



Applied Value

Q4 2020

Applied Value

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#### **Applied Value Telecommunications Practice**

Telecommunication has been a core practice area for Applied Value since our inception in 1997. Over the last 20+ years, we have supported a wide range of clients across the telecommunications value chain and across continents.

We generate client value and provide tangible results by applying an unbiased perspective, having a hands-on approach, and recognizing the importance of delivering value fast.

#### **About this report**

This report tracks the financial performance of major players in the telecommunications industry ranging from operators to infrastructure OEMs and mobile device makers.

We hope that you find this report insightful, and we welcome feedback or opportunities for further discussions.

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## Applied Value's telecom report tracks the financial performance of major players in the industry

#### **Operators**

#### Infrastructure OEMs

#### **Device OEMs**































swisscom





pro%imus











**Telia Company** 

























## **Contents**

## **Executive Summary**

- 1. Operators
- 2. Infrastructure OEMs
- 3. Device OEMs

**About Applied Value** 



### **Executive summary**

#### Key takeaways per segment

#### **Operators**

- 1. Yearly revenue of operators from all regions saw positive development in 2020 compared to 2019. LATAM operators' revenue improved the most by 9.1%
- 2. Profitability margins of most operators improved in Q4 quarter compared to last year, however, we saw negative QoQ EBITDA margin development by ~4%
- 3. LTM ROIC of operators spread from 5% to 16%, while averaging at 7.7%

## Infrastructure OEMs

- 1. Revenue of all infrastructure OEMs improved ~15% in 2020
- 2. Huawei maintained its lead in the telecom equipment market, taking up 31% of market share, Nokia and Ericsson at 15% and 14% respectively
- 3. Ericsson's NOPAT margin has been expanding continuously during the past four years, concluding 2020 at around 10% best in class

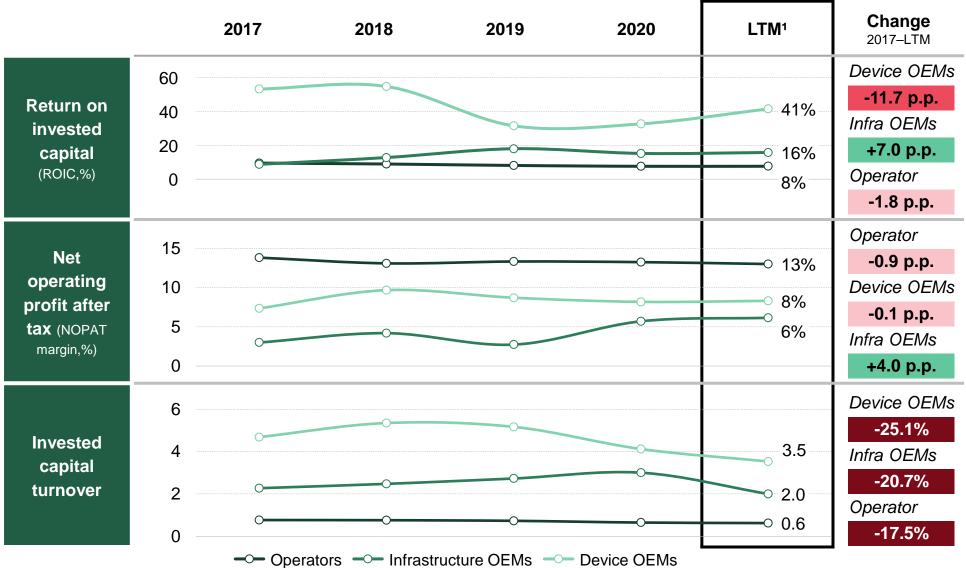
#### Device OEMs

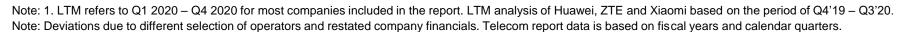
- 1. With the iPhone 12 series, Apple surpassed \$100 billion of quarterly revenue, becoming the largest 5G smartphone vendor globally
- 2. Xiaomi enjoyed over 50% of revenue growth in 2020, faring exceptionally both in China and overseas
- 3. Growth momentum of wearables and tablet sustained until the end of the year; Apple dominants both markets with over 35% of market share





## Financial overview (1/2): Yearly performance







## Financial overview (2/2): Quarterly performance

|  | Segment             | Q4 '20  | Q3 '20   | Q2 '20   | Q1 '20  |
|--|---------------------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| Sales                                  | Operators           | 4.6%    | 3.3%     | -1.5%    | -3.8%   |
| Y-o-Y                                  | Infrastructure OEMs | 12.3%   | 10.1%    | 12.6%    | -4.1%   |
| (% change)                             | Device OEMs         | 18.7%   | 8.0%     | 3.3%     | -1.7%   |
| Net operating profit after tax (NOPAT) | Operators           | 0.9 pp. | -0.5 pp. | -0.9 pp. | 0.2 pp. |
| Y-o-Y                                  | Infrastructure OEMs | 1.4 pp. | 0.0 pp.  | 0.6 pp.  | 1.2 pp. |
| (p.p. change)                          | Device OEMs         | 0.4 pp. | 0.1 pp.  | -0.1 pp. | 0.2 pp. |
| EBITDA                                 | Operators           | 3.3 pp. | 0.8 pp.  | 0.8 pp.  | 0.8 pp. |
| Y-o-Y                                  | Infrastructure OEMs | 1.6 pp. | -0.8 pp. | 0.1 pp.  | 1.0 pp. |
| (p.p. change)                          | Device OEMs         | 0.5 pp. | 0.2 pp.  | 0.3 pp.  | 0.4 pp. |

Notes: Telecom report data is based on fiscal years and calendar quarters. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.



## **Contents**

### **Executive Summary**

## 1. Operators

- 2. Infrastructure OEMs
- 3. Device OEMs

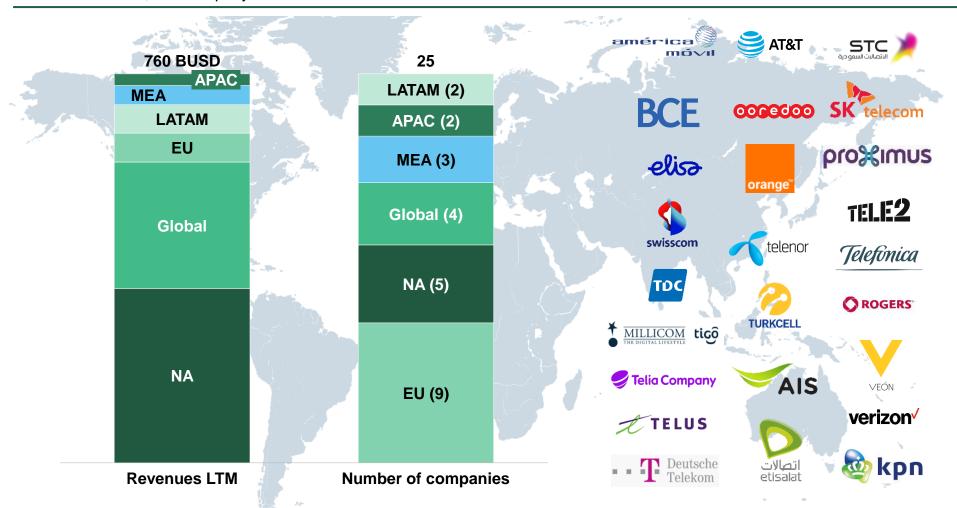
About Applied Value



## The Q4 '20 report covers 25 of the largest operators globally, accounting for 760 billion USD in revenues

#### Report overview

Revenue in BUSD, and company breakdown



Note: The included companies differ from previous quarter. Global operator refers to those with transregional business establishments.



