

Enabling the metaverse with 5G

Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.

@QCOMResearch



Delivering on the 5G vision

Where virtually everyone and everything is intelligently connected

5G

5G Positioning

Advanced MIMO

Mobile mmWave

Wide-area IoT

Industrial 5G Networks
Industrial Precise Positioning

AI-enabled Air Interface

Automotive

Enabling the Metaverse

Green Networks

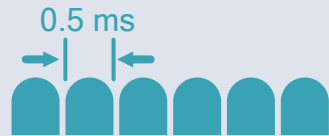
5G is built for low-latency and high reliability applications like XR

Our fundamental research has been contributed to 3GPP

Shorter time slots



Low-band

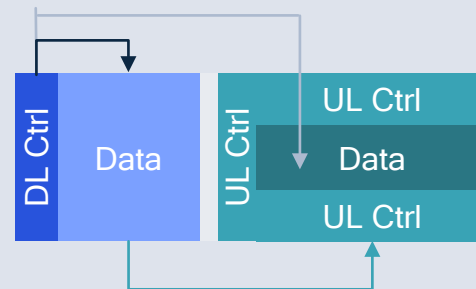


Mid-band

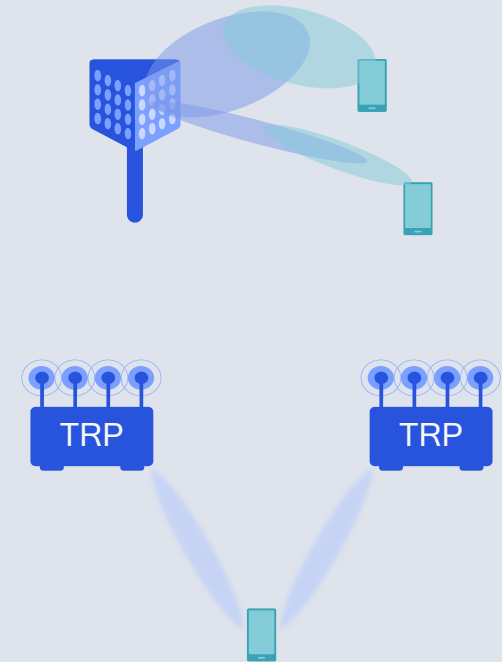


mmWave

Fast processing times







Reliable beam forming






VR

Consumer


-  Fitness
-  Gaming
-  Social
-  Sports / concerts






-  Entertainment
-  Navigation
-  Shopping

AR

Enterprise

-  Corporate training
-  Education
-  Medical



-  Infinite desktop
-  Instructions
-  Remote assistance

Metaverse

Persistent spatial internet with personalized digital experiences

Spans both physical and virtual worlds

Shared virtual space in VR today, evolving to digitally enhanced physical space with AR & MR



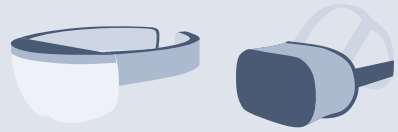
Metaverse



Your ticket to the metaverse

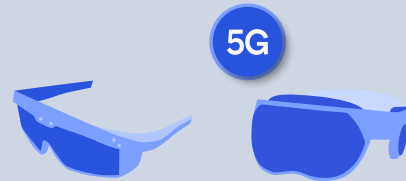
Snapdragon is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries.

