MWC 2026,
BARCELONA

NGMN

PRESS & INDUSTRY BRIEFING

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Key Topics

As the industry accelerates toward the next decade of connectivity, the annual NGMN Press & Industry Briefing 2026, held at MWC Barcelona, will offer a concise and forward-looking update from the global operator community on the evolution of mobile networks and the path towards 6G.

The session will explore the key challenges facing MNOs, the transformational technology enablers shaping the next phase of network evolution, and best practices for successful operator transformation.

Attendees will hear updates across 6G, 6G & AI, as well as NGMN's strategic focus topics, including Mastering the Route to Disaggregation, Green Future Networks, and Network Simplification.

NGMN will outline:

- The latest 6G requirements and guidance shaping global standardisation
- How AI-native capabilities will be embedded into future network architecture
- The roadmap toward efficient, sustainable and cloud-native 6G platforms
- What the industry should expect in 2026 and beyond

Speakers

Laurent Leboucher
Chairman of the NGMN Alliance Board,
Group CTO and EVP Networks, Orange

Anita Döhler
Chief Executive Office, NGMN Alliance,

Saima Ansari
Former NGMN Green Future Networks
Programme Lead,
Cluster Lead - AI & Industry Alignment,
Deutsche Telekom

Bernard Bureau
NGMN Alliance Board Member,
VP Wireless Technology & Services,
TELUS

Andrea Calvi
NGMN Alliance Board Member,
Head of Technology Evolution and
Innovation, TIM

Eric Hardouin
NGMN Alliance Board Member,
VP of Networks and Infrastructure
Research, Orange

Yuhong Huang
Former NGMN Alliance Board Member,
General Manager, China Mobile
Research Institute

Speakers

Laurent Leboucher
Chairman of the NGMN Alliance Board,
Group CTO and EVP Networks, Orange

Laurent joined Orange in 1992 and held various technical, management and executive positions in several areas (operations, R&D, IT, start-up creation) in France and the United States, with a particular focus on software systems and IT transformations. More recently, within Orange Innovation IT and Services, he led the development of new customer relationship solutions, defined and supported a new IT strategy built on cloud practices and oversaw the IT and Services architecture. Laurent is "Distinguished Fellow" of the TM Forum. He graduated from the Ecole Polytechnique, from Telecom Paris and has a PhD in computer science.

Anita Döhler
Chief Executive Office, NGMN Alliance

Anita has extensive international experience in various business areas including senior management positions with mobile network operators, vendors and consulting firms. She held senior management positions at Accenture. Prior, she worked at Vodafone Group, at E-Plus and Philips, among others. Anita holds a Dipl.-Ing. degree in Telecommunication Engineering as well as an Executive MBA degree. Furthermore, she is a Systemic Business Coach. Anita is passionate about driving technology innovation for the benefit of humans and societies and supporting world's leading operators, vendors and research institutes. Since July 2020 she has been the CEO of NGMN.

Speakers

Saima Ansari
Former NGMN Green Future Networks Programme Lead,
Cluster Lead - AI & Industry Alignment, Deutsche Telekom

Saima Ansari is working at Deutsche Telekom AG as Cluster Lead – AI& Industry Alignment. In this role, she oversees strategic engagement with key AI-native partners of Deutsche Telekom and represents Deutsche Telekom at GSMA. Previously , she has led "Green Future Networks" project at NGMN Alliance addressing the environmental sustainability challenges in the telco industry. Saima Ansari holds Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree from India and Master of Science degree in Laser and Photonics from Germany.

Bernard Bureau
NGMN Alliance Board Member,
VP Wireless Technology & Services, CTO, TELUS

Mr. Bernard Bureau is Vice-president of Wireless Technology and Services within the TELUS Chief Technology Office. He has end-to-end accountability for the wireless network strategy, including technology selection and development, design and optimization and deployment. Since he joined TELUS in 1997, Mr. Bureau has held several management positions, including VP of Mobile Broadband Network Engineering, where he led the planning and engineering teams responsible for the wireless access, the core network and the voice platforms. He played an instrumental leadership role for several major projects, including spectrum auctions and transactions, as well as the rollout of Open RAN, VoNR, 5G SA, 5G NSA, LTE, LTE-A, 3G, Centralised RAN and HetNet. He received a Bachelor degree in Engineering from Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal in 1995 and has been a member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec since then. He is TELUS' primary board member of the Telecom Infra Project (TIP), the O-RAN Alliance, and of the Next Generation Mobile Networks (NGMN) Alliance.

