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GTB: 50 women to watch in 2016

13 June 2016

We asked our readers to nominate the women to watch in our industry. Picking just 50 of them was always going to be a challenge, but this year's list includes CEOs, CTOs, CMOs, research chiefs, regulators, politicians and others leading the telecoms business. The 50 are listed in order of last name

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Read our latest feature on what leading operators are doing to drive diversity in the industry - 'Diversity needs buy-in from board level to drive change'.

Muna Al Hashemi, CEO, Batelco Al Hashemi started her role in January 2015, an appointment which marked the first time a woman held a CEO position in Bahrain's telecoms industry. She joined the group in August 1995 and has risen up the ranks. Prior to her current role, she was general manager of Batelco's consumer division. She is also a board director of Umniah, Batelco Group's operation in Jordan.

Eaman Al Roudhan, CEO, Zain Kuwait Al Roudhan was appointed CEO of Zain Kuwait in December 2015, succeeding Omar Al Omar who returned to Zain Group in a senior advisory role. Prior to that she was chief regulatory officer of Zain Group. Al Roudhah is said to have a strong background in regulatory affairs, mobile technology, strategy and management and leadership roles within Zain Kuwait as well as various Zain Group affiliates.

Jennifer Artley, COO, BT Americas Artley was appointed in August 2015 and brought more than 20 years of technology, sales and business development experience to the BT Americas leadership team. As COO, she is responsible for managing BT's portfolio of products and services under BT Advise and BT Conferencing, as well as strategy and business development across the Americas. Artley joined from Equinix and prior to that spent 13 years at Level 3.

Hélène Barnekow, EVP and CEO Sweden, Telia Company Barnekow has been head of Sweden and EVP of Telia Company since April 2015. She was most recently CCO where she was said to have played a crucial role in setting the agenda to transform Telia Company to a so-called new-generation telco. Previously she was head of worldwide field and partner marketing at EMC where she honed her skills in branding, communications, product management and channel management in the mobile communications and IT market.

Michelle Bourque, senior vice president, product, marketing and access strategy for BCE Nexxia Bourque leads a team of product and marketing professionals and is accountable for growing the wireline and cloud services portfolios for business markets as well as the wholesale markets in Canada and internationally. Over a 25-year career, she has held progressively senior leadership roles.

Kathrin Buvac, chief strategy officer, Nokia Buvac was appointed chief strategy officer in January 2016 and is a member of the Nokia Group leadership team. As the company's chief strategist, she has helped to shape Nokia's vision and strategy, working

with senior leaders, customers and analysts worldwide. She also leads the company's overall efforts in the internet of things. She is responsible for market forecasting, competitor intelligence, portfolio watch, and corporate business development.

Jane Chen, CIO, ZTE and chairman, ZTESoft Chen joined ZTESoft - a subsidiary of ZTE - focusing on telecoms IT services as senior vice president in 2002 and has risen through the ranks to her present position. She is said to have demonstrated strong research and development capabilities and expertise with years of managerial experience in both domestic and international telecoms markets.

Chua Sock Koong, CEO, Singtel Chua was appointed Group CEO on April 01, 2007 and is responsible for Singtel's consumer business, group enterprise and group digital life. She joined Singtel in June 1989 as treasurer before becoming CFO on April 01, 1999. She has previously held roles as group CFO and CEO, international and deputy group CEO. She sits on the boards of Bharti Airtel, Bharti Telecom and key subsidiaries of the Singtel Group.

Mary Clark, CMO, Syniverse Clark was named CMO in early 2014 and leads Syniverse's product marketing, corporate communications, branding, digital strategy, strategic events and industry relations. Previously, she served as senior VP of next-generation roaming services and standards, and, prior to that, senior VP of roaming. Within the mobile industry, she is an associate director for the Competitive Carriers Association and also serves on the CMO Council North America advisory board.

Rebecca Eclipse, executive vice president and chief customer experience officer, Globe Telecom Eclipse has headed up the office of strategy management since October 2013. She spent five years in consulting and has over 25 years' experience in the telco industry - from financial management, revenue assurance and fraud, internal controls, and business operations to strategy development and management, process and quality management, and, more importantly today, customer experience transformation.

Ayşem Ertopuz Deobler, director of strategy, Turkcell Deobler joined Turkcell in January 2016 from Cisco where she was most recently senior manager of sales, strategy and planning. She is said to have a strong expertise of digital strategies and business analytics and their uses in new business models and processes. Her experience spans non-profit organisations to global conglomerates within the manufacturing, finance and ICT industries.

