Testing times ahead for IoT

By Ken Wieland

Adil Kaya, chief executive of Sigos, a Germany-headquartered specialist in network testing, fired a warning to mobile operators that they must keep a close watch on network performance as they upgrade to narrowband Internet of Things (NB-IoT).

“We have to be very careful in the next few years that IoT does not become IoF, the Internet of Flops, because of reliability problems,” he told Mobile World Daily. “There will be a wide range of use cases for IoT, with different QoS requirements, ranging from metering to entertainment and mission-critical applications.”

Perhaps not surprisingly, as CEO of a testing company, Kaya maintained that “significant investments were needed to ensure IoT services worked seamlessly across a range of technologies without any doubt about service quality and security”.

Two types of testing, said Kaya, would likely be required. First, there will need to be a focus on the connectivity and service aspects of different NB-IoT use cases. Second, for services requiring global coverage – such as connected cars or logistics – roaming testing solutions would be needed.

“It is likely some vendors will provide load testing solutions, which can test the capability of the networks to support a very large number of devices,” explained Kaya. “In addition, there are other non-cellular IoT technologies for which testing solutions may emerge, particularly those which operate in unlicensed spectrum. Interference can have a severe service impact.”

Kaya is speaking at this morning’s conference session on Enabling IoT Platforms.