

NEWSLETTER

Highlights and activities for Weeks 45- 48 (02.11.15 – 30.11.15)

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A. International Meetings attended by MCA representatives

1. WebSummit Dublin 2015

Between the 3rd and 5th November, MCA attended the WebSummit an annual, international tech conference focusing on internet technology and ICTs. Participants to the event included representatives from top companies, start-ups, investors and public bodies.

2. ENISA - Security and Network Integration

The MCA attended the 17th Article 13a Expert Group (EG) Meeting which took place between the 10th and 11th Nov in Dublin. The event was hosted by COMREG, the National Regulatory Authority of Ireland. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss issues and share ideas related with the implementation of Article 13a of the Universal Service Directive (USD).

3. Slush 2015

The MCA participated in Slush 2015 held in Helsinki on the 11th and 12th November. Slush brought together 15,000 attendees, including tech start-ups, venture capital investors and others from 100 countries. Slush is a non-profit event organized by a community of entrepreneurs, investors, students and festival organizers. The aim of the event is to expose the next generation of tech companies.

4. Galileo Evolution Programme

The MCA attended the second meeting of the Galileo Evolution Programme held in Brussels. The meeting focused on presenting the current situation and observed trends regarding GNSS usage, applications policies, GNSS System technology, PRS and Security, and introduced a Questionnaire to Member States, containing the key questions for the definition of Galileo Second Generation for both PRS (Public Regulated Service) and non-PRS (Public Regulated Service).

5. BEREC/IRG Contract Network

The MCA attended the 4th meeting of the BEREC Contact Network for 2015, which took place on 19th and 20th November 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. This event was hosted by the Comisión Nacional de los Mercados y la Competencia (CNMC). The main objective of the meeting was to make the necessary preparations in view of the 25th ordinary plenary meetings of the BEREC Board of Regulators and the BEREC Office Management Committee which took place in London on 10th and 11th December.

6. World Radiocommunication Conference 2015

The 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) was held in Geneva, Switzerland between 2 and 27 November 2015. The Conference considered a number of technical and regulatory issues having a worldwide / regional character concerning radio frequencies and satellite orbits. The decisions taken by WRC-15 have amended the Radio Regulations.

7. BEREC Training on Regulatory Framework

MCA participated in a training session organised by BEREC and delivered by TERA. The training is split in 4 sessions and the first session tackled the general overview of the framework, the focus of the NRAs and overviews of how decisions, regulations and mergers work out.

B. MCA Publications & Website Uploads

1. Vacancy: Financial Controller

Published 30th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/careers/vacancy-financial-controller>

2. Malta Grants EchoStar Mobile an Earth Station License

Published 17th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/malta-grants-echostar-mobile-earth-station-license>

3. Decision on Wholesale Access to Data for the Provision of Publicly Available Directory Information Services - Consultation on Proposed Revision

Published 16th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/consultations/decision-wholesale-access-data-provision-publicly-available-directory-information>

4. Wholesale call origination on the public telephone network provided at a fixed location in Malta

Published 13th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/service-providers/consultations/wholesale-call-origination-public-telephone-network-provided-fixed>

5. Vacancy: Project Coordinator (External Relations)

Published 13th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/careers/vacancy-project-coordinator-external-relations>

6. Vacancy: Regulatory Analysts (Market Operations)

Published 6th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/careers/vacancy-regulatory-analysts-market-operations>

7. Highlights and activities for Weeks 36 to 39

Published 5th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/notices-and-announcements/highlights-and-activities-weeks-36-39>

8. The MCA in educational slots on RTK Radio

Published 5th November: <http://www.mca.org.mt/consumer/notices-and-announcements/mca-educational-slots-rtk-radio>

C. MCA Events

The Budding Rockstars Conference held at the Intercontinental Hotel, on Thursday 19th November hosting some 150 Form 5 students from 40 schools across Malta and Gozo. This event aimed at igniting an entrepreneurship spark among participants.



D. Media participation

MCA representatives' participation in television programmes.