XR is evolving to be the next computing platform



Standalone
VR and AR

Today



Standalone
VR and AR

1 - 4 years

AR Viewer
Cabled

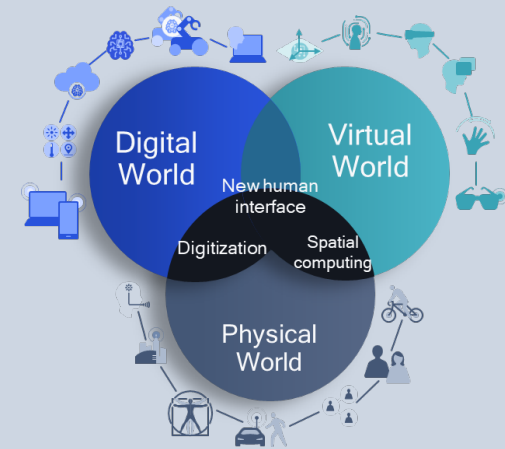


AR Viewer
Wireless

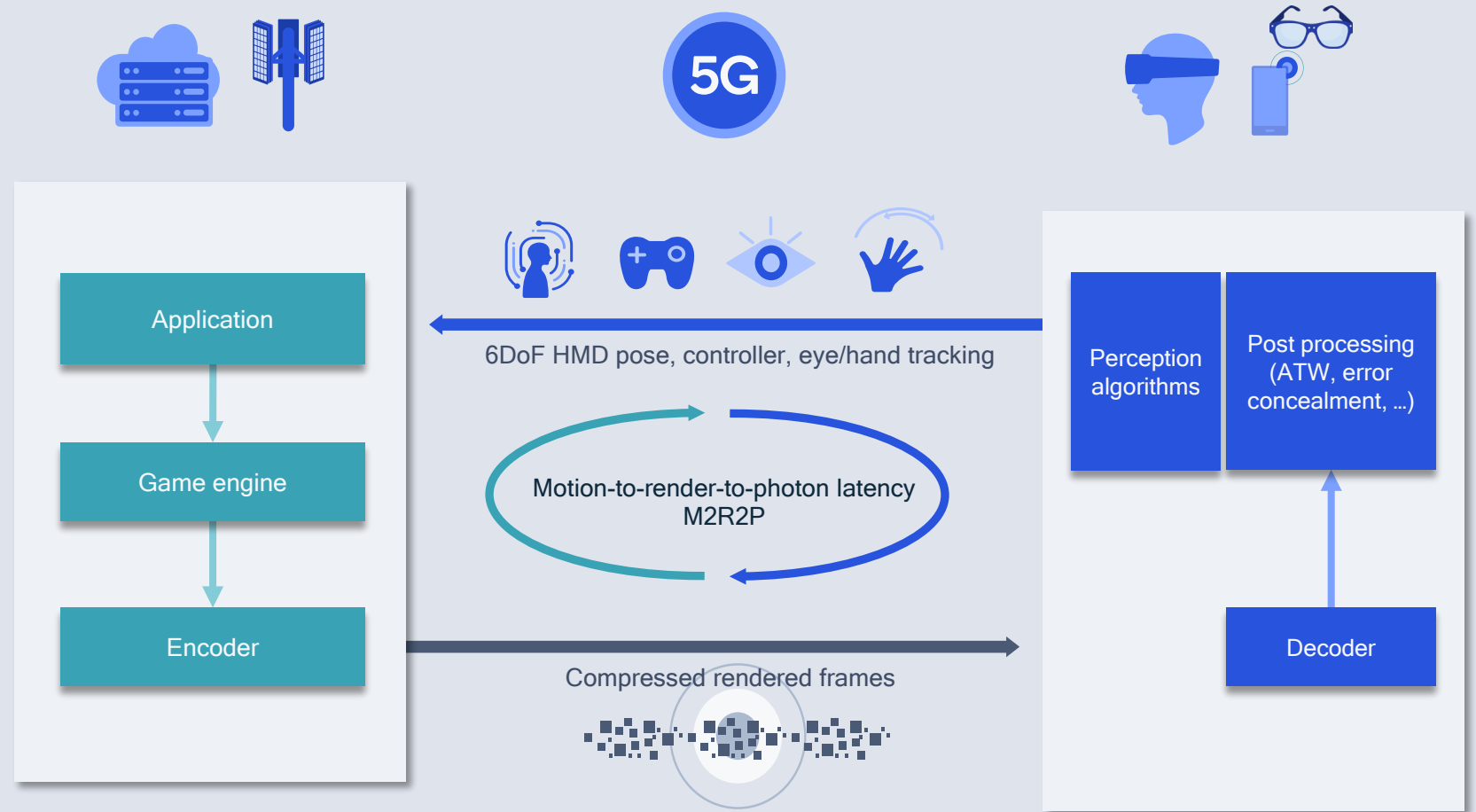


The
"Next Platform"

6G Metaverse



A distributed compute architecture enables rich XR user experience



M2R2P = Edge processing + 5G round-trip time + Device processing



Edge cloud server

Graphics rendering

5G mmWave antenna

mmWave NSA (n261, B48)
Ericsson 5G network

5G XR headset

Snapdragon® XR2 Platform
Snapdragon X55 5G Modem-RF System

Snapdragon is a product of Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its subsidiaries. M2R2P: Motion-to-Render-to-Photon

Boundless VR 5G operator trials

Ready for deployments in private networks

Device optimizations
with 25% tail
latency improvements

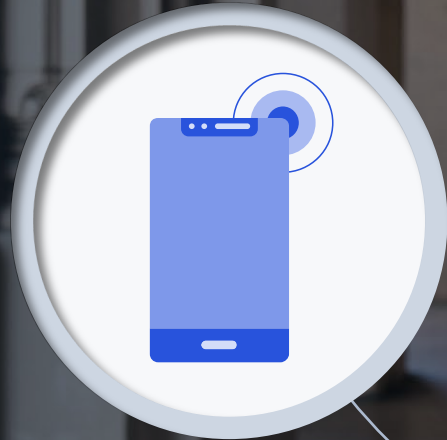
Less than 20ms
5G round-trip time

Less than
70ms M2R2P latency

Boundless AR



Cloud server

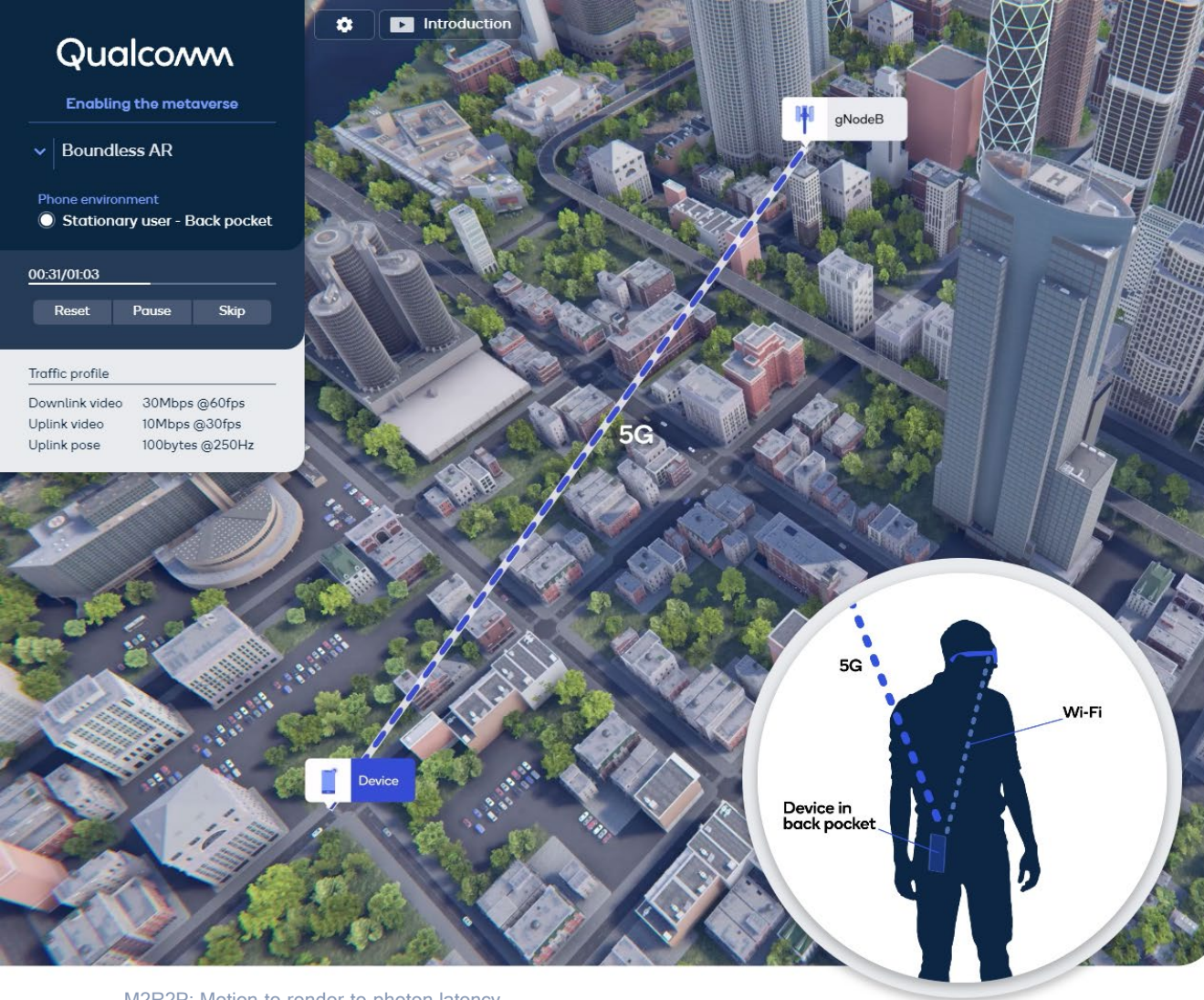


Smartphone

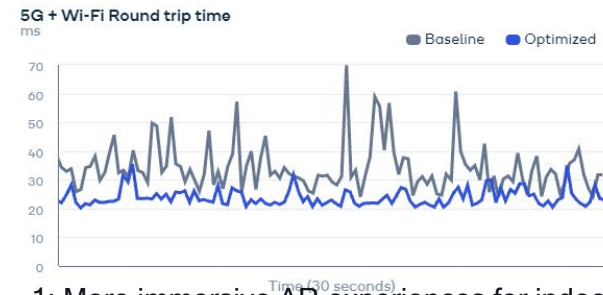
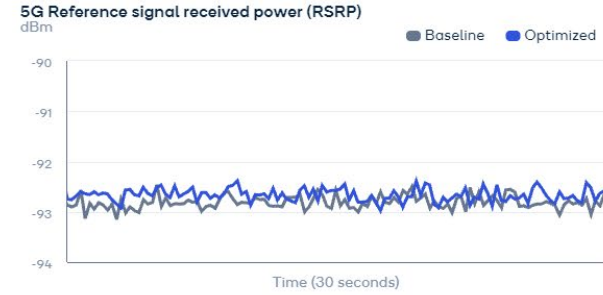


AR glasses





Real time metrics Summary metrics



1: More immersive AR experiences for indoor applications require less than 20 ms round-trip time.

