvie LaPerrière

Africa infrastructure lead

Google

LaPerrière is an interconnection strategist for Google peering, caching and cloud. Before joining Google, LaPerrière was part of Tata Communications, helping to launch its internet backbone in more than 25 markets. She is involved in the governance of non-profit tech organisations and has chaired the board of directors of two internet exchanges.



Yingju Jia

SVP global communications

HGC

With more than 20 years of experience in telecoms and IT, Jia is an industry veteran specialising in the Mainland China market. In line with HGC's strategy to support the reach of Chinese OTTs in Southeast Asia and other global markets, Jia leads the sales, technical and consultancy teams to capture and meet growing demand.



Hadeel Fayad

Manager of product management networks

Intelsat

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Fayad heads the development of new products and services that connect the unconnected in the fast-moving world of satellites. Working closely with MNOs, notably she was the product lead for a project with Telefónica Germany to bring 4G LTE mobile coverage rapidly, cost-efficiently and reliably to customers in some of Germany's most rural areas.



Kate Hennessy

Group CFO

Liquid Intelligent Technologies

Having joined Liquid Intelligent Technologies in 2007, Hennessy has been instrumental in the company's success in Africa. Over the past 12 months, Hennessy has led significant fund raises including the \$840 million bond and term loan financing package. She continues work on new acquisitions and the expansion of Liquid's pan-African fibre networks.



Annette Murphy

Managing director for EMEA region

Lumen

Murphy joined Lumen as managing director for the EMEA region in April 2021 and soon became regional president. She is now responsible for leading the overarching strategy and business results for the APAC region. She previously held several executive roles at Zayo, as well as senior management roles at Geo Networks and BT.



Sarah Mills
MD of wholesale and smart infrastructure
Neos Networks

In the past 12 months Neos Networks has invested heavily in growing its network, which now spans 34,000km. A charismatic leader, Mills has been instrumental in spearheading Neos' partnership with Three UK to roll out its 5G network, which saw it invest £100 million and unbundle 550 BT exchanges.



Sandy Motley
President fixed networks business group
Nokia

Motley's division achieved a 35% increase in net sales for the year from the beginning of 2021, when she oversaw the introduction of a new antenna system for fixed-access wireless to support millimetre-wave 5G. Motley has been with the group for 13 years, starting in 2009 with Alcatel-Lucent, which later became part of Nokia.



Noor Al-Sulaiti
CEO
Ooredoo Oman

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A computer scientist who graduated at the age of 19, Sulaiti has worked with some of the region's leading companies for 17 years. She focuses on building teams and working to deliver better products. Ooredoo's first female CEO would like to see a day where a leader is not newsworthy simply because she is female.



Lynn Smullen
Global VP strategic clients
Oracle Group

Over a 25-year career Smullen has carved a role as a leader, mentor and visionary in her field. She is credited with making a transformational impact at Oracle and now leads the North American strategic clients' organisation. A member of the PTC board of governors, she is actively helping to shape and drive continued transformation.



Christel Heydemann
CEO (from 4 April)
Orange

The first woman to lead Orange, Heydemann will join on 4 April from Schneider Electric, where she has worked since 2014. She joined Alcatel in 1999 and was key account manager for Orange, then for SFR, and then VP for France, leaving in December 2013, three years before Nokia completed the €15.6 billion acquisition of Alcatel-Lucent.



Elisabetta Romano

CEO
Sparkle

Romano was named CEO of Telecom Italia Sparkle in August of 2020, making her the first woman to lead the international arm of TIM since its inception. During her tenure to date Sparkle has expanded its Nibble network to northern Europe, joined the Google-led Blue and Raman subsea cable projects and inked a joint venture with Trans Ocean Network for the Panama Digital Gateway.



Sheryl Haislet

CIO
Vertiv

Since joining in 2020, Haislet's role has seen her support Vertiv's shift to focus on technology investments that enhance user experience, sales and Vertiv's bottom line. This included a new partner portal, product configurators, enhanced digital marketing, action-oriented performance dashboards, and an augmented reality app to view products in 3D.



Jo Bertram

MD, business and wholesale
Virgin Media O2
Business

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Bertram leads the business and wholesale division at the newly merged Virgin Media O2. She is responsible for providing services to large enterprise, public sector, SME, wholesale and MVNO partners. Whether it is connectivity, 5G, IoT or big data, Bertram is credited with pioneering the business's approach to supporting UK companies to overcome today's hurdles.



Maria Lema

Co-founder
Weaver Labs

Inspired by her work at King's College London, Lema launched Weaver Labs – described as Sonos for networks – in 2018. Her goal is to break down silos in telcos and open the market up to new owners of telecoms infrastructure, foster collaboration and network sharing models and address demand for connectivity versus infrastructure investment.



Kate Waiganjo

Legal counsel
WIOCC

Waiganjo built the legal framework that enabled WIOCC to become Africa's carriers' carrier. In the past 12 months she formed significant investment deals in the 2Africa and Equiano cables and played key roles in securing WIOCC's appointment as landing partners for both, and was pivotal in securing the \$200 million capital raise that launched OADC.