



# The Race is On to Monetize 5G

A Snapshot of Global 5G Plan & Pricing Approaches Q2 2020





# Pricing 5G Right Will Be Critical

5G is launching around the world and presents a game-changing opportunity for global operators, content providers and customers. In the U.S. market alone, 5G is projected to unlock more than \$4.3 Trillion in value over the next seven years. It is imperative that operators strike the right balance of data usage, speed and content delivery as they price 5G. In this report, Tarifica looks at the early 5G pricing approaches of leading operators across ten global markets to identify dynamics and patterns at work as the race to monetize 5G begins.

# **About Tarifica**

Tarifica is a global SaaS company that is the market leader in the real-time collection, analysis and delivery of telecom plan and pricing data worldwide. Through a mix of Al, modeling and market expertise, Tarifica tracks hundreds of thousands of plan and pricing data points daily. No other company tracks more. Tarifica's mission is to continuously convert data into the dynamic intelligence that fuels opportunities for its clients, the world's leading operators, regulators and consultants. Learn more about Tarifica at www.tarifica.com.

# **Global Methodology**

Tarifica has taken 11 sample countries worldwide and examined the current 5G commercial plans and pricing offered by the MNOs in these markets. Markets surveyed included: China, South Korea, Australia, U.S., Japan, Canada, U.K., Germany, Finland, UAE, and Qatar. All markets were analyzed utilizing Tarifica's proprietary Arch digital intelligence platform.

Note: at this early stage of global 5G rollout, some regions such as LATAM and Africa do not yet offer 5G at significant scale and therefore are not represented.



# **Operators Analyzed**





















































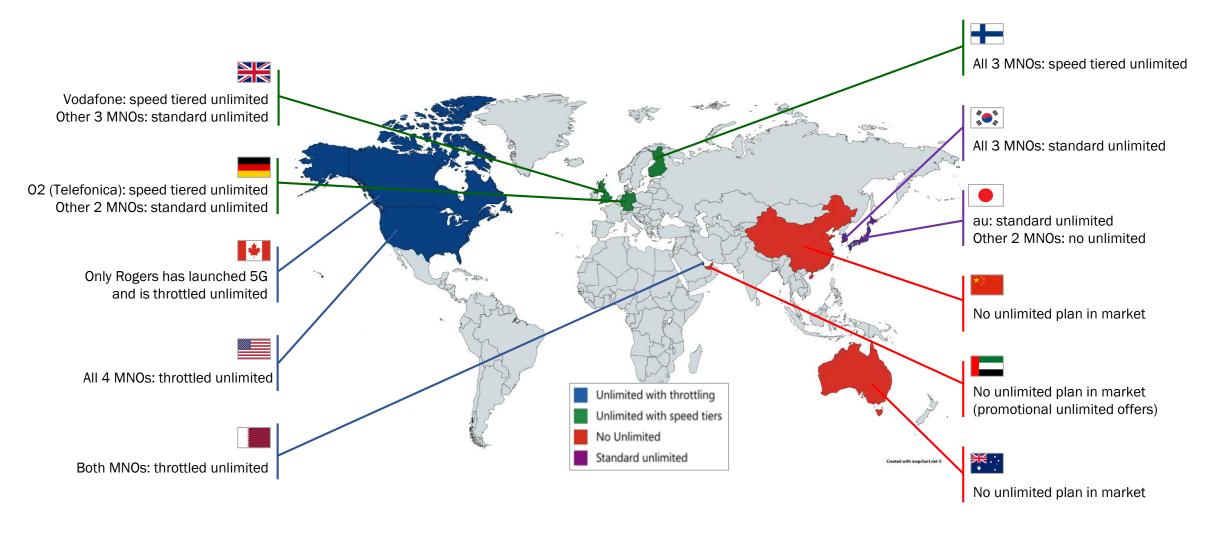






# It's an Unlimited 5G World...

All markets sampled, with the exceptions of China, Australia and UAE, are offering some variant of an unlimited plan.

