



Welcome to the bi-annual Ericsson PAC Newsletter! In this second edition, you will find major news for Ericsson on Capitol Hill, recent PAC events, and a PAC-related Q&A. We close with an interview with PAC member Gheorghe Spiride, who discusses why he believes being a PAC member is important.

If you've already joined the PAC, thank you. Your voluntary personal contribution makes a difference. If not, we encourage you to take a moment to learn more about the Ericsson PAC [here](#) and hope you will consider joining. If you have any questions, we're here to help. Please send questions or comments to Ericsson.PAC.Mailbox@ericsson.com.

The Ericsson PAC provides an opportunity for Ericsson employees who are U.S. citizens or Green Card holders to combine personal, voluntary financial donations for contributions to congressional candidates who understand policy issues that are important to us and ensure that our voice is heard on Capitol Hill.

POLICY FOCUS: ERICSSON TESTIMONY ON CAPITOL HILL AND INFRASTRUCTURE LEGISLATION



Ericsson Testifies on Capitol Hill: A Safe Wireless Future



Recognizing the expertise that Ericsson provides, Jason Boswell (Ericsson's Head of Security, Network Product Solutions, North America), was invited to testify before a subcommittee of the House Energy & Commerce Committee about securing American networks. The June 30th hearing, titled "A Safe Wireless Future: Securing our Networks and Supply Chains," focused on national security, resilience, and reliability of our national networks.

Members of the subcommittee expressed their concerns about US technological competitiveness, the robustness of American supply chains, and ensuring that America remains at the fore of the next wave of technological innovations. Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) both had strong statements in advance of the witness testimony:



"It is important to make sure that those devices [for the Emergency Broadband Benefit and Emergency Connectivity Fund, which help bring broadband to low-income households] come from trusted vendors... and government and industry can work together to make that happen."

– Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)

"We do not want the Chinese Communist Party setting the standards for 5G and 6G. America must be at the forefront... It's our duty to find solutions that ensure a robust and secure supply chain for our communications networks."

– Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-05)



Jason eloquently discussed the needs for American networks to be secure by design, ensure fair competition, and be innovative and dynamic. Jason's testimony, alongside that of Access Partnership, Qualcomm, and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), emphasized the importance of leadership in standards setting bodies and stressed the need for productive collaboration between businesses and government in order to close the digital divide. Jason highlighted the scope of Ericsson's business in the United States as a trusted vendor, our work in international standards setting organizations, and the procedures in place to ensure the security of our supply chain. A recording of Jason's testimony can be viewed [here](#).

Infrastructure Legislation: What it Means for Broadband



In a major win for Ericsson, the Senate passed the highly anticipated, nearly \$1 trillion infrastructure package in early August. The bill provides a \$65 billion investment aimed at improving the nation's broadband infrastructure. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the realization to many that millions of Americans do not have access or cannot afford reliable connections to the Internet galvanized lawmakers into action. The broadband component includes \$45 billion in funding for broadband deployments and includes funding aimed at lowering the cost of internet service with affordable plans for qualifying families.

Ericsson successfully advocated for technical neutrality when determining what technology would qualify for funding. We are thrilled by the decision of policy makers to require download and upload speeds to meet 100mbps/20mbps that ensure wireless can qualify rather than the initially proposed speeds of 100mbps/100mbps, which would have limited funding to fiber. This decision will ensure that connectivity is not limited by a wire to the home but can be fulfilled through wireless equipment.

The infrastructure bill has come to symbolize, for many, hope for bipartisanship. The senators who worked together to hammer out this lengthy, significant legislation hail from both sides of the aisle and stated publicly that they would "lock arms" to protect their collective hard work.

And this bill did take hard work. Ericsson's advocacy focused on ensuring that wireless technology would qualify for funding broadband deployments and our efforts paid off. This bill, totaling nearly \$1 trillion and about 2,700 pages long, includes funding for repairing bridges, roads, and rail systems but also advances infrastructure goals, such as broadband. We will continue to keep you informed in future newsletters on the legislation's progress through Congress and (hopefully!) to the President's desk for signature.