Julia Fraser, VP, Level 3 Fraser has over 15 years' experience in commercial roles within the hi-tech industry spanning software, mobile handsets, radio networks and telco. She has been in her current role since August 2014, having joined Level 3 in May 2012.

Ghada Gebara, CEO, Djezzy Gebara was appointed CEO of Optimum Telecom Algeria, which operates under the Djezzy brand, in June 2015. Prior to joining Djezzy, Gebara served as CEO of Iraqi mobile operator, Korek Telecom, from August 2011. She has held other senior industry roles including CEO of Digicel in Haiti from 2005 to 2007, and CEO for Digicel's French-speaking markets in the Caribbean region and Honduras.

Cynthia Gordon, CEO, Millicom Africa Gordon was appointed as EVP and CEO of its Africa division, effective September 21, 2015. She had served as group CCO at Ooredoo since 2012, where she was responsible for marketing, distribution and customer services across the group. Gordon is responsible for leading its six operations in Tanzania, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Rwanda and Chad.

Daphne Gottschalk, head of Innovation, Amdocs Since May 2014, Gottschalk has headed up Amdocs' innovation programme, which scouts and partners with an eco-system of start-ups and academic institutions to deliver business value and harness innovation. She joined Amdocs in 2004 and has served as post-merger integration manager, head of global sales operations and was part of Amdocs' account team at AT&T.

Kerstin Günther, managing director, Deutsche Telekom Pan-Net Günther was appointed MD of Deutsche Telekom Pan-Net, Deutsche Telekom Group's vision of a pan-European integrated all-IP network, in April 2015. She joined the Deutsche Telekom Group in 1991 and since then held various management positions. Since 2012 she has been senior VP of technology in Europe and is a member of the board of directors of several companies of the Deutsche Telekom group in Europe.

Dido Harding, CEO, TalkTalk Harding has been at the helm of the operator since February 2010 when the business split up from Carphone Warehouse. She made headlines late last year for refusing to resign following TalkTalk's hacking crisis. "[Our] vulnerability is much better than it was and we are head and shoulders above some of our competitors and some of the media bodies that were throwing those particular stones," Harding told the media following the incident.

Danielle Jacobs, chair, International Telecommunications Users Group Jacobs was appointed chairman of the INTUG board in September 2007. INTUG is the international association of business users of telecommunications, of which BELTUG is a member, and lobbies for telecoms customer choice and eliminating barriers for e-services and mobile services. Since 1997, Jacobs has been general manager of BELTUG, the largest Belgian association of ICT managers, and is also a member of the Belgian Consultative Committee on telecommunications.

Marie Noelle Jégo-Laveissière, EVP of innovation, Orange Jégo-Laveissière has been in her current role since March 1, 2014, and joined the Orange group in 1996. She has held a series of project and management positions: director of international and backbone network factory, merger between France Télécom and Orange France SA, director of group research and development, head of the consumer marketing department of Orange France and regional manager, where she was responsible for technical and commercial services for consumers and enterprise customers.

Allison Kirby, CEO, Tele2 Last August Kirkby succeeded Mats Granryd who left to take on the role of director general for the GSMA. The Scottish born executive has forged a career spanning industries ranging from FMCG, media, retail and telecoms industries. Her track record of strong operational excellence is expected to drive profitable growth across Tele2's core markets.

Ronnie Klinger, president, mobility, security, digital communications, PCCW Global Holding more than 20 years' experience in international telecommunications, Herndon, VA-based Klingner has been with PCCW Global for last 14 years. She

leads a team that covers software development, product, operations, engineering and sales further developing and enhancing PCCW Global value added services.

Suvi Linden, NxtVn Lindén is chairman of the NxtVn Finland board. Lindén is also presently vice chair of the NxtVn Group, board member of NxtVnJämsä, and is a strategic advisor to Wytec International. Lindén was Finland's minister of communications from 2007-2011 and acted as ITU's special envoy for the broadband commission for digital development.

Sara Mazur, head of research, Ericsson Mazur, a scientist with over 20 years of experience in research and development, has held various management positions within the company having joined Ericsson Research in 1995. She has worked on advanced technology throughout her career to strengthen Ericsson's technical excellence and now manages a team of 650 researchers dedicated to innovation and developing new technologies across the globe.

Yasmina McCarty, head of mobile development, GSMA McCarty is the head of mobile for development, working with GSMA members and partners to develop innovative, scalable and sustainable ways to achieve social impact with the mobile phone. She joined the GSMA in 2010, and has held various roles including commercial director of mobile money, interim head of M4D impact and head of operations and development for mobile for development.

