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See page 4

AUSTRALIA'S DAILY E-MAIL TECHNOLOGY NEWS SERVICE – AVAILABLE ONLY ON SUBSCRIPTION

## NBN reveals latest figures amid row over price hikes

**S**YDNEY: Embattled national broadband company NBN Co saw a 10 pct lift in its revenue in the last quarter to \$3.8 billion, figures that won't help its argument that its wholesale pricing is too high.

Telcos and the ACCC have rounded on NBN Co as it tries to lift its prices amid concerns it faces the potential of lower income and increased competition from the likes of **Elon Musk's Skylink** satellite broadband service and 5G services from **Optus** and **Telstra**.



NBN Co said the revenue increase was largely due to growth in activations and customers upgrading to higher speed tiers. Earnings before interest including subscriber costs, was

\$2.3 billion, a \$1.4 billion improvement on the corresponding nine-month period. The network said 12.1 million homes and businesses are listed as Ready to Connect to the network, of which 8.5 million homes and businesses are already connected.

The average residential user was paying \$46 in Q3 while revenue from business customers increased to ap-  
*Continued on page 2*

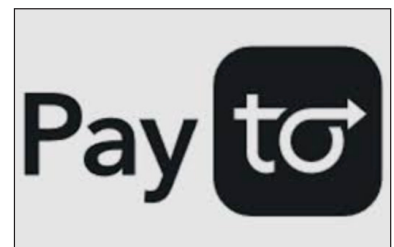
## Reserve Bank backs PayTo

**S**YDNEY: The Reserve Bank (RBA) has written to Australia's major banks seeking their reassurance that they will support the implementation of **PayTo**, which is scheduled to switch on from 30 June.

PayTo is being launched by the **New Payments Platform (NPP)**, as a new digital way for merchants and busi-

nesses to initiate real-time payments from their customers' bank accounts.

Speaking at the recent NPP summit, the Head of Payments Policy at the RBA, **Ellis Connolly**, revealed that the RBA had written to the banks urging them to back the new payments system.

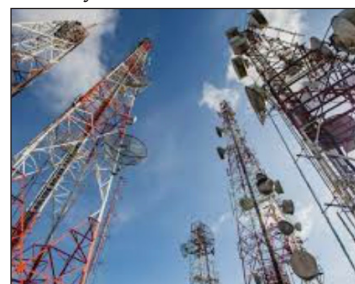


Connolly said significant progress had been made in the past 10 years to bring data-rich real-time payments to Australia and reaffirmed the RBA's expectation that the industry would continue to focus on implementing the NPP roadmap, as well as encouraging the use of **PayIDs** to ensure secure transactions.

## Telcos resist price hikes despite growing costs

**C**ANBERRA: More than third of all businesses expect to increase the price of their goods or services over the next three months by more than usual, according to the latest data from the **Australian Bureau of Statistics**.

Only the telecom and ICT sector is bucking the trend.



The Professional, Technical and Scientific services sector is expecting an increase of 37 pct as opposed to 25 pct in March.

"Most of these businesses were finding that increases in the cost of products and services

and fuel and energy costs were leading factors for planned price increases," said ABS Head of Industry Statistics, **John Shepherd**.

More than half of businesses said they don't intend increasing costs mainly to retain customers or they had fixed price contracts.

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## Tech sector can help Labor deliver on well paid jobs

SYDNEY: Tech sector peak body, the **Australian Computer Society**, has outlined a range of measures to help Australians gain secure, well paid jobs in the IT industry ahead of the Federal government's Employment Summit.

ACS President, **Nick Tate**, said over 1.1 million Australians will be working in technology roles by 2026 with an annual shortfall of 60,000 workers.

"We can address much of that worker shortage through reskilling and boosting the sector's diversity with last year's report finding working toward gender parity in the sector could add 5,000 new participants each year," Tate said. "Employment in the IT sector has long been outgrowing the broader economy," he said. "Last year the ACS Digital Pulse report found the technology workforce grew at 5.4 pct, nearly four times the rate of the broader workforce."

## Southern Launch gets \$1M to build mobile launch pad

ADELAIDE: Australian spaceport and launch company, **Southern Launch**, has been awarded an Australian Space Agency Moon to Mars Grant for their mobile launch rail.

Southern Launch says the grant of almost \$1 million will enable it to design, construct, and commission a mobile launch rail capable of launching sub-orbital vehicles ranging from 20kg to 3,500kg. The mobility of the rocket launcher will allow Southern Launch to utilise the launch rail at the Koonibba Test



Range and the Whalers Way Orbital Launch Complex. The increased capability will also mean that more international

launch customers will be able to consider Southern Launch as their launch site. "The mobile launch rail will allow the testing of new rocket and payload technologies, which in turn will grow jobs across the Australian space industry," said Southern Launch CEO **Lloyd Damp**.

