Press release
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Orange Business to engage enterprises in Alternative WAN proof-of-concept projects that reduce costs and complexity

- **New trusted AI-ready networking architecture designed to strengthen security, simplify operations and reduce environmental impact**

- **Built on Evolution Platform, Alternative WAN aims to make enterprise-grade branch connectivity faster to deploy for companies of all sizes from small businesses to multinationals**

Orange Business plans to engage enterprise customers in early proof-of-concept (PoC) projects to explore Alternative WAN, a radically simplified approach to enterprise networking that could considerably reduce total cost of ownership (TCO). Designed to transform how businesses connect and secure their locations, it combines standardized hardware, cloud-native intelligence, and a sovereign European technology stack to deliver simpler, more agile, and energy-efficient connectivity.

A future solution positioned as an option alongside SD-WAN, Alternative WAN addresses some of the more persistent challenges facing branch networking, including rising costs, complex deployment, growing security requirements and the need to support increasingly distributed AI workloads. By shifting network intelligence from individual branch devices into Orange Business's Evolution Platform, Alternative WAN turns deployments that traditionally take weeks into hours, without requiring specialist IT expertise on site

A fresh perspective on enterprise connectivity

The cloud-centric, hardware-agnostic model offloads compute-intensive functions traditionally handled by dedicated SD-WAN equipment, allowing businesses to deploy compact, standardized, and more cost-effective Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) across their distributed locations. At the same time, centralized networking and security capabilities are designed to reduce the attack surface and deliver consistent protection and performance across operations.

Security is strengthened within Orange's carrier-grade infrastructure, reducing complexity and exposure. A European technology stack supports digital sovereignty and data control, while the approach targets a 30% reduction in Scope 3 emissions and a 90% reduction in Scope 2 emissions compared to the assessed reference architecture.

"Alternative WAN represents the next transformation in branch networking. It moves beyond simply selecting the best network path to intelligently orchestrating connectivity, cloud resources and security around application requirements and business priorities – while

improving resilience, agility and operational efficiency," says **Amy Cameron, Managing Director, Research at STL Partners**.

"Through our Alternative WAN ambition, enterprises will be able to achieve performance, security, sovereignty, sustainability and cost efficiency all in one," explains **Anne-Marie Thiollet, Chief Product and Marketing Officer at Orange Business.** *"By moving intelligence into Evolution Platform and radically simplifying the equipment needed at each site, customers will benefit from lower networking costs, faster deployment times, and a substantially smaller environmental footprint.*

"Just as important, we are building this innovative approach around open standards and European digital sovereignty, giving customers greater control over their infrastructure and the freedom to scale securely. Alternative WAN is not about replacing SD-WAN everywhere; it is about giving enterprises a smarter choice and making intelligent, AI-ready connectivity accessible to far more businesses," added **Anne-Marie Thiollet.**

Redefining the WAN: Simpler, smarter, ready for what is next

This open platform approach developed with the prpl Foundation looks to simplify deployment and reduce dependence on complex, dedicated hardware equipment. Orange is a member of prpl, an open-source, non-profit consortium focused on carrier-grade home networking, smart devices and embedded systems.

Orange Business plans to begin its first customer POCs in mid-2027, with the second phase of development scheduled for the end of the same year. Insights from these early customer engagements will help shape subsequent advancements. Alternative WAN also fully embraces customers' AI adoption by supporting the distribution of their data and compute across more sites, clouds and edge locations, with no compromise on security or performance.

Alternative WAN will be demonstrated November 17-19 at Orange OpenTech 2026, showcasing how Orange Business and Orange Innovation are working together to bring this next-generation networking approach to customers.

About Orange Business

Orange Business, the enterprise division of the Orange Group, is a leading network and digital integrator, supporting customers to create positive impact and digital business. The combined strength of its next-generation connectivity, cloud, and cybersecurity expertise, platforms, and partners provides the foundation for enterprises around the world. With 30,000 employees across 65 countries, Orange Business enables its customers' transformations by orchestrating end-to-end secured digital infrastructure and focusing on the employee, customer, and operational experience. More than 30,000 B-to-B customers put their trust in Orange Business globally.

Orange is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators. As of the end of 2025, Orange connects 340 million customers (including MasOrange) across 26 countries and generated 40.4 billion euros in revenues.
Orange is listed on the Euronext Paris (ORA). For more information: www.orange-business.com or follow us on LinkedIn and on X: @orangebusiness

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