50 CFOs to watch

Who are the chief financial operators to watch right across the telecoms industry?
Global Telecoms Business offers its annual list of the 50 people in the hot financial seats

The industry’s 50 CFOs to watch in 2015

We on Global Telecoms Business have been listing the 50 CFOs to watch for a few years now, and since 2013 we’ve also been running an annual CFO summit: this year’s is on 24-25 March, in London — see page 11 of this issue for details.

CFOs have an increasingly important role in their companies. Are the revenue streams secure? How do operators finance new network construction? And how do telcos compare with other companies as an investment?

The importance of CFOs is shown by the regularity with which they are promoted to the top. Richard Moat, CFO of Eircom in last year’s list, is now CEO. Of this year’s list, Tim Pennington is now interim CEO of Millicom as well as CFO, and Serkan Okandan, CFO of Etisalat, is also acting CEO of Mobily, the group’s operation in Saudi Arabia.

Many of this year’s 50 CFOs to watch will be at this year’s CFO summit: we look forward to hearing their contributions — and we hope that more of them will be at the 2016 event.

Richard Olaf Aa
CFO, Telenor

Before taking up the position as CFO of Telenor Group, Richard Olaf Aa served as investment director of Arendals Fossekompagni, a listed electrical utility and investment company.

He has held management positions in the metals and energy company Elkem, both in Norway and the US, including the position as CFO of Elkem from 1999 to 2005, when the company was listed.

Aa has also been managing director of the listed investment company Norsk Vekst and executive vice president for business development in Bertel O Steen.

Srikanth Balachander
CFO, Airtel

Srikanth Balachander joined Bharti Airtel as CFO in November 2008. In April 2011, he took over the role of global CFO following the group’s acquisition of Zain’s African businesses. Balachander is currently leading a finance transformation programme including Africa integration, global shared services, process excellence and automation.

He worked for Unilever for more than 23 years before joining Bharti Airtel, joining Hindustan Unilever in 1985 as a management trainee, he performed various finance and cross functional roles. In 2005, he moved to Unilever’s head office in London to lead a global finance transformation programme involving 550 legal entities across 120 countries, partnering with IBM, Cap Gemini and Deloitte.

Ajay Bahri
CFO, Ooredoo

Ajay Bahri has been an integral part of the Ooredoo growth story, as it has rapidly developed from a one-country operator to a global telecoms leader with revenues of $9.3 billion and more than 95 million customers.

As Ooredoo’s Group CFO, Bahri has managed the overall financial strategy and operations, as the business transformed itself into a global business through M&A including the acquisition of Indosat, the Wataniya Group and the successful bid for a licence in Myanmar. Under Bahri’s leadership Ooredoo’s growth strategy included three successful IPOs, $8 billion debt programs and the company’s first sukuk issuance.

Catherine Birkett
CFO, Interoute

Catherine Birkett has led Interoute’s finance department as CFO since the end of 2005. She joined Interoute in 2000 to head the financial planning and analysis department and was an integral part of the team that drove the restructuring of the group in 2003 and the acquisitions of Ebene and Cecom.

During her time as CFO, she has helped Interoute raise external finance through the equity investment by Dubai Holdings in 2005, completed a further five acquisitions (including the European hosting business of Via/PSI and most recently the Nordic video conferencing group VCG). Prior to Interoute, Birkett gained extensive experience of financial and commercial due diligence with KPMG. She is a qualified chartered accountant and holds a BA in maths and economics from Durham University.
Tony Chanmugam  
Group finance director, BT  
Tony Chanmugam was appointed group finance director of BT in December 2008 when he also joined the BT group board. In his career at BT, he has established a strong reputation for cost transformation, most recently holding two senior positions in BT Retail, as chief financial officer and as managing director of BT Enterprises. Before joining BT Retail, he was CFO and then jointly CFO and COO for BT Global Solutions, a business serving multinational organisation in more than 100 countries. During this six year period the business grew from £500M to circa £3 billion revenue. He is a chartered management accountant.

Andrew Davies  
CFO, VimpelCom  
Andrew Davies has been CFO of VimpelCom since November 2013. He previously held a number of senior financial roles within Vodafone group, latterly as CFO of Vodafone India and Vodafone Turkey and including positions in Vodafone UK and Vodafone Japan, and then was the last Vodafone-appointed CFO of Verizon Wireless before Vodafone sold its shares to the Verizon parent. Before joining Vodafone in 2003, Davies was CFO of Singlepoint (4U), which was acquired by Vodafone in 2003, and held positions with Honeywell and GE after starting his career with KPMG in 1987.

