

Enhancements made to key 5G convergence standards

Major enhancements have been made for the advancement of next-generation applications, network resilience, and support of converged services for residential customers thanks to [Broadband Forum's](#) latest 5G work that is integrating wireless and wireline networks.

Broadband Forum's Phase 18.1 specifications, building on [3GPP's Release 18](#), promise to extend the set of common value-adding capabilities, enabling operators to deliver customized Quality of Service and more freedom to smoothly migrate to using a single converged 5G Core with a multi-vendor broadband network.

The latest work drives greater value and better Quality of Experience to the customer and allows operators to consolidate their IT systems for more efficient operations and lowers their Total Cost of Ownership.

"By defining these functional improvements and capabilities for multi-vendor 5G broadband networks, BBF's work addresses the needs of both fixed and mobile operators." said Manuel Paul, Deutsche Telekom and Broadband Forum WWC Work Area Co-Director. "They can combine offerings and provide a uniform experience to subscribers irrespective of the access in use, supported by a common control plane and streamlined back office."

Paul continued: "As standards mature, the industry has the foundations available for mass deployments in the residential and enterprise markets to start."

The Broadband Forum's Wireless-Wireline Convergence (WWC) Work Area is developing five new specifications as part of its Phase 18.1 umbrella of 5G work. Key use cases include business services support, hybrid access, network data analytics, and support for devices behind a 5G Residential Gateway (5G-RG). Different subscriber groups such as home workers or gamers can also be prioritized with greater bandwidth on-demand thanks to network slicing, part of the key enhancements from this latest phase of work.

Documents including WT-456 Issue 3 (Access Gateway Function Functional Requirements), WT-458 Issue 2 (CUPS for 5G Wireless Wireline Convergence), and WT-470 Issue 3 (5G Wireless-Wireline Convergence Architecture), as well as related extensions of CPE device requirements and device data models, are set to expand the deployment options for operators.

"Our Phase 18.1 work is driven by industry demand and the priorities of operators, as we focus on providing them with increased flexibility, revenue potential, and deployment options," said Christele Bouchat, Nokia and Broadband Forum WWC Work Area Co-Director. "By working in close alignment with 3GPP, we are ensuring synergy for the broadband industry. By leveraging convergence, operators can cost-effectively deliver broadband in the home and office."

The previous phase of work, included Control-User Plane Separation (CUPS) for multi-vendor support ([TR-458](#)) and specified the combined AGF-5G-User Plane ("Broadband-UPF"), allowing operators to flexibly and efficiently use the Broadband User Plane with the 5G Control Plane cost-effectively. Broadband Forum's Technical Reports [TR-493](#) and [TR-494](#) have been published, converging residential voice support onto today's 5G networks.



2 May 2024

Visit the Broadband Forum YouTube page for background on the WWC Work Area [here](#).

-END-

About the Broadband Forum

The Broadband Forum is an industry-driven global standards development organization helping operators, application providers, and vendors deliver better, services-led broadband.

As the industry-recognized center of competence, the Broadband Forum provides an accessible, efficient, and effective community where all broadband stakeholders can collaborate on, develop, and promote open standards and open software. This provides the basis for deployable solutions for the global broadband industry.

The forum publishes interoperable standards and open software, has launched certification programs, and promotes industry education. These best practices and models can be adopted to help realize an effective broadband ecosystem that drives a thriving, services-led broadband industry based on global collaboration, open standards, and open source, maximizing value for all stakeholders.

For more information, visit <https://www.broadband-forum.org/>. For the latest updates, follow Broadband Forum on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).