Device optimizations with 38% tail latency improvements
Less than 30ms 5G + Wi-Fi round-trip times¹
Target 50-100ms M2R2P
[Demo video](#)

M2R2P: Motion-to-render-to-photon latency

Cloud-to-phone-to-AR glasses

Targets wide area deployments





Edge cloud



5G NR



Enabling 5G-powered AR glasses

¹ For example, using Application Data Unit (ADU) Error Rate and Delay Budget vs. Packet Error Rate (PER) and Packet Delay Budget (PDB)



Optimized edge processing

Migration from central cloud to local edge



Improved Infra schedulers¹

Delay aware schedulers to meet latency QoS



Low-power, low-latency 5G

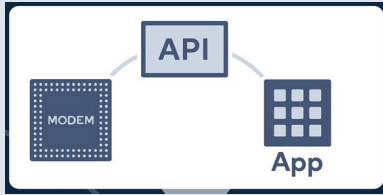
3GPP based features



5G modem APIs

Enabling low latency on-device optimizations

Enabling applications to adapt to RF/network conditions



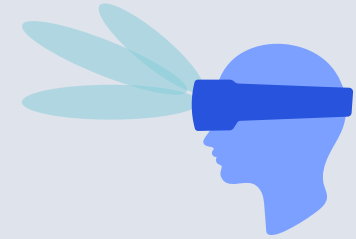
5G modem API
to support low-latency
application requirements

Packet
prioritization

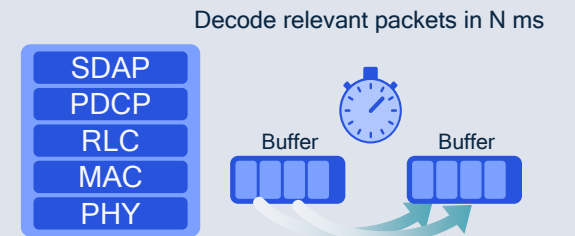


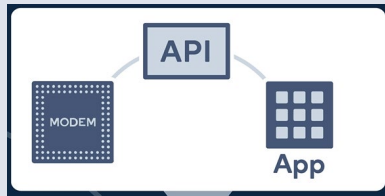
Higher priority
Lower priority

Better beam
management for
improved reliability



Dynamic packet
processing on 5G
protocol stack





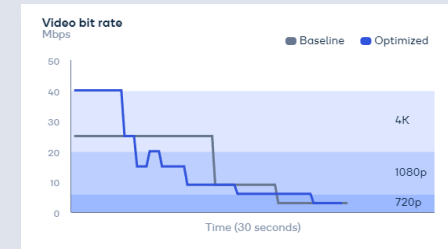
5G modem API for improved application adaptation and UX