Margherita Della Valle  
Deputy Group CFO, Vodafone  
Margherita Della Valle was CFO for Vodafone’s European region from April 2007 to October 2010 and CFO of Vodafone Italy from 2004 to 2007. Previously she joined Omnitel Pronto Italia in Italy in 1994 and held various consumer marketing positions in business analytics and customer base management prior to moving to finance. Vodafone bought Omnitel in 2000. She became group financial controller of Vodafone group in October 2010.

Ivan Dittrich  
CFO, Vodacom  
Ivan Dittrich joined Vodacom in June 2012 from Datatec, where he had been CFO since May 2008 and executive director on the company’s board since March 2008. Before that he held a number of senior executive positions at Datatec including that of group corporate director, corporate finance manager and company secretary. He successfully managed Datatec’s dual listing in London in 2006. Prior to joining Datatec, Dittrich worked for PwC in London and Deloitte in South Africa.

Murat Erden  
CFO, Turkcell  
Murat Do an Erden was appointed CFO of the Turkcell group in August 2013, after being acting CFO and the director responsible for treasury and risk management. He joined Turkcell in 2001 as director of treasury. At Turkcell he successfully managed balance sheet risks that arose from global volatility, the negative international perception of the Turkish economy in the first quarter of 2014 — the so-called “fragile five” — as well as the unpredictability in two of the markets in which Turkcell functions, Ukraine and Belarus.
Erden started his career at the treasury and capital markets department of Bankers Trust Turkey. Following the Deutsche Bank-Bankers Trust merger, he continued to work for the global markets department as assistant treasurer.

Hope Cochran  
CFO, King Digital Entertainment  
Hope Cochran has more than 18 years of experience in fast moving technology companies, which means she’s well positioned to help King Digital Entertainment maintain its position as the creator of some of the world’s most popular games, including Candy Crush Saga, Farm Heroes Saga and Bubble Witch Saga.

The mobile games economy is growing by 20% a year, according to NewZoo global games market report 2013-2017, and games are the top grossing apps on mobile devices, according to AppAnnie Intelligence.

Before joining King, Cochran spent eight years at WiMax operator Clearwire, first as senior vice president of finance and then as CFO.

Thomas Dannenfeldt  
CFO, Deutsche Telekom  
Thomas Dannenfeldt has been CFO of Deutsche Telekom since January 2014. Before that, he was managing director of finance at the group’s German division, Telekom Deutschland, which was founded in 2010.

He was initially appointed CFO of T-Mobile Deutschland in July 2009 before also taking on the same position at T-Home in January 2010, and took on the role at Telekom Deutschland when the two units were merged in April 2010.

From 2007 through 2009, Dannenfeldt was a member of the T-Home board of management, responsible for the market and quality management department, before also taking charge of the finance department of T-Mobile.

Andrew Davies  
CFO, VimpelCom  
Andrew Davies has been CFO of VimpelCom since November 2013. He previously held a number of senior financial roles within Vodafone group, latterly as CFO of Vodafone India and Vodafone Turkey and including positions in Vodafone UK and Vodafone Japan, and then was the last Vodafone-appointed CFO of Verizon Wireless before Vodafone sold its shares to the Verizon parent.

Before joining Vodafone in 2003, Davies was CFO of Singlepoint (4U), which was acquired by Vodafone in 2003, and held positions with Honeywell and GE after starting his career with KPMG in 1987.

Margherita Della Valle  
Deputy Group CFO, Vodafone  
Margherita Della Valle was CFO for Vodafone’s European region from April 2007 to October 2010 and CFO of Vodafone Italy from 2004 to 2007. Previously she joined Omnitel Pronto Italia in Italy in 1994 and held various consumer marketing positions in business analytics and customer base management prior to moving to finance. Vodafone bought Omnitel in 2000.

She became group financial controller of Vodafone group in October 2010.

Ivan Dittrich  
CFO, Vodacom  
Ivan Dittrich joined Vodacom in June 2012 from Datatec, where he had been CFO since May 2008 and executive director on the company’s board since March 2008.