### Key takeaways from the operator segment

#### **Key takeaways**

#### Creating Shareholder Value

- 1. ROIC of operators averaged at 7.7% in LTM
- 2. STC, Elisa and Turkcell outperformed their peers with 16%, 13% and 13% of LTM ROIC respectively

## Revenue Performance

- 1. As one of the better performing sectors through the pandemic, the telecom operator sector concluded 2020 with a 6% YoY revenue growth
- 2. Although significant recovery had taken place, LATAM operators' Q4 revenue still fell behind YoY

## Margin Performance

- 1. 2020 EBITDA margin of the operator segment was 36.6% and NOPAT margin was 12.7%, both margins leveled with the previous year
- 2. Profitability margins of most operators were enhanced in Q4'20, however, AT&T's margins were severely dampened by impairments from its video business unit

## Capital Expenditure

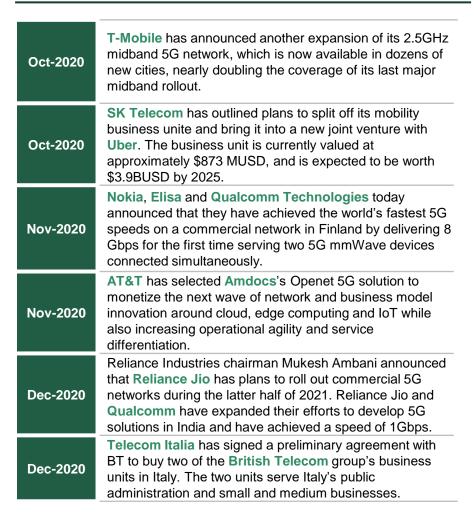
- 1. A ~17% CAPEX to revenue ratio has sustained throughout 2017 to 2020
- 2. Operators that have completed the initial stages of 5G network expansion are seeing notable reduction in CAPEX



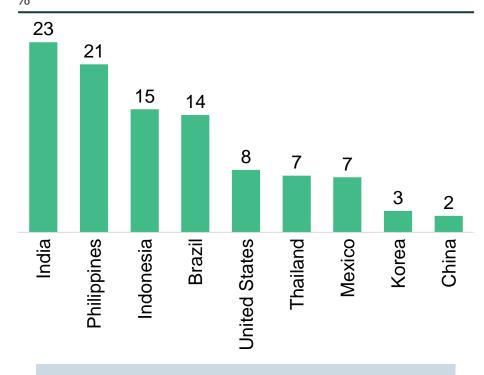


### **Events across the Operator sector from the last 3 months**

#### News and happenings for operators



### Broadband Revenue CAGR 2020 - 2022



Due to COVID-19, fixed broadband access has become a necessity for purposes including work from home. An acceleration in global broadband subscriber growth has been observed from 3.4% in FY19 to 5.3% in FY20.



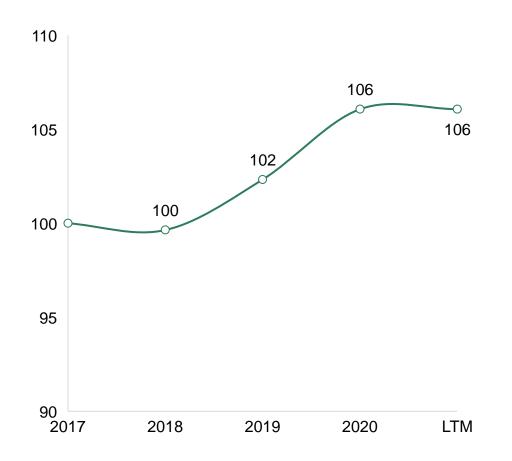
Source: Press & News, Credit Suisse, Applied Value Analysis.

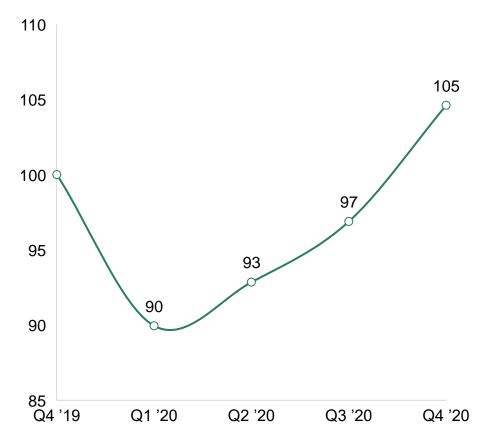
# The telecom operator sector concluded 2020 achieving three consecutive years of revenue growth

Indexed Yearly revenues

2017 - LTM (index 2016=100)

Indexed Quarterly revenues Q4'19 – Q4'20 (index Q4'19=100)





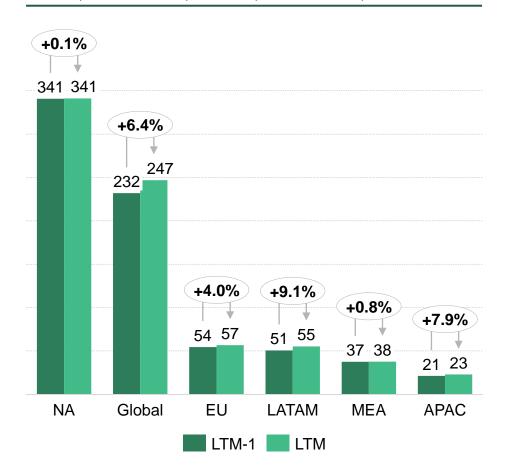
Note: The included companies differ from previous quarter.



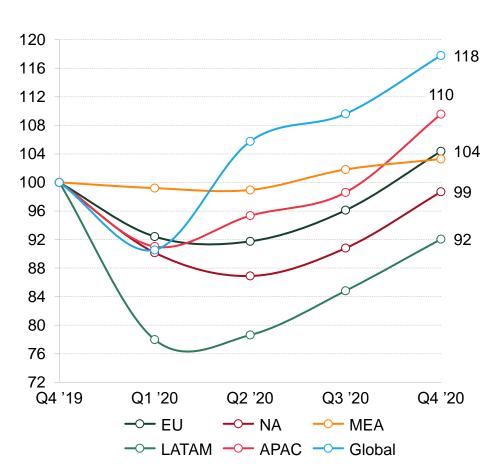
## Revenue of operators in all regions improved over 5% QoQ except for MEA operators, whose revenue has been flat in LTM

#### Yearly revenues by region

LTM-1 (Q1'19 – Q4'19), to LTM (Q1'20 – Q4'20), BUSD



## Indexed Quarterly revenues by region Q4'19 to Q4'20 (index Q4'19=100)



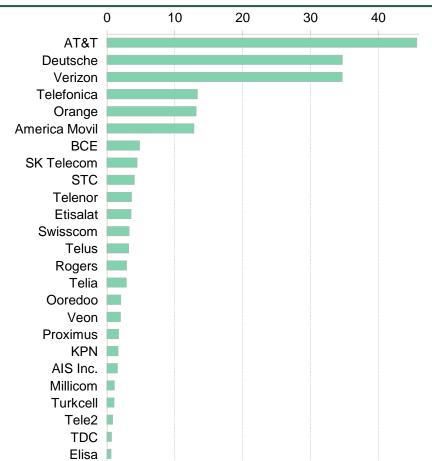
\*Global operators' revenue skewed by Deutsche Telekom's acquisition of Sprint

lote: The included companies differ from previous quarter.

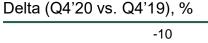


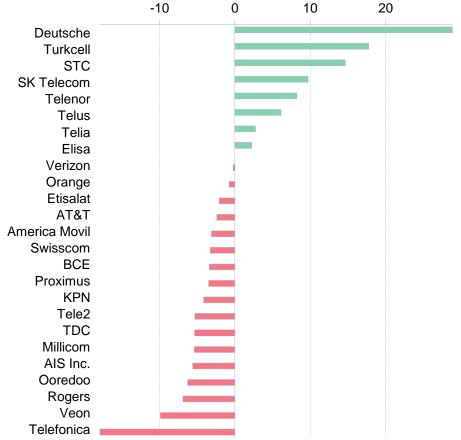
# Pending substantial recovery from the pandemic and impacted by currency devaluation, Telefonica suffered negative YoY revenue growth in Q4





#### Revenue development by operator

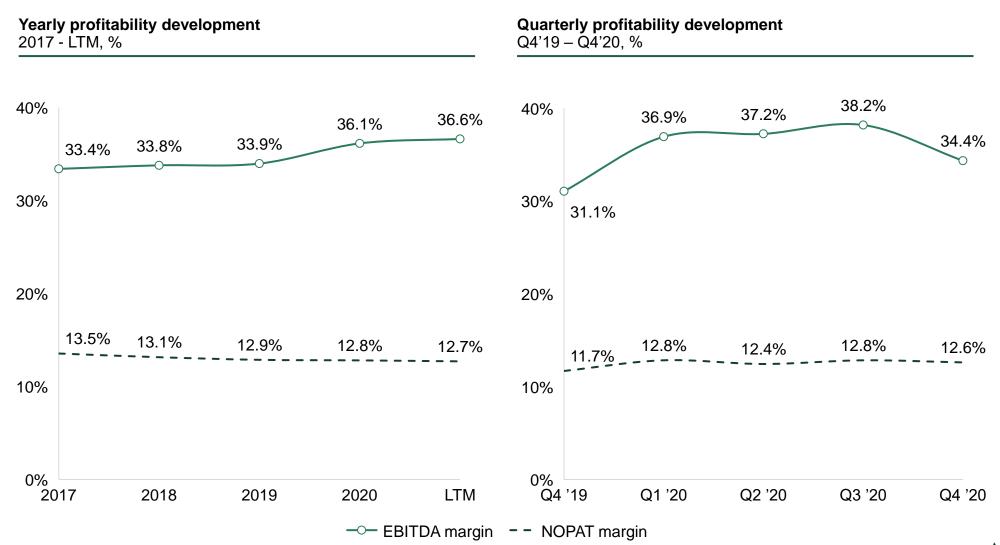






Note: The included companies differ from previous quarter. Revenue development of Deutsche Telekom is skewed by the acquisition of Sprint. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.

