NetworldEurope SME Working Group

SME Success Story – October 2022

Martel Innovate

Martel named "Key Innovator" by the EC's Innovation Radar

The European Commission's Innovation Radar has named Martel a 'Key Innovator' thanks to the company's contribution to the Open Source MANO (OSM) enhancement for flexible cloud-native service deployments, developed within the Affordable5G project.

Open-Source MANO (OSM) is a community-driven management and orchestration platform for Virtualized Network Functions (VNFs). OSM is being used in the ongoing Horizon 2020 Affordable5G project as an orchestrator for Cloud to Edge, 5 G-centric services.

Within Affordable5G, Martel has been working alongside the OSM developers to develop a new feature, supporting the dynamic placement of Kubernetes network functions across the cloud edge

in OSM managed NFV Infrastructures. By working directly with the OSM open source community, Martel ensures that this feature becomes part of the official OSM releases, thus ensuring its long-term availability and support. This means providing a useful feature for both the Affordable5G consortium partners and the large ETSI OSM community as a whole. For this work, The European Commission's Innovation Radar has named Martel a 'Key Innovator.

The result announced by the European Commission's Innovation Radar comes after a thorough analysis from independent experts involved in reviewing ongoing Research and Innovation projects funded by the EC. Their analysis recognised that the OSM enhancement addresses the needs of existing markets, placing it in the Radar's "Exploring" market maturity category: this includes innovations actively exploring value creation opportunities, considered as 'getting things started'. The Radar defines such innovations as being in the early phases of technological readiness, but already showing high commitment levels from the organisations developing them.

Martel is a strong believer in community-driven open source approaches and, despite the intense efforts required to reach consensus in the community, we believe that making process-compliant and community-driven contributions to open source is key to supporting innovation in EU companies, and providing a sustainable pathway for European projects outcomes as we showed with Affordable5G.