WHITE PAPER

Monetization with Advanced 5G: Leveraging network slicing, automation and programmability





Summary

At the forefront of the digital revolution, Advanced 5G is redefining connectivity with speed, intelligence and efficiency unlike any previous generation. In addition to delivering constant improvements in network capacity and efficiency, this evolution shifts focus toward creating new value with differentiated network services. While 2G to 4G centered on consumer revenue from text, voice and data, Advanced 5G transforms the network into a services and differentiation platform. This evolution goes beyond incremental capacity gains; it enables operators to provide premium, differentiated services with guaranteed performance and strict KPIs, unlocking new monetization models.

The opportunity lies in delivering value through differentiation. By creating customized network experiences, operators can monetize infrastructure investments while responding directly to the rising expectations of consumers, enterprises, industries, governments and AI and data center customers. Customers today require far more than basic connectivity—they expect networks to underpin immersive entertainment, secure business operations and mission-critical services with assured capacity, reliability and low latency.

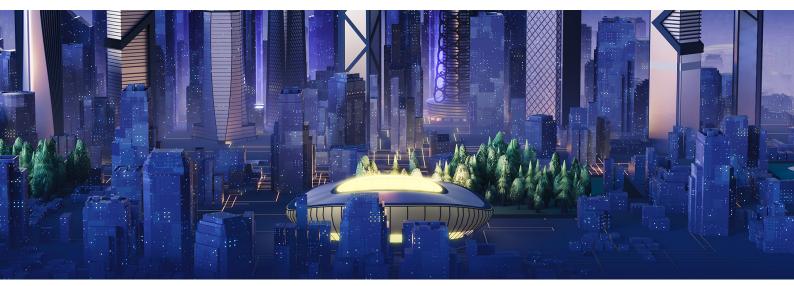
The range of opportunities spans both consumer and enterprise markets. Use cases such as fixed wireless access (FWA), cloud gaming, augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR), Al-driven applications and automation, drones, low-latency video streaming, cybersecurity and private networks all benefit from the responsiveness, security and reliability that Advanced 5G delivers. Manufacturing, healthcare and Al-driven enterprises are also increasingly adopting private and hybrid cloud architectures, leveraging 5G for secure, high-performance operations.

This transformation is made possible through a set of core building blocks: Advanced 5G, network slicing, automation, Al and programmability. Each element contributes to a layer of scalability and control that allows telecommunications providers to enter new markets with confidence. Nokia, a pioneer in telecom innovation, is leading this shift. Our end-to-end portfolio enables telecommunications providers and enterprises to use 5G Standalone (SA) architecture, slicing, automation, Al and programmability, including open APIs to

tailor services to every need. Nokia collaborates with customers worldwide on 5G Advanced deployments, combining deep technical expertise, end-to-end know-how and extensive field experience to address business, technology and strategy challenges with commercially proven solutions.

Looking ahead, the next wave of monetization will be driven by advanced differentiated network services, new partner-based offerings and convergence across fixed, mobile and satellite access. Al-driven automation, network programmability and the gradual evolution toward 6G-native architectures will together enable intent-based, on-demand services and sustainable revenue growth.

This white paper not only explores the foundational advancements of Advanced 5G but also highlights our role in accelerating monetization in the evolving 5G ecosystem.



Network slicing to create new services and monetization opportunities

The transition to 5G as a monetization platform marks one of the most important evolutions in the industry. Instead of treating networks purely as a utility for connectivity, telecommunications providers can now position them as programmable, differentiated platforms that sustain growth and create value for diverse customer segments.

Consumer opportunities

For consumers, Advanced 5G unlocks premium experiences such as low-latency gaming, seamless high-definition streaming and immersive AR/VR services that depend on guaranteed performance.

Premium 5G and FWA services

With slicing for consumers and homes, these enable joint bundled offerings with partners (including content, applications and security) to increase customer value.

