

IBM and Verizon Business to Collaborate on 5G and AI Solutions at the Enterprise Edge

Companies to work together on 5G and MEC co-innovation; First solutions to be aimed at helping improve industrial quality, availability and performance

NEW YORK and ARMONK, N.Y., July 16, 2020 /[PRNewswire](#)/ -- Verizon Business (NYSE: VZ) and IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) today announced they are entering into a collaboration to work together on 5G and edge computing innovation to help enable the future of Industry 4.0. The companies plan to collaborate on solutions combining the high speed and low latency of Verizon's 5G and Multi-access Edge Compute (MEC) capabilities, IoT devices and sensors at the edge, and IBM's expertise in AI, hybrid multicloud, edge computing, asset management and connected operations.

Many industrial enterprises are today seeking ways to use edge computing to accelerate access to near real-time, actionable insights into operations to improve productivity and reduce costs. To address this need, the first solutions planned from this collaboration are to be mobile asset tracking and management solutions to help enterprises improve operations, optimize production quality, and help clients enhance worker safety.

For these initial solutions, the two companies plan to leverage Verizon's wireless networks, including Verizon's 5G Ultra Wideband (UWB) network, and Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC) capabilities, alongside Verizon's ThingSpace IoT Platform and Critical Asset Sensor solution (CAS). These will be jointly offered with IBM's market-leading Maximo Monitor with IBM Watson and advanced analytics. The combined solutions could help clients detect, locate, diagnose and respond to system anomalies, monitor asset health and help predict failures in near real-time.

IBM and Verizon are also working on potential combined solutions for 5G and MEC-enabled use cases such as near real-time cognitive automation for the industrial environment. Edge computing's decentralized architecture brings technology resources closer to where data is generated - i.e., where devices are located in an industrial site – this can help decrease lags in response time and increase processing speeds and reliability. 5G's low latency, high download speeds and capacity can increase the number of devices that can be supported within the same geographic area, and the ability for organizations to interact with those devices in near real-time, with computing power in the proximity of the device. This could mean that innovative new applications such as remote control robotics, near real-time cognitive video analysis and plant automation may now be possible.

"The industrial sector is undergoing unprecedented transformation as companies begin to return to full-scale operations, aided by new technology to help reduce costs and increase productivity," said Bob Lord, Senior Vice President, Cognitive Applications, Blockchain and Ecosystems, IBM. "Through this collaboration, we plan to build upon our longstanding relationship with Verizon to help industrial enterprises capitalize on joint solutions that are designed to be multicloud ready, secured and scalable, from the data center all the way out to the enterprise edge."

"This collaboration is all about enabling the future of industry in the Fourth Industrial Revolution," said Tami Erwin, CEO, Verizon Business. "Combining the high speed and low latency of Verizon's 5G UWB Network and MEC capabilities with IBM's expertise in enterprise-grade AI and production automation can provide industrial innovation on a massive scale and can help companies increase automation, minimize waste, lower costs, and offer their own clients a better response time and customer experience."

Verizon and IBM also plan to collaborate on potential joint solutions to address worker safety, predictive maintenance, product quality and production automation.

About IBM:

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About Verizon:

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE, Nasdaq: VZ) was formed on June 30, 2000 and is celebrating its 20th year as one of the world's leading providers of technology, communications, information and entertainment products and services. Headquartered in New York City and with a presence around the world, Verizon generated revenues of \$131.9 billion in 2019. The company offers voice, data and video services and solutions on its award-winning networks and platforms, delivering on customers' demand for mobility, reliable network connectivity, security and control.

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