ERICSSON SOFTWARE UNLOCKS INDOOR PERFORMANCE AND “INTERNET OF THINGS” ADOPTION

- Ericsson releases its next major software upgrades, Ericsson Networks Software 16A and IoT Networks Software 16B
- New 16A suite features advances in uplink and downlink performance – boosting network uplink speeds by up to 200 percent, downlink speeds by up to 30 percent and adding LTE Unlicensed (LTE-U), the first commercial step in Licensed Assisted Access Device
- IoT Networks Software 16B delivers reduced IoT device costs, extended battery life and improved indoor coverage

Over the last few years a major shift in connectivity has been gaining speed; we have moved away from a laptop era and into a fully mobile era, where we connect to our friends, family, and colleagues through multiple devices – growing to 4.3 devices per user by 2020* -- and where business transactions are often made over the cellular network. The resulting influx of devices, users, and applications trying to access the network can result in poor indoor coverage and performance. And with the coming growth in the Internet of Things contributing to 26 billion connected devices in 2020, providing the right coverage to indoor spaces will become a greater challenge.

To support these changes in connectivity, Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC), long recognized for high-performance, innovative hardware, is pushing performance further by adding capacity and functionality with software-only upgrades. Today, it announces its next major software releases, Ericsson Networks Software 16A, which will feature a new suite of LTE software upgrades targeting the indoor space, and Ericsson IoT Networks Software 16B, which delivers reduced device costs, extended battery life and improved indoor coverage.

**Ericsson Network Software 16A:**

Among the hundreds of new and enhanced software feature options in Network Software 16A, the new suite features advances in uplink and downlink performance – boosting network uplink speeds by up to 200 percent, downlink speeds by up to 30 percent and adding LTE Unlicensed (LTE-U), the first commercial step in Licensed Assisted Access – as well as features to support greater energy efficiency of small cells. To achieve these gains, Ericsson has been working with leading customers on lab tests and trial activities.
Further enhancements focused on the indoor space boost download speeds by 30 percent using 256 QAM encoding. Earlier this year, in a live demonstration with Ericsson, Telstra achieved the world’s first download peak rates of 600 Mbps using this new feature. Devices that support these advances become available this year, in line with commercial availability of the Ericsson Networks Software 16A.

Networks Software 16A also includes LTE-U, to drive higher performance. LTE-U enables operators to combine the reliability of licensed spectrum with indoor data speed boosts provided by unlicensed spectrum.

Arun Bansal, Senior Vice President and Head of Business Unit Radio, Ericsson, says: "To keep pace with mobile broadband demand from both consumers and industry, operators need solutions that deliver both high performance and efficiency. Ericsson’s indoor software innovations deliver both. And, these new features combined with Ericsson’s end-to-end solutions, flexible go-to-market and business models and proactive relationships with key device ecosystem partners, ensure that our leading operators not only keep pace, but set the pace."

**Ericsson IoT Network Software 16B:**

There are already more than 230 million cellular machine-to-machine (M2M) subscriptions for IoT devices, but certain challenges have limited the potential for large-scale adoption across a variety of use cases, namely: the cost of IoT devices, device battery life, and cellular coverage in both remote areas and deep inside buildings.

Cellular networks already cover 90 percent of the world’s population, but even with the networks in place, a number of roadblocks to supporting mass-market adoption of IoT have remained. Ericsson is addressing these challenges with Ericsson IoT Network Software 16N, a targeted new suite of software upgrades and ecosystem advances that will accelerate the uptake of IoT for the benefit of both industry and consumers.

Working with its ecosystem partners, advances in Ericsson’s new IoT Networks Software 16B delivers:

**Reduced IoT device cost** - The new software supports LTE Category 0 with half-duplex operation in FDD, which effectively limits functionality and capability to those specifically required for IoT applications, such as large-scale sensor and smart meter deployments. This reduced complexity cuts device cost by 60 percent compared to Category 4.

**Extended battery life** – 10-year battery life is one of the goals for 5G and Ericsson is introducing two new software upgrades for energy efficiency that achieve that goal on today’s IoT devices.
Device Power-saving Mode for LTE & GSM is a new device power-saving capability that introduces a deep sleep state, while Extended Discontinuous Reception (DRX) for GSM extends the sleep cycles in inactive mode.

**Improved indoor coverage** - Extended coverage software for GSM delivers a 20 dB improvement leading to a seven-fold extension in the range of low-rate applications. This enables the usage of IoT applications in remote locations and deep within buildings underground.

Ken Stewart, Chief Wireless Technologist and Fellow, Intel Corporation, says: “Connectivity is critical to mass adoption of new IoT applications for smart cities and industries. Intel is helping clear the path for IoT’s rapid growth through its research and development of cutting-edge new technologies, and by working closely with ecosystem partners. We are pleased to collaborate with Ericsson to jointly drive standards adoption of solutions that can be used immediately on existing operator networks.”

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

- **Launch: Improving Indoor App Coverage**
- **Launch: Accelerating IoT**
- **Ericsson and Qualcomm Deliver LTE Category 11 Smartphone Experience in Live Demonstration with Telstra**
- **Ericsson first to give smartphone users indoor boost with License Assisted Access**
- **Ericsson Radio Dot System**
- **Ericsson RBS 6402**
- **Ericsson Radio System**

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*Ericsson is the driving force behind the Networked Society – a world leader in communications technology and services. Our long-term relationships with every major telecom operator in the world allow people, business and society to fulfill their potential and create a more sustainable future.*

*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 approximately 115,000 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 2014 were SEK 228.0 billion (USD 33.1 billion). Ericsson is listed on NASDAQ OMX stock exchange in Stockholm and the NASDAQ in New York.

Ericsson has been present in Latin America since 1896, when the company established an agreement in Colombia and delivered equipment for the first time in the region. In the early 1900s, Ericsson increased its presence in Latin America by signing commercial deals in Argentina, Brazil and Mexico. Today, Ericsson is present in more than 50 countries within South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, which combined count the region as one of the few with complete Ericsson installations, including two Production Units, R&D Center and Training Center. Ericsson is the market leading telecom supplier, with over 40% market share in Latin America and more than 100 telecom service contracts in the region.

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