PAC EVENTS: GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE AND FUTURE PAC HAPPENINGS



Government Affairs Update: An Insider's Perspective

In June, the Ericsson PAC sponsored our first virtual event – a Government Affairs Update – and we were thrilled to see that more than 2,300 employees responded to Niklas' invitation and tuned in. We teamed up with experts from the Government and Industry Relations (GIR) group and our Policy Task Force to discuss Ericsson's work on Capitol Hill.



Joining them on the virtual stage to discuss insider trends in Washington, D.C. was Heather Podesta, the CEO and founder of the highly successful bipartisan lobbying firm, Invariant, with whom Ericsson's GIR team works closely. Our opening speakers, Niklas Heuvelodop and Barbara Baffer, had compelling remarks on the importance of educating policy makers and the impact that policy makers have on our business:



“These efforts [by the GIR team and Policy Task Force] and you joining this call now is super important to make sure that our voices are heard, our perspectives are offered so that policy makers can make well-informed decisions about the future of our industry.”

– Niklas Heuveltop, Head of Market Area North America

“I can’t overstate how important it is that we at Ericsson do our best to educate and expose policy makers to Ericsson expertise and positions... It is important that Ericsson does not allow groups promoting adverse solutions to communal problems to drive the discussion. We cannot – and do not – cede the floor here.”

– Barbara Baffer, Vice President, Government and Industry Relations, Market Area North America



Our speakers’ presentations on key issues such as Open RAN, spectrum licensing, and infrastructure are can’t-miss topics that highlight the importance of strong Ericsson advocacy. In case you missed it, the link to our recorded event is [here](#).

Future PAC Happenings

Watch your October emails for special PAC-member-only programs, including an opportunity to win Amazon gift cards!

The Ericsson PAC is gearing up for a big event! Our PAC is excited about our educational and fundraising drive in October, where all eligible employees will learn more about the impact of the PAC on our business, the ways in which the Ericsson PAC can help your community, and ways you can get involved. All new PAC members giving at the suggested giving level will receive an appreciation gift. Stay tuned!

ASK THE PAC



Questions We've Received from PAC Members

If I contribute to Ericsson PAC, does that limit the amount I can contribute to candidates on my own?

An eligible individual can contribute up to \$5000 annually to the Ericsson PAC. This contribution will not limit the individual’s ability to contribute personally to individual candidates up to the maximum allowable amount.

How does the Ericsson PAC decide which federal candidates to support?

To be eligible for an Ericsson PAC contribution, a candidate must display respect for democracy and democratic norms, including adherence to congressional rules of decorum and civility toward other members of Congress. Additionally, the following factors are

considered, although no one factor is determinative:

- Whether the candidate represents Ericsson facilities and employees;
- Whether the candidate serves on one or more committees of jurisdiction over issues of importance to Ericsson;
- Whether the candidate has been elected to a position of leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate;
- Whether the candidate is a champion for the wireless telecommunications industry; and
- Whether the candidate has strong or emerging positions on issues that impact the high-tech industry.

You can read more about our contribution guidelines [here](#).

Does the Ericsson PAC give to candidates for state office or in Presidential elections?

The Ericsson PAC only contributes to candidates for federal Congressional office. The PAC does not give to candidates at the state-level, nor do we give to the campaigns of any Presidential candidates.

How Do I Join?

Joining the Ericsson PAC is easy thanks to our new [website](#)! Simply click on the **Contribute** button in the top right corner. Once there, you can input your data as well as select your level of giving. Hit submit and you're all set! While you're there, don't forget to select the charity of your choice using the **Select Your Charity** tab. Any non-hourly Ericsson employee who is an American citizen or Green Card holder may join the Ericsson PAC. If you are receiving this newsletter, you are eligible to join. Our website also has answers to many frequently asked questions and provides a range of information regarding the PAC. Check it out!

MEET THE PAC



GHEORGHE SPIRIDE, HEAD OF STRATEGY, CUSTOMER UNIT REGIONAL CARRIERS, MANA

Hi there, Gheorghe, thanks for speaking with us about the PAC today. Let's start with a little more about you. Tell us about your role within Ericsson.

As Head of Strategy for the Regional Carriers Customer Unit at Ericsson I also serve as the Chief of Staff for the head of the unit. In my role, I am responsible for strategy planning and execution for our regional wireless customers. We serve over 100 active customers that provide fixed and mobile wireless service in 39 states and territories, where almost 60M people live, work, and play.