Slicing for applications

The latest smartphones support mapping of applications like gaming, streaming and conferencing to different network slices, ensuring network performance, quality and latency through User Equipment Route Selection Policy (URSP) technology.

Events and arenas

Providing premium customer experiences with network slicing in different events like concerts, festivals and sports games, ensuring smooth and stable connectivity in crowded areas.



telecommunications providers can monetize these differentiated experiences through tiered service models, event-based premium connectivity and application-aware slicing that ensures consistent quality for the most demanding use cases.

Enterprise opportunities

Enterprises represent the largest growth frontier for Advanced 5G. Their needs are complex, spanning secure, high-performing connectivity, cloud integration and critical application-specific requirements. Opportunities include:

Premium 5G and FWA services:

For business users and small offices that need dedicated bandwidth, stable and reliable connectivity even in crowded areas.

Sliced 5G VPNs: :

Enterprises can provision secure, application- or business function-specific slices that extend corporate data network policies across high-performing mobile networks in campus, city, regional or wide areas, depending on the location of enterprise business operations.

Devices with URSP-enabled traffic mapping:

URSP ensures that enterprise applications are mapped to the most appropriate slice for performance and security.

Virtual private networks and hybrid cloud integration:

As workloads migrate to public and private clouds, enterprises are leveraging 5G for secure, high-performance business-critical operations from enterprise devices across a sliced mobile network to private and public cloud data centers running enterprise applications.

Integration with Secure Access Service Edge (SASE):

Enterprises can extend corporate security policies into the mobile environment, ensuring that regulated industries (such as healthcare and finance) remain compliant.

Dynamic bitrate management and QoS customization:

Slicing allows telecommunications providers to guarantee SLAs and optimize resource allocation across industries.

These capabilities open new business models. Telecommunications providers can sell network slices as managed services, tailored by vertical (healthcare, manufacturing, logistics or energy), offering guaranteed SLAs that command premium pricing. Our software-driven slicing framework integrates with BSS/CRM and billing systems, ensuring monetization aligns with service assurance and customer commitments.

Government and critical infrastructure

Governments and national infrastructure operators require mission-critical connectivity. Advanced 5G supports:

- **Guaranteed availability:** In harsh environments, this ensures that critical national systems remain operational under all circumstances.
- Low-latency communication slices: Available for emergency services, defense and transportation.
- Slicing-enabled Security-as-a-Service (SaaS): Applies security policies per slice and aligns with CISA guidelines. This includes advanced encryption, identity management and real-time threat detection.
- **Programmability:** Ideal for public safety, enabling first responders to boost network slice performance in a disaster area on-demand.

Edge slicing and AI and data center customers

Edge slicing further enhances differentiation. By localizing processing power close to end users, telecommunications providers can support:

Industrial automation with realtime control loops.	Autonomous vehicles requiring split-second response times.	Augmented and virtual reality for both entertainment and enterprise training.	applications requiring secure connectivity for local processing at edge data centers.	On-demand event coverage, where premium slices can be monetized in stadiums, concert halls or other venues.
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The monetization opportunities extend further with edge slicing, which localizes processing for applications requiring low latency, such as industrial automation, autonomous vehicles, AI/ML and AR/VR. This creates the ability to offer premium services in defined locations or contexts, opening entirely new revenue streams.

High-performing 5G edge slicing functionality, used by enterprise and industry customers, creates an attractive environment for application partnerships with local and global AI and cloud providers. A premium 5G slice can be deployed to cloud platforms and business applications hosted at enterprise, operator or cloud service provider edge data centers.

Automation and programmability

Telecommunications providers are evolving their networks to introduce advanced capabilities and differentiated services for industries, enterprises and consumers. This evolution requires managing network elements, functionalities and parameters across multi-vendor, end-to-end environments, as well as monitoring network and service KPIs and SLAs.