## Gartner sees Aussie banks adopting new technologies

SYDNEY: Australia banks and investment companies will spend \$28.4 billion on technology products and services this year according to analysts **Gartner**.



Artificial intelligence (AI), autonomic systems and privacy-enhancing computation are three technology trends gaining

traction in banking and investment services, the analyst says.

The company predicts that banks here will apply generative AI in growth areas such as fraud detection, trading prediction and risk factor modelling.

Autonomic systems will be another innovation embraced by the Big Four as advances are made to so-called robo-advisors. Overall, 60 pct of large organisations will also use one or more privacy-enhancing computation techniques by 2025, Gartner says.

## Telus dumps Appen takeover

SYDNEY: Canadian tech group **Telus International** has walked away from a takeover bid for Australian AI service provider, **Appen**.

Telus had approached Appen with a \$1.2 billion indicative offer which was an unsolicited, conditional and non-binding indicative proposal.

If the deal had gone through Telus would have acquired all of Appen's shares via a scheme of arrangement, at a price of \$9.50 a share. Now Telus's decision to walk away will trigger a share market slide.

"This afternoon, Telus informed us that they were revoking their indicative proposal," Appen said in its statement after the close of trading late on Thursday. "No reasons were given."

Appen's board indicated in the early statement it had engaged with Telus to solicit a higher offer and cautioned that there was no certainty that the talks would result in a deal.

## WA invests \$8M to upgrade digital data linkage facilities

PERTH: The McGowan government has allocated \$8 million from its Digital Capability Fund in a bid to advance Western Australia's data linkage capabilities.

The funding will lead to ten additional roles in the Office of Digital Government to support building, operating,

## NBN reveals bumper results

*Continued from page 1*

proximately \$750 million, up approximately 22 pct on the prior corresponding nine-month period.

Around 76 pct of residential and business customers were connected to plans with peak download speeds of 50 Mbps and above, up from 71 pct a year ago, with 18 pct of customers connected to the higher download plans of 100 Mbps and above. NBN saw its capital expenditure in the period fall slightly from \$1.99 billion to \$1.8 billion.

Telecoms expert, **Paul Budde**, bought into the issue again yesterday, saying the industry had given up on NBN Co. "They have indicated that the network operator's response to the wholesale pricing regime is totally unacceptable," he said. Budde accused NBN Co trying to drag out the process but said the industry was saying enough is enough.

governing and usage of a central data asset. It will also provide essential new technical equipment and services to ensure data security. The government says the funding will enable it to streamline government services and ensure policy and operational decisions are informed by relevant data.

"The new data linkage reforms will allow for better interrogation of information across multiple datasets, while implementing industry-leading cyber security measures," said WA Chief Scientist, **Peter Klinken**.

## Brotherhood signs new deal with MSP blueAPACHE

MELBOURNE: Managed services provider **blueAPACHE** has signed a new strategic, three-year IT managed services agreement with the social justice organisation, **Brotherhood of St. Laurence (BSL)**.

The agreement extends an existing five-year technology partnership between the organisations and will allow BSL to further strengthen its outreach and support services to Australians experiencing disadvantage.

BSL employs over 1,400 staff delivering a complex range of social services through IT and telecommunications infrastructure and the technology partnership with **blueAPACHE**.

## Twitter to pay \$150M to settle privacy violations

WASHINGTON: **Twitter** has agreed to pay US\$150 million to settle allegations it misused private information, like telephone numbers, to target advertising at users after telling them the information would be used for security reasons.

Twitter's settlement covers allegations that it misrepresented the security and privacy of user data between May 2013 and September 2019, according to the court documents. The **Justice Department** and the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** monetary settlement also requires Twitter to improve its compliance practices.



## Nvidia revenue to slow

SAN FRANCISCO: Chip designer **Nvidia Corp** has forecast lower second-quarter revenue due to supply-chain snags and slowing demand for graphics chips used in gaming devices.

Nvidia shares have fallen about 40 pct so far this year in tandem with a wider selloff in growth stocks over concerns of aggressive rate increases.

The forecast included an estimated reduction of about US\$500 million of revenue relating to Russia and the COVID-19 lockdowns in China. Nvidia's CFO, **Colette Kress**,

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said there was about \$400 million lost in gaming sales to China and Russia and another \$100 million lost in data centre sales to Russia.

## Starliner returns to Earth after trip to ISS

NEW MEXICO: **Boeing's** Starliner spacecraft has successfully touched down in New Mexico after ferrying a



load of supplies to the **International Space Station** — its first successful orbital mission.

While not everything went exactly to plan, this success may establish Boeing as a much-needed second

provider of commercial ISS launch capabilities.

