

TELECOM VALLEY UPDATE

Telecom industry sees four newcomers and five exits

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NORTH BAY – Each year we can count on one constant in the North Bay’s telecom industry: There will be change. This year’s list of Telecom Equipment/Component Manufacturers provides a neat summary of recent events.

While last year’s list filled out with 23 companies and now there are 22, the difference is far greater than one company.

Four new companies, Kabira, SenarioTek, Legare Networks and Bridgeway Systems, appeared this year at No. 10, No. 18, No. 21 and No. 22, respectively.

Balancing out the year-over-year gap, however, are the five telecom-equipment makers that dropped off the list, whether as a result of changing locale or shuttering entirely. This follows the previous year’s fluctuations, when one new company joined the list and four others exited.

The largest telecom to disappear is Mahi Networks, No. 7 last year with 161 employees in the North Bay. Though it is unclear whether some employees remain in Petaluma, Mahi officials did not return calls requesting information, and its Web site only lists an address at its headquarters, recently moved to New Jersey.

Other changes this year include the closure of Agilent Technologies’ Rohnert Park facilities and the acquisition of AFC by Naperville, Illinois-based Tellabs. Both companies decreased in size, losing 250 and 130 employees, respectively. Cisco Systems also showed a reduction of 100 employees.

Not all changes this year involved trimming the workforce. Triformix doubled since last year, gaining 35 new employees. This includes new CEO Josephine Yuen, who “has been brought into Triformix to help manage the company through its next stage of growth and refine the company’s strategic direction,” according to former CEO Dave Whitney.

Another company worth keeping an eye on is Dilithium Networks, also showing a quick growth spurt. Dilithium moved late last year from its Larkspur location to Petaluma and expanded from 26 employees to 50.