# EBITDA margin of the operator segment contracted ~4 pp. QoQ; NOPAT margin stabilized around 13% from 2017 to LTM

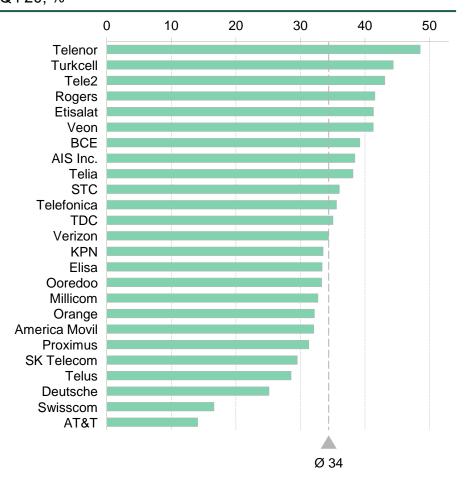


Note: The included companies differ from previous quarter.

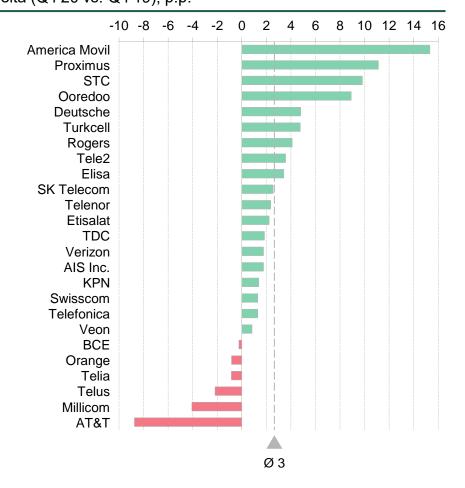


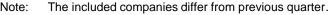
## Most operators witnessed YoY EBITDA margin expansion; AT&T's video business unit posted significant non-cash impairments

## EBITDA margin by operator Q4'20, %



## **EBITDA** margin development by operator Delta (Q4'20 vs. Q4'19), p.p.

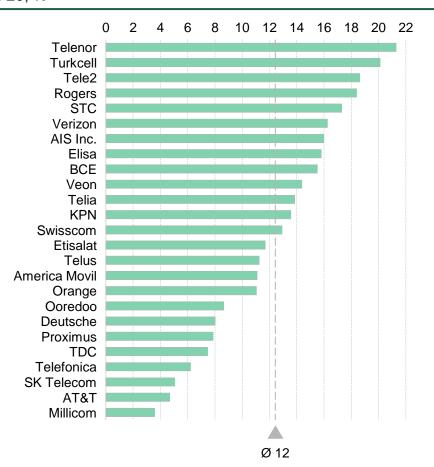




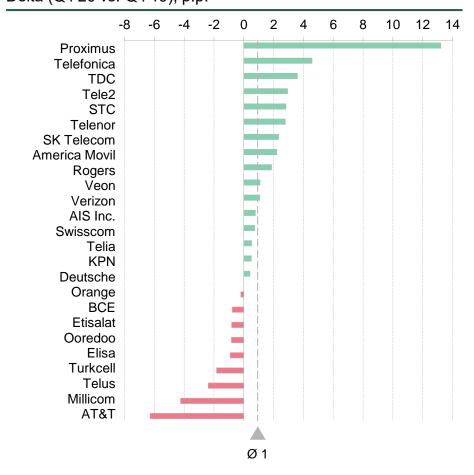


# Proximus boosted its YoY profitability margins with a voluntary employee early leave plan

**NOPAT** margin by operator Q4'20, %



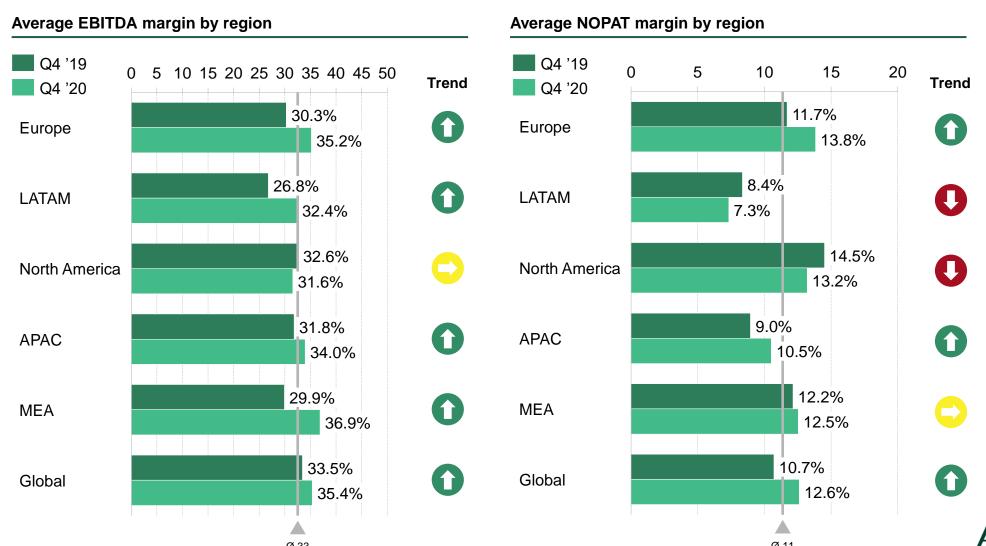
**NOPAT** margin development by operator Delta (Q4'20 vs. Q4'19), p.p.

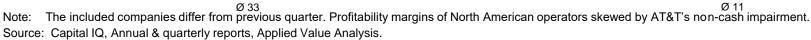




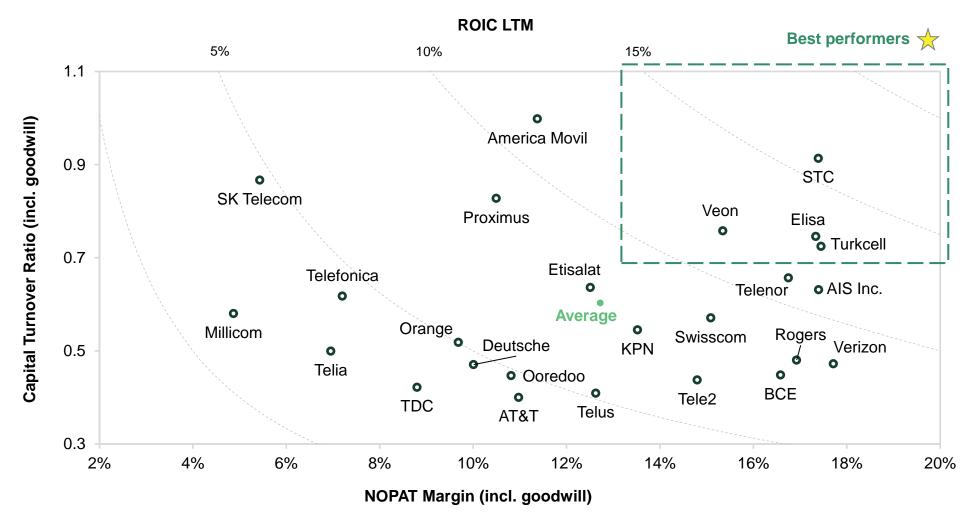


## European, Global, and APAC operators all managed to achieve a NOPAT margin improvement of ~2 p.p.





# ROIC of the operator segment averaged at 7.7% in LTM, STC leads the segment with a ROIC of 16%

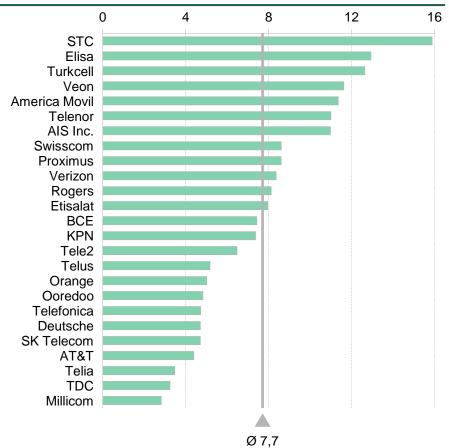


Notes: ROIC = Return on Invested Capital (actual return that the company has generated after tax). The included companies differ from previous quarter. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.