Speakers

Andrea Calvi

NGMN Alliance Board Member,
Head of Technology Evolution and Innovation, TIM

Andrea Calvi is head of Technology Innovation at TIM. He has almost 30 years of experience in R&D, engineering, development, and consultancy in the Telco space. He has been participating to the design of mobile networks in 3GPP from the beginning and involved in network evolution and technology strategy in TIM and subsidiaries.Within TIM he has been managing Engineering and Innovation in the main network areas: Mobile Access and Network Architecture, Radio Infrastructure Engineering and Innovation, Transport and IP, Fixed Broadband Access, end user devices. The focus of his team is now guiding the Telco Cloud transformation through 5G and Edge Computing.

Eric Hardouin

NGMN Alliance Board Member,
VP of Networks and Infrastructure Research, Orange

Eric Hardouin leads the Orange research on Networks and Infrastructures, which aims at designing the future mobile, fixed and HomeLAN network technologies and infrastructures. Eric received his Ph.D. degree in signal processing and telecommunications from Telecom Bretagne and the University of Rennes 1, France, in 2004. Since 2004, he has been with Orange, where he conducted research on interference mitigation for mobile networks. Between 2008 and 2013 he represented Orange in the physical layer standardization group of 3GPP (RAN WG1) for HSPA, LTE and LTE-Advanced. From 2012, Eric has held various leading positions in the Orange networks research. Eric had a leading role in the NGMN 5G White Paper, as co-lead of the work on 5G requirements. Eric currently represents Orange in the Board of Directors of the IOWN Global Forum. Eric is the author of the book "LTE et les réseaux 4G" (in French).

Speakers

Yuhong Huang

Former NGMN Alliance Board Member,
General Manager, China Mobile Research Institute

Madam Huang is General Manager of the China Mobile Research Institute. She is also Secretary General of the Global TD-LTE Initiative (GTI). Madam Huang joined the Mobile Bureau of the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT), the predecessor of China Mobile, in 1996 and has been with China Mobile since its establishment in 2000. As a wireless technology expert, she has more than 15 years of experience in the development of key technologies and international standardization. From 2005 to 2008, she served as Vice-Chair of 3GPP TSG Service and System Aspects (TSG-SA).

About NGMN

NGMN – Next Generation Mobile Networks Alliance – is a global, operator-driven organisation established by leading international mobile network operators (MNOs). Its mission is to ensure that next-generation mobile network infrastructure, service platforms and devices meet operators' requirements while addressing the demands and expectations of end users.

NGMN's vision is to provide impactful industry guidance to enable innovative, sustainable and affordable mobile telecommunication services. Key focus areas include Mastering the Route to Disaggregation, Green Future Networks and 6G, while continuing to support the full implementation of 5G.

As a global alliance of operators, vendors, and academia, NGMN actively incorporates the perspectives of all stakeholders. It drives global alignment and convergence of technology standards and industry initiatives to avoid fragmentation and support industry scalability.

NGMN operates through a lean, project-oriented structure that ensures efficient processes and decision-making. NGMN fosters collaboration with other industry organisations to maximize synergies and complement each other's work, focusing on end-to-end network aspects of next-generation technology.

Work Programmes

Three Strategic Focus Topics with different time horizons, plus projects supporting full 5G implementation.
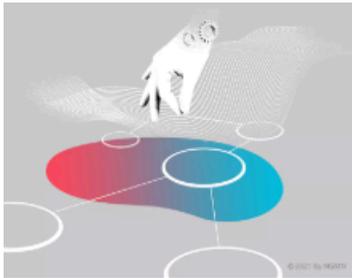
Mastering the Route to Disaggregation
Leading in the development of open, disaggregated, virtualised and cloud native solutions, moving towards Agentic AI-based operating models.