Before that he held a number of senior executive positions at Datatec including that of group corporate director, corporate finance manager and company secretary. He successfully managed Datatec’s dual listing in London in 2006. Prior to joining Datatec, Dittrich worked for PwC in London and Deloitte in South Africa.

Murat Erden  
CFO, Turkcell  
Murat Do an Erden was appointed CFO of the Turkcell group in August 2013, after being acting CFO and the director responsible for treasury and risk management. He joined Turkcell in 2001 as director of treasury.

At Turkcell he successfully managed balance sheet risks that arose from global volatility, the negative international perception of the Turkish economy in the first quarter of 2014 — the so-called “fragile five” — as well as the unpredictability in two of the markets in which Turkcell functions, Ukraine and Belarus.
Erden started his career at the treasury and capital markets department of Bankers Trust Turkey. Following the Deutsche Bank-Bankers Trust merger, he continued to work for the global markets department as assistant treasurer.

Hope Cochran  
CFO, King Digital Entertainment  
Hope Cochran has more than 18 years of experience in fast moving technology companies, which means she’s well positioned to help King Digital Entertainment maintain its position as the creator of some of the world’s most popular games, including Candy Crush Saga, Farm Heroes Saga and Bubble Witch Saga.

The mobile games economy is growing by 20% a year, according to NewZoo global games market report 2013-2017, and games are the top grossing apps on mobile devices, according to AppAnnie Intelligence.

Before joining King, Cochran spent eight years at WiMax operator Clearwire, first as senior vice president of finance and then as CFO.

Thomas Dannenfeldt  
CFO, Deutsche Telekom  
Thomas Dannenfeldt has been CFO of Deutsche Telekom since January 2014. Before that, he was managing director of finance at the group’s German division, Telekom Deutschland, which was founded in 2010.

He was initially appointed CFO of T-Mobile Deutschland in July 2009 before also taking on the same position at T-Home in January 2010, and took on the role at Telekom Deutschland when the two units were merged in April 2010.

From 2007 through 2009, Dannenfeldt was a member of the T-Home board of management, responsible for the market and quality management department, before also taking charge of the finance department of T-Mobile.

Stewart Ewing  
CFO, CenturyLink  
Stewart Ewing is executive vice president and CFO of CenturyLink. He has played a key role in the company’s acquisition strategy by negotiating all stages of purchase agreements from legal and regulatory to folding new companies into the corporate structure and philosophy.

The acquisitions of Qwest and Savvis have seen CenturyLink grow rapidly in recent years. Ewing joined CenturyLink as vice president of Finance in 1983.

Stewart Ewing  
CFO, CenturyLink  
Stewart Ewing is executive vice president and CFO of CenturyLink. He has played a key role in the company’s acquisition strategy by negotiating all stages of purchase agreements from legal and regulatory to folding new companies into the corporate structure and philosophy.

The acquisitions of Qwest and Savvis have seen CenturyLink grow rapidly in recent years. Ewing joined CenturyLink as vice president of Finance in 1983.
Ramon Fernandez
CFO, Orange

Ramon Fernandez joined the Orange group in September 2014 as deputy chief executive officer, responsible for the finance and strategy divisions.

He joined Orange after being CEO of the French treasury, and was chairman of the Agence France Trésor and of the Paris Club. He represented France as a member of the supervisory commission of the Caisse des dépôts and the board of directors of GDF Suez and CNP Assurances. He also served as alternate governor of the World Bank and governor of the African Development Bank.

Earlier in his career he was head of the energy, telecommunications and raw materials department, then head of the savings and financial markets department and then deputy director of international financial affairs and development, and vice-chairman of the Paris Club.

He became a special advisor to the minister of the economy, finances and industry and then to the president of France before being chief of staff to the minister of labour, social relations, family and solidarity.

Carlos García
CFO, América Móvil

Carlos José García Moreno Elizondo has been the CFO at América Móvil since 2001. Before joining the group, he was the director general of public credit at the Mexican ministry of finance, where he was directly responsible for all internal and external debt management for the Mexican government.

Earlier, he held various positions at Telmex, including the operating manager at Buscatel, he was responsible for the Mexican investment banking business of Swiss Bank in 1995-97 and earlier was managing director of UBS Warburg and associate director of financing at Petróleos Mexicanos.

