

Wi-Fi or 5G? You no longer have to choose

The boundary between Wi-Fi and private cellular is dissolving — and the businesses getting the most from their networks have stopped treating it as an either/or decision. Here's how Aruba is bringing the two together.

Both, not either

Wi-Fi and private 5G, working to their strengths

Athonet inside

HPE's 2023 acquisition added the cellular core

One console

5G deployed and managed like your Wi-Fi

The Convergence Story

01 WHY THE BOUNDARY IS BLURRING

Work left the building

Three things changed at once. Work moved into warehouses, ports, manufacturing lines, campuses and outdoor sites — places where Wi-Fi alone has always struggled across distance, heavy machinery and radio interference. It is no longer only people connecting, either: autonomous vehicles, robots, sensors, cameras and scanners need a link that never drops, even at speed. And the old way of running cellular — leaning on a mobile operator — left businesses with little control over coverage, security or cost.

The bottom line: *The question was never “which technology wins”. It is “how do I run both without doubling my complexity?”*

02 ARUBA'S BET

Buying the missing half

Aruba — part of Hewlett Packard Enterprise — had already mastered enterprise Wi-Fi. What it lacked was a cellular core. So in 2023, HPE acquired **Athonet**, an Italian company specialising in private cellular networks, whose software-based mobile core was already trusted by operators and enterprises across Europe. That gave Aruba the missing half of the puzzle: the technology that lets an organisation run its own private 4G/5G network without depending on a public carrier. In June 2024 it became a product — **HPE Aruba Networking Enterprise Private 5G**.

03 THE CLEVER PART

5G, managed like Wi-Fi

Private 5G has always carried a reputation for complexity — the domain of telecoms engineers, not IT teams. Aruba's answer was to make it feel familiar. Enterprise Private 5G is designed to be deployed and managed through the same cloud tools Aruba customers already use for Wi-Fi, with SIM and device management built in. Your IT team can stand up private cellular coverage without becoming a mobile network operator — and run Wi-Fi and 5G as two parts of one network, not two separate worlds.

04 WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

A layered network

The practical model is a layered one:

- **Use Wi-Fi where it excels** — offices, dense indoor spaces, guest access and cost-sensitive coverage.
- **Use private 5G where Wi-Fi struggles** — wide outdoor areas, moving machinery, and mission-critical devices that cannot tolerate a dropped connection.
- **Manage both as one** — a single pane of glass, with consistent policy and security across the two.

For logistics, manufacturing, healthcare, education campuses and large venues, that combination is genuinely transformative — and it no longer requires a telecoms department to run.

05 WHY CUSTOMERS CARE

The benefits, in plain terms

- **Coverage where Wi-Fi struggles** — cellular radio travels further and more reliably across large outdoor yards, warehouses, multi-building campuses, ports and airfields, where Wi-Fi signal degrades over distance and through walls and interference.
- **Deterministic performance** — bandwidth and latency are guaranteed, because no one else is on the network. Critical for robotics, automated guided vehicles (AGVs) and real-time video.
- **Seamless device mobility** — a device moving around a large site stays connected, with none of the handoff gaps you get between Wi-Fi access points.
- **Security and data sovereignty** — traffic never leaves the site; it doesn't traverse a public carrier's network.
- **Connecting non-Wi-Fi devices** — sensors, CCTV cameras, industrial machinery and IoT devices can use a SIM card rather than needing ethernet or a Wi-Fi chipset.

Ready to bring Wi-Fi and 5G together?

At Strawberry Global Technology we design connectivity around the way you actually work — not an artificial choice between Wi-Fi and cellular. As an Aruba partner, we can help you assess where each fits, plan a converged network, and manage it as one.

aruba@strawberrygt.com • +44 (0)20 8973 1414 • www.strawberrygt.com