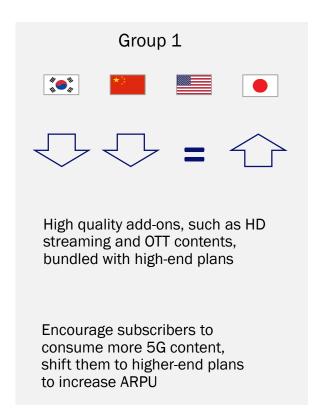


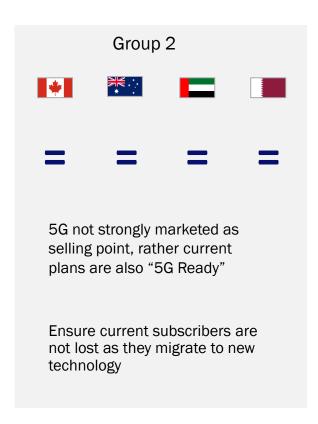
# Distinct 5G Pricing Groups Emerged From the Analysis of Tarifica Data

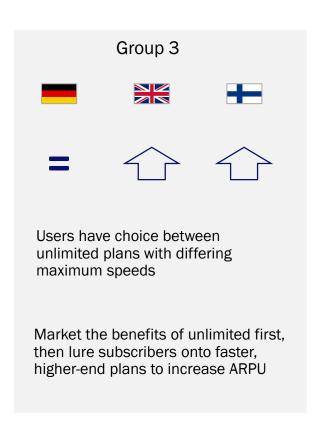
Pricing of 5G Plans vs. 4G Equivalents

Main Pricing Characteristics

Focus Of Operator Strategy









# **Global 5G Pricing Approaches**

# **Up-Sellers**









- China, South Korea, United States, and Japan are examples
- Focus is on growing ARPU by driving customers to add-ons and higher-end 5G plans
- Providing content and brand partnerships are key to success
- China, South Korea and Japan are front runners
- U.S. will rely on this approach more strongly now that 5G has been launched

# Migrators









- Canada, Australia, Qatar, UAE are examples
- Focus is on migrating customers from 4G to 5G and not creating pricing disruption
- Reassuring customers that 5G pricing is comparable to 4G is key to success

# **Speed Controllers**







- Germany, U.K., and Finland are examples
- Focus is on growing ARPU by driving customers to higher speeds for unlimited plans
- Rationalizing need for increased productivity, enjoyment via higher speeds is key to success
- Finland is the front runner
- The U.K. and Germany each have an operator taking this approach now that 5G has been launched



**Up-Sellers** 







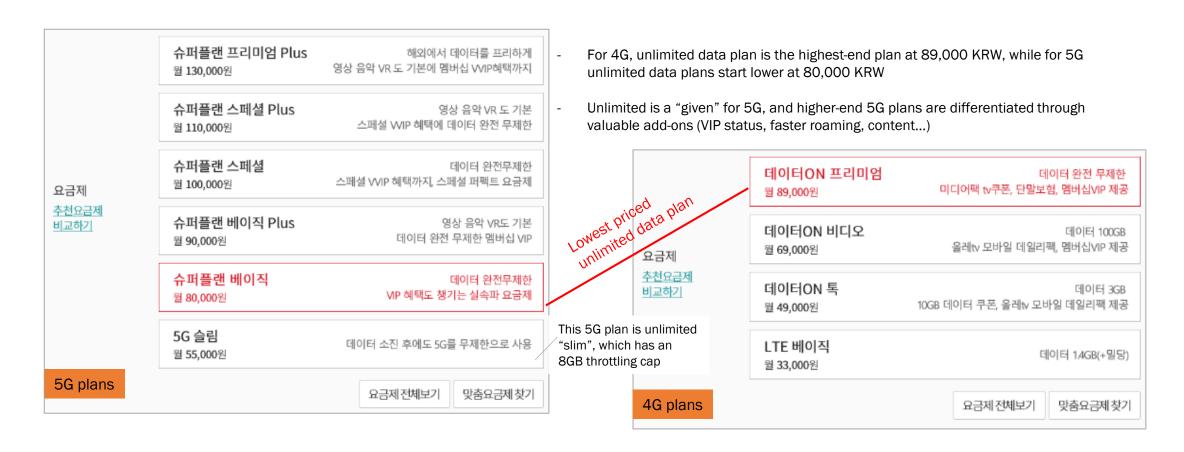


# South Korea & China: Focus on Added Value is Critical

For the most basic unlimited offer, 5G is typically priced lower than 4G...

However, the high-end 5G plans are priced higher than 4G plans and come with various add-ons.