Green Future Networks
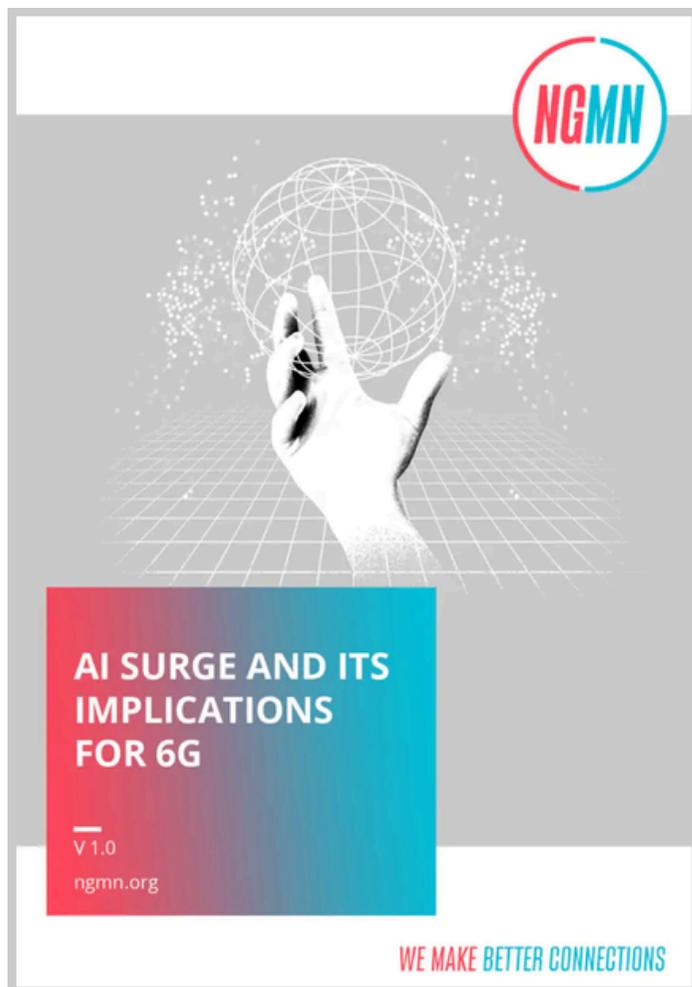Building sustainable and environmentally conscious solutions.

6G
Providing guidance and key requirements for design considerations and network architecture evolution.

Lastest Publications


Access the publication here.

AI Surge and its Implications for 6G

The publication outlines the NGMN perspective on how AI-related requirements should be addressed in the evolution towards 6G. It consolidates mobile network operators' views on how AI may impact 6G standardisation and provides guidance to support ongoing 6G studies within 3GPP. It examines three key dimensions: the impact of AI-driven traffic on networks, the network capabilities required to support AI-based services, and the role of AI as an enabler for future network architecture evolution.