Brett Goschen
CFO, MTN

Brett Goschen has been MTN group CFO since 2013, but has been with MTN for more than a decade, first as CFO of MTN Nigeria, then as CEO of MTN Ghana and most recently CEO of MTN Nigeria.

He is a qualified chartered accountant, specialising in turning challenging emerging market environments into successes. Before joining MTN in 2002, Goschen was the managing director of Altech Autopage Cellular.

John Gossling
CFO, Telus

John Gossling joined Telus’s leadership team on November 2012 as executive vice-president and CFO. Until the end of 2012, Gossling worked with retiring EVP and CFO, Bob McFarlane, to ensure an effective transition with respect to the leadership of the finance team.

Before Telus, Gossling served three years as the CFO of CTglobemedia, leading all financial activities for the company. Previously, he held senior leadership roles with Rogers Communications for eight years, including CFO at Rogers Wireless, and he was a partner at KPMG.

Arun Gupta
CFO, Gulf Bridge International

Arun Gupta joined Gulf Bridge International, operator of the Middle East’s highest capacity fibre optic network, as CFO in 2013.

Gupta has over 30 years of experience, of which 15 years have been in major telecoms companies such as Tata Communications and Neotel.

Before GBI, Gupta served Tata Communications in various capacities including the role of global finance controller, CFO and head of international business.

While working for Tata, he was seconded to work as CFO with Neotel in South Africa. He has also served as consultant to Commonwealth Secretariat in the UK and was ranked by Economic Times amongst the top 10 CFOs in India in 2003.

Allison Kirkby
CFO, Tele2

Allison Kirkby succeeded Lars Nilsson as CFO of Tele2 in May 2014, joining after being CFO of Shine, the $675 million media production company, where she played a key role in successfully integrating the business into News Corporation — now 21st Century Fox.

She has a strong breadth of consumer industry experience from a career of over 25 years spent in fast-moving consumer goods, media, telecoms and retail businesses.

Before Shine, Kirkby was executive director of finance operations and transformation at Virgin Media in the UK. That role followed two decades with Procter & Gamble in a variety of senior financial and operational roles.

Alexey Kornya
CFO, MTS

Alexey Kornya was appointed to the role of vice president and CFO of MTS in June 2010, having been acting vice president and chief financial officer of the Moscow-based company from July 2008.

Kornya has been at MTS since July 2004. He started as the CFO of its Ural macro-region and since then served at various positions in the company. He was chief financial controller from March 2007 to July 2008.

Before joining MTS, Kornya worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers, North-West Telecom and AIG-Brunswick Capital Management.

Li Fushen
CFO, China Unicom

Li Fushen was appointed CFO of China Unicom in 2011 having previously served as a senior vice president of the company. He joined China Unicom from Netcom where he held several C-level positions including CFO.

Li has worked in the telecoms industry since 2001 and has served as a non-executive director at Hong Kong’s PCW since 2007. He has a master’s degree in management and degree in engineering management.

Jeann Low
CFO, SingTel

Jeann Low was appointed group CFO of Singapore Telecom in September 2008. She oversees the group’s financial affairs including corporate finance, treasury, risk management and capital management and investor relations. She was previously CFO of Optus from 2006.

She joined SingTel in 1998 as the group financial controller. In 2004, she was promoted to executive vice president of strategic investments managing the group’s international investments.

Before SingTel, Low worked at an international accounting firm and thereafter in a public listed electronics company in Singapore.

Christian Luiga
CFO, TeliaSonera

Christian Luiga was confirmed as the CFO and senior vice president of TeliaSonera in April 2014, having been acting CFO since February 2013. He was previously the company’s head of corporate business control.

He has more than 15 years’ experience in corporate finance and accounting. Before joining TeliaSonera, Luiga was CFO of Teleca, a software company, from 2004 and between 2002 and 2004 he served as CFO of FramFab, a digital marketing and information group.

He is a member of the boards of TeliaSonera subsidiary Fintur Holdings and of MegaFon, in which TeliaSonera is a shareholder.
Ossama Matta
CFO, Zain

Ossama Matta was appointed CFO of Zain Group in June 2010, six years after joining the company. He plays a critical role in the group’s senior executive management team, determining the group’s strategy, and is responsible for all financial, investment and investor relations issues.

He joined Zain in 2004 as the CFO of the Lebanese operation MTC Touch, and was promoted in 2007 to CFO of Zain Kuwait, Zain group’s mother operation and most profitable company.

