

Batelco, Nokia forge partnership for 5G Private Wireless Networks

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TDT | Manama

Batelco, part of the Beyon Group, and Nokia, the market leader in 5G private wireless networks, have partnered to deliver 5G private solutions across Bahrain. The agreement was signed by Maitham Abdulla, CEO Batelco



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vices beyond the current 5G public network by introducing 5G private wireless network solutions to cater specifically

to mission-critical industries such as oil and gas, power and electricity, manufacturing and ports. Batelco ensures that these

sectors can benefit from excellent connectivity performance coupled with a highly secured network.

Batelco will leverage Nokia's cutting-edge technologies such as Digital Automation Cloud (DAC) and Modular Private Wireless (MPW), along with advanced devices, to fuel the digital transformation journey of mission-critical industries. This deployment marks a significant milestone in the realm of wireless technology, empowering key industries with high-performing networks that will allow them to unlock new levels of productivity and efficiency.

Maitham Abdulla, CEO Batelco said, "Through this partnership, we have harnessed the full potential of our market expertise while leveraging Nokia's unparalleled global experience. The result is the introduction of pow-

erful private wireless networks to Bahrain's mission-critical industries. The availability of high-performance connectivity solutions will initiate a new era of network usage, transforming worker safety outcomes, fostering innovation, and increasing revenue streams across diverse sectors."

Commenting on the partnership, Mahmoud El-Banna, Head of Enterprise Campus Edge Business, MEA at Nokia, said: "As the market leader in 5G private wireless networks, we are proud to partner with Batelco and bring the best-in-class solutions to support current and future network usage in Bahrain. This partnership will pave the way for mission-critical sectors to utilize industrial grade private networks as an enabler for digital transformation and progress towards performance goals."

Delmon Poultry Company AGM



Delmon Poultry Company (DPC) held its annual general meeting at Awal Hall, Gulf Hotel yesterday. Above, Board presents 2023 Annual Report to Shareholders. (Fifth from left) DPC, Chairman, Abdul Rahman Muhammad Jamsheer. (ByAshen Tharaka)

Big tech told to identify AI deepfakes ahead of EU vote

Brussels, Belgium

The EU called on Facebook, TikTok and other tech titans yesterday to crack down on deepfakes and other AI-generated content by using clear labels ahead of Europe-wide polls in June.

The recommendation is part of a raft of guidelines published

under a landmark content law by the European Commission for digital giants to tackle risks to elections including disinformation.

The EU executive has unleashed a string of measures to clamp down on big tech, especially regarding content moderation.

Its biggest tool is the Digital Services Act (DSA) under which the bloc has designated 22 digital platforms as "very large" including Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube and X.

There has been feverish excitement over artificial intelligence since OpenAI's ChatGPT arrived on the scene in late 2022, but the EU's concerns over the technology's harms have grown in parallel.

Brussels especially fears the impact of Russian "manipulation" and "disinformation" on elections taking place in the bloc's 27 member states on June 6-9.

In the new guidelines, the commission said the largest

platforms "should assess and mitigate specific risks linked to AI, for example by clearly labelling content generated by AI (such as deepfakes)".

The commission recommends that big platforms promote official information on elections and "reduce the monetisation and virality of content that threatens the integrity of electoral processes" to diminish any risks.

"With today's guidelines we are making full use of all the tools offered by the DSA to ensure platforms comply with their obligations and are not misused to manipulate our elections, while safeguarding freedom of expression," said the EU's top tech enforcer, Thierry Breton.

While the guidelines are not legally binding, platforms must explain what other "equally effective" measures they are taking to limit the risks if they do not adhere to them.

The EU can ask for more information and if regulators do

not believe there is full compliance, they can hit the firms with probes that could lead to hefty fines.

'Trusted' information

Under the new guidelines, the commission also said political advertising "should be clearly labelled as such" before a tougher law on the issue comes into force in 2025.

It also urges platforms to put in place mechanisms "to reduce the impact of incidents that could have a significant effect on the election outcome or turnout".

The EU will conduct "stress-tests" with relevant platforms in late April, it said.

X has already been under investigation since December over content moderation.

And the commission on March 14 pressed Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and four other platforms to provide more information on how they are countering AI risks to polls.

Europe space telescope's sight restored after de-icing procedure

Paris, France

The vision of the Euclid space telescope has been restored following a delicate operation that successfully melted a thin layer of ice that had been clouding its sight, the European Space Agency announced yesterday.

There had been fears that the creeping ice could delay the mission of Europe's space telescope, which blasted off in July on the world's first mission to investigate the cosmic mysteries of dark matter and dark energy.

However a de-icing procedure to gently warm up an optimal mirror on the telescope "performed significantly better than hoped", the ESA said.

"After the very first mirror was warmed by just 34 degrees, Eu-

clid's sight was restored," it added.

In November, scientists on the ground noticed that they were losing a little light coming into the telescope's visible light imager.

They determined that the problem was a layer of ice -- thought to be just the width of a strand of DNA -- building up on the telescope's optical surfaces.

There are heaters onboard that can warm up the entire spacecraft, a process that was carried out shortly after Euclid launched.

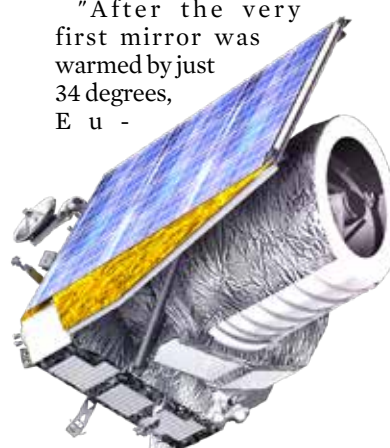
But heat expands many materials, and warming up the whole spacecraft now would require careful recalibration.

That had the potential to delay the telescope's mission by months, Euclid instrument operations scientist Ralf Kohley told AFP last week.

So the team opted instead to warm up single mirrors.

Kohley had said they would move through a number of different mirrors until they found the right one.

But the ESA emphasised they had solved the problem by heating up the very first mirror attempted.



TikTok has announced more of the measures it was taking including push notifications from April that will direct users to find more "trusted and authoritative" information about the June vote. TikTok has around 142 million monthly active users in the EU.