To effectively address these challenges, automation and artificial intelligence are becoming business-critical. They enable telecommunications providers to manage the full lifecycle of networks, slices and services, increasing service agility and enhancing operational efficiency. Our MantaRay solution portfolio builds on this foundation, delivering Al-native automation, orchestration and assurance capabilities that simplify multi-vendor operations and enable intent-based, closed-loop management across the network.

The global digital economy thrives on APIs. Al and data center customers and developers expect to integrate network capabilities into their applications seamlessly. Advanced 5G meets this need by:

Exposing **programmable APIs** that allow developers to request, configure and monitor slices.

Supporting dynamic slice **lifecycle management,** with provisioning, monitoring and SLA enforcement delivered in real time.

Enabling customers to **order, manage and monitor** their network services online.

Creating **developer-driven monetization models**, where APIs become new revenue streams.

Our Network-as-Code platform transforms infrastructure into an API-driven monetization engine, enabling dynamic service creation and developer collaboration. Together with partners such as Google, Nokia introduced application-specific slicing in 2022 and on-demand slicing for Android in 2023, demonstrating leadership in open API ecosystems ^[1].



New revenue streams with Advanced 5G

Real-world examples show that telecommunications providers have already started the evolution to Advanced 5G to deliver commercial differentiation:

- T-Mobile US is scaling its 5G SA deployments using Nokia's AirScale RAN and automation solutions, to boost 5G network capacity and coverage for maximum performance, efficiency and reliability as well as enabling more dynamic service delivery and agility at scale [2].
- Vodafone, under its extended collaboration with Nokia, is leveraging converged charging and intelligent network tools to support new, tailored offerings across markets [3].
- Elisa is modernizing its network across Finland and Estonia with Nokia's 5.5G-ready AirScale RAN portfolio to prepare Elisa's network for the Advanced 5G era, supporting ultra-fast speeds and low latency at near-instantaneous levels This is crucial for applications such as AI, virtual reality, augmented reality and industrial automation [4].
- Chunghwa Telecom is expanding 5G coverage in Taiwan using Nokia's AirScale RAN and automation solutions to boost capacity, reduce latency and prepare for Advanced 5G services [5].

Looking ahead, Nokia's push into Advanced 5G (Release 18 and beyond) reinforces this trajectory. 5G Advanced introduces enhancements in AI/ML-driven optimization, greater spectral efficiency, energy savings, improved slicing and deeper network programmability. When combined with use cases at operators like T-Mobile, Vodafone, Elisa and Chunghwa, these technologies form a compelling foundation for monetization of differentiated services, automation and sustainable growth.

Advanced 5G allows telecommunications providers to increase their focus on customers, understanding their specific needs and tailoring network performance and service tiers accordingly. This includes premium services for premium prices, as well as cost-efficient offerings for price-sensitive customers. Nokia works closely with telecommunications providers to help translate customer connectivity requirements into end-to-end network solutions.



Network services and differentiation platform building blocks

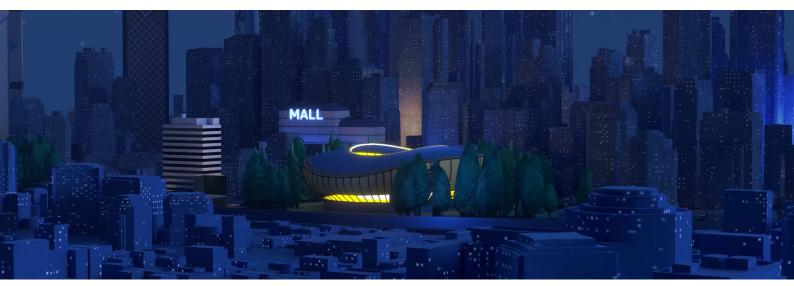
The foundation of service differentiation and monetization rests on interconnected building blocks: 5G Advanced, network slicing, automation, Al and programmability. Together, they allow telecommunications providers to move from static connectivity to dynamic, value-creating platforms.