The Starliner launched last week to dock with the ISS while the crew unloaded the food and other necessities from the capsule's interior and performed in-person checks of its systems. It detached and descended to an orbit where it could initiate its descent with a re-entry burn. Boeing is trying to convince NASA that Starliner could be a serious alternative to **SpaceX's** capsule going forward.

## Qualcomm sees high-end phone uptick despite economy slowing

DAVOS: **Qualcomm CEO, Cristiano Amon**, sees growth for the chip supplier as consumers increasingly want better phones, he said at the World Economic Forum, despite talk about an economic slowdown that is dominating the event.

"Qualcomm has redefined its mobile strategy to be focused on premium and high-tier, and we're winning share in a flat market," Amon said. "For example, with devices such as the Samsung Galaxy, we had a 40 pct share and now we have in excess of 75 pct." Amon said the market for smartphones is mature, limiting growth but still sees an opening for premium devices.

## UK gov't wants Nexperia acquisition assessed

LONDON: The UK government wants a full national security assessment of the acquisition of Britain's biggest microchip factory **Newport Wafer Fab** by Chinese-owned technology company **Nexperia**.

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UK Business Secretary, **Kwasi Kwarteng**, said while the government welcomes overseas investment, it must not threaten Britain's national security.

Prime Minister, **Boris Johnson**, said last year he did not want to drive Chinese investment away from Britain because of "anti-China spirit", when asked whether the sale of the semiconductor producer would go ahead. The government, which has the power to intervene, including retrospectively, in acquisitions on national security grounds, has 30 working days to carry out its assessment.

## Electronics prices rise as chip maker's costs rise

SAN FRANCISCO: Products that rely on semiconductors are set to get even more expensive as chip foundries prepare to increase their prices, according to analysts.

The world's biggest foundries — including **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, Samsung** and **Intel** — are considering further price hikes.

Analysts say foundries have already increased prices 10-20 pct in the past year, a further round of smaller price increases this year is expected. The foundries are increasing their prices partly because they can, but also because it's becoming more expensive for them to fund their growing operations.

## Leica Huawei terminate trading agreement

FRANKFURT: **Huawei's** trading relationship with **Leica** to integrate the German camera maker's technology into its phones is over, the companies confirmed.

From February 2016, all Huawei flagships were to have Leica-developed lenses and branding. But with Huawei's smartphone sales tumbling due to US sanctions on the company, the relationship with Leica has been brought to a halt. The cooperation was based on each company's technical know-how and mutual trust resulting in ground-breaking innovations in the field of smartphone photography.

The breakup follows Huawei's attempts to realign its business segments without access to components containing non-American tech.

## U.S. STOCK PRICES

Stock	Close	Change	52-wk range
Nasdaq	11434	+170.29	12,074 - 6631.4
A M D	92.65	+1.49	99.23 -36.75
Accenture	279.64	+0.35	276.88 - 417.37
Adobe	402.50	+4.09	536.88 - 255.13
Alphabet	2116.10	-3.30	1726 - 1008.87
Amazon	2135.50	+53.50	3552 - 1626
Apple	140.52	+0.16	137.98 - 53.15
Atlassian	170.75	+6.58	199.5 - 107.00
Autodesk	186.53	+6.98	261.94 - 125.38
CheckPoint	123.29	-0.20	130.98 - 80.06
Cisco	44.00	+0.20	50.28 - 32.40
Dell	43.30	+2.42	68.61 - 25.51
Electronic Arts	137.35	+0.67	147.36 - 85.69
H P	35.57	+0.80	23.93 - 12.54
I B M	134.39	+0.59	158.75 - 90.56
Intel	42.20	+0.53	69.29 - 43.63
Lenovo	18.25	-0.36	15.51 - 8.92
Meta Platforms	183.83	+2.55	304.67 - 137.10
Microsoft	262.52	+2.90	232.86 - 132.52
Oracle	69.83	+0.80	61.86 - 39.71
Tesla	658.80	+30.64	502.49 - 43.67
Twitter	37.16	+1.40	44.09 - 20.00
Unisys	11.12	+0.02	18.13 - 6.46
VMware	120.54	+4.60	173.37 - 86.00
Xerox	17.58	+0.29	39.47 - 14.22
8x8	6.92	+0.07	8.51 - 28.93

## AUSTRALIAN STOCK PRICES

Appen	8.72	+1.87	43 60 - 15.70
Kogan	3.60	000	18.46 - 16.83
Macquarie Telecom	56.37	-0.03	34.69 - 19.20
NextDC	10.77	000	10.40 - 5.71
Symbio	4.23	-0.07	5.60 - 5.70
Telstra	3.89	-0.04	3.94 - 2.87
Technology One	10.08	-0.03	10.26 - 6.36
TPG Telecom	5.72	-0.05	4.81 - 7.37
WiseTech	40.80	+0.94	34.32 - 9.97
Xero	87.43	-0.04	102.2 - 156.6

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