

Ooredoo delivers phenomenal connectivity during World Cup

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Ooredoo — Official Middle East & Africa Telecommunications Operator of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 — has announced record-breaking figures at the conclusion of the sporting mega-event, cementing its position as a world-leading telecommunications and ICT provider.

Records set at the opening ceremony were broken by the time the tournament concluded, the breathtaking final between Argentina and France at Lusail Stadium saw a record-breaking 45.1TB data used, 8.4TB of stadium Wi-Fi used, more than 650,000 calls made and 32,000 fans using roaming.

Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser Al Thani, Chief Commercial Officer at Ooredoo said: "There are no words to describe the pride we feel as we conclude the world's greatest sporting event. To have hosted such an incredible event in our beloved country, and for our country to have not only such a stellar performance, was phenomenal, for Ooredoo to have had the opportunity to show the world just what we and our Network of Champions can do, was priceless."

Across all 64 matches of the

most prominent football tournament in the world, the 3.4 million fans attending used a phenomenal 801TB data, of which 40.3% was via Ooredoo's pioneering 5G at a speed of up to 236Mbps. 58.2% was on the 4G network at a speed of up to 19Mbps. 201TB of Wi-Fi was used in and around the eight stadiums.

As many as 11.4 million voice calls were made throughout the event, of which 63.1% were VoLTE, with a call success rate of 99.95%, and an incredible 646,000 fans used roaming. 8,466 antennae placed in the eight stadiums supported the network, while a team of more than 500 experts on the ground ensured seamless service. Lusail Stadium saw the highest figures, with 22TB data used and 2.9 million calls made throughout the tournament.

A full 4G/5G mobile network modernisation — incorporating the very latest, most advanced equipment and functionalities — ensured complete readiness for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022TM.

Proper network capacity and resiliency throughout all network components — RAN, Core and Transport — was ensured for both national and international segments, and



Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad bin Nasser Al Thani, Chief Commercial Officer at Ooredoo

included full modernisation of the core, with a sophisticated cloud core network in state-of-the-art data centres.

A major upgrade of outdoor radio sites with the latest 5G technology maximised country-level coverage, including stadiums, airports, rail networks, fan zones and other FIFA-related facilities. Capacity for fan zones and other event venues and hotspots was enhanced.

More than 1130 multi-beam antennas connected over 355km of RF cables and over 202km of fibre optic, covering the eight stadiums and immediate surrounding areas with 4G

and 5G. Mobile network services with 5,000+ cells, 1,500+ DOTs, TETRA services and Wi-Fi backbone offered state-of-the-art 5G, 4G, 3G and 2G technologies at all eight stadiums.

A focused taskforce comprising more than 400 experts handled operations from a centralised state-of-the-art Service Operation Centre, supported by a network of multiple remote hubs and field operations around-the-clock. Technical experts with experience in major global events such as the Super Bowl or previous World Cup tournaments were engaged to support during the 2022 tournament.

Ooredoo used a new AI-powered process of identity authentication and SIM card activation to speed up and simplify its onboarding process. The service deployed a sophisticated AI-based digital Know Your Customer (KYC) technology to quickly and efficiently establish the real identity of users in the digital world.

An AI-powered Virtual Voice Assistant, utilising Google Contact Centre Artificial Intelligence, was available 24/7 to assist customers in nine different languages, including English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Japanese,



Korean and Arabic.

Ooredoo's commitment to, and investment in innovation and technology was leveraged for the benefit of FIFA, the event and its participants, with the company providing connectivity on the go. More than 350 FIFA buses that were used to transport players, match officials and media representatives were provided with mobile broadband, with some 300 of these also fitted with managed Wi-Fi systems.

Sheikh Nasser concluded: "Years of strategic investment

in innovation and technology ensured Ooredoo was perfectly placed to deliver seamless connectivity and a vastly enhanced experience for both fans residing in Qatar and those visiting from overseas. Our extensive preparations for the sporting mega-event, including the comprehensive network modernisation and collaboration with several of the world's leading technology giants, meant we were more than capable of delivering on our ambitious promises."

Ookla hails Qatar mobile network, internet performance during World Cup

ONA — DOHA

A report issued by Ookla, a global leader in network intelligence and connectivity insights, praised the performance of the mobile phone network and the Internet during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, pointing out that the network was not affected by the increasing number of users during the tournament.

In a report, it said that there were no problems or disturbances in the Internet, despite the network's performance reaching its peak.