In early 2008, he was again promoted to the role of the group’s Middle East finance officer, overseeing the operations in Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

Babis Mazarakis
CFO, OTE

Babis Mazarakis has been CFO of the OTE group and executive director of OTE since 2012. In that capacity his contribution has been pivotal to transforming OTE into a competitive cutting-edge company, and critical in the restructuring and refinancing process that reduced the company’s debt by more than 65% — an impressive feat given the challenging macroeconomic conditions prevalent in the Greek market.

Debt refinancing was chiefly effected through the issuing of a 700 million bond raised from international markets in 2013.

Mazarakis has had 20 years of professional experience in senior management and executive positions, having received significant accolades: chosen in 2002 as one of the 30 most distinguished CFOs under 40 by CFO Europe magazine, and as the best European CFO in investor relations by the Thomson-Reuters Extel Survey in 2013.

Kai-Uwe Mehilhorn
CFO, Rostelecom

Kai-Uwe Mehilhorn has been the CFO of Rostelecom since May 2013 and serves as its senior vice president.

He was CFO of MegaFon and a member of its management board until 2011. From August 2007 to January 2008 he was CFO of Tele2 Russia.

Mehilhorn worked in different business units of Siemens for 15 years, starting as commercial sales representative in Eastern Europe in 1992 before moving to Asia in 1995. He was project manager in Siemens Shanghai Mobile Communication in China in 1999 and then served as head of the finance and business administration department in Italy from 1999. He moved to Moscow in 2002 as vice president and CFO of Siemens Information and Communication Mobile, Russia and then as senior vice president and CFO from 2004.

Siegfried Mayrhofer
CFO, Telekom Austria Group and A1 Telekom Austria

Siegfried Mayrhofer was appointed as the new CFO of the Telekom Austria group from June 2014, succeeding Hans Tschudin.

Mayrhofer has served as CFO of the Austrian division, A1 Telekom Austria, since July 2009 and, in addition to his new appointment, he will also continue in that position.

He started his career at Telekom Austria in March 2000 in the international business development unit. From 2004 onwards he held several management positions in controlling and accounting within the Telekom Austria Group.

He was earlier at Constantia corporate finance, consulting for mergers and acquisitions as well as corporate finance transactions in various sectors. From 1994 to 1998 he was at Voest Alpine Eisenbahnsysteme at the department for international acquisitions.

Nasution bin Mohamed
Chief financial and strategy officer, Maxis

Nasution bin Mohamed joined Maxis in January 2011 and was appointed CFO in April 2011. He was subsequently redesignated as chief financial and strategy officer in November 2013.

Mohamed has over 20 years of wide business experience in Malaysia and overseas. Before joining Maxis, he was the managing director/CEO of Penerbangan Malaysia and before that he was an executive director at UDA Holdings.

He started his career with KPMG in Australia and subsequently joined the corporate finance division of Amanah Merchant Bank. He moved on to Danaharta, and then joined KPMG Malaysia where he was head of an audit department.

Bonface Ndawala
CFO, Zain South Sudan

Bonface Ndawala, originally from Blantyre, Malawi, has been CFO of Zain’s operations in South Sudan since May 2013. He has worked in 10 different African countries in different capacities over the past 17 years.

He started his career as an auditor working for Deloitte and Touche in Malawi in 1997, and then moved into the automotive industry.

He worked for Celtel in Malawi in 2001 for five years before moving on to Celtel International and being posted to Madagascar as financial controller. He became regional financial controller for east Africa, covering Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Madagascar and then was regional director of accounting and financial systems in west Africa, covering Ghana and Sierra Leone. He joined Cell C in South Africa as the executive head for financial control and credit operations before moving to Globalcom in Nigeria.

Serkan Okandan
CFO, Etisalat, and acting CEO of Mobily

Serkan Okandan is CFO of the Etisalat group, but since October 2014 he has also been deputy CEO, and then acting CEO, of the group’s Saudi Arabian subsidiary Mobily. He was given responsibility for Mobily when the company discovered accounting errors and suspended the CEO, Khalid Omar Al Kaf.

Okandan joined Etisalat in January 2012 from Turkcell, where he had served as group CFO and acting CEO of the operator’s Ukraine operation in 2010. He led the finance function of Turkcell and its operations across eight different countries. Earlier, he was Turkcell’s group financial controller and head of the reporting division.