Lastest Publications
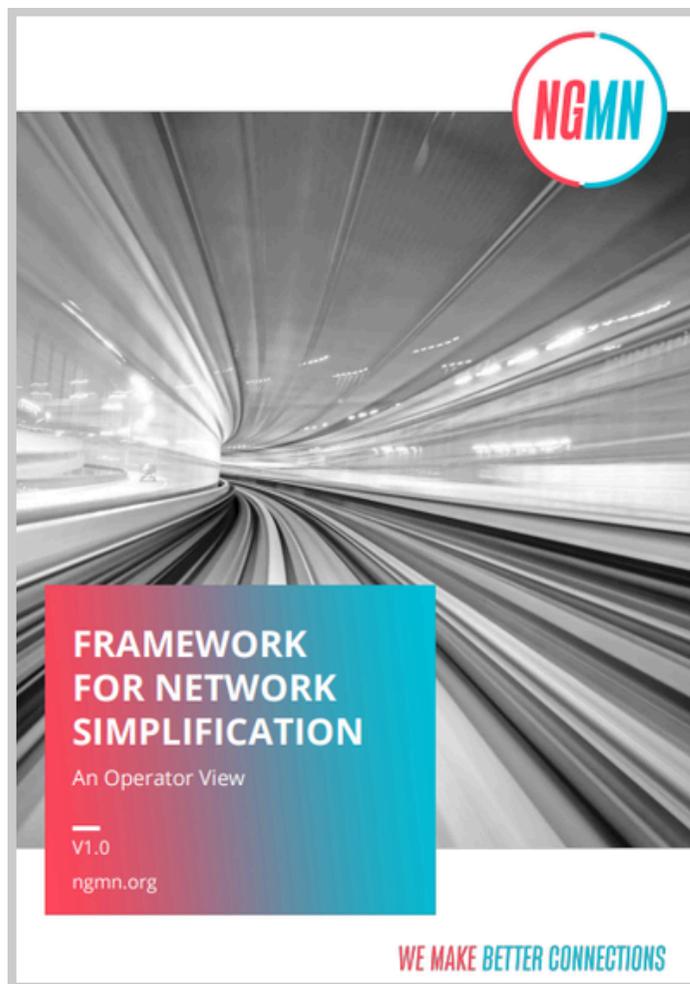
Framework for Network Simplifications - An Operator View

The publication gives new guidance designed to help Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) simplify 5G network operations, to reduce total cost of ownership, cut operational complexity, and achieve sustainability goals. It outlines a high-level framework that can be used as a reference by MNOs in their journey towards 5G network simplification.

The scope ranges from advanced-stage operators that have already deployed a cloud native 5G core with extensive 5G roll out in the RAN, to early-stage operators with networks that are primarily LTE based and looking to roll out 5G NSA.

Lastest Publications

Access the publication here.
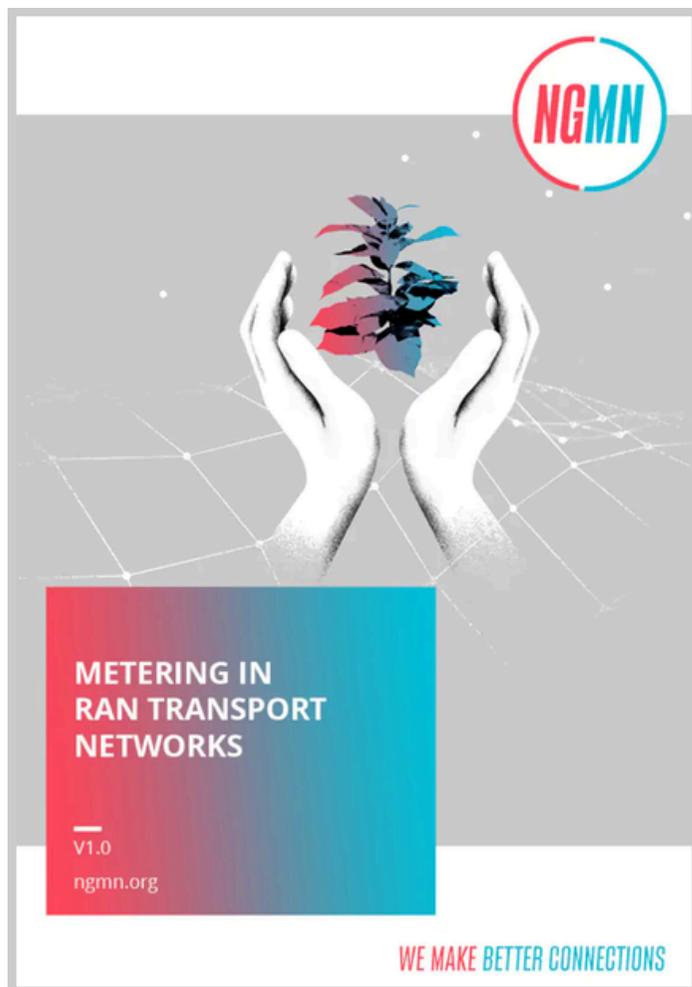
Metering in RAN Transport Networks

This publication calls for the creation and harmonisation of energy metering standards across 5G RAN transport networks. It emphasises that Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) urgently need accurate, standardised methods to measure energy consumption and to improve energy efficiency across front-, mid-, and backhaul networks — a critical step in reducing operational costs and meeting sustainability targets.