1. Television

20.11.15: 'TEN01' – NET TV
(Matthew Farrugia – Mobile Data Campaign)
<http://bit.ly/1Sm7etO>

19.11.15: 'Bongu' – ONE Productions
(Yanika Cassar – Mobile Data Campaign)
<http://bit.ly/1OZ77iw>

13.11.15: 'TEN01' – NET TV
(Matthew Farrugia – Mobile Data Campaign)
<http://bit.ly/1TpbS8L>

11.11.15: 'Bongu' – ONE Productions
(Yanika Cassar – Mobile Data Campaign)
<http://bit.ly/1Sm6W6m>

06.11.15: 'TEN01' – NET TV
(Matthew Farrugia – Mobile Data Campaign)
<http://bit.ly/1JIQ6aO>

04.11.15: 'Bongu' – ONE Productions
(Yanika Cassar – Mobile Data Campaign)
<http://bit.ly/1Ugafu8>

E. Social Media Campaign

The increase in mobile data usage has inadvertently resulted in a predisposition towards incidents of unconscious mobile data consumption with the consequence of high mobile bills. Whilst such incidents have, to date, been minimal, the few cases reported have been the result of lack of awareness of how mobile data is in effect consumed, the measures that can easily be undertaken by the user to manage this consumption, as well as the types of applications downloaded by users and Facebook’s auto play features, which automatically plays videos on users timelines. The Authority is therefore taking a pro-active stance to ensure increased awareness on this front and embarked on an extensive information campaign.

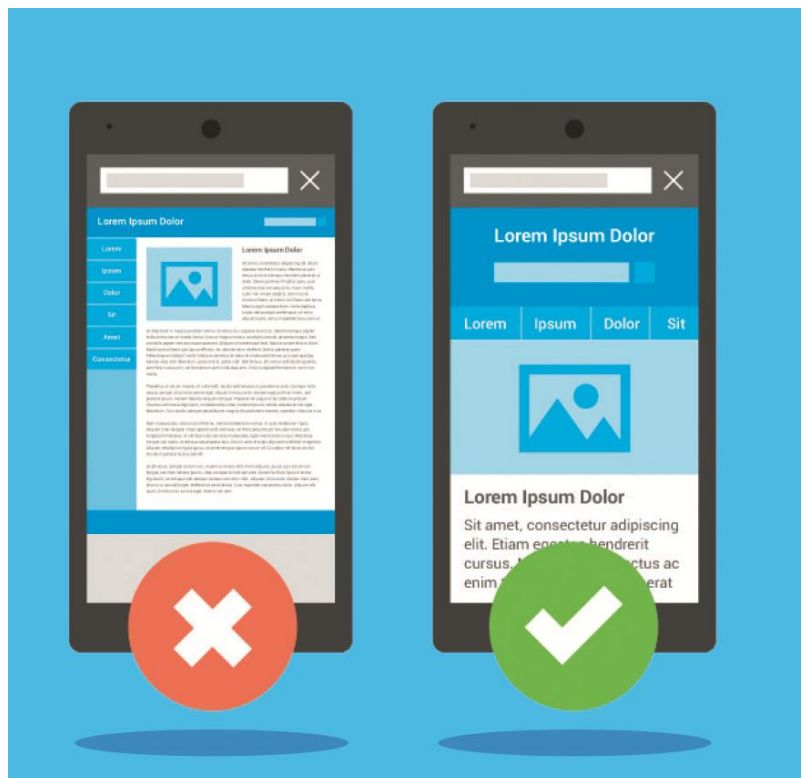
The Authority also started preparations for its print campaign, which kicked off in October.

When browsing the Internet from your mobile phone, choose mobile-friendly sites, whenever possible. Websites which are optimised for mobile use (i.e. mobile version websites) are

designed to be less data heavy when compared to main sites and will therefore consume less data.

Get more from your mobile package. **Be Data Smart!**

Visit www.mca.org.mt/bedatasmart for more info.



