Case study

Capturing new enterprise opportunities with 5G network slicing

Nokia Digital Operations Center

NOKIA

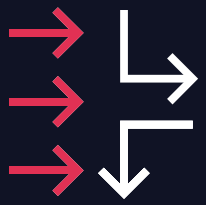
A leading communications service provider (CSP) in Asia wanted to be the first to launch a 5G network slicing platform to capitalize on new business models and create new enterprise ecosystems.

Nokia Digital Operations Center gave the service provider a way to pilot the platform, quickly and easily, without affecting its existing service offerings. With the trial, the CSP was able to validate enterprise demand for slice-based network services and is now ready to reap the benefits of 5G.

Business benefits

Faster time to value for new digital services, with network slices provisioned in just minutes

Lower operating costs through automation

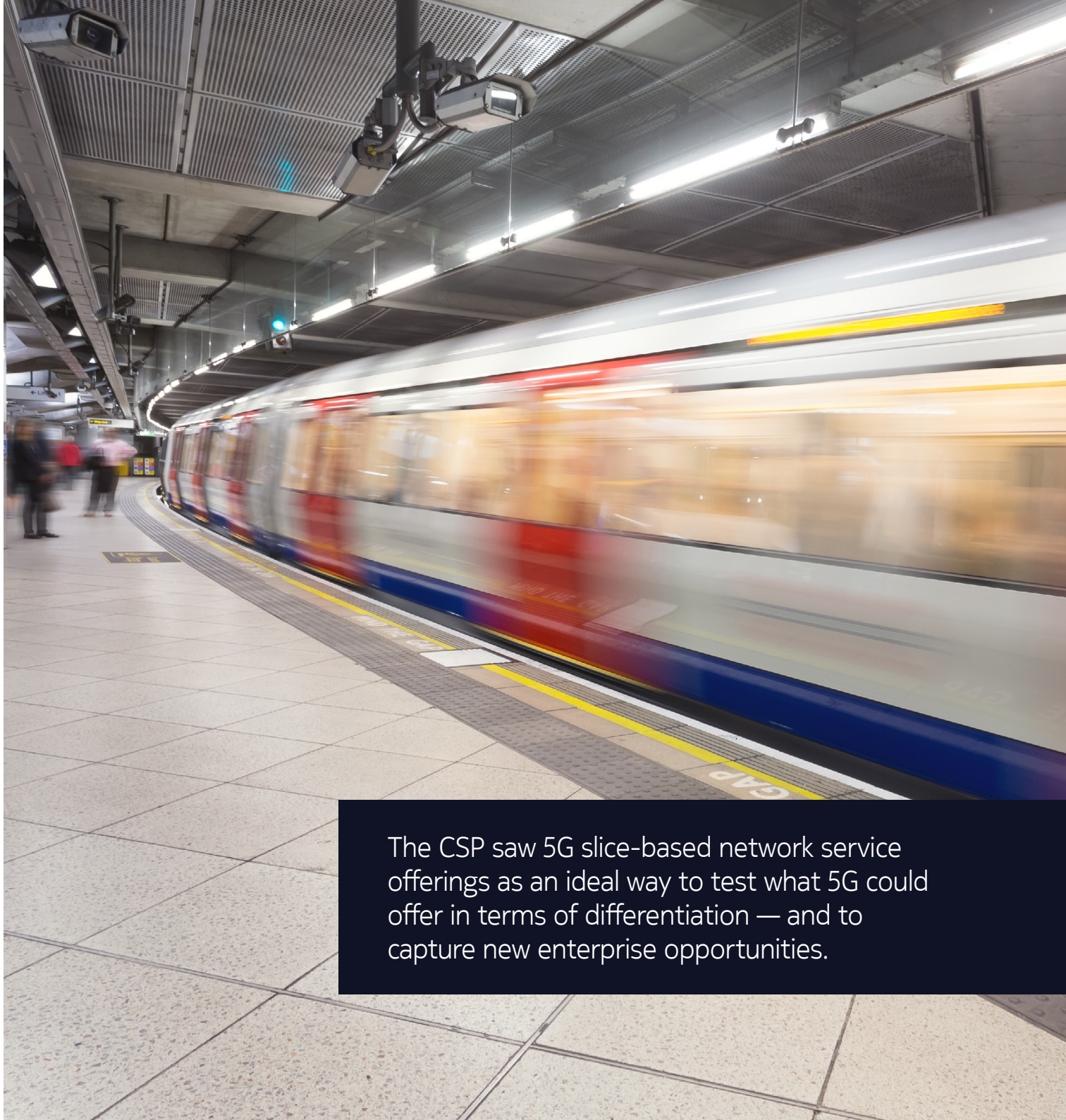


Better customer responsiveness through market-driven, always-on technology

Challenge

The CSP had a long-standing reputation as a mobile network trailblazer. It was always an early adopter of new technologies that would benefit its customers and give it first-mover advantage. The company saw 5G slice-based network service offerings as an ideal way to test what 5G could offer in terms of differentiation — and to capture new enterprise opportunities.

The CSP knew that moving to 5G and slice-based digital services would require major changes to its operations support systems (OSS) — so that it could deliver the new services in a flexible, order-on-demand manner, reap the full benefits and take full advantage of its multi-domain, multi-vendor network infrastructure. It also needed an easy way to trial its planned network-as-a-service (NaaS) platform before moving on to full-scale deployment, testing demand and potential among enterprises in its market.



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Solution

The CSP is building a platform powered by the Nokia Digital Operations Center and CloudBand Network Director to enable it to offer sliced, digital services using a NaaS model.

The Digital Operations Center is a single platform that combines service orchestration and assurance. It sits on top of a common software foundation, so it can be delivered over any cloud. It automates the design, delivery and assurance of slice-based network services, using closed-loop automation and end-to-end, intelligent orchestration to provision slices and digital services within minutes – rather than the weeks or months it could take to set them up manually.