Demo video

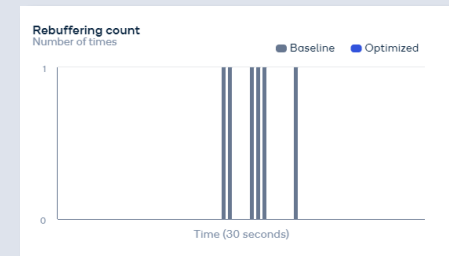
Improved video quality



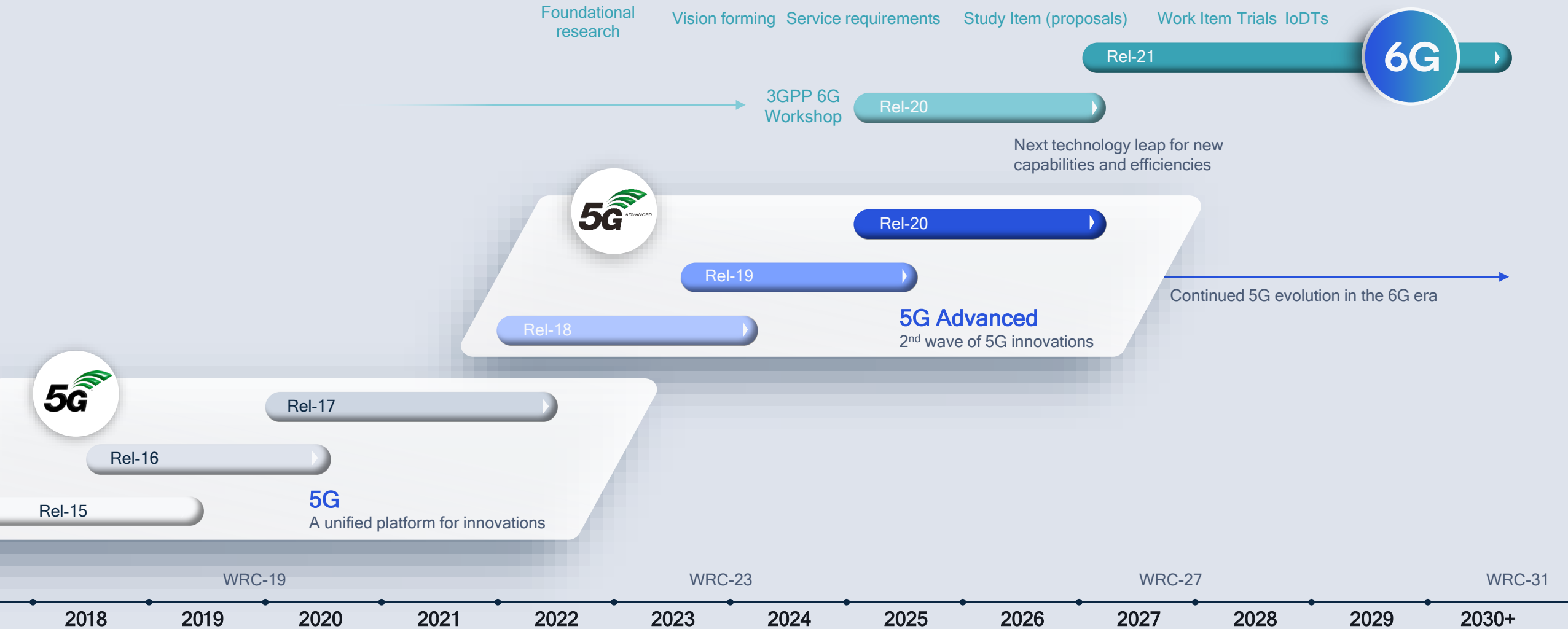
Faster rate adaptation



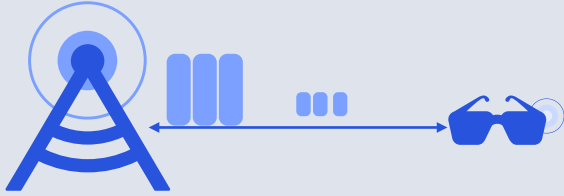
Less stuttering



3GPP is developing 5G Advanced on the path to 6G



Rel-15/16: Low power modes



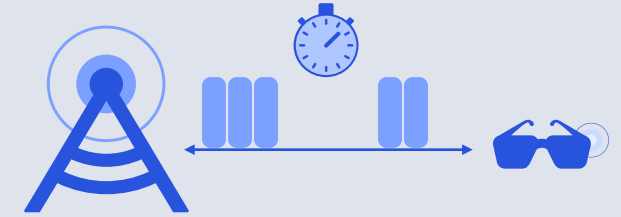
- **Bandwidth part:** Reduce BW if no/low data
- **Scell dormancy:** Switch to low power if no data
- **Cross-slot scheduling:** Gap between control and data for sleep.

Rel-16: Uplink enhancements



- **UL configured grant:** Handle periodic traffic
- **Slot aggregation:** Reduce HARQ latencies
- **UL skipping:** Save power if no data

Rel-17: XR burst handling



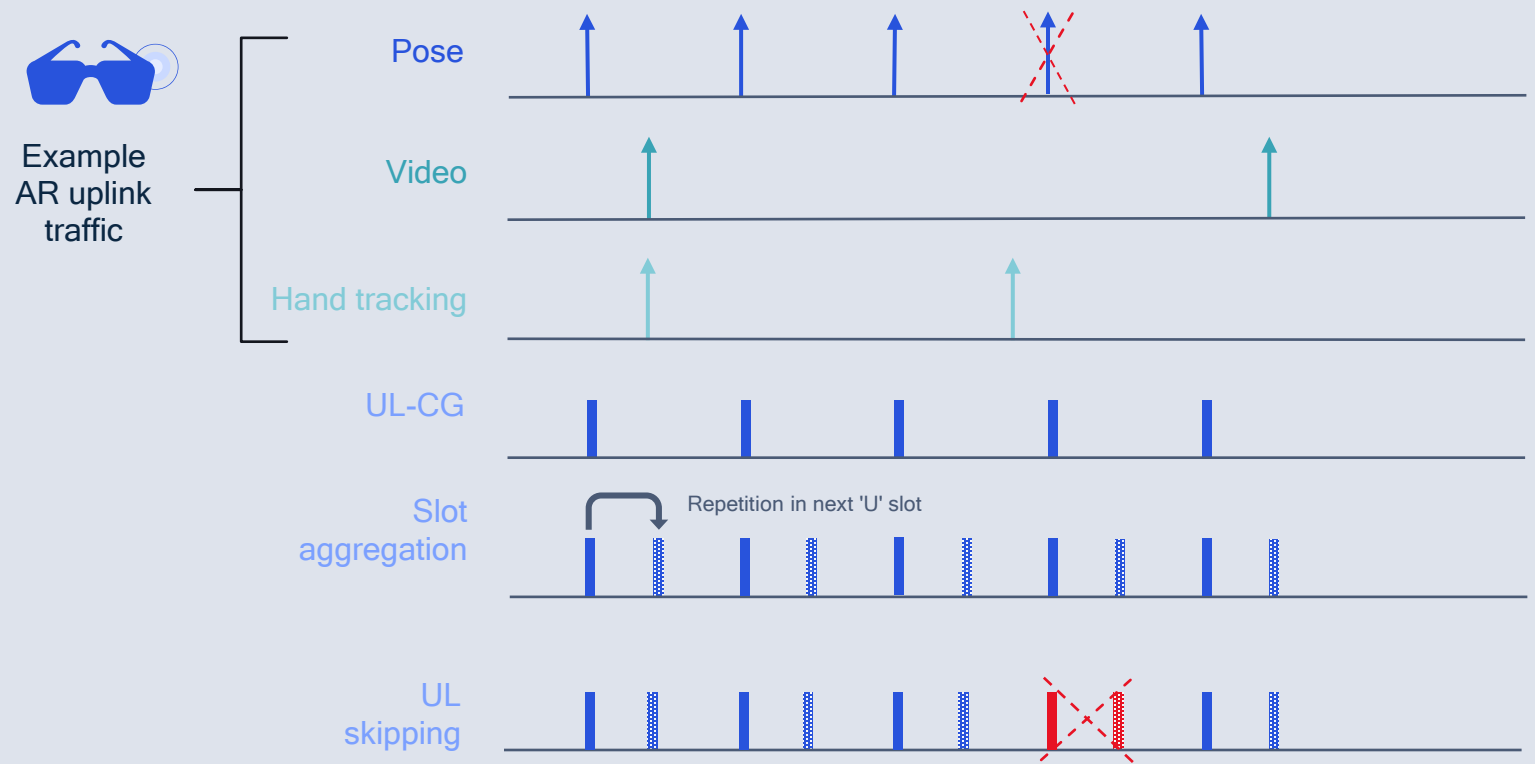
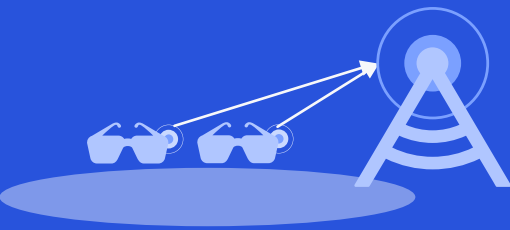
- **PDCCH skipping:** Faster transition to sleep after XR burst

PDCCH: Physical Downlink Control Channel; UL: Uplink; Scell: Secondary cell; HARQ: Hybrid Automatic Repeat Request

3GPP enhancements for XR device latency and power efficiency

Rel-16 provides better handling of uplink XR traffic

Reduces latency and device power consumption



UL Configured Grant (UL-CG)

Periodic resources for low latency traffic

Slot aggregation

Improves reliability and reduces HARQ latencies

Uplink skipping

Skip UL grants when no data and save power



**Rel-17 Reduced Capability
(NR-Light)
can enable a category of
low-power AR glasses**



Lower data rates



Reduced power
consumption



Lower device
complexity

Narrower bandwidths
20 MHz in sub-7

Fewer receive antennas
1-2 Rx

No carrier aggregation or
dual connectivity

Lower order modulation
(256-QAM optional)