F. Legal Updates

Case Sittings

- 26 November: Melita plc vs Direttur Generali (Konsumatur) et – contestation by Melita of an administrative fine imposed following the carriage of advertising considered to be misleading. Is pending before the Competition and Consumer Appeals Tribunal. Case stand adjourned to the 28 January for continuation of evidence by all the parties.
- 23 November: Vodafone vs MCA – re contestation of MCA MTR decision of 2014 before the Administrative Review Tribunal. Continuation of evidence by parties. Stands adjourned to 25 January for cross-examination of witnesses by Vodafone.
- 23 November: Vodafone vs MCA before the Administrative Review Tribunal – appeal contesting MCA’s decision relating to retail market access whether GO are no longer considered to be dominant. Case adjourned for 25 January for Vodafone’s evidence.
- 23 November: Melita vs MCA before the Administrative Review Tribunal – appeal contesting MCA’s decision relating to retail market access whether GO are no longer considered to be dominant. Case adjourned for 25 January for Melita’s evidence.
- 23 November: Melita vs MCA before the Administrative Review Tribunal – contesting MCA’s directory enquiry services decision. Case stands adjourned for 25 January whereby issues in dispute have now been reduced to one single issue in relation to which Melita are to submit their evidence.
- 23 November: Melita vs MCA before the Administrative Review Tribunal – re contestation of a fine imposed on Melita following Melita’s alleged failure to submit statistics with regard to the hybrid category re mobile telephony. Parties concluded their evidence - stands adjourned for the 25 January by which date Melita are to submit their written final pleadings. 23 November – Melita vs MCA before the Administrative Review Tribunal – Melita’s contestation of MCA ruling following Melita’s complaint about GO’s bundling of products issued in 2010. Continuation of evidence adjourned for the 25 January.
- 11 November: Vodafone Malta Ltd et vs L-Awtoritá ta’ Malta dwar il-Komununikazzjoni et pending before the First Hall Civil Court : issue relates to the contestation of the contribution requested by Government in relation to the legal interception requirements of the Security Service. Case stands adjourned to 15 December 2015 for the conclusion of evidence by the parties

G. International News

REGULATION

Advanced Television *EU Rejects Net Neutrality Guarantees*

The European Parliament has voted heavily against rules intended to safeguard net neutrality in the European Union. A whole series of amendments to regulations on how Internet traffic is managed in Europe were rejected by MEPs. Backers of net neutrality rushed to criticise the move [[read more](#)].

Tech Crunch *Android Probe Has "High Priority", Says Europe's Antitrust Chief*

Europe's Competition Commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, has termed a probe of the Android OS as "high priority" for EU regulators. Investigations into other aspects of the company's operations are also being prioritised, she said, speaking in an interview with the Wall Street Journal [[read more](#)].

Telecoms.com *Apple Sued Over Wi-Fi Assist and Increased Mobile Data Use*

Apple has received a class-action law suit in the US, on the grounds that it failed to warn users that iOS 9's new Wi-Fi Assist feature can eat into the customer's data plan. The suit states that users incurred overuse charges on both of their iPhone 5s units after upgrading to iOS 9 [[read more](#)].

BBC *Fast Broadband for All by 2020 Pledged by David Cameron*

All UK homes and businesses will have access to "fast broadband" by 2020, David Cameron has pledged [[read more](#)].

Reuters *Google Says an EU Antitrust Fine Would be 'Inappropriate'*

Google has hit back at EU antitrust regulators' warning of a possible hefty fine, saying this would be inappropriate because of the unusual nature of the case and its willingness to settle the case with concessions last year [[read more](#)].

European Commission *Commission Issues Guidance on Transatlantic Data Transfers*

The Commission issues guidance on transatlantic data transfers and urges the swift establishment of a new framework after the European Court of Justice's ruling on the Schrems case [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *UK Govt Proposes ISPs Store Web Usage Records for 12 Months*

The UK government proposed a new law that would require ISPs to store their customers' Internet usage records for up to a year [[read more](#)].

Engadget *Hilton and MC Dean Fined by the FCC for Blocking Guests' Wi-Fi*

MC Dean and Hilton have joined Marriott in the FCC's list of companies that block personal hotspots [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *Ofcom Lifts Wholesale Obligation on Sky Sports*

Ofcom has lifted the 'wholesale must offer' (WMO) rule that requires Sky to supply Sky Sports 1 and 2 to rival TV providers at a regulated price, a decision met with consternation by BT [[read more](#)].

