Nicola (Nicki) Palmer  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Network Engineering Officer

Nicola (Nicki) Palmer is senior vice president/chief network engineering officer and head of wireless networks for Verizon, the largest wireless company in the United States. She is responsible for operations, engineering and continuous enhancements of the nation's largest and most reliable 4G LTE wireless network, the company's 5G residential broadband and 5G mobile network deployments, and execution of the fiber network strategy.

Palmer began her career at Bell Atlantic in 1990 and has held a number of leadership positions in engineering, operations, and program management supporting advanced data and IP products. Among many highlights throughout her career at Verizon and its predecessors, she was responsible for the planning, design and operation of global voice, data and IP networks, and also led the engineering and operations of the nation's premier fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network, which powers Verizon's FiOS data and TV services.

She is active in a number of organizations including the National Academy Foundation, and is a passionate advocate for promoting education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), especially for young women. She has been recognized by Fierce Wireless as one of the industry Women to Watch in 2016, a Top 100 CIO/CTO Leaders in STEM by STEMCONNECTOR, and as one of the Most Influential Women in Wireless in both 2012 and 2013.

Palmer earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Penn State University and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School. She resides in New Jersey with her husband and three children.

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