



Intel Xeon 6 SoC: Industry Partners Embrace Platform, Accelerate AI in the RAN

Purpose-built for network and edge applications, Xeon 6 SoC enables immediate, real-time inference in live networks

March 2, 2026 — The majority of today's commercial virtualized radio access network (vRAN) deployments run on Intel Xeon. With built-in AI acceleration, the latest Intel Xeon 6 SoC helps to reduce the overall cost, power and complexity of AI workloads, enabling operators to deploy AI with confidence, on the world's most deployed platform. This creates a scalable and highly intelligent infrastructure that delivers operators a seamless path to 6G.

Inference in live networks, right now

AT&T is teaming up with **Ericsson** and Intel to build a highly open, programmable and reliable RAN network. They have announced successful demonstration of Ericsson's AI-native Link Adaptation on a Cloud RAN stack powered by Intel Xeon 6 SoC, with up to a 20% increase in throughput compared to legacy rule-based link adaptation, along with corresponding improvements in spectral efficiency. Ericsson and Intel are jointly benchmarking AI models on commercial off-the-shelf hardware, delivering measurable improvements in AI inference speed and a scalable path for AT&T to deploy AI where it drives the most value.

Dell Technologies, last month, launched the Xeon 6 SoC-based Dell PowerEdge XR9700, a ruggedized server that brings high-performance computing directly to outdoor environments. This ultra-compact, fully enclosed, weatherproof server solves a critical infrastructure challenge by enabling Cloud RAN and AI workloads to run in space and power-constrained locations where traditional data center equipment cannot operate. It allows operators to deploy Cloud RAN and AI applications on the same platform, where the data is created and consumed, in a cost, power, and space-efficient solution.

HPE recently launched the HPE ProLiant Compute EL140 Gen12 server, a new innovation powered by Xeon 6 SoC, to speed 5G and AI deployments, enhance security, and streamline automation. With Xeon 6 SoC, HPE ProLiant Compute Gen12 servers can support higher traffic, lower latency, and more efficient AI-driven RAN workloads at the edge for telco service providers looking to aggressively scale their network infrastructure in support of high-growth AI workloads.

Quanta Cloud Technology (QCT) announced their next generation QuantaEdge servers based on Xeon 6 SoC for high performance edge computing. These servers deliver full-stack, cloud-native, ORAN-compliant vRAN infrastructure and are optimized on Intel FlexRAN reference architecture to help operators accelerate their 5G network modernization and unlock new edge-to-cloud capabilities including AI workloads.

Samsung recently announced successful completion of the industry's first commercial call on Intel Xeon 6 SoC XCC, on a Tier 1 US Operator's live network. This milestone, coming only a few months after the first wave of Intel Xeon 6 SoC was made commercially available, presents an innovative pathway for single-server vRAN deployments for next-generation networks, significantly simplifying the management and reducing power consumption and total cost of complex network configurations, compared to traditional multi-server solutions. As operators accelerate their transition to software-driven, flexible architectures while seeking more sustainable infrastructure, the ability to run RAN and AI workloads on fewer, more powerful servers becomes critical.

Partners highlight Xeon 6 SoC as the ideal choice for AI-native, cloud-based networks

“We value our partnership with Intel as we explore how to deliver even more enhanced network performance in open and cloudified RAN by leveraging the built-in AI capabilities of Intel Xeon 6 SoC.”

Changsoon Choi, VP, Network Intelligence and Innovation, Deutsche Telekom

“For over a decade, SK Telecom and Intel have partnered to drive telecom innovation. In 2025, we commenced commercial deployment of the Wireless Core on Intel Xeon 6 processors with E-cores, achieving notable performance and efficiency gains. In addition, we successfully completed a PoC of AI-assisted vRAN Resource Pooling, demonstrating its value in reducing vRAN TCO. Together, we will keep innovating toward 6G leadership.”

Takki Yu, Vice President, Head of Network Technology Office, SK Telecom

“Telus deployed Canada’s first open and virtualized RAN network. Now we are on the path to deploying the first AI-ready wireless network, built on Intel Xeon 6 SoC, the leading innovation in telecom compute. This cutting-edge platform delivers built-in AI capabilities and acceleration, allowing us to deploy and scale diverse AI applications across our network easily. With Intel’s Xeon platform at the foundation of our network, we can leverage the best AI innovations across the industry immediately, with significant performance and cost efficiencies, and without the cost and power drain of custom hardware.”

Bernard Bureau, Vice President, Wireless Strategy & Services, TELUS

“Viettel High Tech, a unit of Viettel Group, is one of the world’s top-notch providers of 5G network infrastructure solutions from RAN to Core. We are collaborating with Intel to continue delivering high-performance, secure, and efficient solutions. As we further strengthen our AI leadership in AI-RAN this year, we are eager to explore the Xeon 6 SoC’s integrated AI-acceleration capabilities. Intel’s technology continues to be a key element in our mission to design, build, and deploy world-class 5G network solutions.”

Mr. Giang Truong Le, Deputy Director of Telecommunications Division, Viettel HighTech

“Vodafone’s OpenRAN deployments have demonstrated that open and virtualized networks built on Intel® Xeon® can compete with the most advanced traditional Radio Access Networks. This year, we’ll continue our close collaboration with Intel as we expand our OpenRAN network across Europe, with Intel Xeon 6 compute at the heart of our edge servers. Intel Xeon 6 SoC is optimized for Edge applications like OpenRAN. This means we can enhance performance, accelerate integration, and embed AI to offer customers a great experience.”

Kyriakos Exadaktylos, Head of Network Architecture and Open RAN, Vodafone Group

About Intel

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