- Advanced 5G begins with the SA core. A cloud-native core adapts dynamically to traffic demands, minimizing unnecessary infrastructure costs while supporting NR carrier aggregation and Voice over NR (VoNR). This foundation provides ultra-reliable connectivity that supports everything from consumer broadband to enterprise-grade applications. With a common 5G SA and EPC core, telecommunications providers can provide seamless operations and customer experiences across LTE, NSA and SA networks. We address these with standards-based handovers, adaptive cloud-native SA cores and compliance support, ensuring that operators can realize opportunities without compromising service quality or regulatory alignment.
- Network slicing is central to differentiation. It allows telecommunications providers to create virtual networks dedicated to specific applications, industries or customer groups. Slicing supports dynamic resource allocation, low latency and QoS management to guarantee SLAs. It also enables differentiated security services (Security-as-a-Service aligned with CISA guidelines) providing encryption, identity management and threat detection tailored to each slice. Enterprises can benefit from sliced 5G VPNs using all LTE, NSA and SA devices. Latest URSP devices enable business application traffic to be directed to the most appropriate slice for seamless performance. Telecommunications providers can provide premium end-to-end services from a variety of devices across multiple access types: 5G, fixed wireless and fixed access, and can carry the slices over mobile and data networks to enterprise, private and public cloud applications.
- Automation and AI are essential for scaling. With multiple slices for multiple
 customers operating simultaneously, manual operations are impractical. AIdriven management and orchestration automate slice lifecycle management,
 from creation and provisioning to monitoring and assurance, using closed-loop
 intelligence. This enables single-click adjustments, SLA compliance and costeffective delivery at scale.

Programmability and APIs open networks to the wider ecosystem. By exposing capabilities through APIs, telecommunications providers empower developers, partners and verticals to innovate directly on the network. Programmability allows dynamic slice lifecycle management, application-aware optimization and SLA enforcement. Through online portals, telecommunications providers can provide control and SLA monitoring of network services to end customers. Network APIs enable cell-, slice-, UE- and application-level granularity, supporting on-demand customization and monetization across industries.

The true impact emerges when these building blocks are integrated. SA architecture provides the foundation with seamless LTE and NSA evolution paths; slicing creates differentiated networks, automation and AI scale operations efficiently, and programmability unlocks the ecosystem for co-creation and new business models. Together, they define the new era of network services and differentiation platforms.

For operators, this integration also brings responsibilities: KPIs must be consistently delivered, SLA performance must be assured in real time, and billing transparency must align with service performance, ensuring accountability and trust. By addressing these demands, telecommunications providers can turn networks into engines of growth. We are at the forefront of this transformation, helping both telecommunications providers and enterprises capture new revenue streams, accelerate innovation and shape the digital-first business models of the future.



Commercially ready and viable 5G monetization use cases

Nokia's advancements in end-to-end (E2E) and edge slicing have paved the way for real-world, revenue-generating 5G applications. Through global partnerships and pilot deployments, network slicing has emerged as a key enabler for unlocking new monetization opportunities. The following use cases demonstrate how 5G slicing is transforming industries, optimizing operations, and creating new revenue streams for telecommunications providers.

Fixed Wireless Access (FWA): Bridging the digital divide

FWA is a major driver of 5G monetization. Our partnerships with Telia Finland ^[6], Mobily Saudi ^[2] and Safaricom ^[8] have demonstrated how 5G slicing stabilizes FWA by partitioning radio resources, balancing FWA and eMBB traffic, reducing churn and guiding CapEx investment for optimal capacity management. This ensures reliable broadband access for homes and small offices, expanding connectivity-driven revenue opportunities.