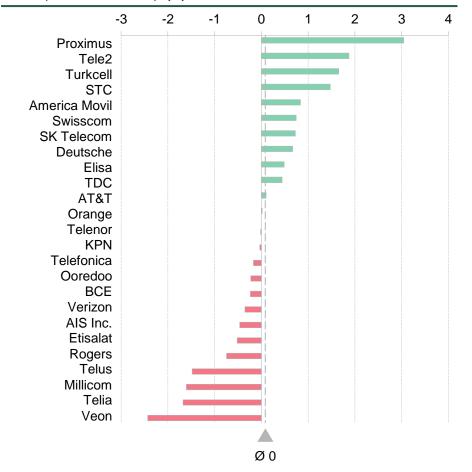
# Proximus, Tele2 and Turkcell leads the segment with respect to ROIC improvement in LTM at 3.0, 1.9 and 1.7 p.p. respectively

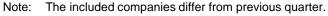




#### **ROIC** development by operator

Delta (LTM vs. LTM-1), p.p.



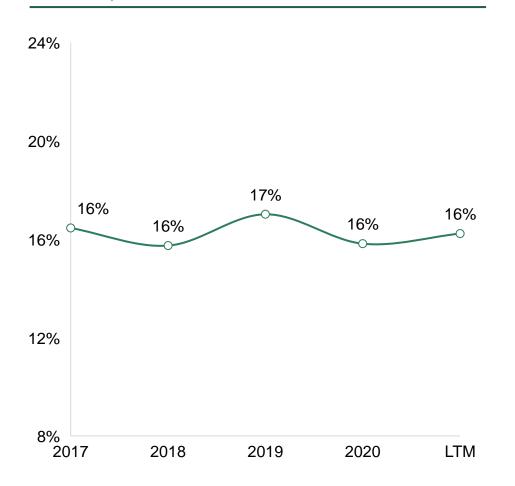


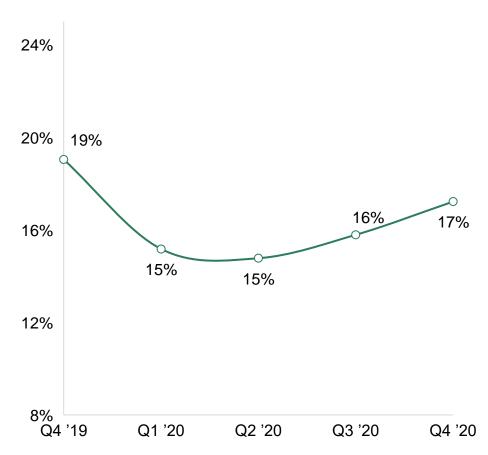


# CAPEX over sales ratio is tilting upwards, and spectrum purchases are expected to be sustained

**Yearly CAPEX over sales development** 2017 - LTM, %

Quarterly CAPEX over sales development Q4'19 - Q4'20, %



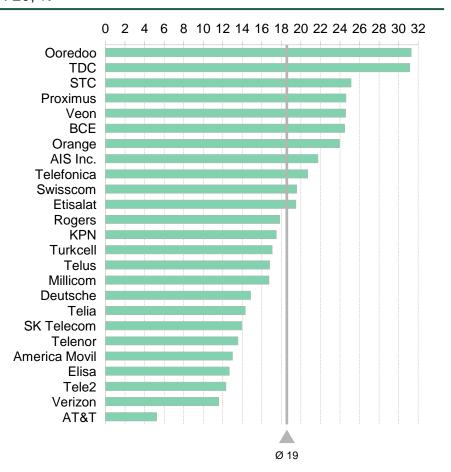


Note: The included companies differ from previous quarter.

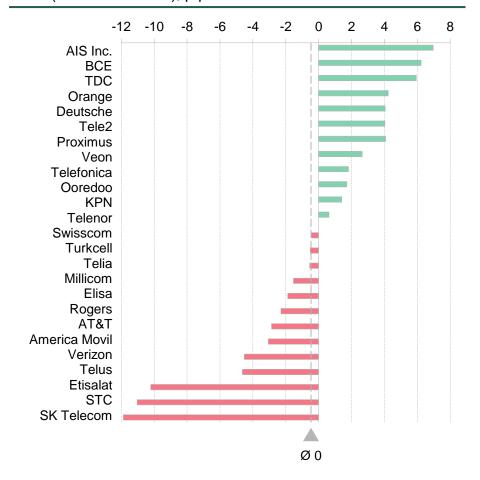


# CAPEX of operators that have completed initial 5G network expansion is seeing notable reduction

CAPEX over sales by operator Q4'20, %



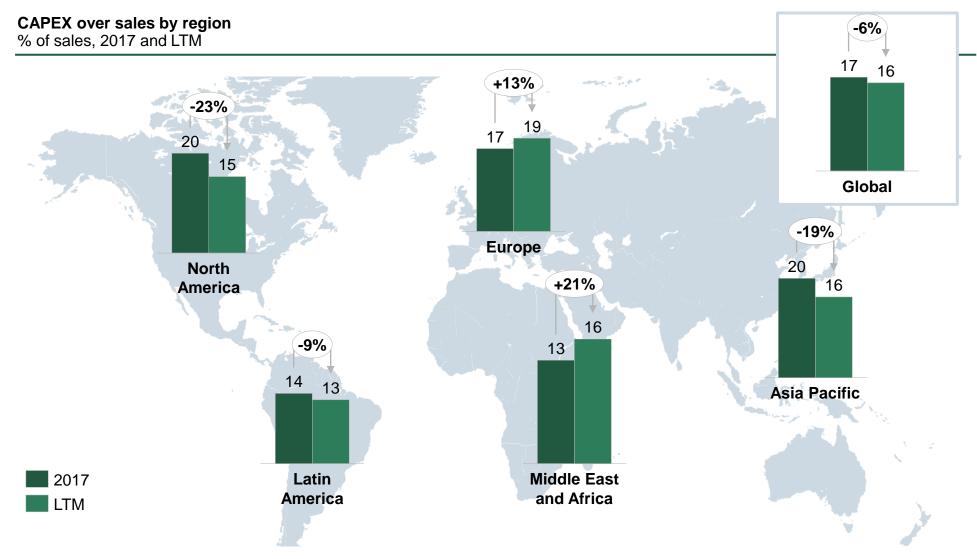
CAPEX over sales development by operator Delta (Q4'20 vs. Q4'19), p.p.







# While MEA operators' CAPEX grew by 21% from 2017 to LTM, that of North American operators fell by 23%



Note: The included companies differ from previous quarter.



