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Case, Dowty-Case, Cray, Case Technology Legacy Products

October

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Welcome

Welcome to the Case Communications October 2009 Newsletter

Case Communications secures contract with Network Rail

October 2009.

Case Communications is pleased to announce they have been awarded a contract by Network rail for the Northern city Line. The contract is for a mission critical network mainly around London with links to Network rail centres in the North of the country and uses Case Communications Rugged Switches and Routers and a dual CaseView network management system.

[\[More\]](#)

Case Communications Appoints Ray Piggott LL.B, C.Eng.FIET as a director chairman of the board.

October 2009

Case Communications is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Ray Piggott LL.B, C.Eng, FIET as a director and Chairman of the board of Case Communications.

Case Communications spokeswoman Jan Corbett said 'We are extremely pleased to have persuaded Ray to join Case Communications he is a very experienced and highly sought after executive and we feel he will contribute greatly to our growth and success in the marketplace. Ray has already made a significant contribution to the company and his vision, business acumen and drive will be a great asset to Case Communications'

[\[More\]](#)

Vodafone overhauls its mobile Internet services with Vodafone 360

On 24 September 2009, Vodafone announced the launch of 'Vodafone 360' - the new brand name for its mobile Internet services. Since the launch of Vodafone live! (the operator's mobile content portal) in 2002, Vodafone has made a series of attempts to advance its mobile Internet services. For example, in June 2007, it relaunched its live! service by adopting a more open approach to the mobile Internet. However, with the rise of app stores from device vendors and Internet giants such as Apple, BlackBerry and Google, Vodafone live!, though innovative in the early years of mobile Internet, looks increasingly outdated in terms of content and user experience. Vodafone 360, which will ultimately serve as a

replacement for its Vodafone live! service, represents the operator's latest attempt in a bid to enhance its competitiveness in the global mobile Internet market.

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Case Communications have been awarded SEEDA grant

October 2009.

Case Communications is pleased to announce they have been awarded a SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) grant for a 'Market Research Project'

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Organisations may already be uneasy about Facebook because of its ability to waste the time of their employees.

Now it is presenting a more serious threat to PC owners.

Hackers have figured out how to generate new profiles on Facebook automatically. When you register, as with many other sites, you need to read and enter characters from a security panel, which is designed to make it impossible to be read automatically. It seems the clever clogs of the hacking world have found a way around this.

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The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) will test how consumers and businesses are likely to use the extra bandwidth provided by the Digital Britain plan.

Creating a high-bandwidth network for people across the country is expected to increase the opportunities for new services.

[\[More\]](#)

Wireless networks tax is proposed

The public body that sets business rates taxes has proposed levying a tax on wireless and optical fibre networks.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has hinted at a charge to businesses to pay for their "next-generation access" (NGA) networks

[\[More\]](#)

Tories want to scrap broadband tax

The Conservatives' shadow culture secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has promised to scrap the broadband tax if the party wins the next general election.

[\[More\]](#)

Alan Johnson 'stops the clock' on Gary McKinnon's extradition proceedings

The Home Secretary has thrown a lifeline to Gary McKinnon, the alleged computer hacker, with a promise to examine new medical evidence "very carefully" before deciding on his extradition to the United States.

[\[More\]](#)

Nokia sues Apple over iPhone patents

Nokia and Apple are squaring up for a bruising legal battle after the Finnish mobile phone maker filed a legal complaint against its Californian rival that could culminate in Nokia taking a cut on every iPhone sold by Apple

[\[More\]](#)

Orange ups the ante in battle for broadband customers

Orange has upped the ante in the battle for broadband customers after raising its speeds to up to 20Mbps and shaking up its price plans.

Orange has been losing market share in the fiercely competitive fixed-line broadband market in the UK and when it last reported results, its customer base had shrunk below one million.

[\[More\]](#)

France Télécom halts restructure amid suicides

France Télécom today shelved its restructuring programme after the suicides of 25 workers whose deaths have been linked to a modernisation drive at the group.

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Case Communications spokesman Steven Saulis said 'The network is mission critical in the event of a failure the rail service will be suspended which would result in significant losses for network rail, therefore the network has been designed to be highly resilient. The CaseView management system allows multiple users to monitor and manage the network 24 x 7 x 365, with staff at two different locations able to view the network and have instant alerts in the event of problems.

If CaseView detects a problem out of hours it has the ability to send e-mails and messages to staff allowing them to react quickly. In addition CaseView monitors errors on the network circuits and pre-empts any problems with those circuits, allowing network rail manager to resolve any possible problems before they become serious.

The system is currently being installed in the London region after Network Rail laboratories spent several months approving the products for use in the network.