Bazlan Osman
CFO, Telekom Malaysia

Bazlan Bin Osman has been the group CFO of Telekom Malaysia since May 2005. Osman oversees the operations of global wholesale and support business of the group. He has been a director of the company since April 2008. He also serves on the board of commissioners of PT Excelcomindo Pratama.

After working in a number of companies, including American Express Malaysia, he joined Celcom Malaysia in 2001 as senior vice president of corporate finance and treasury then CFO from October 2002. He played an instrumental role in the company’s restructuring and refinancing, and in the merger and integration of Celcom with Celcom Mobile.

Sunit Patel
Executive vice president and CFO, Level 3

Sunit Patel joined Level 3 in 2003 and was named CFO in May of that year. He was formerly CFO and a co-founder of Looking Glass Networks, a facilities-based provider of metropolitan telecommunication transport services.

Before co-founding Looking Glass, Patel was treasurer of MCI WorldCom from 1997 to 2000. From 1994 to 1997, he was treasurer of MFS Communications, a competitive local exchange carrier acquired by WorldCom.
Piergiorgio Peluso  
CFO, Telecom Italia  

Piergiorgio Peluso is head of administration, finance and control at Telecom Italia. He joined the operator in September 2012, having been CEO of UniCredit Corporate Banking and head of corporate and investment banking for Italy at UniCredit Group. Before that he served as central director of Capitaria, central director of advisory area at Medio Credito Central. He has held positions with Credit Suisse First Boston and Mediobanca. He began his career as an accountant with Arthur Andersen.

Faisal Qamhiyah  
CFO, Batelco  
Faisal Qamhiyah was appointed as group CFO of Batelco in October 2013, having served as Batelco Bahrain CFO since January 2013. Before joining the team at Batelco, Qamhiyah held the role of CFO at Umniah, Batelco’s sister operation in Jordan from June to December 2012. He previously held a number of roles at Zain Jordan including the positions of finance director/ CFO, chief marketing officer and chief operating officer.

His experience also includes the role of group internal auditor at Edge group and investments director, capital markets at Ern Capital.

Andrew Penn  
CFO, Telstra  
Andrew Penn is CFO of Telstra and group executive, international. He is responsible for Telstra’s financial support, strategy development, corporate policy functions and the operational aspects of Telstra’s international business. They include strategy, mergers and acquisitions, treasury, internal audit, risk management, tax, corporate planning, reporting and analysis and investor relations.

In addition, finance and strategy is responsible for the financial management of the majority of Telstra’s fixed assets, including network assets.

Tim Pennington  
CFO, Millicom, and interim CEO  
Tim Pennington joined Millicom in June 2014 as CFO. In January 2015 he took on the role of interim CEO while the company recruits a permanent successor to Hans-Holger Albrecht.

Previously he was the CFO at Cable and Wireless Communications, group finance director for Cable and Wireless and, before that, CFO of Hutchison Telecommunications International, listed in Hong Kong and New York. Pennington was also finance director of Hutchison 3G (UK), Hutchison Whampoa’s British mobile business, which operates under the Three brand.

He has corporate finance experience, firstly as director in the specialised financing department at Samuel Montagu, and then as managing director of HSBC Investment Bank within its corporate finance and advisory department.

Nick Read  
CFO, Vodafone  

Nick Read was appointed Vodafone’s group CFO and a member of the Vodafone group board in April 2014.

Since joining Vodafone in 2001, Read has held a variety of senior roles including CFO, CCO and CEO of the UK operating company. In his role immediately prior to group CFO, he was the regional CEO for Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific for five years and was a board member of the listed companies of Vodacom, Safaricom and Vodafone Qatar, the group’s subsidiaries in India and Egypt, and its joint ventures, VHA in Australia and Indus Towers in India.

Before joining Vodafone, Read held senior global finance positions with United Business Media and Federal Express Worldwide.

Thomas Reynaud  
CFO, Iliad  
Thomas Reynaud has been CFO of Iliad, which owns the French telecoms brand Free, since January 2008. Before joining Iliad, Reynaud was a managing director in equity capital markets at Société Générale, responsible for the telecoms, media and technology sector.

He started his career at Société Générale, working in both the Paris and New York offices, leading numerous transactions in connection with IPOs, privatisations and equity and debt offerings.

