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Verizon Shakeup Puts John Stratton in Charge of Wireless Biz

BY DAMON POETER FEBRUARY 18, 2015 08:59PM EST 0 COMMENTS

An executive shakeup has Stratton replacing Daniel Mead at the country's largest wireless service provider.

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An executive shakeup at Verizon has John Stratton replacing Daniel Mead as head of the wireless and wireline businesses at the country's largest wireless service provider.

Verizon Communications announced the reorganization in a Form 8-K filed Tuesday with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mead, 61, served as a Verizon executive vice president and CEO of Verizon Wireless, the Verizon Communications subsidiary that

originated as a joint venture with Vodafone and has its own separate operational structure. Now that Verizon has full control over Verizon Wireless, it seems the plan is to fold the subsidiary more fully into the parent corporation.

That's reflected in the fact that Stratton, 53, isn't being named CEO of Verizon Wireless, though he'll have roughly the same responsibilities as Mead, whom the SEC filing said will retire.

Verizon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Stratton, formerly in charge of Verizon's Global Enterprise and Consumer Wireline businesses, will assume "a new role as executive vice president and president of operations, with operational responsibility for Verizon's wireless and wireline businesses," the filing said.

Stratton will report to Verizon chairman and CEO Lowell McAdam.

Mead has been named president of strategic initiatives and will be responsible for "directing the transfer of Verizon's wireline operations in California, Florida and Texas to Frontier Communications Corporation," according to the filing. After completing that task and other strategic initiatives, Mead "expects to retire."

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Damon Poeter got his start in journalism working for the English-language daily newspaper The Nation in Bangkok, Thailand. He covered everything from local news to sports and entertainment before settling on technology in the mid-2000s. Prior to joining PCMag, Damon worked at CRN and the Gilroy Dispatch. He has also written for the San Francisco Chronicle and Japan Times, among other newspapers and periodicals.
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