
ERICSSON SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATES PROOF OF CONCEPT OF NFV WITH NTT DOCOMO

- Proof of concept of Network Functions Virtualization successfully demonstrated with Japanese operator NTT DOCOMO
- NFV enhances network flexibility, speeds up service introduction and increases resilience
- NTT DOCOMO is evaluating the possibility of open NFV architecture

Ericsson (NASDAQ:ERIC) has successfully demonstrated proof of concept (PoC) of its Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) in a joint effort with NTT DOCOMO and a number of other providers.

NFV is a network architecture concept that proposes using technologies for IT virtualization to virtualize network node functions that can be connected to create communication services.

During the PoC process, Ericsson activated its virtualized Evolved Packet Core (vEPC) on another vendor's orchestration platform, which was chosen by NTT DOCOMO successfully, with vEPCs from another vendor successfully activated on Ericsson's orchestration platform.

Operators seeking to introduce NFV in their networks are often driven by three main factors: the desire to innovate new services through exposing network assets; increasing the speed for introduction of new services; and improving efficiency in terms of how networks are built and operated.

NTT DOCOMO has led this mutual collaboration, with the vendors providing open NFV products to be combined at several test beds during the period. NTT DOCOMO is seeking to evaluate the possibility of an open NFV architecture using global standard environments.

Seizo Onoe, Executive Vice President and CTO at NTT DOCOMO, says: "Thanks to collaborative efforts in the mobile network industry, NFV is soundly moving toward practical realization, rather than just ending up as a pie-in-the-sky dream. I am delighted that we have confirmed the feasibility of NFV through multi-vendor initiatives with Ericsson and other top ICT players."

NTT DOCOMO and Ericsson have built a strong partnership going back several years, and the NFV collaboration enables both to try out new developments in trial environments before design completion and going live, securing both quality and expected functionality.

PRESS RELEASE

OCTOBER 14, 2014



Håkan Djuphammar, Head of Technology, at Ericsson's Business Unit Cloud & IP, says: "The successful PoC exercise showcases the possibility for the operator of deploying NFV on a broader scale. By using this technology, telecom operators such as NTT DOCOMO are able to build global standard agile networks and speed up their new service introduction.

"The Ericsson Cloud Execution Environment allows operators to deploy Ericsson's and other vendors' virtualized hardware and software products. This also helps them to allocate their network resources more flexibly, simplifying network configuration and ensuring savings in operational and capital expenditure."

NOTES TO EDITORS

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Our services, software and infrastructure – especially in mobility, broadband and the cloud – are enabling the telecom industry and other sectors to do better business, increase efficiency, improve the user experience and capture new opportunities.

With more than 110,000 professionals and customers in 180 countries, we combine global scale with technology and services leadership. We support networks that connect more than 2.5 billion subscribers. Forty percent of the world's mobile traffic is carried over Ericsson networks. And our investments in research and development ensure that our solutions – and our customers – stay in front.

Founded in 1876, Ericsson has its headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. Net sales in 2013 were SEK 227.4 billion (USD 34.9 billion). Ericsson is listed on NASDAQ OMX stock exchange in Stockholm and the NASDAQ in New York.

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