Not many people realize that regional wireless operators have been at the forefront of 5G network modernization. For instance, UScellular and GCI Alaska were #13 and #22 respectively on the list of 5G contracts Ericsson announced in early 2020, with more than a dozen other operators in various stages of ongoing network modernization to launch 5G.

In this role I have an operational and strategic focus that can be thought of in three dimensions. First, operations and helping manage the rhythm of the business through ops reviews and business planning revolving around analyzing and consolidating information to make it clear and compelling. Second, communications and developing the leadership narrative around our strategy, customer, and employee communications. And lastly, strategic initiatives that drive cross-functional projects within my unit or more broadly across Market Area North America.

As a member, why do you think the PAC is important to Ericsson? Why is the PAC

important to you?

I've been a PAC member for a little over a year and a half. I always thought PACs were great tools to enable employees that wish to engage and participate in the political process in a transparent manner. There is no question that legislative and regulatory decisions have a significant effect on my industry and profession, and now more than ever because of the increasing recognition of the important role technologies like 5G have in shaping many aspects of our daily lives.

Ericsson is affected by a wide variety of government policies, from taxation to telecommunications regulation to health care and others – all of which have a tremendous effect on the business climate in which we operate. And I think our shareholders, employees, and other stakeholders benefit when the PAC supports candidates who support public policies that enable us to compete fairly and freely in the telecommunications marketplace.

Tell us a little about the charity you chose to contribute to using our Charitable PAC Match system. Why did you choose that organization?

While these days I jokingly introduce myself as a “recovering engineer”, my graduate engineering education played a tremendous role in my professional career. Even if technology continuously evolves and keeps changing, learning how to learn and think critically remains the most important gift my education gave me. I want to continue to support the mission of this institution to educate the citizens and citizen-leaders of our society. Even a small gift plants a seed. And although you may not know what that seed will grow into, each contribution is a solid investment in making the world a better place.

What would you say to Ericsson employees who are reluctant to give to the PAC or are unsure if they want to get involved?

Ericsson understands that the decisions made by policymakers have a profound impact on our industry, business, customers, and the subscribers they serve. We engage in the political process primarily through the Ericsson Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC is the most important avenue to reach out and help advance our policy goals. Technology and telecom challenges remain top of mind for Congress and other policymakers, with growing recognition of the important role they play in shaping the infrastructure of the 21st century world in which our children will live, work, and play.

If you have been thinking about getting involved with the PAC, I encourage you to reach out. Feel free to contact me or the PAC leadership and come join us. With your support, we will be better equipped to ensure that our voice and policy views will be heard.

Finally, what is something you've learned or begun doing while working from home that you previously never had the chance to? Any new hobbies or passions?

Working from home has been a positive experience over the past 18 months. While I really miss the real-life “3D” interaction with my colleagues and customers, I've come to appreciate the convenience of cutting my commute to the 10 seconds or less it takes me to get to my home office. This freed up some time and I've gone back to early morning swimming to get each day started right. The outdoor pool in my community has never seen so much use in the previous 9 years we've lived here. Swimming lap after lap in the early morning all by myself gives me a chance to reflect to what's ahead that day. And on most mornings, getting to see Dawn show her rose-red fingers in the Eastern sky is magical.

Thank you so much for talking with us, Gheorghe!

PAC BOARD MEMBERS

Rob Johnson
John Moore
Barbara Baffer

Jared Carlson
Lynn Starr

Tomas Ageskog
Kevin Zvokel

Participation in Ericsson PAC is strictly voluntary, and the decision to contribute or not, as well as the level of any contribution, will have no effect on you or on your job status. The suggested amount is only a suggestion, and more or less than the suggested amount may be given up to the legal limit of \$5,000 per year. Contributions to Ericsson PAC are non-deductible for federal income tax purposes. PAC contributions are, by law, not reimbursable by Ericsson or any other corporation or person. Contributions from foreign nationals are not permitted. Federal law requires aggregate year-to-date contributions over \$200 to be reported to the Federal Election Commission, including name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer. The matching charitable contribution that Ericsson will make may not be deducted by you as a charitable contribution for federal or state income tax purposes.