## **Contents**

**Executive Summary** 

1. Operators

## 2. Infrastructure OEMs

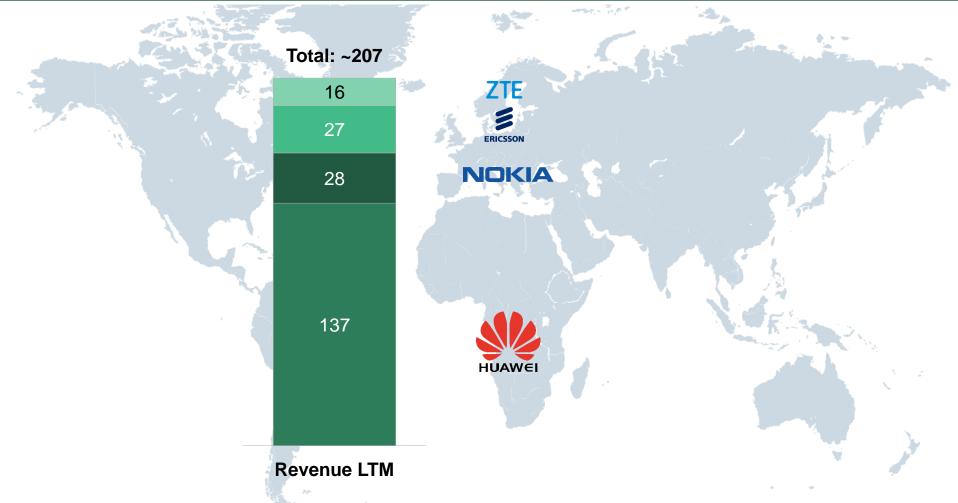
3. Device OEMs

**About Applied Value** 



## The Q4 2020 report includes the four major infrastructure players

#### Report overview Revenue in BUSD





Note: Revenue based on group revenue. Huawei LTM revenue data based on market projections. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.

## Key takeaways from the Infrastructure OEM segment

#### Key takeaways

#### Creating Shareholder Value

- 1. ROIC of Ericsson further improved in 2020, reaching 23.5%; Nokia also enhanced its ROIC by 3.4 p.p.
- 2. Huawei suffered a ROIC reduction of 17.5 p.p. in LTM due to the sanctions imposed

## Revenue Performance

- Ericsson, Nokia and Huawei achieved over 20% QoQ revenue growth, while ZTE lagged with 5% growth
- 2. Annual revenue of Nokia stagnated in 2020, meanwhile its peers' revenue enhanced by ~15%

## Margin Performance

- 1. NOPAT margin of Nokia and Ericsson improved by approximately 3 p.p. and 2 p.p. respectively in LTM
- 2. Ericsson realized 6 p.p. YoY expansion of EBITDA margin in Q4'20 mainly driven by its Networks segment

## Capital Efficiency

- 1. CTR of the infrastructure OEMs spread from 3.2 (ZTE) to 1.4 (Nokia) in 2020
- 2. Huawei led the segment with a fixed asset turnover rate of 6.8%, Nokia fell behind at 2.3%



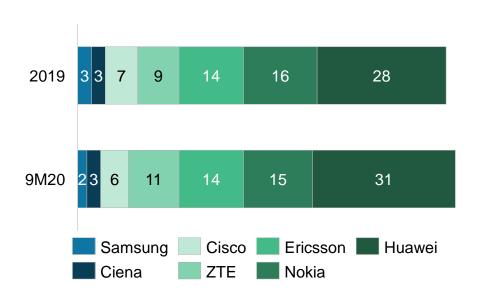


#### **Events across the Infrastructure OEMs sector from the last 3 months**

#### News and happenings for infrastructure OEMs



Telcom Equipment Market Share by Revenue %

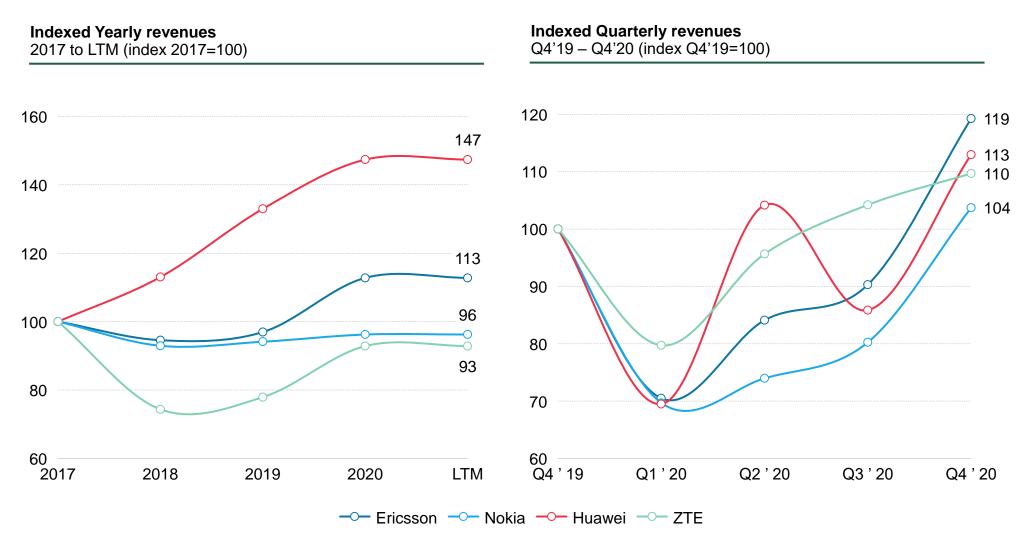


Dell'Oro Group estimated the overall telecom equipment market advanced 9% YoY during Q3'20 and 5% YoY over the 9M20 period. The telecom equipment market is projected to advance 3% - 4% in 2021.



Source: Press & News, Statista, Dell'oro Group, Applied Value Analysis

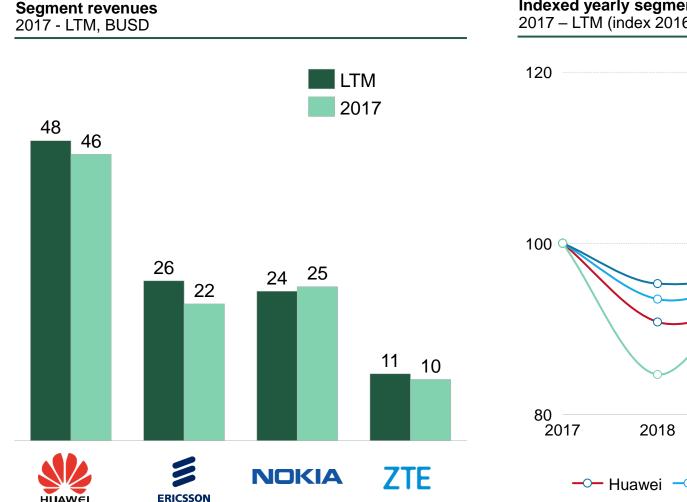
# All companies in the infrastructure segment achieved ~15% revenue increase except Nokia

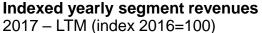


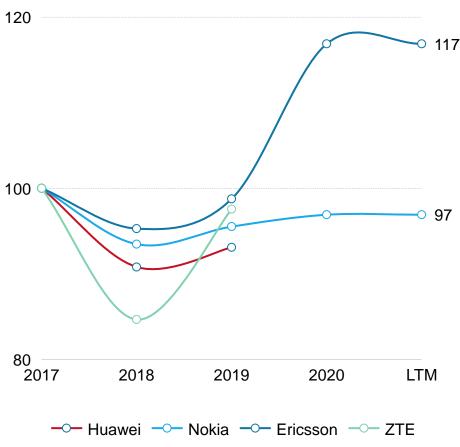


Notes: Fiscal years are used in the yearly analysis. Huawei's 2020 and LTM revenue based on market projections. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.

## Segment revenue of Ericsson surged 18% in the past year; Ericsson now holds 131 commercial 5G agreements or contracts with unique operators



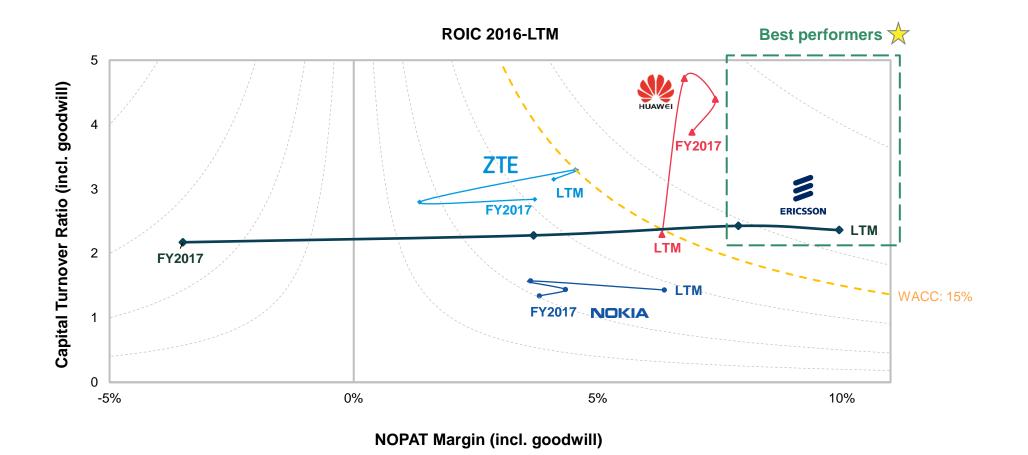






Note: Included segments per company: Huawei (Carrier), Ericsson (Networks, Digital Services, Managed Services), Nokia (Networks, Software), ZTE (Operator Network) 2020 segment revenue of Huawei and ZTE unavailable, LTM segment revenue of Huawei and ZTE is based on 3Q'19 – 2Q'20.