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Ray started his career as a 'technical author' and soon progressed into sales with Rank Xerox data systems and made their largest sale in Europe before being promoted to Regional Manager for Germany, Israel, Italy, Scandinavia.

Ray was then approached by US Mini computer manufacturer Data General to run North West Europe for them and having made a great success of North west Europe Ray was promoted to Data General Asia where he grew the company to an impressive size before being approached by Traderpoint a division of ICL

Ray joined ICL as the founding director of Traderpoint reporting directly to the Chairman and Chief Executive Sir Peter Bonfield. Ray's task was to establish a global indirect sales channel, one which would not conflict with the established direct sales force but which would serve ICL's long term market share objectives.

Ray was then approached by Cray Communications to become Chairman and Chief Executive for the company where he created a global company from a number of regional companies and was responsible for all disciplines Development, Production, Marketing, Sales, Finance, IT and Human Resources.

Rays appointment is the first of several new board members who are being invited to join the board of Case Communications, in order to position the company for rapid growth.

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Vodafone 360 encompasses several services, including Vodafone People, an app store, and music and mapping services. Many of these services are not new – similar types of offering from rival players are already available in the market (for example, app stores). However, Vodafone has made considerable efforts to improve the user experience and content of Vodafone 360 services in the following ways.

- A centralised address book to accommodate customers' increasing need for social networking.**
 Vodafone People features a centralised address book that integrates customers' contacts from phones, Facebook, Google Talk and Windows Live Messenger. Vodafone 360 customers will be able to use this centralised address book to communicate with all their contacts across different social networking sites. This represents the latest trend in the communication space, which aims to address people's increasing needs for social interaction, as well as communicating in a way other than traditional approaches such as voice and text messaging.

- An apps store using the Web approach to encourage the proliferation of applications.**
 Vodafone's approach to the app store is different from that of rival players in that its applications will be purely Web-based, while many other app stores rely on Java-based local applications or adopt a hybrid approach of using both Java-based and Web-based applications. The rationale behind Vodafone's approach is that Java-based local applications will have to overcome the complications caused by device fragmentation, which have acted as a huge barrier to the development of the mobile application industry for years, leading to high development costs and inhibiting the proliferation and quality of mobile applications. Web-based mobile apps, such as widgets based on a Web runtime environment, are easy to develop and are able to overcome the fragmentation of device platforms and gain economies of scale. In particular, Vodafone announced that its applications will be compatible with the standard set by the Joint Innovation Lab (JIL) – an initiative founded in April 2008 by China Mobile, SoftBank and Vodafone, which were joined by Verizon Wireless in April 2009. JIL aims to deliver a cross-operator widget platform to capitalise upon the four operators' combined customer base of 1 billion subscribers. The impact of Vodafone's app store is likely to be significant considering the scale of its user base.

- **Wireless back-up and synchronisation between the mobile phone and PC to deliver a seamless cross-platform service.** Users' contacts, emails, photos, conversation histories and settings changes will be automatically backed-up and synchronised between their mobile phones and PCs or Macs wirelessly and regularly. This is a significant improvement over other cross-platform services (such as Nokia's Ovi services), which often require customers to download a local client onto their PCs and also use a cable to connect the mobile phone and PC.

The announced Vodafone 360 services look set to make marked improvements on their predecessor, Vodafone live!. However, whether Vodafone 360 services will appeal to the company's stated target segment – users in the 25–34 age range – has yet to be seen, and will rely to some extent on execution. Vodafone will also find it difficult to generate revenue from these services, which is much-needed in order to maintain positive overall revenue growth – particularly in its mature markets, which now face the prospect of dwindling voice and messaging revenue. One thing is certain: Vodafone will need to move far quicker than before in order to compete with new rivals, such as established device vendors and Internet brands, which are becoming more aggressive than ever in their efforts to advance into the mobile Internet space and capitalise on new revenue opportunities.

The authors would like to thank Janine Aitken-Young, Senior Industry Analyst Relations Manager for Vodafone Group, and David Rossiter, Practice Director at Sunesis, for their help in preparing this article.



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Case Communications spokesman Steven Saulis said 'we are very pleased to have been awarded this grant and believe we are one of the first if not 'the' First organisation to have been awarded it. This is a very exciting time and will help build a solid foundation towards our growth'

The grant will go towards Market Research into the rugged Communications market place and will result in a report which will be the basis for future technology developments.

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Hackers have figured out how to generate new profiles on Facebook automatically. When you register, as with many other sites, you need to read and enter characters from a security panel, which is designed to make it impossible to be read automatically. It seems hackers have found a way around this.

Having set up such a profile (and apparently there now a lot of them on Facebook) using a pretty young lady as the bait, you are invited to watch a video file and we will leave the rest to your imagination.

