Omdia

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Omdia Go-to-Market Telecom Research: 2026 Research Calendar

Updated March 2026

Team Focus

The Omdia Go-to-Market (GTM) Telecom team is a group of experienced and well-respected industry analysts that specializes in authoritative global technology research, custom content and consultancy services focused on service provider networking. We provide valuable GTM data and deep network insights combined with media reach and impact in partnership with Informa TechTarget's Light Reading.

Our foundational products and services include:

- Single-sponsor and multi-sponsor research surveys
- White papers and unbiased strategy papers
- Blogs, analyst notes and short media/video content
- Independent strategy presentations to vendor user groups and operator executive teams
- Event and webinar moderation and presentations
- Combined research/media programs for amplification and reach into service provider buyers
- Design and execution of custom research projects
- Synthesized research that combines survey data with in-depth service provider interviews or case studies

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Cloud & Security

The Omdia GTM Telecom team's Cloud and Security practice documents the multi-layer impacts of cloud-based network transformation on service provider (SP) network evolution and technology deployment strategies.

Key cloud and security trends for 2026:

- SPs are starting to embrace autonomous networks, but they must first ensure their security practices are "fit for purpose
- AI will assume a more prominent role in SPs' SecOPs practices
- Cloud-native service adoption will demand increased rigor from SP OSS/BSS platforms
- Complex service delivery will introduce new service assurance and orchestration requirements
- The industry will be watching for signs of life and tangible use case progress of open API adoption
- From the "never too soon" file, 2026 will see the start of 6G security requirement discussions, including scoping out the quantum computing and AI impacts

Our cloud and security research focuses on the leading technologies, including AI, that SPs must embrace to not only secure their cloud networks but also monetize and rationalize the investment.

Our Analyst

Jim Hodges
Research Director
Cloud and Security

Jim leads Omdia's research focused on the application and security impact of cloud technologies' evolution. His research centers on the security implications introduced by cloud-based technologies as well as the orchestration and service assurance implications to support and monetize API based cloud-native services.

Previously, Jim worked at Nortel Networks on mobile standards development and VoIP softswitching. Prior to that he held network planning and regulatory roles at Bell Canada and Stentor Canadian Network Management (SCNM).

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2026 Research Calendar

Cloud & Security

Quarter	Project	Project type
1Q26	AI and Security: Roles, Responses, SecOps, and Use Cases	Custom Survey
	Securing Autonomous Networks	Custom Survey
2Q26	Operations and Business System Support in the Cloud Native and Automation Era (2nd edition)	Market Leadership Program
	Technology Level Set: The Future of NaaS and SaaS	Custom Survey
3Q26	Orchestration and Service Assurance for Cloud Services	Custom Survey
	How Telcos, Hyperscalers, and Their Customers Will Benefit from a Move to the Multicloud (2nd edition)	Market Leadership Program
4Q26	Service Provider PON Strategies	Custom Survey
	APIs on the Rise: Service Provider Monetization Strategies	Custom Survey
	Scoping Out 6G Security Requirements	White Paper / Webinar

Jim Hodges
Research Director
Cloud and Security

Omdia GTM Telecom Research

Mobile & Wireless Network Strategy

In lead markets with well-built networks, there is now critical mass behind 5G technology that will move the industry into a new phase of service-aware networks and business value.

Key mobile network trends for 2026:

- Applying 5G SA network capabilities—for example, service-aware radio access network (RAN), network slicing, policy management, and APIs—to operator service portfolios
- AI impact on mobile network operations, with a focus on telco AI data frameworks, AIOps and RAN automation (SON and SMO)
- Extended coverage (rural, in-building, dense urban) and robust uplink as a critical investment area that will support huge business value
- Defining the integration of the AI RAN, virtualized RAN, and open RAN triumvirate in future RAN architectures
- Studies by 3GPP on 6G architecture and 6G radio (6GR) to open the path to a 2030 view of mobile networks
- Increased focus on sovereign capabilities for wireless networks, including resiliency planning for critical infrastructure (utilities, etc.) and government sector users

Our mobile networks research spans the technology and services ecosystem. We identify, and help define, the key technologies that deliver superior mobile network economics and compelling services.