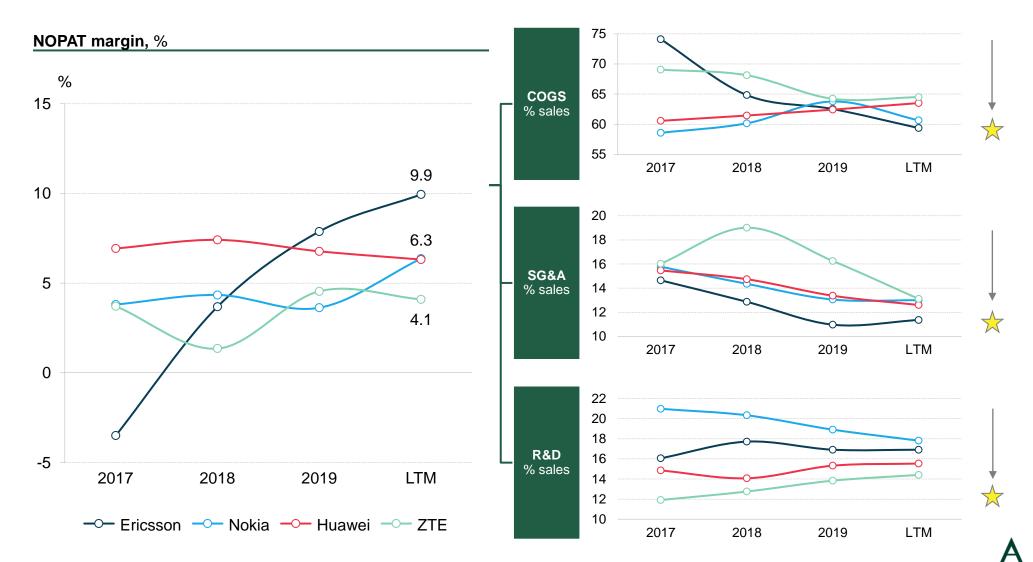
## By consistently expanding its NOPAT margin over the past four years, Ericsson ROIC reached 23.5% in LTM





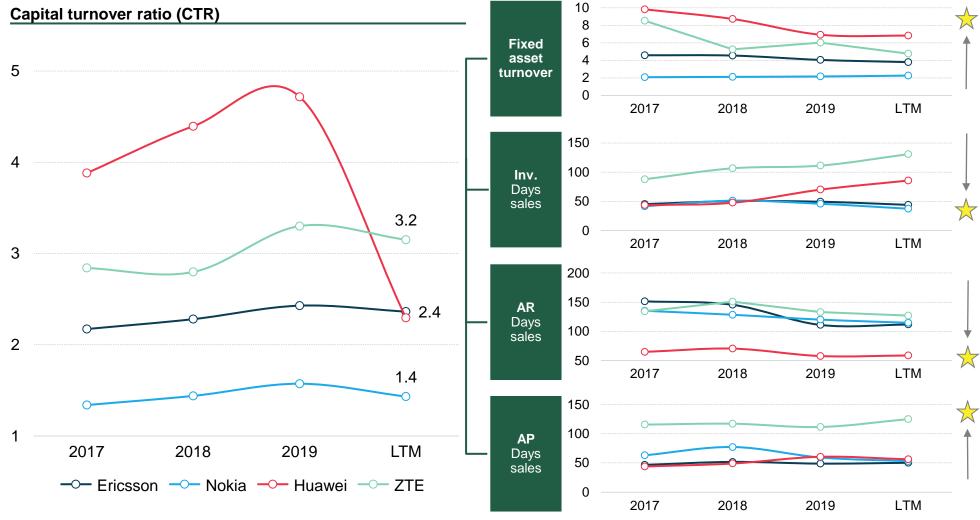
Note: Fiscal years are used in the yearly analysis. Huawei reports annually. LTM ROIC analysis of Huawei and ZTE is based on data from 4Q'19 – 3Q'20. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.

# With significant reduction in COGS and SG&A ratio from 2017 to LTM, NOPAT margin of Ericsson widened 13.4 p.p.



Notes: Fiscal years are used in the yearly analysis. LTM analysis of Huawei and ZTE is based on data from 4Q'19 – 3Q'20. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.

# Apart from Huawei, whose inventory turnover has been slowed by sanctions, the CTR of all the other players stabilized from 2017 to LTM



Notes: Fiscal years are used in the yearly analysis. LTM analysis of Huawei and ZTE is based on data from 4Q'19 – 3Q'20. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.



## **Contents**

### **Executive Summary**

- 1. Operators
- 2. Infrastructure OEMs

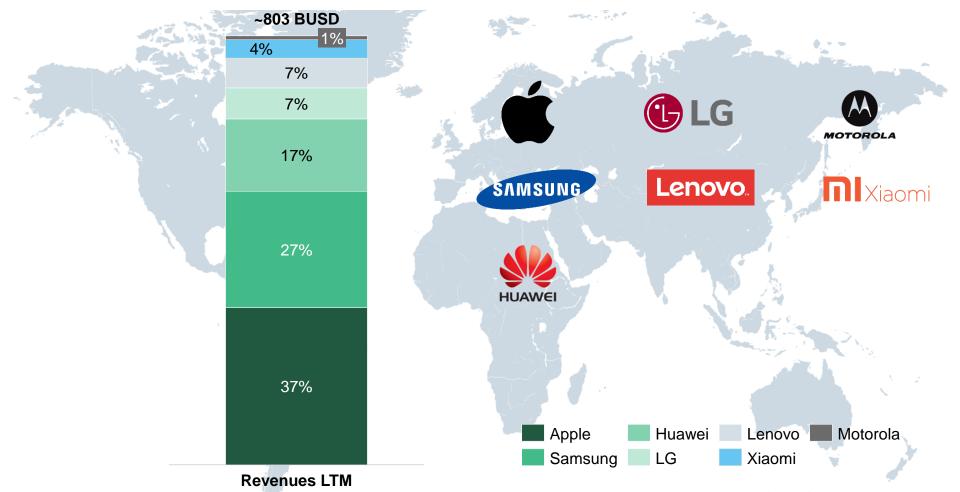
## 3. Device OEMs

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## The Q4 2020 report includes seven major device manufacturers

Report overview Revenue in BUSD, LTM



Note: Revenue based on group revenue



## **Key takeaways from the Device OEM segment**

#### Key takeaways

#### Creating Shareholder Value

- 1. Apple continues to hold material ROIC advantage over its peers at 103%
- 2. Lenovo and Samsung improved their ROIC in the LTM by 3.9 p.p. and 3.2 p.p. respectively

## Revenue Performance

- 1. With the launch of iPhone 12 series, Apple's quarterly revenue jumped 51% QoQ, surpassing the \$100 billion mark
- 2. Xiaomi had sustained extensive revenue growth in LTM, of which Q4'20 revenue reached 66% YoY growth

#### Margin Performance

- 1. Apple, Motorola and Samsung outperformed the others with EBITDA margins of 32%, 31% and 29% respectively in Q4'20
- 2. NOPAT margin of the Device OEMs spread from 2.3% (Lenovo) to 17.6% (Apple) in LTM