The report pointed out: "Ahead of the event, we outlined the important role of the Qatar Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) and both Ooredoo Qatar and Vodafone Qatar in driving performance gains in the market. A competitive, pro-investment market environment has paid dividends, coupled with firm commitments from both operators to roll out commercial

5G networks in all densely populated areas and all venues associated with the FIFA World Cup."

As of December 3, 2022, after almost two weeks and 48 games, the FIFA World Cup has seen over 2.45 million cumulative stadium attendees. For a country with a population of 2.93 million, ensuring mobile network performance meets expectations has been no easy feat. Ookla was keen to understand how Qatari mobile networks were handling the deluge of visitors and additional traffic. According to Speedtest Intelligence, median download performance in November rose to 263.37 Mbps on modern chipsets across all mobile technologies combined, with median 5G download performance hitting 472.13 Mbps.

"Fans visiting Qatar for the World Cup have benefited from the offer of local SIMs from national mobile operators Ooredoo and Vodafone, which include free data. Ooredoo SIMs include 2022 MB of data

for free, valid for 3 days, while Vodafone customers have access to 3GB of data for free, valid across 2 days. Encouraging visitors to utilize local SIMs has helped provide superior network performance for fans at the World Cup. In addition, it's clear that the network enhancements made by Ooredoo and Vodafone, and their live monitoring and optimization of network performance using crowdsourced data, has helped boost overall network performance at the event, despite the deluge of fans and resultant data traffic."

"We used Speedtest Intelligence data to observe performance in the lead up to, and during the FIFA World Cup. 5G performance increased from a median download of 394.2 Mbps and upload of 19.93 Mbps 10 weeks before the event, while hitting a median download speed of 489.29 Mbps and median upload speed of 38.36 Mbps during the second week of the World Cup. Ooredoo and Vodafone have played a crucial role in driving

increased 5G performance at the World Cup with both mobile network operators neck-and-neck in terms of 5G download performance," the report explained.

The report said comparing mobile network performance during the first two weeks of the World Cup to other major sporting events in the region and further afield shows just how impressive 5G network performance has been so far, given the number of attendees. "While not the fastest sporting event on record, the FIFA

World Cup Qatar 2022 ranks highly, well ahead of events such as the French Open and Wimbledon."

Ooredoo, FIFA's Official Global Connectivity Services Provider for the event, has been very vocal on the improvements it has made to its network and operations. Ooredoo has rolled out additional macro cell sites and small cells to cater to data traffic around the stadiums, and has also deployed over 5,000 cell sites to offer sufficient network coverage across mobile technologies within the

stadiums. "Using Speedtest Intelligence data to analyze network performance across Qatar's World Cup stadiums for both Ooredoo and Vodafone combined, we found that Al Janoub Stadium recorded the fastest median 5G download performance at 757.77 Mbps, and that all World Cup stadiums recorded median 5G speeds over 400 Mbps. Of the most popular fan sites, the Ras Baitan and Airport Free Zone recorded the highest 5G performance," Ookla said.

Solutions in the airport

Airports are a part of all major (and now not so major) cities. Every year, millions of people pass through the gates of Hamad International Airport. Over the course of the past century, commercial flights and air travel have been democratized and adapted for the average consumer, while their cost has been, in many ways, reduced. This led to the flourishing of the tourism industry and, logically, to a higher demand on civil aviation.

While a common traveler may take the airport structure and conveniences for granted — largely thanks to this accessibility — it is important to remember that the air hubs have been equipped with a plethora of technological systems that help render travel safe, quick, and pleasant.

Communication and passenger operations. Missing a flight or a gate number is a bad idea. Fortunately, with enough attention and a sufficient time baggage, it is almost impossible nowadays, thanks to the advanced information display systems. The inner signage of the airport is omnipresent, accessible, and easy to read.

And in case one is late to their flight, advanced check-in, passenger tacking and counting systems have the travelers' backs.

In very rare and unlikely occurrences, certain scenarios may temper with a smooth ground-to-flight transition. If ever an emergency, such as a fire, takes place on the airport grounds, its infrastructure will help alert and evacuate all the passengers and staff in due time. This is done through fire alarm and suppression systems, such as FAS and FM200.

Runway and flight solutions. Communication must be maintained not only inside the airport, but between airplanes and operators. All aircrafts should arrive on the time, air traffic must be managed, and



landing and takeoff must be carried out as smoothly as possible. A timely transfer is an essential component for all these operations.