In the last five years at Société Générale, Reynaud had worked closely with Iliad as an advisor, notably managing the group’s IPO in 2004 and convertible bond issue in 2006.

He joined the Iliad during the summer of 2007 as head of business development and a member of the management committee before becoming CFO.

Faisal Qamhiyah  
CFO, Batelco  
Faisal Qamhiyah was appointed as group CFO of Batelco in October 2013, having served as Batelco Bahrain CFO since January 2013. Before joining the team at Batelco, Qamhiyah held the role of CFO at Umniah, Batelco’s sister operation in Jordan from June to December 2012. He previously held a number of roles at Zain Jordan including the positions of finance director/ CFO, chief marketing officer and chief operating officer.

His experience also includes the role of group internal auditor at Edge group and investments director, capital markets at Ern Capital.

Andrew Penn  
CFO, Telstra  
Andrew Penn is CFO of Telstra and group executive, international. He is responsible for Telstra’s financial support, strategy development, corporate policy functions and the operational aspects of Telstra’s international business. They include strategy, mergers and acquisitions, treasury, internal audit, risk management, tax, corporate planning, reporting and analysis and investor relations.

In addition, finance and strategy is responsible for the financial management of the majority of Telstra’s fixed assets, including network assets.

Tim Pennington  
CFO, Millicom, and interim CEO  
Tim Pennington joined Millicom in June 2014 as CFO. In January 2015 he took on the role of interim CEO while the company recruits a permanent successor to Hans-Holger Albrecht.

Previously he was the CFO at Cable and Wireless Communications, group finance director for Cable and Wireless and, before that, CFO of Hutchison Telecommunications International, listed in Hong Kong and New York. Pennington was also finance director of Hutchison 3G (UK), Hutchison Whampoa’s British mobile business, which operates under the Three brand.

He has corporate finance experience, firstly as director in the specialised financing department at Samuel Montagu, and then as managing director of HSBC Investment Bank within its corporate finance and advisory department.

Nick Read  
CFO, Vodafone  

Nick Read was appointed Vodafone’s group CFO and a member of the Vodafone group board in April 2014.

Since joining Vodafone in 2001, Read has held a variety of senior roles including CFO, CCO and CEO of the UK operating company. In his role immediately prior to group CFO, he was the regional CEO for Africa, Middle East and Asia Pacific for five years and was a board member of the listed companies of Vodacom, Safaricom and Vodafone Qatar, the group’s subsidiaries in India and Egypt, and its joint ventures, VHA in Australia and Indus Towers in India.

Before joining Vodafone, Read held senior global finance positions with United Business Media and Federal Express Worldwide.

Thomas Reynaud  
CFO, Iliad  
Thomas Reynaud has been CFO of Iliad, which owns the French telecoms brand Free, since January 2008. Before joining Iliad, Reynaud was a managing director in equity capital markets at Société Générale, responsible for the telecoms, media and technology sector.

He started his career at Société Générale, working in both the Paris and New York offices, leading numerous transactions in connection with IPOs, privatisations and equity and debt offerings.

In the last five years at Société Générale, Reynaud had worked closely with Iliad as an advisor, notably managing the group’s IPO in 2004 and convertible bond issue in 2006.

He joined the Iliad during the summer of 2007 as head of business development and a member of the management committee before becoming CFO.
Mohamed Shamroukh  
CFO, Telecom Egypt  
Mohamed Shamroukh has been CFO of Telecom Egypt since July 2013. He is an experienced member of Telecom Egypt’s senior management team with over ten years’ experience at the company, spanning operations, technical planning and corporate strategy.
He first joined Telecom Egypt in 2002 as a network engineer, undertaking various responsibilities and roles before being appointed general manager of operations in 2007.
Shamroukh was appointed in 2009 to the role of director of corporate strategy, a position he held until his CFO appointment.
During his time at Telecom Egypt, Shamroukh has overseen a number of notable achievements. These include the development of the first in-house business plan for TE Group and the maturity of TE Group governance processes aimed at further harmonisation and synergies between group entities.

Hans van Lierop  
CFO, Airtel Africa  
Hans van Lierop has been Airtel’s CFO for its African business since 2011 after spending a decade with Diageo, the company that brews Guinness and other drinks, including a time as CFO of Guinness in Nigeria.
Airtel Africa, effectively the business that Bharti Airtel bought from Zain in 2010 for $10 billion, has operations in 17 countries, where Van Lierop is playing a leading role in the design and implementation of innovative revenue streams through value adding services and the Airtel Money m-commerce system.