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The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) will test how consumers and businesses are likely to use the extra bandwidth provided by the Digital Britain plan.

Creating a high-bandwidth network for people across the country is expected to increase the opportunities for new services. To quell fears that the public will not utilise this new tool enough, making it unprofitable for internet service providers (ISPs), TSB will test customers' use. Applications will be provided over next-generation bandwidths, with customer usage being monitored.

TSB electronics and photonics lead technologist Nick Appleyard said: "We are looking to build confidence that new products and services will work over this infrastructure, and you can only really test this by putting the technology in front of real customers."

The actual network speeds will not be a subject of the test, it will purely be on the application and services that become available with increased bandwidth, Appleyard explained.

Appleyard said TSB is looking for two or three locations where they can upgrade with "five years' worth of internet development". Customers will be able to opt in and out of the system. It is hoped the service will go live by the middle of 2010.

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Wireless networks tax is proposed

A document published by the VOA said the cost of establishing an NGA connection was £7.50 per location. In the initial investment for next-generation networks, as part of the Digital Britain programme, the costs will be absorbed, it said. But it also said that in future business connections will be considered "on their individual merits" and valued no higher than the "fibre optic networks rents" already placed on cable companies like Virgin Media.

According to Computer Weekly, prices of up to £100 a connection are being considered. The higher prices could potentially hit business and non-profit groups that provide free wireless internet access.

A VOA spokesman said, "There has been no change in rating policy for wireless installations and any suggestions otherwise are wrong."

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Tories want to scrap broadband tax

In an interview with the Financial Times, Hunt said the Tories would remove the tax "as soon as possible". The 50p a month tax to be placed onto landline telephone bills was designed to raise £175m to pay for universal broadband speeds of 2Mbps.

The broadband tax is expected to be brought into law before Christmas in a Digital Economy Bill.

Over the summer there was speculation over Lord Carter's Digital Britain plan and if the government would still back it in light of cost cuts. But the minister responsible for the plan, Stephen Timms, promised the new tax would become law.

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Alan Johnson 'stops the clock' on Gary McKinnon's extradition proceedings

In an eleventh-hour intervention, Alan Johnson told MPs that he had "stopped the clock" on proceedings to give Mr McKinnon's lawyers time to consider medical reports and make legal representations.

Mr McKinnon, 43, from Wood Green, North London, suffers from Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism. He says that his hacking of Pentagon computers was nothing more than him searching for reports of UFO sightings.

His lawyers say that he is at risk of suicide if extradited.

Earlier this month the High Court in London refused Mr McKinnon leave to appeal to Britain's new Supreme Court, in a devastating blow to his campaign to be tried in the UK.

However, Mr Johnson gave fresh hope yesterday to Mr McKinnon's increasingly desperate supporters.

"There are two issues upon which Gary McKinnon's legal advisers have argued," he said. "The first is that the Director of Public Prosecutions should have tried him in this country. The High Court in July dismissed that, and wouldn't allow it to go to judicial review." But, he continued: "I have to ensure that his Article 3 human rights are being respected. It's this new medical evidence that I will be looking at very carefully."

Last night Mr McKinnon's mother welcomed the latest twist in the long-running battle to save her son from a possible life sentence in an American jail.

Janis Sharp told *The Times* that she was hopeful the Home Secretary would heed the medical evidence before him. "The evidence is very powerful. I'm really glad the Home Secretary has decided to look at it, because Gary's health has already deteriorated so much. After eight years of constant stress, he is suicidal.

"We should not have a Government that is so powerless it cannot stand up against America for the right of its own citizens."

Critics say that the 2003 US-UK extradition treaty, which was intended to allow terrorism suspects to be sent across the Atlantic, is "lopsided" and gives a better deal to the Americans.

Mr Johnson was also urged yesterday to delay the case by David Burrowes, the Tory MP for Enfield Southgate, Mr McKinnon's constituency. He said that a decision should not

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be made until after a select committee inquiry on November 10 into the controversial extradition treaty.

Nick Clegg, the Liberal Democrat leader, joined this month those who support Mr McKinnon. He said: "This new psychiatric report into Gary McKinnon's condition must persuade him that it is no longer acceptable to shrug his shoulders and claim that nothing can be done."

Karen Todner, Mr McKinnon's solicitor, said: "We are pleased that the Home Secretary is considering these representations.

"We hope that he will take the time to consider them fully and will have some compassion towards Gary, whose mental state is extremely precarious."

American prosecutors accuse Mr McKinnon of hacking into 97 computers soon after September 11, 2001



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Nokia sues Apple over iPhone patents

Nokia has filed a claim in the Federal District Court in Delaware alleging that Apple has infringed ten of its patents related to the GSM, UMTS — or 3G — and wireless local area network standards used in Europe. It has accused Apple of getting a “free ride” on the back of its technology, which 40 other mobile phone manufacturers already pay to use.