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Our Analysts

Gabriel Brown

Senior Principal Analyst

Mobile Networks

Gabriel leads mobile network research for the Omdia GTM Telecom team, covering mobile network system architecture, including RAN, core, and service layer platforms. His key research topics include 5G/6G, open/AI RAN, 5G SA core, and cloud infrastructure for mobile networking. Gabriel has more than 20 years of experience as a mobile network analyst. Prior to joining Omdia, he led mobile network research at Heavy Reading and was chief analyst for Light Reading's Insider research service. Previously, he was editor of IP Wireline and Wireless Week at London's Euromoney Institutional Investor.

Ruth Brown

Principal Analyst

Mobile Networks

Bringing over 20 years of experience in mobile and fixed network research and design from her time at BT, Ruth is a leading authority on network evolution at Omdia. Her comprehensive knowledge, developed through hands-on leadership, spans system architecture, core network technologies, and services. A prolific inventor with over 50 mobile network technology patents, Ruth is also a passionate advocate for women in engineering. She provides insights on mobile network and RAN automation, AI and analytics, data layer, 5G/6G, and Wi-Fi. Her coverage explores leveraging new network capabilities for performance, hyper-personalized services, and new revenue streams.

2026 Research Calendar

Mobile & Wireless Networks

Quarter	Project	Project type
1Q26	5G Operator Survey for MWC (8th edition)	Multi-sponsor Survey
	Scaling 5G Advanced	White Paper / Webinar
2Q26	5G RAN Management and Automation: SON, SMO and AI	Market Leadership Program
	Service-aware 5G Networks	Custom Survey
3Q26	Private 5G Networks: Operational Models to Integrate Telco, Vendor, SI and Enterprise Roles	Custom Survey
	6G System Architecture	White Paper / Webinar
4Q26	vRAN, Open RAN and AI RAN Operator Survey	Market Leadership Program
	In-building and Venue 5G Networks	Custom Survey

Gabriel Brown
Senior Principal Analyst
Mobile Networks

2026 Research Calendar

Mobile & Wireless Networks

Quarter	Project	Project type
1Q26	The Edge of Tomorrow: AI and RAN	White Paper / Webinar
	The Sovereign Telco: Securing National Cloud, Data and AI	Market Leadership Program
2Q26	Telco Data Strategies for AI-Native Networks: Architectures, Models and Analytics	White Paper / Webinar
	Dynamic Network Slicing: Automating Delivery and Customer Experience	White Paper / Webinar
3Q26	Network AIOps Operator Survey (4th edition)	Market Leadership Program
	Managed Wi-Fi for Enterprise, MDUs and Venues: Integrating Telco, Vendor, SI and Venue Owner Roles	Custom Survey
4Q26	From Data to Dollars: Delivering Hyper-personalized Services	Custom Survey
	Mirroring the Future: Building Trust with Network Core and RAN Digital Twin	White Paper / Webinar

Ruth Brown
Principal Analyst
Mobile Networks

Omdia GTM Telecom Research

Optical Networks & Transport

Transport networks form the foundation on which all types of network services run, including fixed, mobile, residential, business, and wholesale. Therefore, transport is touched by and touches virtually all major communications developments.

Key optical networks and transport trends for 2026:

- SPs are seeking to solidify their roles as leading network providers in the new era of AI. As the industry matures and broadens beyond the initial focus on AI model training for hyperscaler data centers, opportunities for SPs will increase substantially. These include new customers, services, business models, and network architectures.
- SPs are mining opportunities to use network automation—and increasingly AI-augmented automation—in their networks to reduce human error, simplify operations, deliver services faster and for a host of other reasons. With AI, potential use cases for network automation and autonomous operations are increasing.
- Over the past five years, coherent pluggable optics have moved from novelty to mainstream adoption, including in both traditional DWDM networks and, increasingly, in IP over DWDM. Embedded optics will always have an edge at the highest performance, yet coherent pluggables continue to push the boundaries on higher performance at lower costs with each new generation.
- With 400G established as the new data rate “currency” for transport networks, SPs are looking both up market (with 800G) and down market (with 100ZR). Compelling use cases exist for both types of optics, but SPs must sort through challenges as well.

