

VoWiFi service launched for the first time in Bahrain

Manama

Batelco yesterday announced the launch of Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) across the Kingdom.

Claimed to be the first service of its kind in the Kingdom, Batelco said, in a statement, "This new introduction follows on from the successful launch earlier this year of Voice over LTE (VoLTE)"

VoWiFi taps into any WiFi connection the customer may have, be it at home, the

office or out and about in public WiFi enabled areas. Calls will seamlessly and automatically be switched between VoLTE and VoWiFi to ensure a superior customer experience.

Similar to VoLTE, the new Voice over WiFi service will deliver faster call setup and superior high-quality (HD) voice calls.

The service is currently applicable to iPhone 6 or later models with customers required to update their phone to the

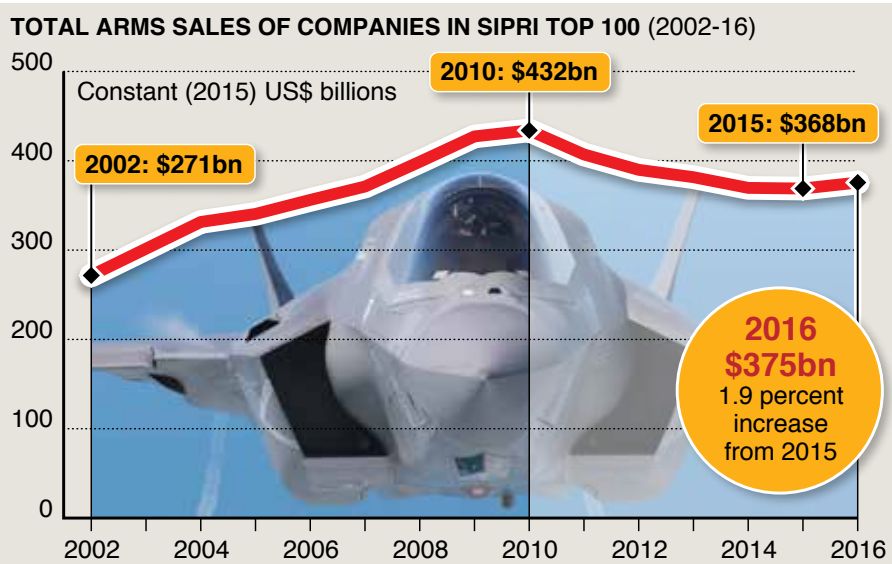
latest iOS software to enjoy the service. Locally, VoWiFi does not cost any extra; the service consumes from the customer's selected package minutes allowance, with any additional calls charged at the standard rates.

A converged network infrastructure, the company said, allows Batelco to maximise its network capabilities and speed up the deployment of more new innovative services for its customers.



Arms sales rise for first time in five years

Sales of weapons and military services increased in 2016 – the first year of growth since 2010 – according to global arms industry data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

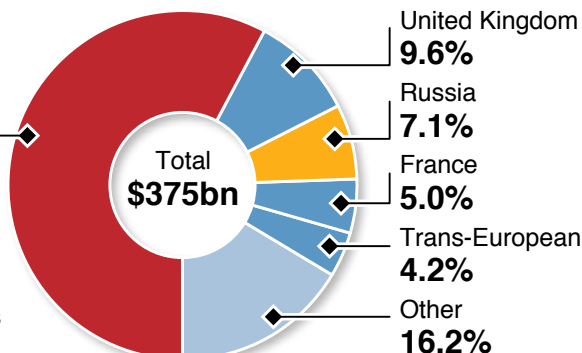


SHARE OF ARMS SALES OF COMPANIES IN SIPRI TOP 100 (2016)

By country

United States
57.9%

China: At least 9 or 10 companies would almost certainly be in SIPRI Top 100 if figures for arms sales were available



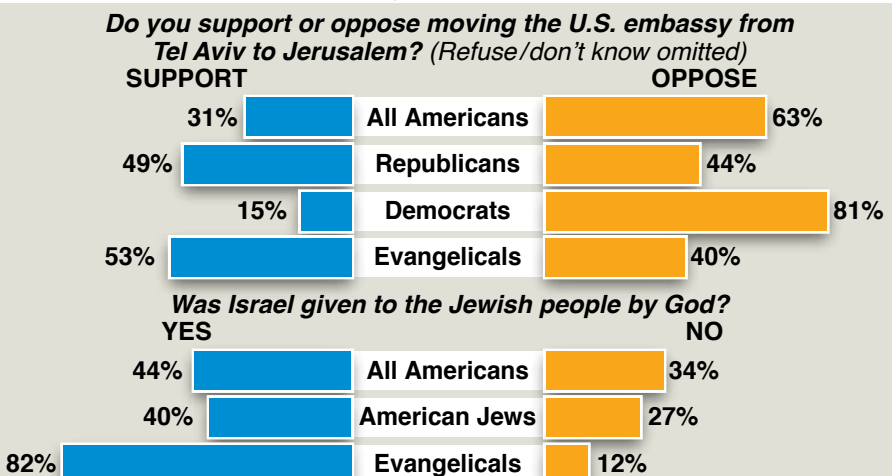
Source: SIPRI

Picture: Getty Images

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Evangelicals back Trump on Jerusalem

Polls show that more than six in 10 Americans oppose President Donald Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, while white evangelicals embrace the move



First question: Nielsen Scarborough/University of Maryland poll of 2,000 American adults Nov 1-6. Margin of error: 2.19%, released by the Brookings Institution.
Second question: Pew Research Center poll conducted June 2013

Sources: Brookings Institution, University of Maryland, Pew Research Center

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Top honour for Ithmaar

Named best Islamic Retail bank in Bahrain



The award was received on behalf of Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, by the Ithmaar Bank Head of Commercial and Financial Institutions, Abdulla Talib.

Manama

Ithmaar Bank has been named as the Best Islamic Retail Bank in Bahrain in a ceremony attended by senior bankers from across the Middle East.

The award was received on behalf of the Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, by the Ithmaar Bank Head of Commercial and Financial Institutions, Abdulla Talib.

"Winning this award is testimony to the fact that the vision spelled out by the Ithmaar Bank Board of Directors, led by the Chairman His Royal Highness Prince Amr

Al Faisal, is being translated into a tangible reality," said Abdul Rahim.

"Enhanced customer satisfaction, as well as the subsequent growth of our core retail banking business, is great reward in itself and I am confident that the recognition will help inspire us to even greater achievements," said Abdul Rahim.

Ithmaar Bank was presented the prestigious award following a comprehensive selection and review process conducted by a committee of high-level economists and banking professionals, as well the research department of the

Union of Arab Banks and the World Union of Arab Bankers.

Wissam Fattouh, Secretary General, World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB) and Union of Arab Banks (UAB) congratulated Ithmaar Bank on winning the award and wished the Bank continued success.

"Winning the Best Islamic Retail Bank in the Bahrain category is testimony to Ithmaar Bank's reputation for excellence, and we congratulate them on this major achievement," said Fattouh.

"It is a great achievement and a powerful testimony to the Bank's remarkable success," he said.