

NEXTWORKS

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 ENGINEERING FORWARD

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5G PPP SMEs SUCCESS STORIES

1. Introduction

Nextworks, an Italian R&D SME with 45 employees, operates in the telecommunications sector and collaborates with some of the major European manufacturers and operators. The company's team boasts long-term experience and proven skills in control plane technologies for wired and wireless transport networks, with strong focus on NFV and SDN applied to 5G. Nextworks R&D division actively participates to standard development organizations, contributes to IETF/IRTF and ETSI NFV, is observer in various ETSI steering groups (OSM, NFV, MEC and NGP), and actively participates in multiple international projects on NFV, SDN, 5G and IoT.

2. Goals and Challenges in relation to 5G PPP

The participation in 5G PPP and 5G related projects matches several objectives in our company strategy:

- Building a leading-edge know-how and technical expertise in broader 5G topics (e.g. SDN, NFV), to gain strong competitive advantage in the niche market of knowledge-intensive consulting services.
- Technology transfer to drive the evolution of Nextworks' portfolio in automation, A/V entertainment and building management products, towards IoT-based and virtualized services exploiting 5G, cloud and MEC technologies.
- Building a strong network of contacts with the major 5G players to learn their requirements and open new business opportunities.

3. The use of 5G technology

Nextworks delivers specialized consulting services in the fields of network and cloud, focused on control and management plane solutions. As recent examples, Nextworks has developed a VNF Manager for a customer (under integration at the 1st NFV Plugtests, 5TONIC Laboratory), and is currently working for ETSI, leading a Specialist Task Force on NFV OpenStack API. Nextworks also sells expert-level training on SDN/NFV architectures for system strategy and development teams of leading TLC vendors.

4. Benefits and accomplishments

Nextworks has developed several SDN/NFV PoCs for market-oriented Products, from VNFs for vCPEs, IDSs and firewalls, to SDN controller applications for QoS in optical and multi-layer networks (in data centres, access and metro domains), up to NFV tools for multi-tenant network slicing and energy-efficient delivery and orchestration of Service Function Chains.