Media and entertainment: Powering immersive digital experiences

With demand for high-quality streaming and interactive media surging, 5G slicing enables low-latency, high-bandwidth connectivity for content delivery. Nokia, A1 and Microsoft Azure deployed the first 5G edge cloud slicing for enterprise streaming in Vienna, Austria, enabling seamless, real-time content delivery ^[9]. This showcases 5G's potential to redefine media consumption and content monetization

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In the UK, Nokia and BT Group teamed up to deliver 5G Standalone network slicing at a major sailing event in Portsmouth, enhancing both spectator and broadcast experiences. Dedicated slices supported point-of-sale terminals, live video feeds, telemetry data from racing boats and fan entertainment, demonstrating the commercial readiness of slicing for live events and its value in monetizing pop-up and venue-based connectivity [10].

In the UAE, Nokia and e& showcased the world's first fixed end-to-end network slicing for gaming applications, where a console was auto-detected and assigned a dedicated slice. This demonstrated monetizable opportunities for low-latency, premium gaming services on fixed broadband [11].

Manufacturing: Driving Industry 4.0 with 5G slicing

5G is revolutionizing the manufacturing sector through industrial automation, Al-driven production and robotics. Our collaboration with Orange and Schneider Electric in France resulted in the first Industry 4.0 private 4G/5G network with

slicing, integrating robot control, video analytics and augmented reality to enhance manufacturing efficiency [12].

In Finland, Sandvik partnered with Telia and Nokia to deploy a 5G edge-sliced virtual private network for mining operations, ensuring low-latency, ultrareliable connectivity for vehicles and machinery [13]. This was the world's first live commercial network deployment of 5G edge slicing, proving that slicing can be delivered at the network edge in production environments, opening monetization opportunities for advanced enterprise services.

Additionally, Telefónica and NTT DATA deployed an automated E2E sliced network in a multi-vendor environment utilizing Nokia's 5G RAN, demonstrating how slicing automation reduces OPEX and enables scalable industrial services across heterogeneous vendor networks [14]. STC selected our orchestration software to deliver slicing as-a-service, strengthening monetization by automating lifecycle management and SLA enforcement for enterprise and industry customers [15].

These deployments show how telecommunications providers can monetize private and virtual private networks for industrial use cases and automation.

Transportation: Enabling autonomous vehicles and smart infrastructure

We implemented 4G/5G slicing for transportation in Austria, leveraging A1's network and ÖBB (Austria Railways) to enable real-time train location tracking and data exchange [16]. This enhances operational efficiency and supports autonomous transportation systems, opening new avenues for rail and vehicle connectivity monetization.

Critical communications: Securing first responder and military connectivity

In the UAE, Nokia and Nedaa are integrating 5G network slicing for smart city applications, including real-time public safety services, connected vehicles, IoT-enabled infrastructure and remote-controlled surveillance [17].

Finnish Defense Forces collaborated with Telia and Nokia on an industry-first live deployment of public 5G SA network for military use cases with seamless slice handovers for roaming soldiers and devices. The live network slicing trial showcases the potential of 5G technology in enhancing critical communications for defense units operating within coalition environments spanning multiple countries [18].

Nokia and Proximus validated slicing performance under demanding network conditions, showing that telecommunications providers can ensure public-safety-grade reliability even in congested environments [19].

Together, these use cases demonstrate how telecommunications providers can monetize critical connectivity services and differentiated infrastructure offerings.

Enterprise networks: Monetizing with sliced 5G VPNs

Enterprises represent a major 5G monetization opportunity. Across industries such as media, manufacturing, transportation and critical communications, many are seeking high-performance, secure and reliable sliced mobile virtual private networks to power their operations.

Nokia and Cellcom implemented secure 5G slicing for metro networks in Netanya, Israel, proving that virtualized network infrastructure can serve multiple enterprises securely and efficiently. This approach enables customized 5G VPNs, Zero Trust Network Access and Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) solutions, creating new revenue streams for telecommunications providers in cybersecurity and enterprise networking ^[20]. Telenor Sweden has also been collaborating with Nokia to provide 5G network slicing and private network services offerings for enterprises, creating a recurring revenue model while supporting advanced vertical use cases ^[21].