Richard Woodward  
CFO of Three UK  
Richard Woodward joined Three as CFO in April 2010 and was made a director of the company, owned by Hutchison Whampoa, in July 2012. In addition to his traditional CFO role, he also has responsibility for Three’s wholesale and carrier services business, finance operations and supply chain logistics.
Hutchison Whampoa is now in negotiations about the acquisition of its O2 operations in the UK from Telefónica and the merger of O2 with Three.
Before joining Three, Woodward was CFO for Three Scandinavia, a position he held for three and a half years. He joined the Hutchison Whampoa group in 1997 focusing on business development and corporate financing for their telecom and media assets.
He has worked in a number of operations for the group in countries including Hong Kong, Australia, Israel and Sweden. He previously worked in investment banking.

Anthony Staffieri  
CFO, Rogers  
Anthony Staffieri was appointed executive vice president and CFO of Rogers Communications in April 2012. He brings to the Rogers organisation more than 25 years of financial and executive leadership experience.
Before joining Rogers, he was senior vice president of finance for Bell Canada Enterprises. He joined BCE in 2005 from Celestica International, where he served in various senior financial roles for the period 1999 to 2005.
He was a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers where he began his career, leaving the firm in 1999 to join the executive leadership team of his then client Celestica.

Klaus Werner  
Director of finance, Telekom Deutschland  
Klaus Werner became director of finance at Telekom Deutschland in January 2014. Telekom Deutschland is the Deutsche Telekom group’s fixed and mobile business in Germany.
Until he was appointed to the management board of Telekom Deutschland, he was the director of finance and controlling at Deutsche Telekom’s T-Systems International for six years where he was responsible for finance, procurement and commercial management.
At T-Systems he introduced a new steering logic, enforced the restructuring of the company while also reorganising the entire finance department to better fit the new company’s structure and steering logic.
Klaus Werner started his career at Deutsche Telekom group in 1994 in the controlling department of T-Mobile Germany.

Angel Vila  
CFO, Telefonica  
Ángel Vila joined Telefónica in 1997 as group controller, moving on to become CFO of Telefónica Internacional, where he led the Telebras privatisation team. He has been CFO of the group since September 2011.
In 2000, he was appointed group head of corporate development. In this position, he executed corporate acquisitions such as O2 and Brasilcel/Vivo. Other significant transactions include Telco SpA and Cesky Telecom, as well as the disposals of Airwave and TPI.
Before joining Telefónica, he held positions at Citigroup, McKinsey, Ferrovial and Planeta.

Wu Andi  
CFO, China Telecom  
Wu Andi serves as the CFO of China Telecom. Prior to joining the operator in May 2000, she served as director general of the department of economic adjustment and communication settlement of the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry. Wu has over 21 years of financial experience in the telecoms industry in China.
She graduated in 1983 from the Beijing Institute of Economics and has studied in a post-graduate programme in business economics management at the Chinese Institute of Social Sciences.

John Stephens  
CFO, AT&T  
John Stephens has been CFO of AT&T since June 2011. Under his leadership, AT&T has maintained one of the strongest balance sheets in telecoms. This financial discipline has enabled AT&T to invest for future growth through Project Velocity IP, the company’s plan to expand and enhance its IP networks; and through transformational deals such as its pending acquisitions of DirecTV and Mexican wireless provider Iusacell.
AT&T maintains its strong balance sheet and enhanced shareowner value by refinancing or retiring debt to reduce interest costs while maintaining strong credit ratings, leading the industry with its 30th consecutive quarterly dividend increase in 2013 and investing $21 billion in the business in the same year, a number planned for 2014. AT&T has returned more than $30 billion to shareholders via repurchases and dividends since the beginning of 2013.

Xue Taohai  
CFO, China Mobile  
Xue Taohai has been vice president and CFO of China Mobile since July 2002. He assists the CEO in relation to the corporate financial management of China Mobile Hong Kong.
Previously he served as the deputy director general of the finance department of the former Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, deputy director general of the department of financial adjustment and clearance of the Ministry of Information Industry and deputy director general of the former Directorate General of Telecommunications.