The Finnish group said that all iPhone models sold since the device’s launch in 2007 had infringed its intellectual property rights. It said that the ten patents related to technologies “fundamental” to making devices that were compatible with the European standards. The patents relate to wireless data applications, speech coding, security and encryption — all crucial processes in running a smartphone.

If Nokia wins its case, which is unlikely to reach court for about two years, it will benefit every time an iPhone is sold. That would dispel notions that the mobile phone giant is trying to exclude its smaller, but highly successful, competitor from the market. It is likely that complaints will be filed around the world, lawyers said.

A Nokia spokesman said that the litigation was the “last resort”, suggesting that the issue has been in dispute since the iPhone went on sale two years ago. Any settlement or award would be backdated to the iPhone’s launch, and so could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, according to lawyers.

Ilkka Rahnasto, vice-president for intellectual property in Nokia, said: “The basic principle in the mobile industry is that those companies that contribute in technology development to establish standards create intellectual property, which others then need to compensate for. Apple is also expected to follow this principle. By refusing to agree appropriate terms for Nokia’s intellectual property, Apple is attempting to get a free ride on the back of Nokia’s innovation.”

Nokia fought a fierce battle with Qualcomm, the US mobile phone technology developer, over patent infringement. The two traded legal blows over a three-year period before agreeing to license each other’s technology.

Lawyers believe that Nokia is playing a dangerous game. Robin Fry, a partner in Beachcroft, said: “This is a poker game in which there is a risk that Nokia’s patents could be ruled invalid. It’s a high-risk strategy for them.”

He said that the dispute was a result of Apple’s determination to pursue its own path rather than collaborate on technology standards. It does not take part in cross-licensing deals, and so is vulnerable to being charged a higher rate than other

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phone developers.

Mr Fry said that it was as yet unclear what cards were held by Apple, which has declined to comment on the litigation. "It's a big bat that Nokia is swinging, but it may be that Apple has some pretty effective armoury at its disposal," Mr Fry said.

Nokia holds 10,000 patents related to European and global mobile phone technologies and has invested about £36 billion in research and development over the past two decades.

Ilya Kazi, of Mathys & Squire, a law firm, said that the case would probably be settled before any potential injunction against iPhone sales is enforced. He said that the timing of the lawsuit was intriguing, given that the iPhone is set to go mainstream in the UK, with Orange and Vodafone to begin selling it over coming months



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Orange ups the ante in battle for broadband customers

The move to boost speeds for customers using its network and to launch a new marketing campaign under the "No More Speeding Fines" tagline is the company's most aggressive move in the fixed-line market for some time. It signals its intent to take back some of the market share that it has lost to rivals such as TalkTalk, owned by Carphone Warehouse, and BSkyB, the satellite-TV operator in which News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, has a 39.1 per cent stake.

Orange will today launch four new price plans, costing between £6.50 and £13.50 a month, and it will also offer unlimited download usage, subject to the usual fair-usage requirements. In line with its strategy to use broadband as a tool to reduce mobile phone churn, the cheapest plans will be available to its mobile phone customers on a contract.

Asif Aziz, director of Broadband and Home for Orange, told *The Times* that although it will advertise speeds of up to 20Mbps, customers will be advised on what speed to expect before they sign up to the 18-month contracts. "Irrespective of where you live, you will get the fastest speed your line can handle," he said, adding that customers would not be charged a premium to connect their house to the faster broadband service.

Orange is currently fighting for market share on a number of fronts after winning the right to launch Apple's iPhone on its network before Christmas and kicking off a price war in the mobile broadband market.

The group's history in the UK broadband market dates back to 2000 when its sister company Wanadoo paid £1.65 billion to acquire Freeserve, the high-growth internet company originally launched by Dixons

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France Télécom halts restructure amid suicides

The former state monopoly said it had called-off its controversial corporate shake-up until next year.

The announcement follows a wave of deaths at the group and a further spate of attempted suicides since February 2008. The deaths, which have shocked the country, have led to calls for the resignation of Didier Lombard, France Télécom's chief executive.

A spokesman said: "We will suspend all restructuring until December 31, 2009."

The French Government summoned Mr Lombard to a crisis meeting last month about the deaths, which unions blame on a deep malaise caused by the restructuring. He was asked to produce an urgent action plan.

Critics say staff at the company, two thirds of whom were taken on when the group was a state monopoly and, as such, considered themselves unsackable, had become desperate after being asked to overhaul working practices. The shake-up was aimed at making the Gallic group more competitive in the international market.

A total of 10,000 employees have changed jobs in the past three years.

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