Half-duplex

Further improving XR experience with 5G Advanced

Align transmission to multimedia cadence

Enhanced CDRX and
configured grant

Sleep after low latency uplink transmission

Retransmission-less
configured grant



Release-18 proposals

Lower latency
Lower power
Higher capacity

Low latency mobility

Using L1/L2 signaling
for handoffs

QoS based on multimedia payload

Define QoS based on
PDU sets

Staggering UE traffic arrivals at gNodeB

Improved scheduler

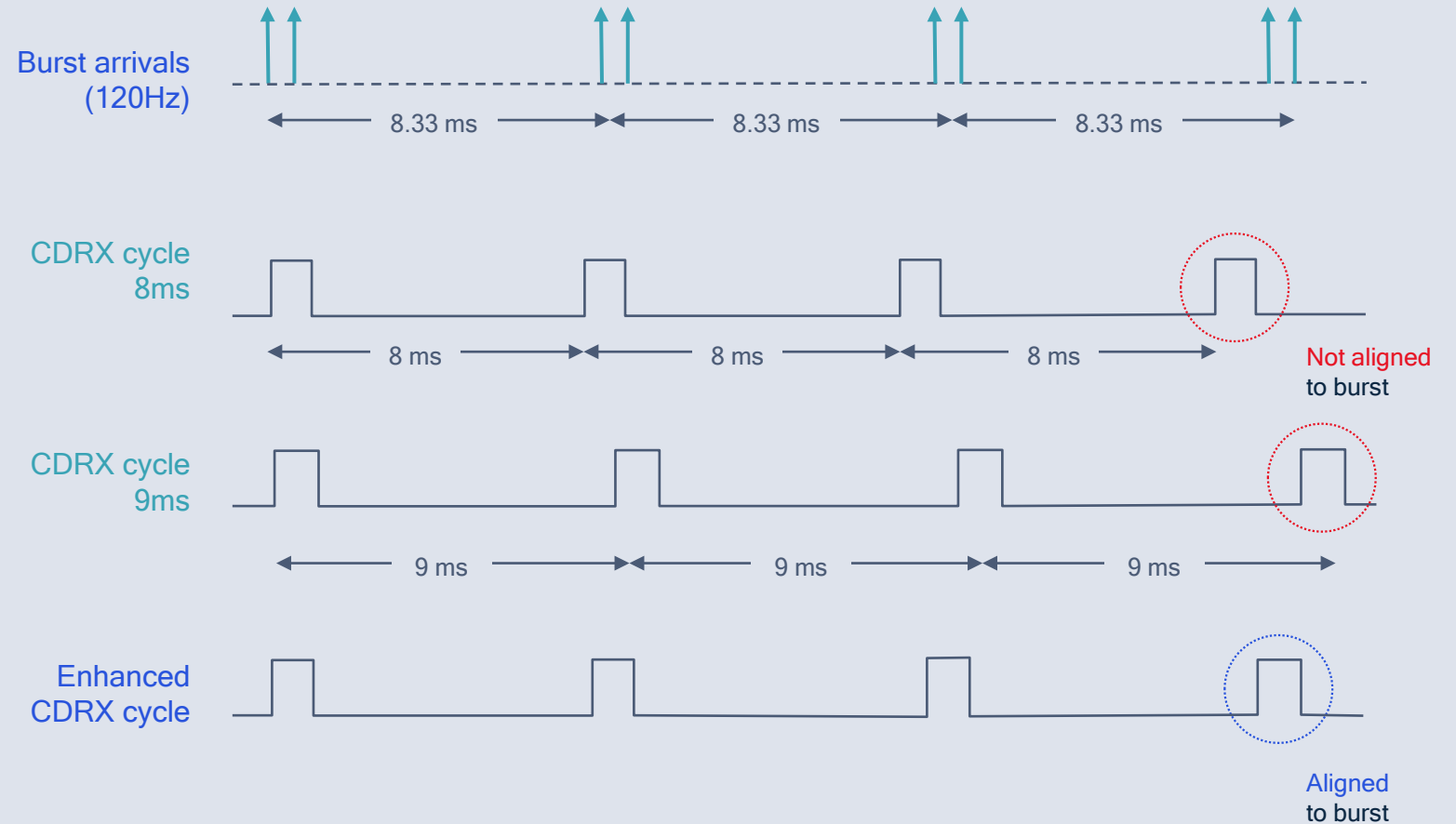
Rel-18 aligns transmission times to the multimedia cadence

Enhanced CDRX eliminates drift between DRX-ON and XR traffic

Enhanced CG eliminates drift between CG and XR traffic

Reduces latencies and device power consumption

Enhanced CDRX example

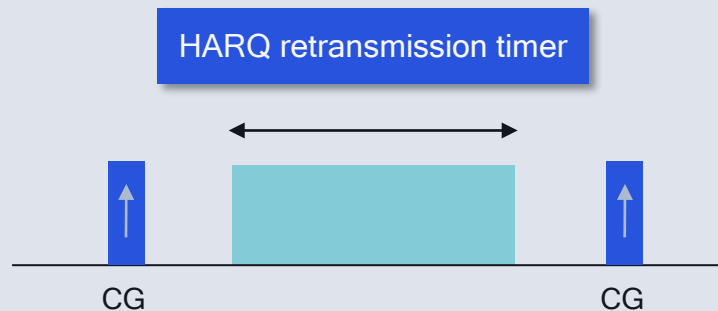


Rel-18 enables devices to sleep after uplink transmission

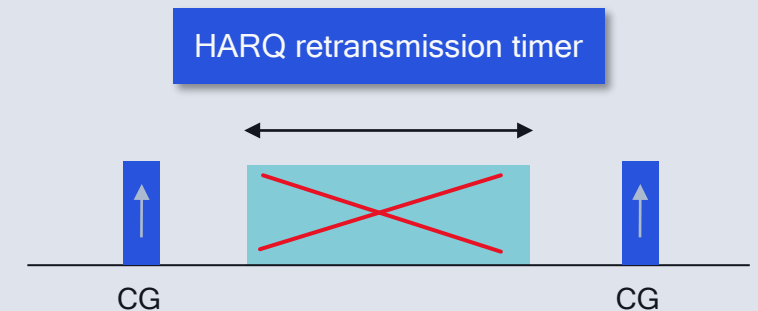
Retransmission-less Configured Grant:

1. Uses conservative MCS to improve reliability of first transmission
2. Avoids the need for the UE to monitor control channel after CG
3. Allows longer sleep cycles reducing device power consumption

