

EXFO and Rohde & Schwarz accelerate troubleshooting of mobile networks

The two manufacturers have partnered together to provide test and measurement (T&M) solutions for on-site commissioning, maintenance and troubleshooting of mobile communications systems. EXFO and Rohde & Schwarz – each an expert in their own field – offer complementary solutions that combine optical and wireless technologies to significantly speed up and efficiently locate and eliminate RF interference.

Munich, February 22, 2017 — In modern mobile network stations, RF equipment continues to shift closer to the antennas. They are usually mounted just below the antenna in order to minimize cable loss. The interconnection between the RF equipment at the top of the tower and the baseband unit is bridged via fiber optic cabling. This has increased the necessity for both fiber-to-the-antenna and over-the-air RF T&M technology.

The wireless spectrum is growing in complexity and becoming increasingly susceptible to interference, which is critical to quality of service. If a service disruption occurs within a base station's coverage area, the RF technician must quickly identify and correct the issue so that it doesn't impact subscriber quality of experience.

The combined solution from EXFO and Rohde & Schwarz provides best-in-class performance, empowering technicians to quickly and accurately troubleshoot RF interference issues and allowing mobile network operators to minimize OPEX. EXFO's OpticalRF™ over CPRI/OBSAI application, supported on the compact FTB-1 Pro test platform, can be connected at the baseband unit and remotely accessed via a mobile device to provide real-time RF spectrum views and to quickly detect RF signal interference. The R&S PR100 portable radio receiver, the R&S FPH or the R&S FSH spectrum analyzers from Rohde & Schwarz can be used to easily hunt and locate the interference in the field by providing a broad view of the spectrum, not only in the station's operating band but also in the adjacent channels. Once the potential source has been found, RF interference mitigation techniques can be used and simultaneously validated on a mobile device to determine whether the issue has been resolved.

EXFO and Rohde & Schwarz are global network test and measurement leaders in their respective fields. EXFO develops intelligent, automated network test, data and analytics solutions and Rohde & Schwarz develops wireless T&M technology. By leveraging the expertise of both companies, mobile network operators, installers and network service providers have access to harmonized solutions for a variety of measurement scenarios. As part of the cooperative effort, EXFO and Rohde & Schwarz have hosted several mobile network testing workshops and are planning other similar events in the future.

The RF test and measurement solutions from both EXFO and Rohde and Schwarz will be demonstrated at the EXFO booth (6K36, Hall 6) and the Rohde & Schwarz booth (6B50, Hall 6) at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona from February 27 to March 2.

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Rohde & Schwarz

The Rohde & Schwarz electronics group offers innovative solutions in all fields of wireless communications as well as in IT security. Founded more than 80 years ago, the independent company has an extensive sales and service network with subsidiaries and representatives in more than 70 countries. On June 30, 2016, Rohde & Schwarz had approximately 10,000 employees. The group achieved a net revenue of approximately EUR 1.92 billion in the 2015/2016 fiscal year (July to June). The company is headquartered in Munich, Germany, and also has strong regional hubs in Asia and the USA.

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All press releases, including photos for downloading, are available on the Internet at <http://www.press.rohde-schwarz.com>.

About EXFO

EXFO develops smarter network test, data, and analytics solutions for the world's leading communications service providers, network equipment manufacturers, and web-scale companies. Since 1986, we've worked side by side with our clients in the lab, field, data center, boardroom, and beyond to pioneer essential technology and methods for each phase of the network lifecycle. Our portfolio of test orchestration and real-time 3D analytics solutions turn complex into simple and deliver business-critical insights from the network, service, and subscriber dimensions. Most importantly, we help our clients flourish in a rapidly transforming industry where "good enough" testing and data analytics just isn't good enough anymore. For more information, visit EXFO.com and follow us on the [EXFO Blog](#).