Brooks McCorcle, president, AT&T Partner Solutions McCorcle is responsible for launching innovative solutions to drive

value and growth in AT&T Mobile & Business Solutions. Brooks' responsibilities were expanded in late 2014 to lead AT&T Partner Solutions, which combines the AT&T Partner ExchangeSM reseller program, AT&T Wholesale (including Global Wholesale) and ACC Business (an alternate sales agent programme).

Kate McKenzie, COO, Telstra Appointed COO in October 2013, McKenzie is in charge of Telstra Operations as well as the chief technology officer and innovation portfolios to enable better integration of its technology development and implementation. She is credited with overseeing Telstra's new brand identity and has been at the forefront of the turnaround in its mobile business. McKenzie joined Telstra in 2004.

Harmeen Mehta, **global CIO, Bharti Airtel** Mehta became Global CIO of Bharti Airtel in November 2014 after originally joining the group in October 2013 as its CIO for its Indian arm. She is responsible for providing the overall strategy and leadership to the IT function. Mehta has over 17 years of global experience in technology, having led large technology and application engineering organisations in banking and transport and aviation.

Sabrina Meng Wanzhou, CFO, Huawei Meng joined Huawei in 1993 and has previously served as director of the international accounting department, CFO of Huawei Hong Kong, president of the accounting management department, president of the sales financing and treasury management department.

Claudia Nemat, **CEO Europe and group CTO, Deutsche Telekom** Nemat has been a member of the board of management of Deutsche Telekom AG since October 2011 and is responsible for the board area of Europe and technology. Before joining Deutsche Telekom AG, Nemat spent 17 years working for McKinsey & Company.

Gina Nomellini, **chief marketing officer, GTT** Nomellini is GTT's chief marketing officer, leading brand development and messaging, marketing communications, product development and management. She has over 19 years of global telecommunications experience and previously served as chief marketing officer for One Source Networks. Prior to that she held senior executive roles at Telstra and Level 3 Communications.

Funke Opeke, CEO, MainOne Opeke founded Main Street Technologies and is CEO of MainOne, also known as Main One Cable. After a 20-year career in the US, including a tenure as executive director of Verizon Communications's wholesale division, she returned to Nigeria in 2005 as the chief technical officer of MTN Nigeria Communications (MTN).

Jane Rygaard Pedersen, head of advanced mobile networks solution marketing, Nokia Pedersen heads up the global portfolio marketing team for the advanced mobile network solutions, which covers IoT, public sector solutions, small cells, wifi, microwaves, mobile edge computing portfolio areas and unlicensed spectrum. She has been in her present role since January 2016 and joined the Nokia group in November 1999 as a senior system engineer.

Rima Qureshi, senior vice president, chief strategy officer, head of M&A, Ericsson Qureshi is responsible for Ericsson's overall strategy, capital and resource allocation, portfolio management, partnering, new business development and M&A. She joined Ericsson in 1993 starting in R&D and has spanned leadership roles in product management, R&D, sales, and services as well as head of a business unit and successfully managing acquisitions.

Kathy Schneider, SVP Marketing & Product, EMEA, Level 3 Schneider leads marketing, product management, commercial operations and customer experience, holding a seat on the EMEA leadership team. Since joining Level 3 in July 2015, she has expanded the organisation, investing in key areas namely network infrastructure, solutions marketing, digital marketing and sales activation to drive comprehensive cross-portfolio campaigns.

Margarete Schramböck, CEO, A1, Austrian division Schramböck has been CEO of A1 Telekom Austria AG since May 1, 2016 and is on the management board. She started her professional career at Alcatel in 1995 and has held several top management positions since, including MD of NextiraOne and MD of the merged international ICT expert Dimension Data Austria.

Mary Stanhope, VP of marketing, Global Capacity Stanhope is responsible for the strategic positioning and go-to-market of Global Capacity's network products and services. She has over 23 years' experience in the technology industry and from the introduction of SMS text and prepaid wireless to the development of online communities and the launch of Ethernet, she has been a pioneer for architecting change in how businesses and people communicate.

Gabriela Styf Sjöman, CTO, Telecom Italia Since January 2015, Styf Sjöman has been CTO of Telecom Italia Group, leading the evolution of its networks to support the group's vision to enable a digital world in its consumer and business units. She is also in charge of Telecom Italia Lab and Telecom Italia SpA, its start-up programme.