Our Analyst

Sterling Perrin
Senior Principal Analyst
Optical Networks and Transport

Sterling has more than 25 years of experience in telecommunications as an industry analyst and journalist. At Omdia, he covers optical networking, including coherent optical systems, IP over DWDM, transport automation, and 5G transport (i.e., xHaul).

Sterling joined Omdia after five years at IDC, where he served as lead optical networks analyst. In addition to chairing and moderating many events for Informa TechTarget’s Light Reading and Informa, he is a past member of OFC’s Market Watch Committee. Sterling is a highly sought-after source among the business and trade press.

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2026 Research Calendar

Optical Networks & Transport

Quarter	Project	Project type
1Q26	Transport Architectures for Capacity and Scale in the AI Era	White Paper / Webinar
	Making IP over DWDM a Reality with OIF (Year 2)	Industry Initiative
2Q26	Migration Strategies for Switched OTN Networks	Custom Survey
	Networks for AI: The MOFN Opportunity	Case Study / Webinar
3Q26	Delivering Quantum-safe Transport Networks with QKD and PQC	Custom Survey
	Optical Networks-as-a-Service from the Data Center through the WAN	Market Leader Program
4Q26	100ZR and the Future of Aggregation Networks	White Paper / Webinar
	AI and Automation for the Transport Network (Year 5)	Market Leader Program

Sterling Perrin
Senior Principal Analyst
Optical Networks and Transport

Omdia GTM Telecom Research

Components & Subsystems

Optical modules, semiconductors, and subsystems define the performance and capabilities of every cloud networking and data center system.

Key components and subsystems trends for 2026:

- Service providers are moving forward with network upgrades to support 800G and 1.6T connections between data centers and across metro networks to benefit from the growth in traffic driven by AI and cloud computing
- The requirements for large language models and agentic AI are driving demands for high-bandwidth scale-out and scale-up backend network solutions to support large AI clusters
- Enhanced 800G, 1.2T, and 1.6T coherent pluggable modules and embedded solutions are enabling significant increases in capacity and efficiency for carriers
- Service providers are planning for the deployment of a new generation of disaggregated RAN platforms to support the transition to 6G and the integration of AI capabilities in the mobile edge

Our components and subsystems research spans developments that are crucial for the delivery of next-generation AI, networking, and data center technologies. We identify and explain the key technology and industry trends that will drive growth.

Our Analyst

Simon Stanley
Analyst at Large
Components and Subsystems

Simon is the founder and principal consultant at Earlswood Marketing Ltd., an independent market analyst and consulting company based in the UK. Simon's research covers a variety of communications-related subjects, including AI cluster networking, 5G, 6G, open RAN, AI-RAN 400G/800G/1.2T/1.6T technology, coherent pluggable optics, AI processing, IoT, Open Compute, smart NICs, uCPE, multicore processors, and switching.

Components & Subsystems

Quarter	Project	Project type
1Q26	Scale-up and Scale-out Networking for AI Data Centers	Market Leadership Program
2Q26	The Growing Role of AI and Automation at the Telco Edge	Custom Survey
	Platforms for Future RAN Systems	Market Leadership Program
3Q26	Coherent Pluggable Optics	Custom Survey
	Co-packaged Optics Strategies for AI and Cloud Data Centers	Industry Initiative
4Q26	Optical Switching for AI Data Centers	White Paper / Webinar
	AI NICs, Smart NICs and Super NICs	Custom Survey

Simon Stanley
Analyst at Large
Components and Subsystems

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Thank you

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