European Communications *UK's Net Neutrality Code Given Thumbs-Up*

The UK's Open Internet Code has been given the thumbs-up by an independent review into whether it complies with Europe's latest net neutrality position [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *Telefonica Threatens to Slow Fibre Rollout after Network Access Ruling*

Spain's telecoms regulator ruled that Telefonica must open up its fibre infrastructure to rival players in around three-quarters of the country, prompting the incumbent to threaten to hold back on investment in the technology [[read more](#)].

Ars Technica *T-Mobile's Data Cap Exemption for Video Gets FCC Chairman's Approval*

T-Mobile US drew some criticism for a new program that exempts certain online video services from data caps, but Federal Communications Commission Tom Wheeler praised the carrier's zero-rating plan [[read more](#)].

European Commission *Public Consultation on the Review of National Wholesale Roaming Markets, Fair Use Policy and the Sustainability Mechanism*

The Commission is consulting on the review of national wholesale roaming markets, fair use policy and the sustainability mechanism, referred to in Regulation 531/2012 (current Roaming Regulation) as amended by Regulation 2015/2120 adopted in October 2015 by the Council and the European Parliament (OJ L 310 of 26 November 2015) on the basis of the Connected Continent proposal of the Commission of September 2013 (COM(2013)627) [[read more](#)].

The Washington Post *With This Hire, the FCC Could Soon get Tougher on Privacy and Security*

The Federal Communications Commission has hired Jonathan Mayer, a rising star in privacy circles, to serve as its technical lead for investigations into telephone, television and Internet service providers [[read more](#)].

SPECTRUM

Ofcom *Public Sector Spectrum Release (PSSR) - Competition and Auction Design Issues for the 2.3 and 3.4GHz Spectrum Award, Including Reserve Prices*

Ofcom has published a document which relates to decisions on outstanding issues connected with the award of the 2.3 and 3.4GHz spectrum bands [\[read more\]](#).

Policy Tracker *Stage is Set for Broadcasters in US Incentive Auction*

US broadcasters now have all the information they need to decide by 18 December whether to take part in the reverse part of the spectrum incentive auction, the FCC said as it unveiled the opening bid prices it will pay to acquire stations' 6MHz of spectrum [\[read more – subscription required\]](#).

Policy Tracker *US Negotiators Reaffirm Commitment to Global Mobile Allocation for 470–694/8MHz Band*

Two commissioners from the Federal Communications Commission confirmed in a press briefing during the first week of WRC-15 that the US is seeking a global allocation of the 470–694/8MHz band for mobile [\[read more – subscription required\]](#).

Policy Tracker *European Regulators and Telcos Set Out WRC-15 Wishlist*

Just before WRC-15 got under way, the UK and Swiss regulators and European telecoms network operators unveiled their final positions on key agenda items [\[read more – subscription required\]](#).

Ofcom *Consultation on Draft Regulations to Enable use of White Space Devices*

Ofcom has published a consultation on draft regulations to enable use of white space devices in the UHF TV band under a licence-exemption regime, which would implement a decision announced in February [\[read more\]](#).

Advanced Television *ITU 'Save Satellite Spectrum for Emergency Services'*

Major inter-governmental and private-sector organisations responsible for providing safety-of-life communications to millions of people have requested the national administrations of every region to preserve satellite spectrum for use in delivering mission-critical satellite services worldwide [\[read more\]](#).

Policy Tracker *WRC-15 Agrees to Reserve 4.6MHz for Global Flight Tracking*

WRC-15 has agreed to allocate 1087.7–1092.3MHz to the Aeronautical Mobile-Satellite (Route) Service (Earth-to-space) specifically for reception of space stations of Automatic Dependant Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) emissions from aircraft transmitters [\[read more – subscription required\]](#).