Thus, with any add-ons to the 5G unlimited plan, total pricing becomes higher priced than 4G.



# South Korea & China: Operator Strategy

Rather than monetize through 5G itself, migrate subscribers onto 5G (for no additional cost for users), then upsell by selling high-end packages which come with 5G tariffs.

The strategy appears to be working. Taking KT's 2019 Q4 Earnings report as an example:

- 5G net additions of 1.4 million since 5G launch in April 2019
  - "5G subscribers met the initial target of 10% of total mobile telecom subscribers with 1.42 million subscribers"
- 0.7% YoY increase in service revenue thanks to this 5G subscriber base increase
  - "Wireless ARPU in Q4 has turned-around on an annual-basis, up 2.1% on year"

### Wireless

☐ Wireless Revenue up by 0.2% YoY

 Service revenue up by 0.7% YoY due to 5G subscriber increase

|                 |         |         |         |       |       |         | (0      | IIIG KKW DII) |
|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-------|---------|---------|---------------|
|                 | 4Q18    | 3Q19    | 4Q19    | QoQ   | YoY   | 2018    | 2019    | YoY           |
| Wireless        | 1,689.6 | 1,756.4 | 1,738.5 | -1.0% | 2.9%  | 6,954.1 | 6,970.7 | 0.2%          |
| Service         | 1,616.8 | 1,656.0 | 1,640.1 |       | 1.4%  | 6,523.5 |         |               |
| Interconnection | 72.7    | 100.4   | 98.3    | -2.1% | 35.2% | 430.6   | 404.4   | -6.1%         |

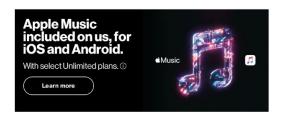
(Unit: KRW bn)

# Will the U.S. Follow Suit More Strongly?

The USA concentrates its offerings around several choices of unlimited plans.

There is no extra charge for 5G; the main differentiator between the plans is the amount of data that can be consumed before being throttled.

Note that higher-end plans offer higher quality streaming...Disney+ free for one year and Apple Music.





...Can the US replicate the South Korea & China model?

### Start Unlimited

Get all the basics with unlimited talk, text and data. And never worry about overage charges again.

\$35

# Play More Unlimited

Our best for music and video streaming, with millions of songs, HD and premium data —all included.

\$45

### Do More Unlimited

When productivity is your top priority, get it all done with premium data and a discount on a connected device plan.

\$45 er line per month.

### Get More Unlimited

The very best of our Unlimited plans gives you our ultimate in performance with extra features.

\$55 Per line per month

|                            | 5G access included with a 5G phone.<br>A \$10/mo value. ✓ | 5G access included with a 5G phone. A \$10/mo value. ✓ | 5G access included with a 5G phone. A \$10/mo value. ✓ |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Unlimited<br>4G LTE Data ① | Unlimited 4G LTE<br>(+25 GB premium data)                 | Unlimited 4G LTE<br>(+50 GB premium data)              | Unlimited 4G LTE<br>(+75 GB premium data)              |
|                            | Unlimited Mobile Hotspot<br>(15 GB of 4G LTE)             | Unlimited Mobile Hotspot (15<br>GB of 4G LTE)          | Unlimited Mobile Hotspot (30<br>GB at 4G LTE)          |
| 480p DVD-Quality Streaming | 720p HD-Quality Streaming                                 | 480p DVD-Quality Streaming                             | 720p HD-Quality Streaming                              |
| MUSIC Free for 6 mos.      | <b>ÉMUSIC</b> Included                                    | <b> ■ MUSIC</b> Free for 6 mos.                        | <b>€ MUSIC</b> Included                                |
|                            |   | 50% off Tablet or Jetpack<br>Unlimited Plan            | 50% off Tablet or Jetpack<br>Unlimited Plan            |
|                            |   | 500 GB of Verizon Cloud<br>Storage                     | 500 GB of Verizon Cloud<br>Storage                     |

# **U.S. Operator Strategy**

The initial performance signs of this 5G strategy appear very positive.

From Verizon's 4Q Earning Results:

"We are extremely pleased with the early uptake on Disney+ and the ability to partner with an iconic consumer brand and content company to bring even greater value to our unlimited customers."