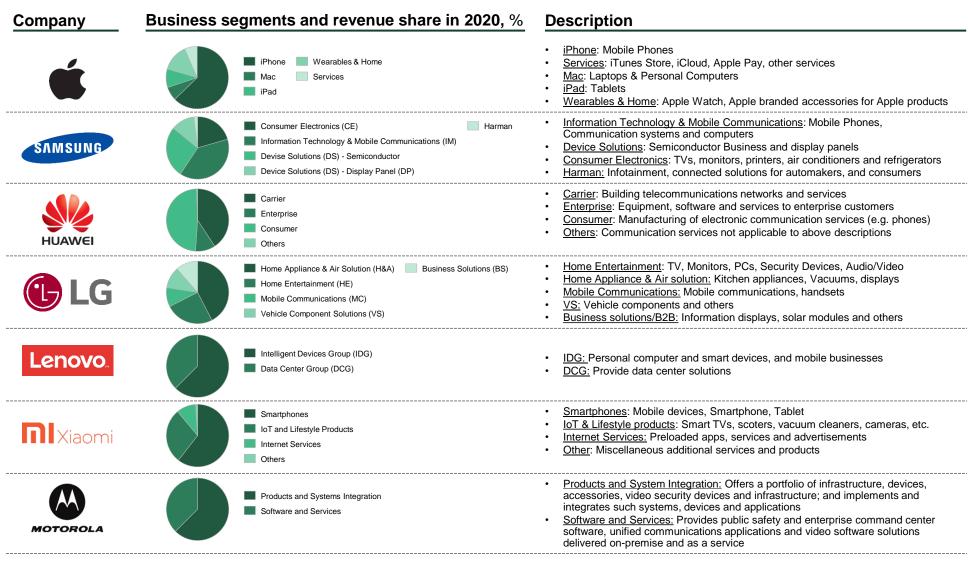
## Capital Efficiency

- 1. CTR of the Device OEMs averaged at 3.5 in LTM, Lenovo led the segment with a CTR of 7.3, while Motorola and Samsung trailed at 1.3
- 2. While days sales outstanding of its peers converged around 50 days, that of Motorola hovered around 115 days





### Device OEMs' business segments, revenue split and descriptions



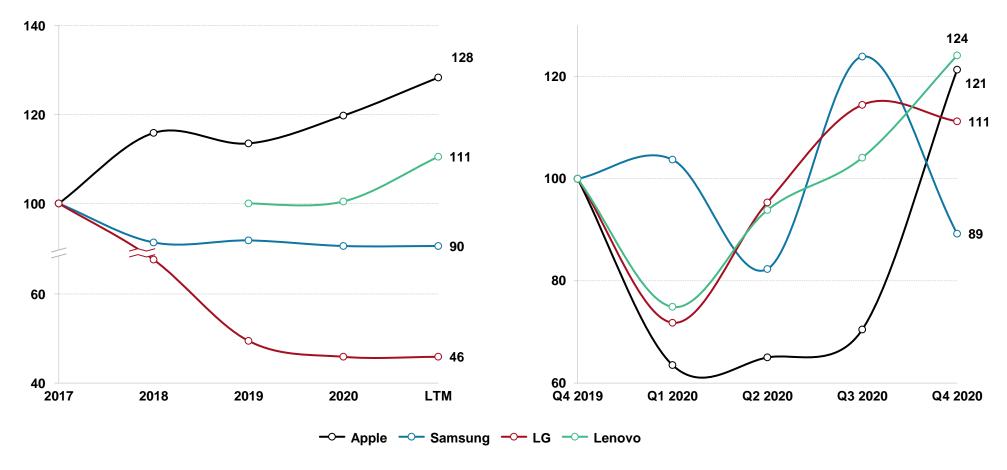


## Apple delivered its largest quarter by revenue of all time in Q4'20, crossing the \$100 billion mark in a single quarter

Segment Yearly revenue development

2017 - LTM (index 2016=100)

Segment Quarterly revenue development Q4'19 – Q4'20 (index Q4'19=100)





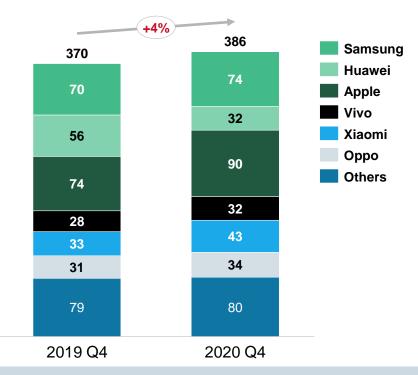
#### **Events across the Device OEMs sector from the last 3 months**

#### **News and happenings for Device OEMs**

#### Samsung and three major contract manufacturing partners of Apple are among 16 firms to win \$6.65 billion incentives Oct-2020 under India's federal plan to boost domestic smartphone production over the next five years. Xiaomi's share price has doubled since June, its value surged to \$80 billion on November 5th. The main Nov-2020 explanation is the flagging performance Huawei allows Xiaomi, which is better insulated from the geopolitical store, to cash on Huawei's troubles. Oppo showed off its products in concept during its second annual "Inno Day", including a smartphone with an Nov-2020 expandable "rolling" screen and a new set of AR glasses. LG also teased an extendable slide-out display for its next Explorer Project phone. Huawei Technologies Co Ltd is selling its budget brand smartphone unit **Honor** to a consortium of over 30 agents Nov-2020 and dealers for \$15B, according to a joint statement signed by 40 companies involved in the purchase. Samsung announced a new plan to collaborate with IBM to develop edge computing, 5G and hybrid cloud solution to Dec-2020 help businesses across all industries modernize their operations and realize the promise of Industry 4.0. Riding on its stellar performance in China and India, MediaTek became the biggest smartphone chipset vendor Dec-2020 with 31 percent market share in Q3 2020 for the first time, as smartphone sales rebounded in the September quarter.

#### Global smartphone shipments

Million units

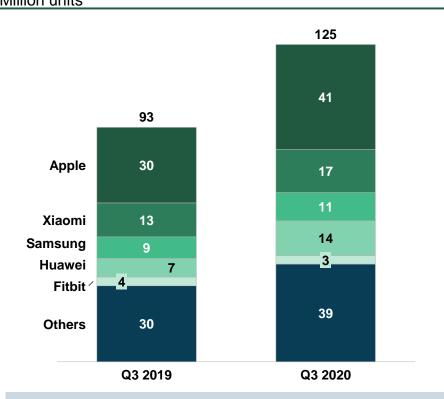


In Q4'20, the smartphone market saw a bounce-back with a total of 385.9 million shipments headlined by Apple's iPhone 12 series. Following Huawei's divestment of the Honor Series, Xiaomi rose to third with 43.3 million shipments and the highest YoY growth of all vendors at 32%.



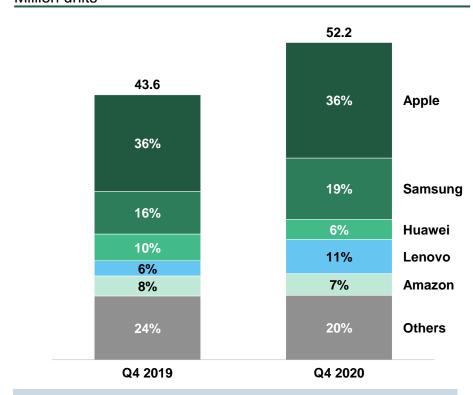
## Both global wearables and tablet market saw substantial YoY growth; Apple still leads both markets with over 35% of market share

## **Global wearables shipments** Million units



The global wearables market grew 35.1% year over year during the Q3 2020 with total shipments reaching 125 million units. The surge was driven by seasonality, new product launches, and the global pandemic.

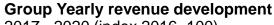
## Global tablet shipments Million units



The global tablet market has seen a 19.5% YoY growth in Q4'20, Impacted by the pandemic, the tablet market reached shipment levels not seen since the fourth quarter of 2017 when the total was 49.9 million.

