The explosive global demand for data services is driving massive investment in network capacity and interworking, as service providers introduce 4G technology, cloud-based infrastructure, Network Functions Virtualization (NFV), and Software-Defined Networking (SDN) to better scale and manage their assets and services. These dynamics are fueling a transformation from TDM-based bandwidth services to Carrier Ethernet and Layer 3 IP services like IP-VPN, MPLS connectivity, etc.
GM of Network Management and part of the leadership team of the highly successful IP Division. He grew several products from early stage development into profitable businesses with broad deployment in service providers around the world. Andrew came to Alcatel via the acquisition of Newbridge Networks where he held a variety positions in R&D. He also spent 6 years at American Management Systems leading custom software development projects. Andrew is a graduate of the University of Waterloo, with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering.

Andrew told us that “2015 will see the wide deployment of NFV”. Mobile, wireline, and cloud data center service providers are looking for new ways to design, implement, and manage their network infrastructures. With next-generation technologies service providers can provide differentiated and revenue-generating services, deliver advanced services on top of reliable connectivity, increase efficiency and decrease opex, minimize physical hardware and decrease capex, and increase end-user Quality of Experience.

Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) and Lifecycle Service Orchestration (LSO) are emerging technologies that are accelerating this transformation in service provider networks. CENX is already working with 2 of the 4 mobile carriers in the USA, Andrew mentioned.

The NFV market is currently valued at over $200 Million and is forecast to grow to $2.5 Billion by 2018 (GSMA and Machina Research). Analysys Mason forecasts that 2016 is the year that NFV drivers begin to outweigh the inhibitors and this is already being seen as service providers begin moving NFV infrastructure into production.

LSO is playing a critical role in powering the NFV transformation in service provider networks. NFV is a disruptive technology that leads to significant operational challenges for network operators, as network transformation is complex and does not happen overnight. Providers need to build out NFV infrastructure while also operating within their existing infrastructure and without affecting the high Quality of Experience end-users expect. LSO solves this operational challenge.

**Interconnection**

CENX recently announced that CoreSite Realty Corporation (NYSE: COR) has signed an extension of its multi-year agreement with CENX for Cortx Service Orchestrator, to deliver on-demand, high-performance, interconnection services. Leveraging Cortx, CoreSite’s Open Cloud Exchange customers are able to access a self-serve online portal to provision reliable, secure Ethernet connectivity within seconds.

Cortx Service Orchestrator simplifies end-to-end management of advanced data services through automation of fulfillment and assurance tasks, and turns network big data into actionable intelligence for capacity and SLA management. These automation capabilities serve the high-growth cloud data center market, where enterprise demand for connectivity services is on the rise to bridge private and public clouds.

CoreSite, one of the first data center providers to offer dynamic Ethernet interconnection services to the Cloud, launched the CoreSite Open Cloud Exchange supported by CENX’s Service Orchestration in early 2013. CoreSite’s exchange is integrated with top Cloud and network providers enabling enterprise customers’ on-demand, private, virtual connectivity for their applications. Through CoreSite’s portal, customers control their data in real time, providing the scalability and elasticity essential for Cloud applications.

"CENX’s industry-leading capabilities in Service Orchestration accelerated the development of the CoreSite Open Cloud Exchange," said Brian Warren, Senior VP, Product and Marketing, CoreSite. "CENX continues to work with us to support the CoreSite Open Cloud Exchange, a solution that accelerates the business performance of our customers through low-latency access to multiple cloud and hybrid cloud providers."

“We are proud of our long-standing collaboration with CoreSite, a leading data center provider in the U.S., in helping them expand their Cloud connectivity offering,” said Jay McMullan, Senior Vice President of Worldwide Sales, CENX. “This deployment is an example of the value that Cortx Service Orchestrator brings by capitalizing on big data analytics for agile software-defined data center operations, enabling customers to dynamically order and monitor their data exchange services.”