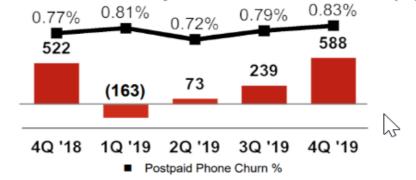
"Fourth quarter phone gross adds were up 9.3% year-over-year, and postpaid phone net adds were 588,000, up 12.6% year-over-year."

"As customers require additional data, we seek to drive step-ups to unlimited plans from metered plans, step-ups within unlimited to higher-tier plans and increasing connections per account."

### Wireless Retail Connections (M)



### Wireless Retail Postpaid Phone Net Adds (K)



# Japan: 5G as a premium, added value content as the driver

Japan also belongs to this group as the higher-end plans are bundled with branded digital content.



However, Japan prices 5G itself as a premium compared to 4G. For example, SoftBank simply charges an extra 1,000 JPY / month for its 4G smartphone plans.



5G monthly plan: +1,000 JPY / month



**Migrators** 









# Canada & Australia: Identical 4G and 5G plans

No notable differentiation between 4G and 5G (5G ready)

Canada: Only differentiator is throttling limit

Australia: No unlimited, different data limits



| 10GB<br>at max speed*  | 20GB<br>at max speed*  | 50GB<br>at max speed*             |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Unlimited shareable data                                       | Unlimited shareable data                                       | Unlimited shareable data          |
| No more data overage   | No more data overage   | No more data overage              |
| 5G-ready   | 5G-ready   | 5G-ready                          |
| c = = 00   | \$0 <b>.</b> 00  | <b>440 F</b> 00                   |
| \$75 <sup>.00</sup> /m°  | \$95 <sup>.00</sup> /mo  | \$125 <sup>.00</sup> /m°          |
| \$10/mo. off per additional line°  Reduced speeds beyond 10GB* | \$10/mo. off per additional line?  Reduced speeds beyond 20GB* | \$10/mo. off per additional line® |



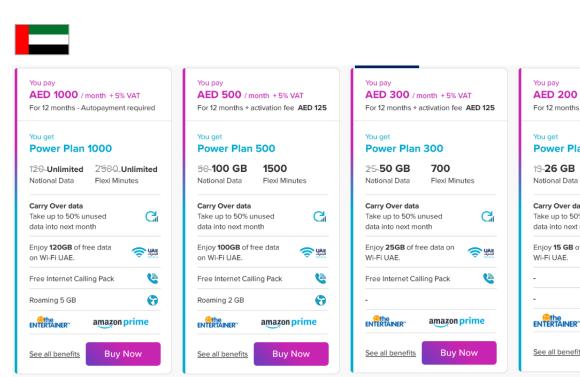
|   | Small Medium  |  | Extra Large  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>15</b> <sup>GB</sup>   | 60 GB   | 100 GB   | 150 GB   |  |
| \$ 50 month to month  | \$ 60 month to month  | \$ 80 month to month   | \$ 100 month to month  |  |
|   | Add a new service.  Get \$10 off.  > Learn more   | Add a new service. Get \$10 off.  > Learn more   | Add a new service. Get \$10 off.  > Learn more                                   |  |
| > Bonus 50,000 Telstra Plus<br>points when you order online                                       | > Bonus 60,000 Telstra Plus<br>points when you order online                                       | > Bonus 70,000 Telstra Plus<br>points when you order online                              | > Bonus 80,000 Telstra Plus<br>points when you order online                      |  |
| > 5G network access free trial until 30 June 2020, then opt in for \$15/month                     | > 5G network access free trial until 30 June 2020, then opt in for \$15/month                     | > 5G network access included  5G available in selected areas  > NO lock-in plan          | > 5G network access included  5G available in selected areas  > 100 lock-in plan |  |
| No lock-in plan  No excess data charges in Australia  Unlimited standard national calls and texts | No lock-in plan  No excess data charges in Australia  Unlimited standard national calls and texts | No excess data charges in     Australia  Unlimited standard national     calls and texts | No excess data charges in Australia  Unlimited standard national calls and texts |  |

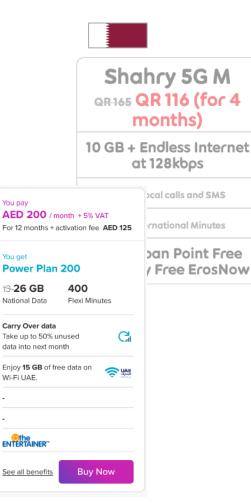
# Qatar & UAE: Identical 4G and 5G plans