Legacy device is ON for potential retransmissions



Rel-18 device can sleep



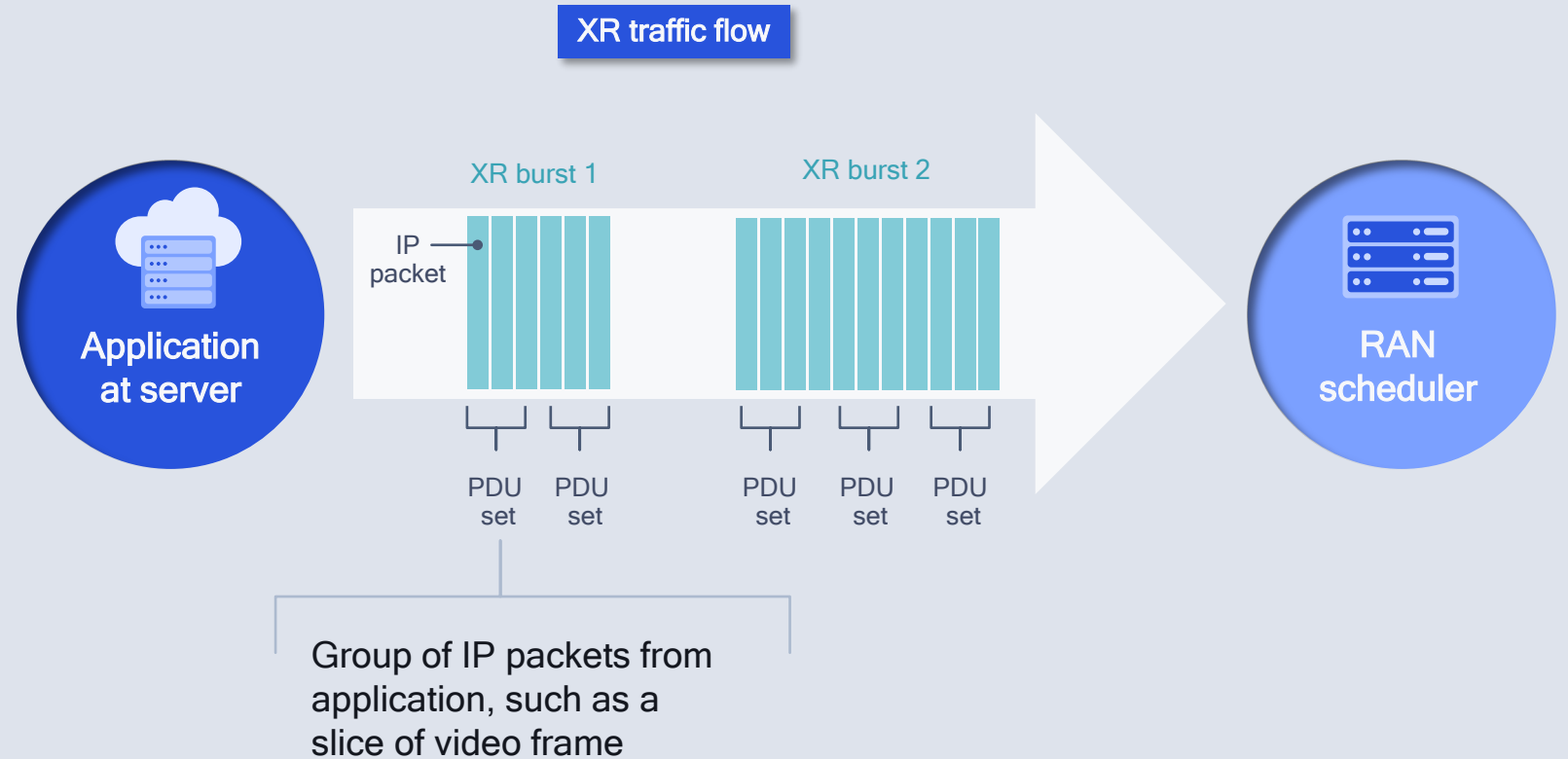
Low-latency, low-bandwidth transmissions
(e.g., 100-byte pose)

Rel-18 enables QoS based on multimedia traffic payloads instead of IP packets

QoS defined for PDU-sets

QoS parameters include error rate and delay

Enables RAN schedulers to satisfy multimedia QoS requirements

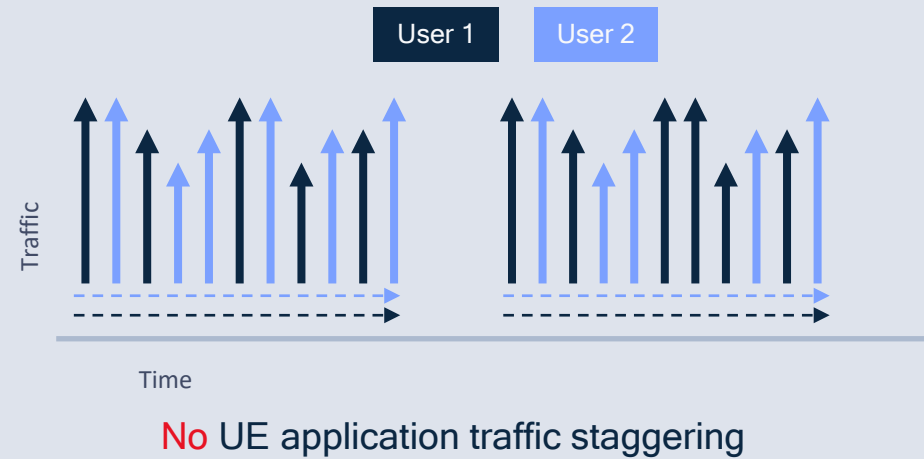


Rel-18 staggers UE application traffic arrivals from the server to the base station

Base station signals the user burst arrival time offset to the server

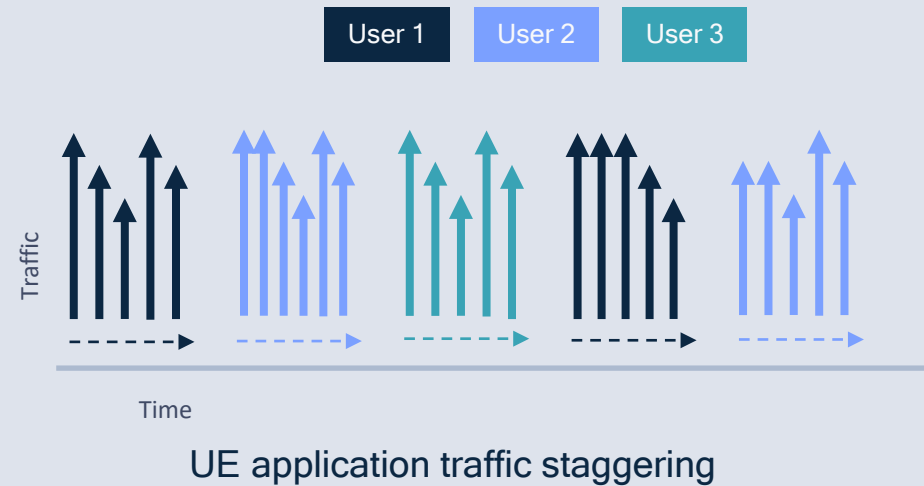
Server staggers user traffic to the base station