Meanwhile, Nokia and du completed the UAE's first live transport slicing trial, demonstrating differentiated services for government and enterprise applications over the same shared infrastructure [22]. Nokia and Singtel successfully trialed end-to-end IP-transport slicing [23], while DOCOMO enhanced its nationwide IP core with transport slicing [24] and etisalat by e& UAE upgraded to 800GE-ready IP core with transport slicing [25].

Transport slicing plays a vital role, particularly in mission-critical enterprise and industrial use cases. It extends beyond the 5G mobile network between radio and core sites to deliver high-performance, managed sliced connectivity from the mobile network to private, public and enterprise cloud applications, whether centrally hosted, regionally deployed or distributed at the edge in metropolitan areas.

Multi-access slicing: Unifying fixed and mobile connectivity

In collaboration with etisalat by e& UAE, we introduced Multi-Access Edge Slicing, which tailors network slices across 5G mobile, FWA and fixed access networks ^[26]. Nokia has been pioneering fixed access slicing by trialing with STC ^[27] and Google Fiber ^[28]. Multi-access slicing allows telecommunications providers to offer differentiated services like low-latency cloud gaming, ultra-HD streaming and remote work solutions, ensuring optimal user experiences and premium service monetization.

Conclusion

Advanced 5G technology is reshaping telecommunications, unlocking transformative opportunities across industries and redefining the future of connectivity, innovation and economic growth. With the convergence of 5G SA architecture, network slicing, automation and programmability, telecommunications providers now have the tools to monetize their networks in ways never before possible. They can provide valuable, differentiated network services to their customers. This evolution empowers operators to offer customized services, meeting the diverse demands of enterprise applications, industries, consumers and governments while opening doors for collaboration and co-creation within the broader 5G ecosystem.

As we move forward, Nokia envisions an increasing number of advanced network services over multiple accesses for different customer segments with AI, automation, programmability and evolution to 6G, where networks become dynamic platforms for innovation, enabling tailored solutions that drive economic growth and address industry-specific needs. The 5G era is just beginning, and with it comes the opportunity to reshape the digital landscape and redefine the future of connected experiences.

For more information, visit our Network slicing webpage.

Glossary

3GPP	Third-generation partnership project	
AAA	Authentication, Authorization and Accounting	
AGV	Autonomous Guided Vehicles	
AMF	Access and Mobility Management	
BSS	Business Support System	
CDN	Content Delivery Network	
CRM	Customer Relationship Management	
EPC	Evolved Packet Core	
eMBB	enhanced Mobile Broadband	
GSMA	Global System for Mobile Communications	
LAN	Local Area Network	
NEF	Network Exposure Function	
NS-AoS	Network Slice Area of Service	
NSSAA	Network Slice Specific Authentication and Authorization	
NSAC	Network Slice Admission Control	
NSACF	Network Slice Admission Control Function	
NSSF	Network Slice Selection Function	
NWDAF	Network Data Analytics Function	
OAuth 2.0	Open Authorization 2.0	
ОЕМ	Original Equipment Manufacturer	
PCF	Policy Control Function	
QoS	Quality of Service	
RA	Registration Area	
RAN	Radio Access Network	
SASE	Secure Access Service Edge	
SMF	Session Management Function	
S-NSSAI	Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information	
SSC mode	Session and Service Continuity Mode	
TA	Tracking Area	
TLS/DTLS	Transport Layer Security/Datagram Transport Layer Security	
UDM	Unified Data Management	
UE	User Equipment	
URSP	UE Route Selection Policy	
VPN	Virtual Private Network	

15

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About Nokia

Nokia is a global leader in connectivity for the AI era. With expertise across fixed, mobile, and transport networks, powered by the innovation of Nokia Bell Labs, we're advancing connectivity to secure a brighter world.

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