No notable differentiation between 4G and 5G

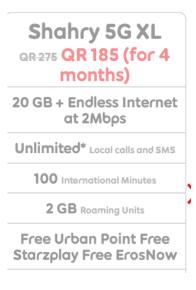
Qatar: Only differentiator is throttling limit

UAE: Promotional unlimited but normally none











**Speed Controllers** 



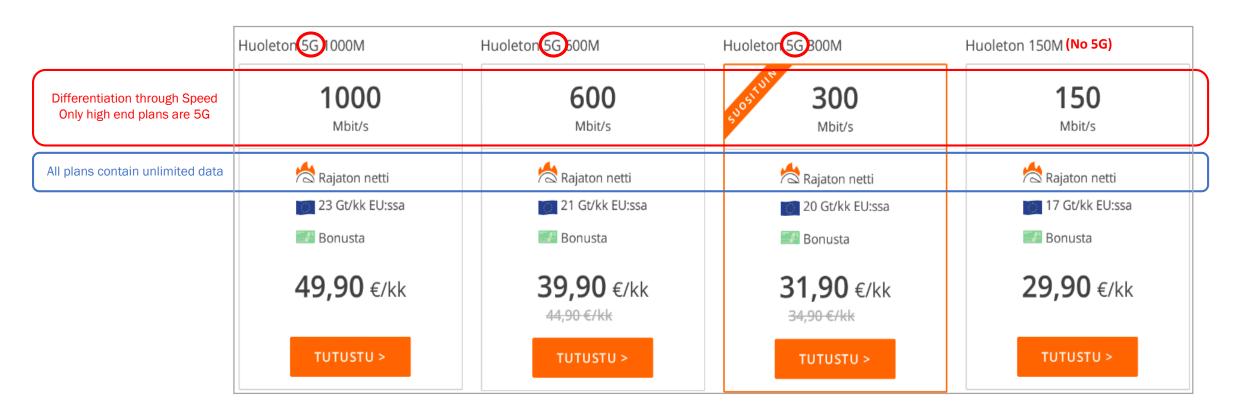




# Finland: A Pioneer in Speed Tiers

In Finland, all 3 MNOs' price structure is very similar:

- Multiple plans, all of which contain unlimited data
- The higher priced unlimited plans have higher speeds (Mbps), of which 5G positioned as premium



# Finland: Operator Strategy

Finland has been home to premium high-speed pricing since the 4G era, the strategy being to shift more users onto these more lucrative plans.

Offering 5G plans as a premium is a continuation of this strategy. Operators are shifting their 3G subscribers onto higher ARPU 4G plans. And now the shift to the lucrative 5G has begun.

**INTERIM REPORT Q4 2019** 

# Up-selling of mobile subs continues, 5G has started

### Growth in 4G smartphone penetration

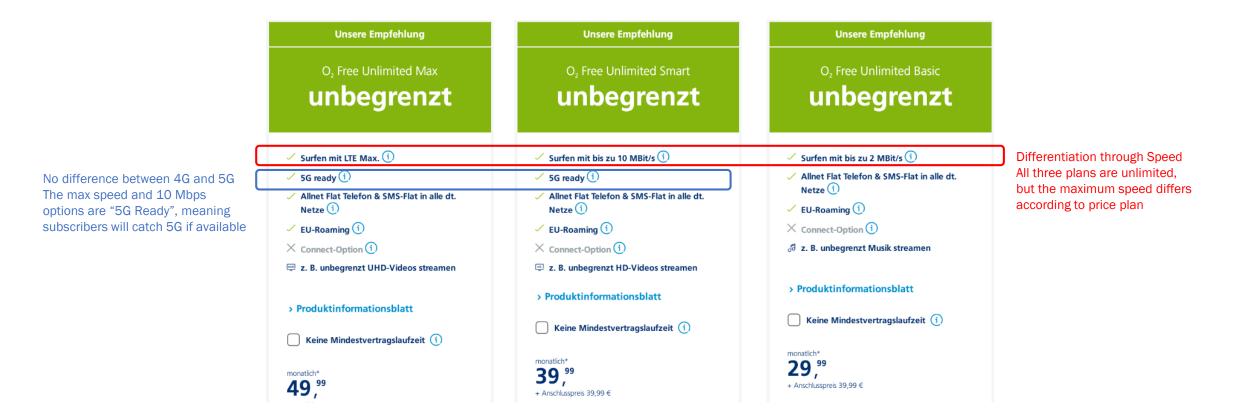
- · 85% of customers use a smartphone
  - 98% (96%) 4G-capable
- 72% (66%) of voice subs at 4G speeds
  - 3G to 4G up-selling continues, 5G has started
  - Up-selling from 4G 50 Mbps to higher speeds continues

