

Following are summaries of reports from analyst research firms over the last two months that may be of interest to the service provider mobility community:

Infonetics: Service Provider Capex, Opex, ARPU, and Subscribers. The report tracks service providers in North America, EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa), Asia Pacific (APAC), Central and Latin America (CALA), and Worldwide.

Infonetics: Mobile Backhaul market report.

IDC LINK: Harbinger and LTE: Points to Ponder in the US. The tone is positive, though IDC does express some reservations.

Infonetics: "IP/Ethernet Mobile Backhaul Strategies: Global Service Provider Survey". The report says that "virtually all service providers worldwide are moving to IP/Ethernet backhaul." Service providers worldwide are deploying IP/Ethernet in their mobile backhaul networks, driven by the double growth factors of more subscribers using more bandwidth per subscriber, driving up operating costs at a much faster rate than revenue.

Infonetics: Cisco's decision to discontinue building new WiMAX base stations and modems. Infonetics takes the tack that the decision makes sense, but he wonders if Cisco could have been more successful in WiMAX had it stayed the course.

Current Analysis: Alcatel-Lucent's announcement of 2G/3G support for its EPC offering. CA is "positive" on this announcement "because adding 2G/3G support to the EPC solution announced last year is smart – in line with operators that may want to evolve to EPC tomorrow, but are still upgrading their 3G RAN and packet core infrastructures today."

Infonetics: FMC and Femtocell Equipment and Subscribers.

Infonetics: LTE Equipment and Subscribers Report. Comment on Cisco's purchase of Starent – "Cisco is buying market share to get back on track in a space where the company has been losing ground. Cisco has been saying mobile Internet is a top priority and views it as a significant growth opportunity; acquiring Starent is an acknowledgment of failure to get in the driver's seat, but it is not enough to be crowned the king of the mobile Internet; mobile Internet doesn't start with packet plumbing; go ask the radio guys. If you don't have the RAN in place, there is no mobile world to start with; so, this is a good start, but if Cisco really wants to get serious with mobile, they'd better pull up their sleeves and get into the radio side of the equation.

Yankee Group: Growth of Mobile Applications. U.S. mobile applications will generate nearly \$1.6 billion in revenue in 2010, more than twice the amount of Yankee Group's previous forecast of \$573 million. Apple iPhone owners and AT&T subscribers download more apps than anyone else, but strong results from T-Mobile suggest that Android will be the next breakout smartphone app platform.

Ovum: Report detailing total mobile connections and mobile connections by technology. This covers North America, South & Central America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa, plus 57 additional countries.

Infonetics: Ethernet backhaul is now in almost every mobile operator's and transport provider's strategy. Much has been learned about the problems, pitfalls, and practices of deploying IP/Ethernet in mobile backhaul networks. The "Year of Ethernet Mobile Backhaul" finally arrived in 2009: equipment spending increased over 50% from 2008, and many deployments began in earnest. The convergence of traffic pressures and technical solutions to mobile voice over packet networks is bringing about the long anticipated market upswell of IP/Ethernet for mobile backhaul networks, and we expect another annual spending increase of over 50% on IP/Ethernet equipment for mobile backhaul in 2010.