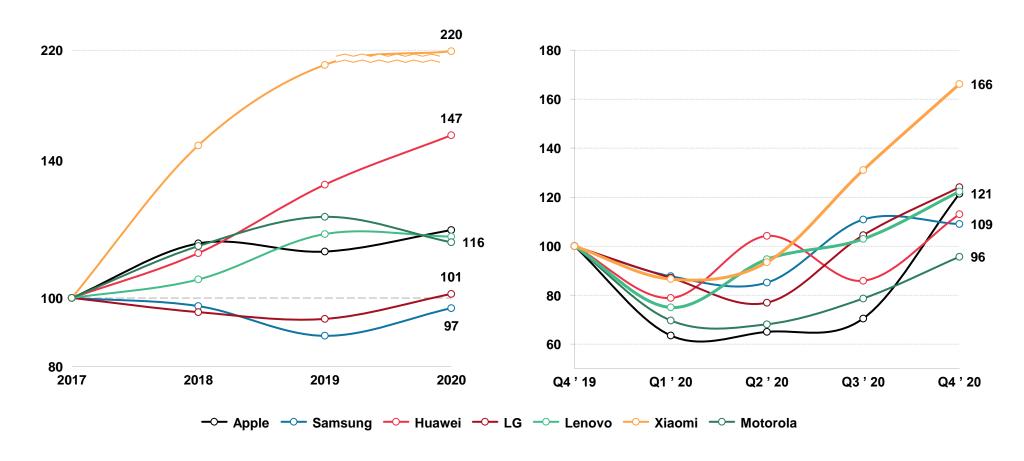


## In 2020, Xiaomi's business grew significantly in China and overseas, reaching record levels in both shipments and revenue



2017 - 2020 (index 2016=100)

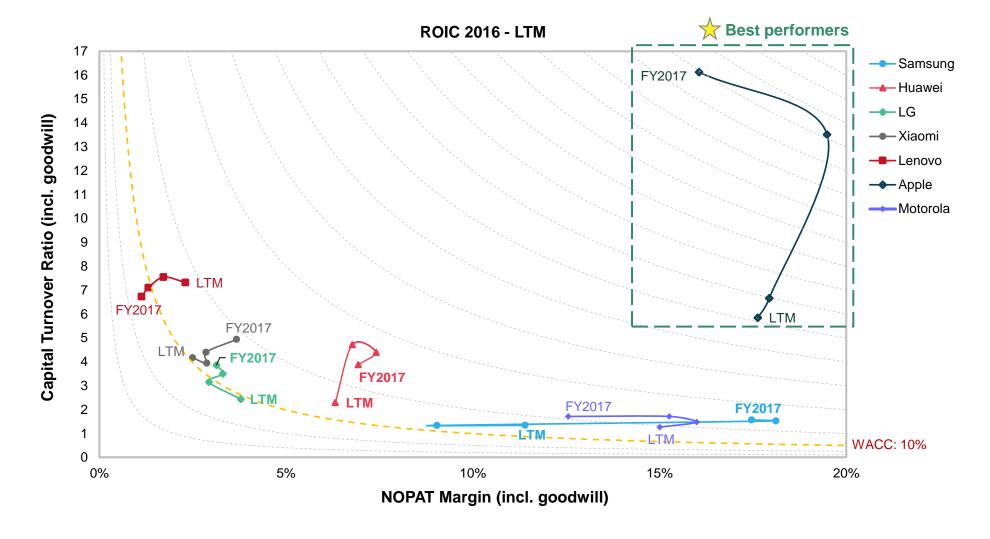
## **Group Quarterly revenue development** Q4'19 – Q4'20 (index Q4'19=100)

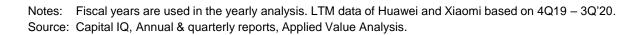




Note: 2020 and Q4'20 revenues of Huawei and Xiaomi based on market projections. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.

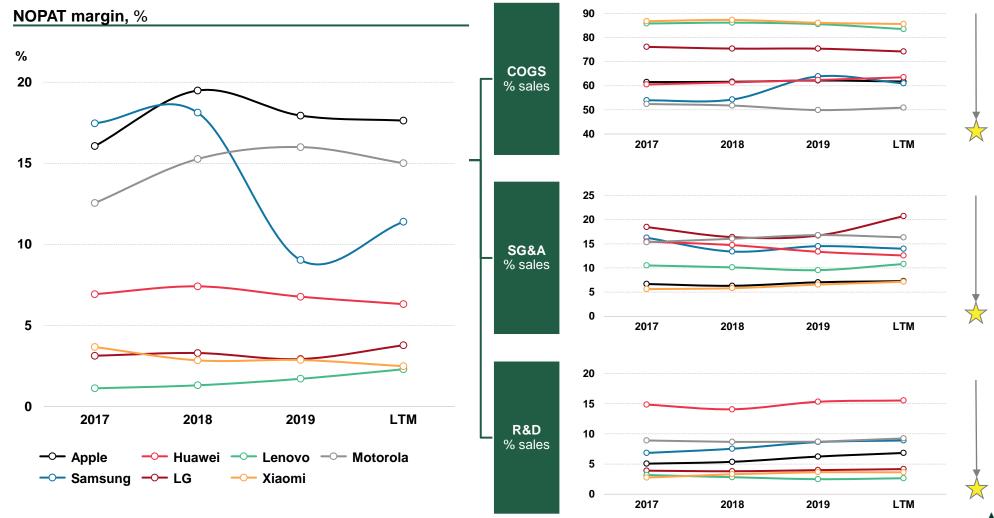
# ROIC of Lenovo and Samsung enhanced the most in 2020 at 3.9 p.p. and 3.2 p.p. respectively







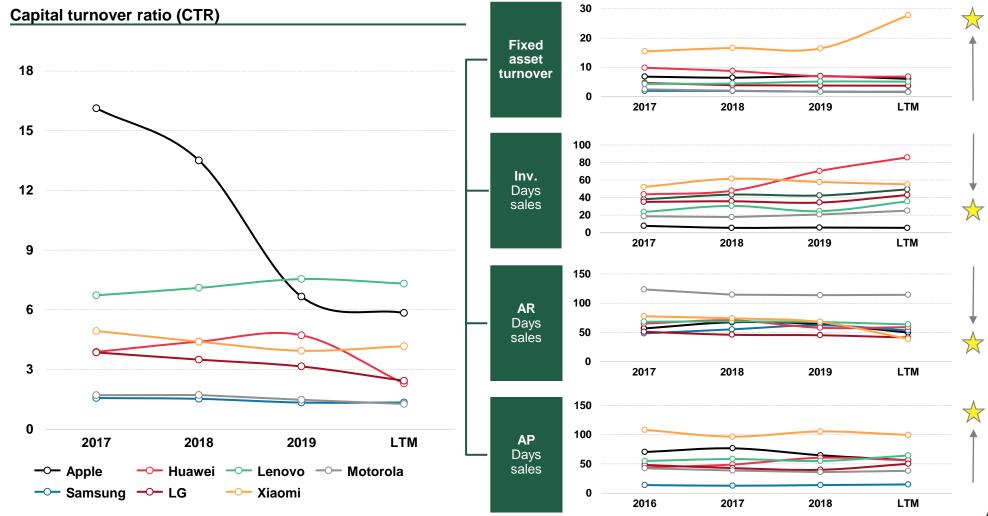
# Apple holds the highest NOPAT margin of 17.6% among the device OEMs, followed by Motorola at 15.0%



Notes: Fiscal years are used in the yearly analysis. LTM data of Huawei and Xiaomi based on 4Q19 – 3Q'20. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.



# Lenovo outperforms the others with a CTR of 7.3 in 2020; Xiaomi's fixed asset turnover rate surged over 10% in LTM



Notes: Fiscal years are used in the yearly analysis. LTM data of Huawei and Xiaomi based on 4Q19 – 3Q'20. Source: Capital IQ, Annual & quarterly reports, Applied Value Analysis.



## **Contents**

### **Executive Summary**

- 1. Operators
- 2. Infrastructure OEMs
- 3. Device OEMs

## **About Applied Value**



## Applied Value is a management consulting & investment firm founded on the principles of lean growth and entrepreneurship

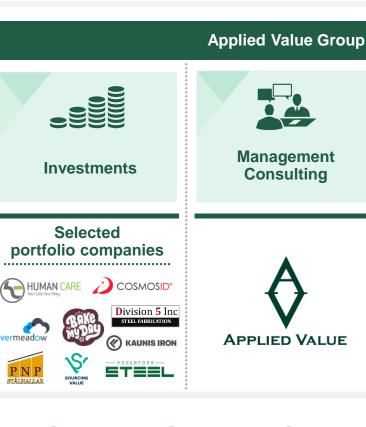




- Telecom & Media
- Chemicals & Process
- Industrials & Engineering
- **Consumer Goods**
- Automotive









Management

Consulting



















theoretical



Hands-On



Global perspectives



## Applied Value challenges and supports repeat global clients across industries from six offices

#### **Selected Clients**

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