



Simon Lardner

CEO, Challenge Networks

- Simon Lardner is CEO and co-founder of Challenge Networks, a Telecommunications System Integrator specializing in design, build and management of carrier networks around the world.
- Simon was previously Global Support manager for the Telecommunications company Ericsson.
- Simon provides advice to various Governments associated with Telecommunications strategy.



Biography

With over twenty years of international experience in the Telecommunications industry, Simon has strong knowledge of many of the technical, regulatory and commercial aspects driving telecoms.

With an avid interest in technology, Simon commenced his technical career at 16 where he co wrote and sold commercially his first computer program for the then newly released Apple computer platform.

After graduating from University he joined the telecommunications vendor Ericsson where for the next five years he worked on the design of the AMPS (and latter GSM) mobile phone systems, developing several technology patents on behalf of the company. He latter moved into mobile network design and deployment where he worked for the next six years as finally the overall technical responsible for rolling out more than twenty mobile networks in fifteen countries. He latter moved into Ericsson's Global management team, spending several years based in Sweden, USA and Canada. In his last role in Ericsson he designed and project managed the implementation of Ericsson's follow-the-sun Global support structure, an organisation of more than 2500 Engineers.

Simon has ongoing roles with several Government and semi Government organisations, providing ongoing assistance in the areas of strategy, Cyber Security and technology. He has represented that Australian Government at several international fora.

Now with Challenge Networks and based in Melbourne, Simon spends much of his time travelling developing opportunities with Telecommunications, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

Simon has a first class Honours degree in Computer Engineering from RMIT and a MBA from Melbourne Business School. He is married with three children and two boats.