Improves base station scheduler



Inefficient scheduler

- Higher latencies
- Higher power / device ON-time
- Lower capacity



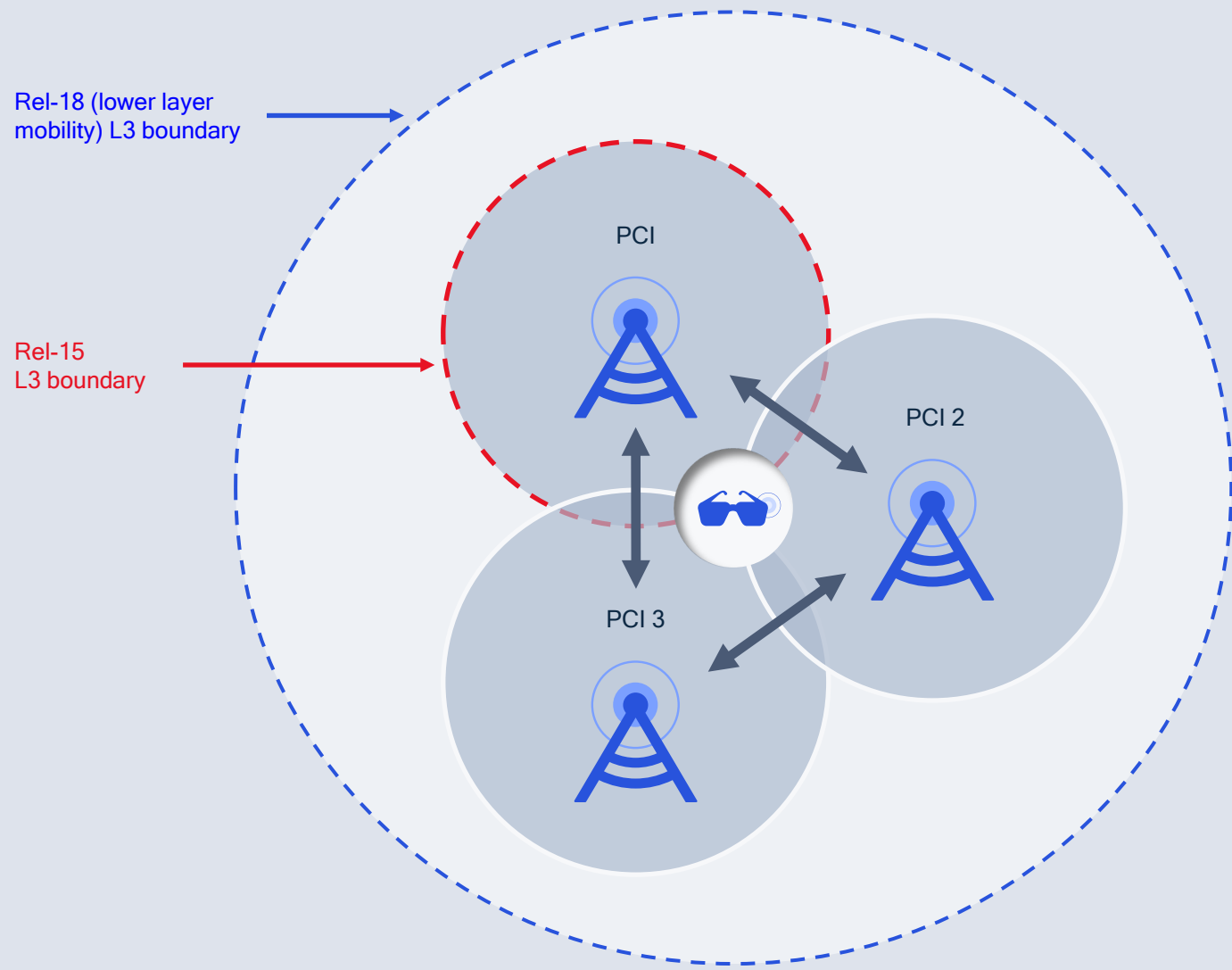
Improved scheduler

- + Lower latencies
- + Lower power / device ON-time
- + Higher capacity

Rel-18 improves mobility management with better cell handovers

Rel-15 uses RRC (L3) signaling, leading to handoff delays

Rel-18 uses L1/L2 signaling for fast Pcell updates, reducing handoff delays and extending coverage



6G will enable the merging of our worlds

Physical, digital, virtual, immersive interactions taking human augmentation to next level via ubiquitous, low-power joint communication and sensing

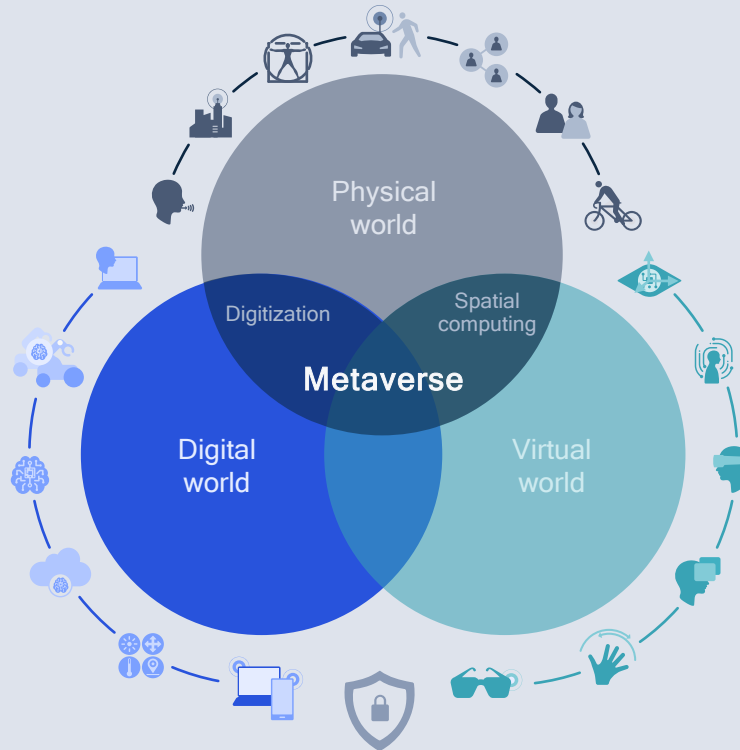
AI-native E2E communications

Data-driven communication and network design, with joint training, model sharing and distributed inference across networks and devices



Air interface innovations

Waveform/coding from MHz to THz, advanced duplexing, Giga-MIMO, mmWave evolution, passive MIMO, satellite comm., system energy efficiency



Spectrum expansion and sharing

Expanding to THz, wide-area expansion to higher bands, new spectrum sharing paradigm, dynamic coordination with environmental awareness



Scalable network architecture

Disaggregation and virtualization at the Connected Intelligent Edge, use of advanced topologies to address growing demand

