

lion premises connected as at the end of last year and upgrade works underway for a further 228,000 premises.

Nokia head of global sales and customer operations Andrew Cope said the trial demonstrated the ability to support both consumer and enterprise services on a shared fibre platform without additional civil works. “Nokia is proud to partner with NBN Co to deliver another world first technical trial,” he said.

Nokia chief technology officer fixed networks Andrew Bender said earlier joint work between the companies had already established coexistence between multiple PON generations. “We have shown that future PON technologies can be extended beyond 100G as well,” he said.

The demonstration formed part of a broader agenda at the summit focused on open access broadband models, next-generation access technologies and the role of automation and artificial intelligence in network operations. Earlier sessions examined wholesale fibre deployment strategies and shared access models, alongside new approaches to extending connectivity using technologies such as Wi-Fi HaLow and fixed wireless access. The afternoon program shifted to AI-driven network management and quality of experience, with contributions from operators and vendors on automation, knowledge graphs, agentic AI and the application of machine learning to fault resolution, performance optimisation and service delivery in structurally separated markets.

Dylan Bushell-Embling

OneWiFi validates 5G over LEO satellite backhaul in regional NSW trial

OneWiFi & Infrastructure said it had completed what it described as Australia’s first in-field test of 5G mobile services using LEO satellite backhaul, with the trial conducted at a remote New South Wales site on its neutral host network.

The company said the trial used LEO capacity supplied by SatOne, based on the OneWeb constellation, and validated 5G services delivered over satellite backhaul on an active sharing radio access network.

Testing included support for emergency call service requirements, priority traffic handling and end-to-end service performance within carrier-grade operational and security settings.

According to OneWiFi, the test was designed to replicate real-world operating conditions in areas where terrestrial backhaul is limited or unavailable, and where mobile coverage options have historically been constrained.

The company said the trial demonstrated that 5G services could be delivered over LEO satellite links with performance consistent with industry expectations, while maintaining compliance with existing telecommunications security and control frameworks and supporting multi-operator environments.

OneWiFi managing director Mevan Jayatilleke said the results pointed to a potential model for extending coverage into remote areas where conventional approaches have not been economically viable.

“This clearly reaffirms the feasibility of delivering 5G mobile services via satellite

backhaul to the most isolated remote communities, with no other viable or available terrestrial backhaul options,” he said.

Jayatilleke added that the trial also confirmed the operational viability of combining a shared RAN architecture with satellite backhaul within existing carrier requirements.

“This provides a deployable architecture for extending coverage into areas where traditional approaches have not scaled,” he said.

The company noted, however, that LEO backhaul remains subject to capacity constraints in higher-density scenarios, requiring careful traffic management and terminal configuration.

The neutral host platform used in the trial is based on what OneWiFi described as a tier-one RAN and routing stack, and has previously been used in integration testing to support multi-operator mobile and fixed wireless services.

OneWiFi said the use of satellite backhaul strengthens its active sharing model, under which a single set of active network equipment is shared between operators, aiming to reduce deployment costs in regional and remote areas.

The use of OneWeb capacity for mobile backhaul builds on earlier deployments in Australia, with Telstra having previously used the system to support 4G services in regional areas.

The trial aligns with broader government-backed efforts to improve regional connectivity, including programs supporting shared infrastructure and alternative backhaul models in underserved areas.

Grahame Lynch

Superloop, Aussie Broadband lead NBN share gains in December quarter

Superloop and Aussie Broadband recorded the strongest net additions in the NBN market in the December quarter, adding more than 37,000 and 19,000 services respectively, according to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission’s latest NBN Wholesale Market Indicators report.

Vocus and smaller challenger brands also continued to expand, with Vocus adding almost 8000 services and the broader challenger segment growing by more than 11,000.

The gains came as the major retail service providers continued to lose share, albeit at a slower rate than in the previous quarter. Telstra, TPG Telecom and Optus collectively lost around 61,000 services, representing a decline of just over 1%, compared to a 2.4% fall in the September

