Press release

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Digital transformation of network infrastructure: Orange Business Services launches a first SDN pilot for small and medium enterprises

* Software Defined Network (SDN) and Network Function Virtualization (NFV), a major network expansion opportunity
* A pilot to test real-world uses and features of SDN

The digital transformation of enterprises has created new expectations to implement new types of uses of voice, data and video. Companies must rely on a secure, scalable and flexible network – with straightforward management – to focus on their core business and develop new services. To meet such challenges, Orange Business Services launched today its first pilot of a 100% digital and automated SDN solution for small and medium enterprises (SMBs).

SDN and NFV: a major network expansion opportunity

Software Defined Network (SDN) and Network Function Virtualization (NFV) represent the next chapter in network (r)evolution. Both technologies offer a new way to virtualize networks end-to-end, simplify operation and configuration, and automate management and evolution. Network intelligence, initially supported by hardware components (routers, firewalls, etc.) is now virtualized through an NFV software platform. This approach secures network monitoring via an SDN controller, managing data flow prioritization and routing. It also provides network managers with a centralized digital interface, which can be accessed from smartphones. They can simply and quickly perform a total network reconfiguration, update features or deploy new software, without any manual intervention.

a pilot to test real-world uses and features of SDN

By April 2015, around ten SMBs (with up to ten sites) will test in real conditions for a year a 100% digital plug-and-play SDN offer, developed by Orange Business Services. This SDN pilot will be used by these companies to create and manage in real time their Intranet and Internet networks via a web portal. With this simple and secure interface, network managers can also order and customize new virtualized application services of their choice: Internet content filtering, advanced security and antivirus.

This solution will also include the deployment of a private and secure corporate network, offering the best available bandwidth (ADSL, VDSL or fiber) and leveraging a ready-to-use router. Pilot companies will receive advanced support services from the project team.

For this pilot, Orange has deployed in its business dedicated network an SDN controller and virtualized services. The feedback from the project will be leveraged to adjust the positioning and functionalities of the solution to be launched commercially in 2016.

This pilot project is part of a larger program named "SDN for Business" dedicated to formalizing and implementing Orange Business Services' SDN strategy. SDN is among the top priorities of the Orange Group in defining its network evolution strategy.

about Orange Business Services

Orange Business Services, the Orange branch dedicated to B2B services, is not only a telecom operator, but also an IT solutions integrator and applications developer in France and around the world. Its 20,000 employees support companies in all areas of their digital transformation: mobile and collaborative workspaces; IT/cloud infrastructure; fixed and mobile connectivity; private and hybrid networks; applications for Internet of Things, 360° customer experience and Big Data analytics; and cybersecurity thanks to dedicated experts and infrastructure to protect information systems. More than 3,000 multinational organizations and 2 million SOHOs, enterprises and local authorities in France rely on Orange Business Services as their trusted partner.

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Orange is one of the world’s leading telecommunications operators with annual sales of 39 billion euros in 2014 and has 156,000 employees worldwide at 31 December, 2014. Orange is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris (symbol ORA) and on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol ORAN). *Orange and any other Orange product or service names included in this material are trademarks of Orange or Orange Brand Services Limited.*

press contacts

Elizabeth Mayeri, Orange Business Services, elizabeth.mayeri@orange.com, +1 212 251 2086

Gwenaëlle Martin Delfosse, Orange Business Services, gwenaelle.martindelfosse@orange.com,

+33 1 44 37 62 62