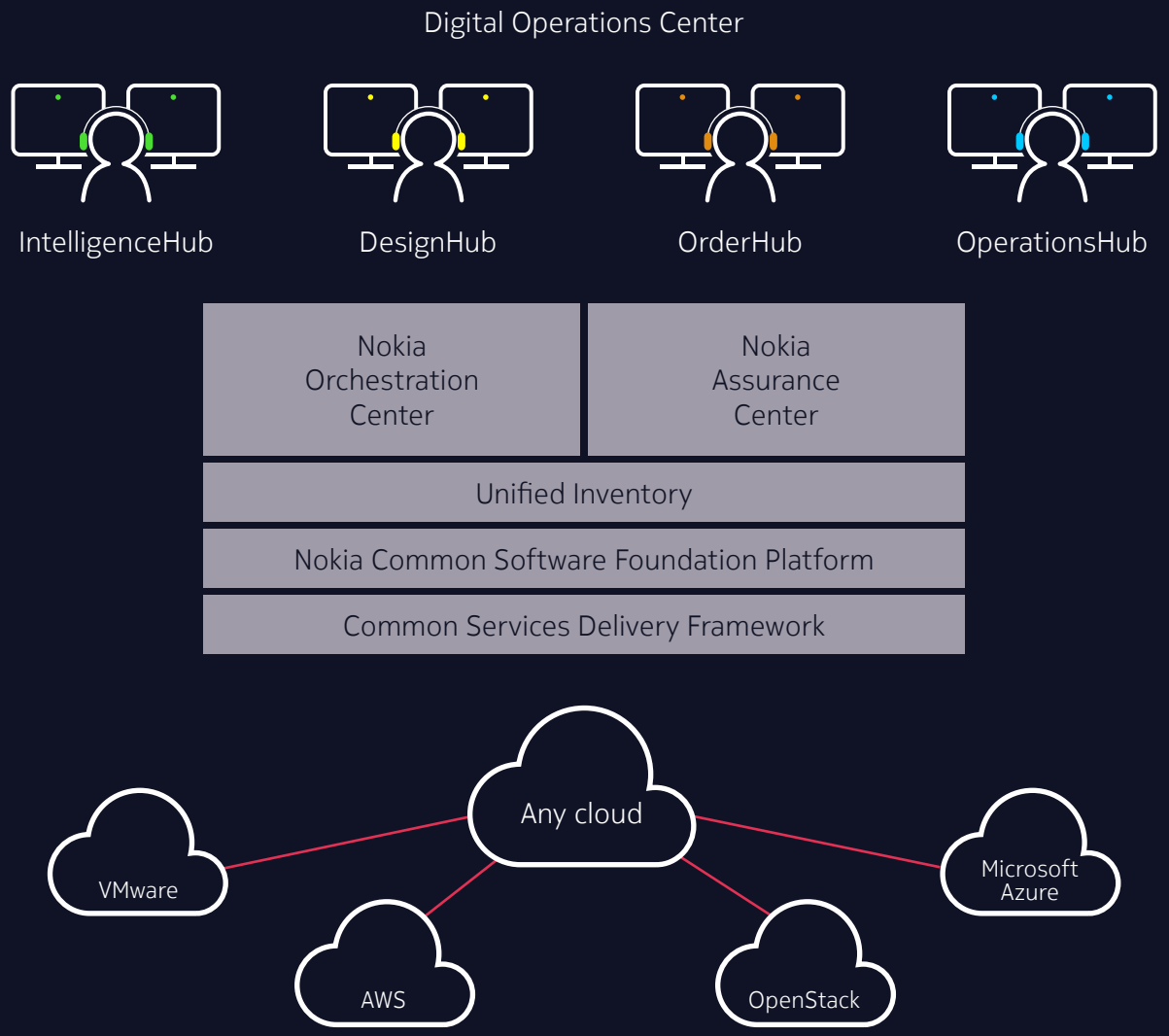

Figure 1. Digital Operations Center solution

Solution

With Nokia's Digital Operations Center, the CSP can quickly and easily test its ability to collaboratively design and deploy slice-based network services with its customers, tailored to each enterprise's requirements for speed, coverage area, reliability, latency, security and other indicators. Network slicing also enables new business models, such as B2B2X, allowing the CSP enterprise customers to combine their own industry-specific capabilities with 5G services to deliver unique offerings to their own customers.

Full control over and visibility into its slice-based network services allow the CSP to guarantee stringent service-level agreements across a wide range of enterprise use cases, from logistics, smart factories and fleet management to immersive entertainment and gaming. And because Nokia's solution is fully vendor- and use case-agnostic, those sliced-based services can be deployed at scale across the CSP's multi-vendor, multi-domain and multi-technology environments.

Results

The CSP will begin market trials of its NaaS platform in late 2020 with slice-based network services for enterprise customers in a wide range of industries. By offering 5G slices through its NaaS platform, the CSP will be able to cost-effectively expand its customer base while also helping its enterprise partners better meet the needs of their own customers. This enables support for use cases that depend on highly specific network requirements, such as virtual reality or Internet of Things and smart factory applications.

The CSP anticipates gaining a faster time to value for its new digital services along with improved network efficiency and decreased operating costs. At the same time, Nokia Digital Operations Center supports the CSP's existing services such as voice over LTE (VoLTE) and software-defined wide-area networks (SD-WAN). This means that the service provider is now able to support both existing and new services from the same platform.

"Nokia Digital Operations Center makes the full set of network slicing capabilities available for CSPs with full flexibility and agility."

Brian McCann
Chief Product Officer,
Nokia Software

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About Nokia

We create the technology to connect the world. Only Nokia offers a comprehensive portfolio of network equipment, software, services and licensing opportunities across the globe. With our commitment to innovation, driven by the award-winning Nokia Bell Labs, we are a leader in the development and deployment of 5G networks.

Our communications service provider customers support more than 6.4 billion subscriptions with our radio networks, and our enterprise customers have deployed over 1,300 industrial networks worldwide. Adhering to the highest ethical standards, we transform how people live, work and communicate. For our latest updates, please visit us online www.nokia.com and follow us on Twitter @nokia.

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