Therefore, modern airports use an entire array of solutions, such as clear runway signage, RADAR and radio-based equipment to communicate with the arriving and departing planes, as well as to give the latter clear indications about the directions they are to take.

But good communication alone isn't enough to ensure the safe and steady passage of the flight. Meteorological and environmental conditions could impact landing and takeoff. Birds that could get in the way need to be chased off, while weather control solutions could be used to modify precipitation to a certain extent. The presence of debris may also affect clearance for airplanes.

Therefore, Foreign Object and Debris Detection systems for Runways such as Xsight have been put in place in airports, including HIA. This infrastructure helps promptly detect the location of a foreign object in question, while also alerting and archiving the data about its presence in its subsystems. The coverage of the infrastructure extends to all taxiways and runways, allowing for a much more comprehensive analysis of the plane's on-ground and aerial environment.

Latest Solutions. It is also important to keep in mind that every year, new and updated technology appears on the market. With each innovation, each optimization, the functioning of the airport improves. Equipment such as advanced baggage handling has been an excellent helper in reducing baggage loss during transfer. The digitalization of our daily activities has also left its

mark on the airport handling, as nowadays, it is possible to check in online, avoiding the stress and boredom of waiting in long lines. Some other new technologies have specifically been designed to answer the challenges of the big changes in global trends. The coronavirus pandemic, for one, had an immense impact to the traditional travel guidelines. Airports around the world required their passengers and staff to have a certain body temperature and no symptoms of the Covid-19 infection. A solution to this issue has been brought in the form of body-scan cameras, scattered around airports, such as the ones in Qatar International Airport. This modern equipment allowed for precise and rapid body temperature measurements. Even outside of the pandemic context, body scan cameras are a welcome and needed addition to the airport arsenal, as they may help detect dangerously high temperatures on time, potentially saving lives.

If you are a fan of the multiverse and the AI, this next solution may be your favorite! Currently, augmented reality (AR) equipment is being developed for airport use, and no, it isn't about chasing Pokémon. AR is thought to help travelers navigate the air hubs — especially those on a larger scale — with more ease. The computer-generated directions and tips that one will see in their respective equipment will be tied to their preferences and needs and could save a lot of time when finding restrooms or a sought gate.

These solutions by no means resume the entire range of what has already integrated and what is being developed for the air hubs. One thing is for sure: these systems are an immense help to the travelers and the airport staff. Bayanat Engineering Qatar, a company that has experience and proposes a wide range of these and other aviation solutions. Visit website at bayanatengineering.qa



The shipment included medicines for chronic diseases.

QRCS, QC deliver vital medicines to Lebanon

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

As part of backing the Lebanese health sector in the teeth of economic challenges, two batches of vital medicines have recently been delivered to Lebanon's Ministry of Interior (MoI) and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), at a cost of QR3,650,000, under a project funded by Qatar Charity (QC) and implemented by Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).

At Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Medical Center, the Directorate-General of Internal Security Forces held a ceremony to receive chronic disease medications provided by QRCS and QC.

It was attended by Major-General Imad Othman, Director-General of Internal Security Forces, Counselor

Mashaal bin Mohamed Al Kuwari, representative of the Ambassador of Qatar to Lebanon; Dr. Mohamed Al Soudi, head of QRCS mission in Lebanon; Brigadier Hussein Khachifa, Head of the Central Administration Unit; Colonel Ahmed Aba, Commander of Beirut Police; and senior officers.

Maj Gen Othman thanked the Embassy of Qatar in Lebanon, QC, and QRCS for supporting the Internal Security Forces.

He stressed the importance of this support to secure medical services for more than 150,000 policemen, family members, and pensioners.

Dr. Al Soudi said, "It is a small contribution made to Mol, municipalities, and Internal Security Forces, despite the

pressing needs of this sector. The support from Qatari charities shows our eagerness to back the health sector in Lebanon. I would like to thank QC for funding this project. We at QRCS will continue to give every form of support to Lebanon, especially in the health sector, where we have an evident influence at MoPH's hospitals and clinics."

In his comment, Khaled Al Yafei, Director of Relief and Emergency Department at QC, said, "This support is part of QC's contributions to the health sector. I hope that this assistance will help enhance health care services for patients, during difficult circumstances. I would like to thank QRCS for undertaking this project."