# Smartphone and 4G speed penetration,% Smartphone penetr.¹) 4G speed penetr.²) 4G 50 Mbps penetr.²) 78% 79% 80% 80% 81% 82% 83% 84% 84% 85% 52% 54% 58% 62% 64% 66% 68% 70% 71% 72% 40% 41% 43% 43% 41% 38% 36% 33% 30% 28% Q3/17 Q4/17 Q1/18 Q2/18 Q3/18 Q4/18 Q1/19 Q2/19 Q3/19 Q4/19

# The New Disruptors with Speed Tiers: o2 Germany

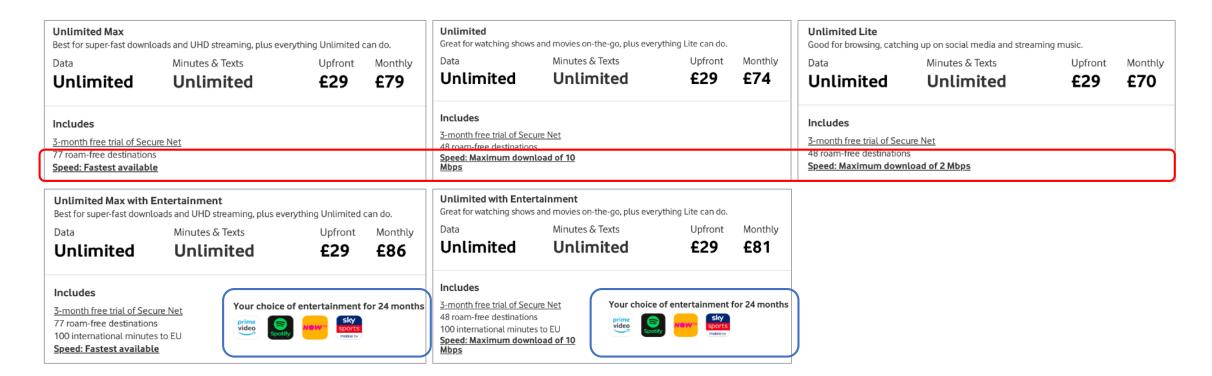
Speed tiered premium pricing, however, is a new concept elsewhere.

Vodafone in the UK, and o2 in Germany, have implemented this pricing structure for the first time in their respective markets with the introduction of 5G.



# The New Disruptors with Speed Tiers: Vodafone UK

In addition to the speed tiers, Vodafone UK has also introduced add-on options in order to push their subscribers to higher ARPU, in a similar strategy to the South Korea / China case



# Vodafone UK & o2 Germany: Operator Strategy

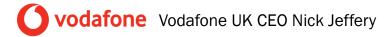
It is only in Germany and the UK that we see an MNO attempting to disrupt the market by structuring their 5G plan differently to their competitors.

In all other markets, all MNOs within a given market provide very similar pricing plans to each other.

It is still too early to judge their success at this stage, but it will be significant to watch closely whether other MNOs, and/or other markets, follow suit. This is key for market challengers, aiming to disrupt the current market order.

O<sub>2</sub> Wolfgang Metze, Telefónica Germany

"We are combining endless volume with different surfing speeds, and all this at a highly attractive price-performance ratio. Our customers choose the solution that best suits their personal needs. With this new approach, we are demonstrating the consistent customer orientation of our core brand O2 and are once again assuming a pioneering role in the market."



"With 5G, the demand for data is only set to increase. That is why we want to remove the limits on data, so that customers can unlock the full potential of 5G and we can really propel the U.K. into the digital age. By offering unlimited plans to our consumer and business customers, we will revolutionize the market."





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