In this deliverable NGMN highlights that energy consumption and efficiency remain insufficiently addressed due to a wide landscape of telecom Standard Development Organisations (SDOs) and further standardisation bodies working on energy metering standards.

6G Key Messages - An Operator View
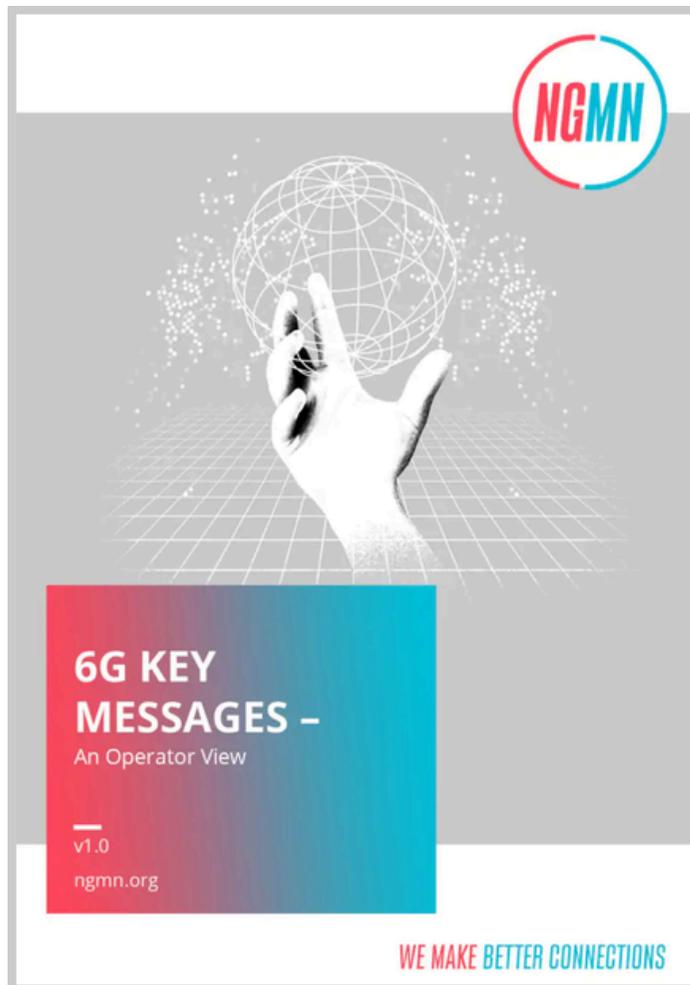
Access the publication here.

Key Takeaways:

- Global standards for 6G should be harmonised to support the continuous evolution of the mobile industry. They must deliver tangible benefits to end users and operators, while fulfilling the dynamic and emerging societal needs and supporting a healthy ecosystem.
- The introduction of 6G should not necessitate a forced hardware refresh. While new radio equipment is required for deployment in new frequency bands, the evolution toward 6G in existing bands should primarily occur through software upgrades, ensuring a smooth transition.
- New technologies must demonstrate clear benefits that justify investments within a realistic technoeconomic framework. Prioritising efficiency improvements particularly in spectrum utilisation and energy consumption.
- Modularity, flexibility, and openness are essential drivers for enhancing operational efficiency, simplifying network operations, and enabling network exposure to power the development of market-aligned services.
- Migration must minimise complexity, enabling operators to leverage fast deployment, guaranteeing a seamless user experience, notably by providing native voice support from day one, while evolving voice and enriched services in a business sustainable manner.

Relevant links

News: https://www.ngmn.org/news.html

Publications: https://www.ngmn.org/publications.html