Advanced Television *French 700MHz Auction Raises €2.796bn*

France's auction of spectrum in the 700MHz band has closed after two days and 11 rounds of bidding. Proceeds totalled €466 million for each block of 5MHz duplex, for a total of €2.796 billion euros [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *WRC-15 Allocates 77.5–78GHz Band for Automotive Radar*

A 4GHz block of contiguous spectrum (77–81GHz) will now be available for short-range automotive radar following a decision taken by the World Radiocommunication Conference. This decision (on Agenda Item 1.18) was one of five agenda items that were resolved at WRC-15 in its second week [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *WRC-15 Chair Urges Delegates to Overcome Differences on IMT Identification*

The chair of WRC-15 Festus Daudu has urged delegations to be more cooperative over the identification of spectrum for IMT [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *Interest in Digital Radio in Cars Grows in Norway and the UK*

Despite a firm switchover date of 2017 from FM to digital audio broadcasting (DAB) radio, not many older Norwegian cars have been upgraded, industry group Digitalradio Norge says [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Total Telecom *T-Mobile US Seeks to Block Verizon Bidding on Reserved 600MHz Spectrum*

T-Mobile US said Verizon should be blocked from bidding on reserved 600MHz spectrum in 12 markets during next year's incentive auction [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *IoT Needs its Own Spectrum, Says New Industry Group*

Like GSM, the Internet of Things (IoT) needs regulatory assistance if it is to fulfil its potential, according to the Wireless IoT Forum [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Policy Tracker *ARCEP Reveals Prices Paid by Operators in French 700MHz Auction*

French regulator the Autorité de régulation des communications électroniques et des postes (ARCEP) has revealed the final prices paid by operators in the country's 700MHz auction [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Telecoms.com *ITU Globally Allocates 700MHz Band to Mobile*

The ITU formally moved to allocate the 700MHz band (specifically 694-790MHz) to the global mobile industry at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *WRC-15 Agrees on "no change" Until at Least 2023 for 470-694MHz in Region 1*

The World Radiocommunication Conference agreed a compromise document on Wednesday night that sees the 470–694MHz band protected for broadcasters in ITU Region 1 (Africa, Middle East and Europe), while allowing several countries from other regions to use at least part of the 470–698MHz band for IMT [[read more](#) – subscription required].

Total Telecom *UK Allocates £550m to Clearing 700MHz band*

The UK government said it will spend £550m over the next five years to clear the 700 MHz band so the spectrum can be used for mobile broadband [[read more](#)].

Telecoms.com *GSMA Hails Outcomes from WRC-15 with 5G Harmonisation Next on Agenda*

The World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15) in Geneva had a good outcome for the mobile industry, according to the GSMA, which welcomed the addition of new spectrum to mobile broadband [[read more](#)].

Policy Tracker *New Minister May Change Poland's Spectrum Policy*

Anna Strezynska, the former head of Poland's telecoms regulator UKE, has been appointed to the post of Minister of Administration and Digitisation in the country's new government [[read more](#) – subscription required].

INTERNET

Tech Crunch *Google's Plan to Accelerate the Mobile Web Will Go Live Early Next Year*

Google has plans to accelerate web browsing on mobile devices, and we'll start seeing the results of those efforts as early as next year, the company says [[read more](#)].

INNOVATION

eCommerce Times *Key EU Court Ruling Gives Bitcoin Tax-Exempt Status*

The European Union's Court of Justice has ruled that Bitcoin, the virtual payment system that has shown promise and potential as an emerging currency, should be considered exempted from Value Added Tax (VAT) under existing law [[read more](#)].

Daily Mail *Li-Fi is the New Wi-Fi: First Real Tests of Lightbulb Technology Find it is 100 TIMES Faster than Current Systems*

Step aside, Wi-Fi. Scientists have just taken to the streets with a new wireless technology called Li-Fi, and it's 100 times faster than current speeds [[read more](#)].

c|net *Raspberry Pi's Latest Computer Costs Just \$5*

Raspberry Pi's new educational micro-computer is its cheapest yet -- a pocket-sized device designed to teach kids coding for just \$5 (about £3.30 or AU\$7) [[read more](#)].

MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS

Total Telecom *UK Watchdog Clears BT/EE Merger*

BT's hopes of acquiring EE were given a boost this week when it received preliminary approval from the UK competition watchdog [[read more](#)].

Engadget *FreedomPop is Building a 'Wi-Fi-first' Smartphone With Intel*

Budget carrier FreedomPop has signed a deal with Intel that will see it introduce a "Wi-Fi-first" smartphone next year [[read more](#)].

