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Editor

## The revolving world of communications

Communications are all around us. They run literally everything in our world, from security, education and healthcare, through to finance, transport and business. At any given moment, trillions of human-to-human and machine-to-machine (M2M) communications are taking place. Communications have taken over every aspect of our lives; from keeping loved ones in touch over long distances (or from just streets away in the case of love-sick teenagers), through to relaying vital financial or security data for governments and corporations. In the absence of good communications, relationships fall apart, the financial sector would collapse and borders would go unsecured. Without communications, life as we know it would be impossible.

In this issue, we looked at the evolution of M2M and the Internet of Things (IoT). With connected device numbers set to expand to 25-50 billion by 2020, the volume of communications is only going to increase. Consumer applications like smart homes and cities and connected personal devices like smart watches and phones will only represent a small proportion of new IoT devices. The majority of new connected devices will be operated by business and government, for whom cheaper sensors will enable more remote communication services and more automation, ushering us towards the Internet of Everything (IoE) era.

Communications are the key factor that will help move the satellite industry to the next level. The average age of those in our sector is increasing, prompting fears of industry contraction as retiring satellite professionals are not replaced by new blood. Young entrepreneurs like Flavia Nardini, who, in this issue tells us about her start-up satellite ventures, Fleet and Launchbox, are too few and far between. Conferences and seminars play a big part in expanding the understanding of our industry to outsiders and attracting new talent to this exciting field. Through such events we can raise awareness of critical issues among a broader audience. Those who might otherwise have had a very limited understanding become aware of just how important satellite is, and its presence in every corner of our lives.

These, and topics like them, are just a smattering of those that will no doubt be covered at CASBAA and CommunicAsia in May. Attendance of such events, where large groups of people gather to communicate about communications, connect the unconnected and expand the horizon of our industry. We look forward to seeing you there!

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