Jennifer Tan Yuen Chun, COO, Hutchison Telecoms Tan has been chief operating officer at Hutchison Telecommunications Hong Kong Holdings (HTHKH) since June 2014 and oversees the operation of mobile and fixed businesses. Prior to this she was managing director of HTHKH's fixed operations, covering international business, local carriers, government and business, residential market and data centre business. She joined the group in May 1996.

Natasha Tamaskar, VP and head of cloud, mobile strategy & ecosystem, Genband With over 20 years of telecoms experience, Tamaskar is responsible for the strategic direction of Genband's cloud and mobile solutions and ecosystem partnerships. Her expertise lies in cloud, mobile, WebRTC and security solutions. She was previously VP of strategic solutions and product marketing at Genband.

Serpil Timuray, CEO, Vodafone Africa Timuray was appointed regional CEO of Vodafone's Africa, Middle East and Asia-Pacific operations (AMAP) in 2014. Prior to that, she was chief executive of Vodafone Turkey where the unit was said to have doubled its revenues under the last four years of her leadership.Timuray also serves as a non-executive board member to Vodacom Group, since September 2012.

Mardia van der Walt, senior vice president, international carrier sales and solutions, Deutsche Telekom Van der Walt was appointed in her present role in September 2015 and is responsible for the international wholesale carrier business of Deutsche Telekom. She has been with the Deutsche Telekom group since 1998, where she held several top positions at T-Systems South Africa, including that of CEO.

Radhika Venketramen, SVP and CIO, Verizon Venkatramen is SVP and CIO supporting the network and technology organisation at Verizon. She is responsible for supporting new network technology and the operating systems for Verizon's network products offered to consumer, enterprise and wholesale customers globally. She presently leads a large global team of technology professionals who are innovating in the DevOps, NFV & SDN space.

Marni Walden, EVP and president of product innovation and new businesses, Verizon Walden has held her present role since February 2015 and has led Verizon's emerging business such as the Internet of Things, digital media and telematics. She has helped to develop innovation products cross its fixed-line, mobile, IP and cloud networks and platforms. She is also responsible for the company's strategy development and planning group.

Gunn Wærsted, chair, Telenor Wærsted has held the position of chair of the board of Telenor since last December. She was appointed with a mandate to transform the operator following its management of investments in affiliate VimpelCom. Wærsted was

questioned in April about links to her previous employer Nordea in the so-called Panama papers where she was head of wealth management before joining Telenor.

Henriette Wendt, senior vice president and head of group corporate development, Telia Company Wendt has been responsible for Telia Company's strategy, business development as well as merger and acquisitions since 2014. She was previously Swisscom's head of corporate strategy and participation management and has also gained expertise in strategy and business development from her time as head of strategy and business intelligence at Motorola's smartphone unit.

Cynthia Whelan, group executive international and new businesses, Telstra Whelan was promoted to her present role in October 2015 where she has led some of its key growth businesses, including Telstra Health, Telstra Ventures and Smart Home Solutions. She is also in charge of its international operations. As group managing director of strategic finance, Whelan is said to have overseen more than $1 billion in acquisitions and investment in FY2015, including the Pacnet acquisition and video streaming software and analytics company Ooyala.

Sharon White, chief executive, Ofcom White took over as chief executive of Ofcom in March 2015. Before joining Ofcom, she had a long career in the civil service and was second permanent secretary at the Treasury, responsible for overseeing the public finances. Prior to that she held board level positions at the Ministry of Justice and the Department for International Development.

Julie Woods-Moss, CMO, Tata Communications Wood-Moss has been CMO at Tata Communications since 2012 and is responsible for its company-wide marketing and communications. She leads its NextGen business with profit and loss responsibility for businesses with the 'Silicon Valleys' globally. In addition to sitting on the advisory board of Tata Group brand, she is founder of the company's 'Women of Work' group, aimed at improving programmes to develop women.

Maria Zesch, CCO, T-Mobile Austria Zesch took over the role of chief commercial officer in December 2015. With more than 600 employees reporting to her, Zesch is responsible for marketing, sales and service for B2B, B2C and wholesale customers of T-Mobile Austria. She is also an executive member of the Deutsche Telekom European Leadership Team.

Read our latest feature on what leading operators like AT&T, BT, Deutsche Telekom ICSS and Telia Company are doing to drive diversity in the industry - 'Diversity needs buy-in from board level to drive change'.

Capacity Conferences will be running the third edition of Advancing Women in Telco at Capacity Europe this November. Contact Camela Cuison, senior conference producer at camela.cuison@capacitymedia.com for speaking or sponsorship opportunities.

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