Telecoms.com *Liberty Global Launches New Wi-fi Gateway to the Connected Home*

Cable company Liberty Global has launched a new wi-fi and telephony gateway, with an in-built data modem and wi-fi router, which can download at up to 1Gbps [[read more](#)].

Total Telecom *Brussels Pushes Back O2/3UK Decision by a Month*

The European Commission has pushed back the deadline for completion of its investigation into CK Hutchison's planned £10.25bn takeover of O2 in the UK [[read more](#)].

Out-Law.com *BT Rebuked for Attributing Some EE Acquisition Costs to 'All UK Lines of Business'*

Telecoms giant BT has been rebuked by the UK's industry regulator for attributing some of the "acquisition costs" associated with its takeover of EE to all of its UK business divisions, including Openreach [[read more](#)].

POST

Post & Parcel *Delivery Plays Crucial Role in Online Shoppers' Decisions*

A new study commissioned by Metapack has found that "consumers will not hesitate to abandon an online purchase if the delivery option they want is not available" [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Canada Post Suspends Community Mailbox Conversion Programme*

Following the Liberal Party's recent election victory, Canada Post has announced that it is temporarily suspending future deployment of the programme to convert door-to-door mail delivery to community mailboxes [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Europe's Online Shoppers Warm to Alternative Delivery Methods*

The evidence that "alternative" delivery methods are growing in popularity continues to mount, as yet another study finds that European online consumers are warming to options like Click and collect and parcel lockers [[read more](#)].

Accountancy Live *Ofcom Investigates Royal Mail Over Audit Opinion*

Royal Mail is being investigated by Ofcom in relation to whether it has complied with accounting guidelines in respect of its audit opinions within its financial statements for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 year ends as a result of compliance issues with Ofcom regulatory reporting [[read more](#)].

Advanced Television *Spring Launches New Brand to Support International Growth*

Spring, formerly known as Spring Global Mail, is launching a new brand and tagline – "global delivery solutions" – which it believes will support its international growth in the e-commerce market [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Royal Mail Parcels Growth offsets Decline in Mail Revenues*

Royal Mail has reported a group revenue of £4,395m for the half-year ended 27 September, compared to £4,478m for the same period last year, with growth in UK and European parcels offsetting the decline in UK letter revenue [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Royal Mail to Buy Same-Day Delivery Company eCourier*

Royal Mail has agreed to acquire eCourier, a same day delivery company operating mainly in the Greater London area and offering nationwide distribution [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Royal Mail Launches 2D Parcel Barcoding at Post Office Branches*

Royal Mail has announced the launch of 2D barcoding of parcels at Post Office branches [[read more](#)].

Post & Parcel *Deutsche Post submits new postal rates for approval*

Deutsche Post has submitted its request to Germany's Federal Network Agency for approval of new postal rates that are scheduled to take effect on 1 January [[read more](#)].

INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Verge Teens Can't Tell the Difference Between Google Ads and Search Results

The familiar narrative of teens and technology is one of natural proficiency — that young people just get technology in a way that older generations don't. But research suggests that just because children feel at home using smartphones, it doesn't mean they're more aware of the nuances of how the web works [[read more](#)].

Tech Crunch *Facebook's Internet.org Now Available Throughout India*

Internet.org, Facebook's initiative to provide free Internet services in developing countries, is now available to all Indians through the Free Basics app on Reliance Communication's network [[read more](#)].

TELEVISION

The Verge *Comcast Says its Streaming TV Service Won't Count Against Data Caps Because it Doesn't Use the Internet*

Comcast internet subscribers shopping around for streaming video services are going to have a pretty convincing reason to opt for the company's own product, called Stream TV [[read more](#)].

eCOMMERCE

Tech Crunch *Google Shopping Gets a Mobile Makeover with a Focus on Local Commerce*

As the holiday shopping season starts to get into full swing, Google announced a brand-new design for its Shopping vertical, the Google Shopping search engine [[read more](#)].

QUALITY OF SERVICE

Telecoms.com *Broadband Operators Accused of Punishing Customers for Loyalty*

Britain's broadband providers might need to rethink their customer loyalty programmes, according to analysts, after a new report exposed a price strategy that drives customers away [[read more](#)].

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