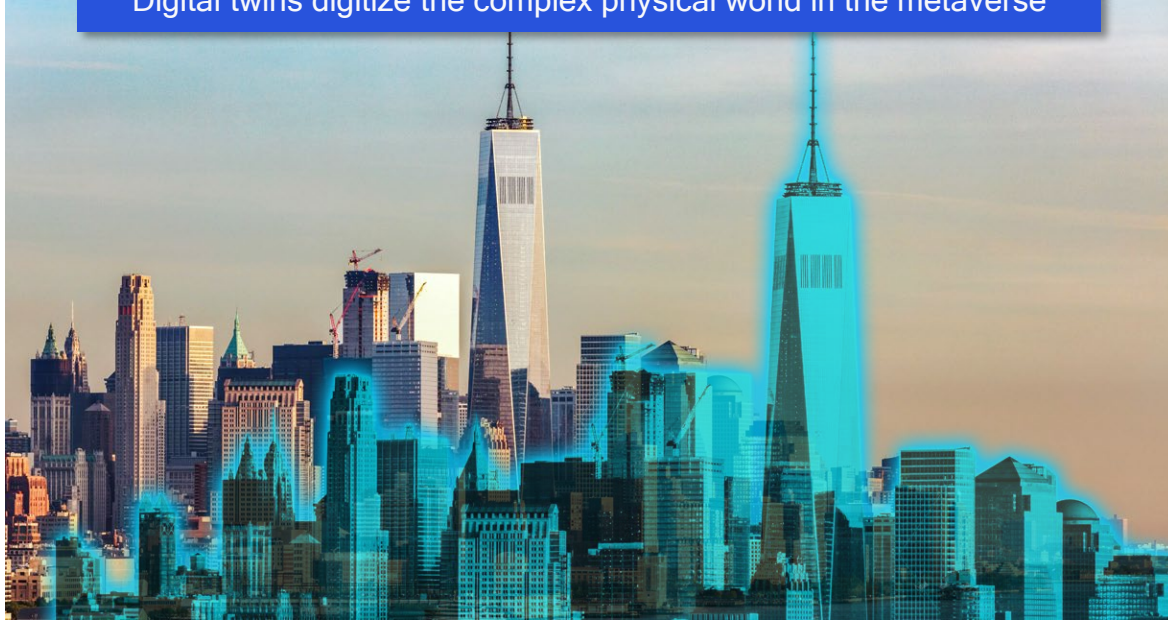


Communications resiliency

Multifaceted trust and configurable security
post quantum security, robust networks
tolerant to failures and attacks

6G XR requirements fueled by digital twins and spatial compute

Digital twins digitize the complex physical world in the metaverse



Spatial compute enables immersive interaction with 3D digital content



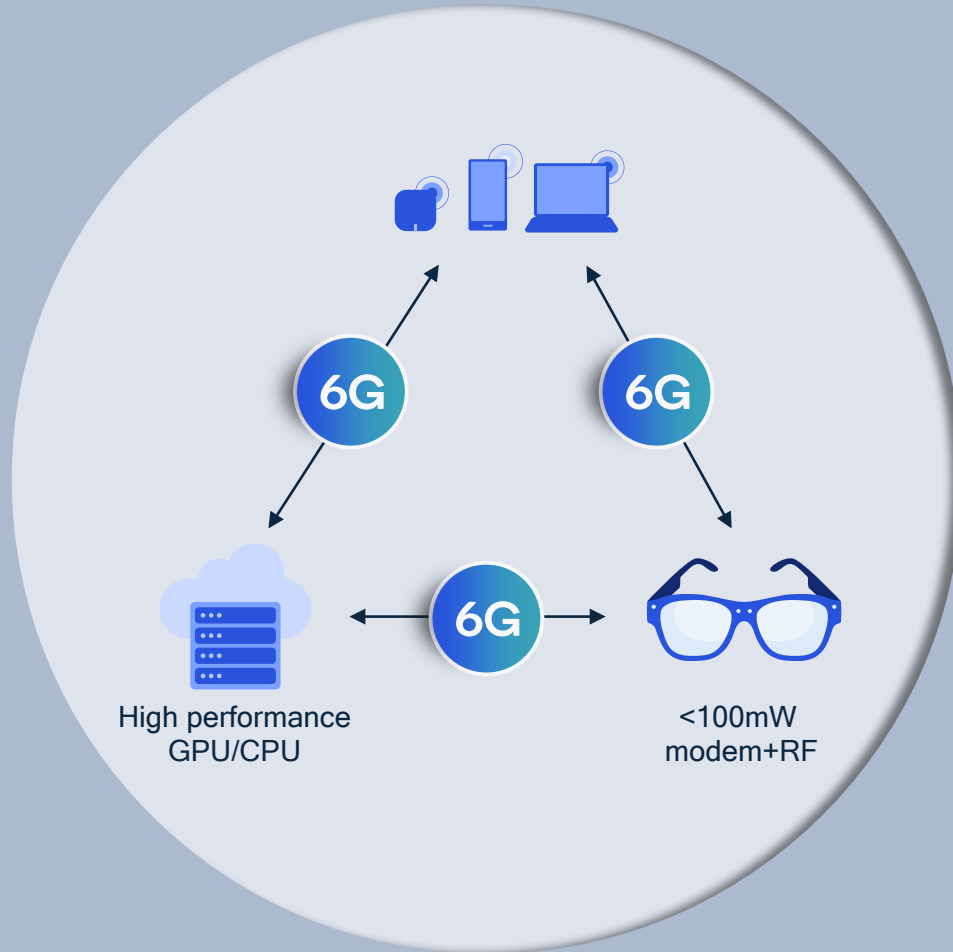
100x network
capacity

0.1-10 Gbps
per user

Use multiple
frequency bands

(sub-THz, mmW, sub 7GHz, 7-24GHz,
unlicensed, shared spectrum)









6G protocols can natively support distributed compute



Dynamically distributing workloads

Delivering low power and low latencies

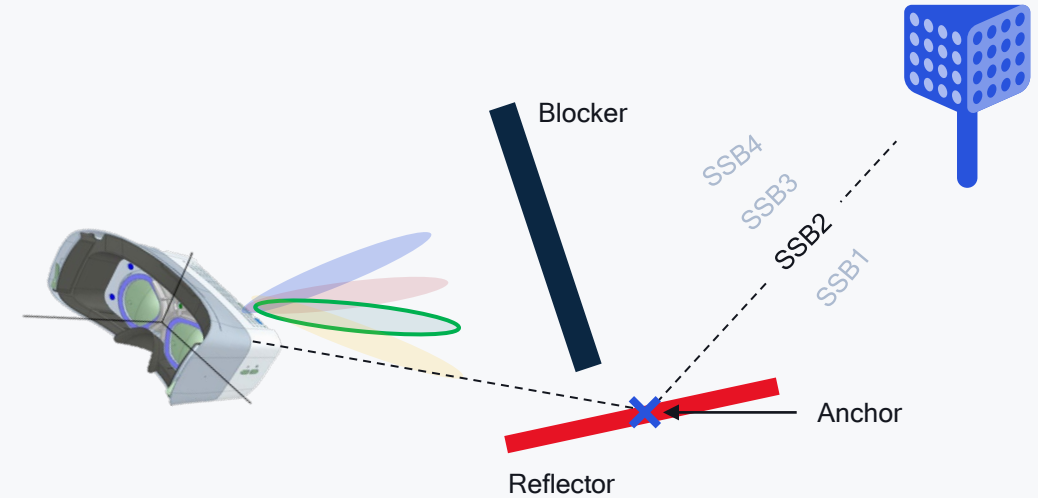
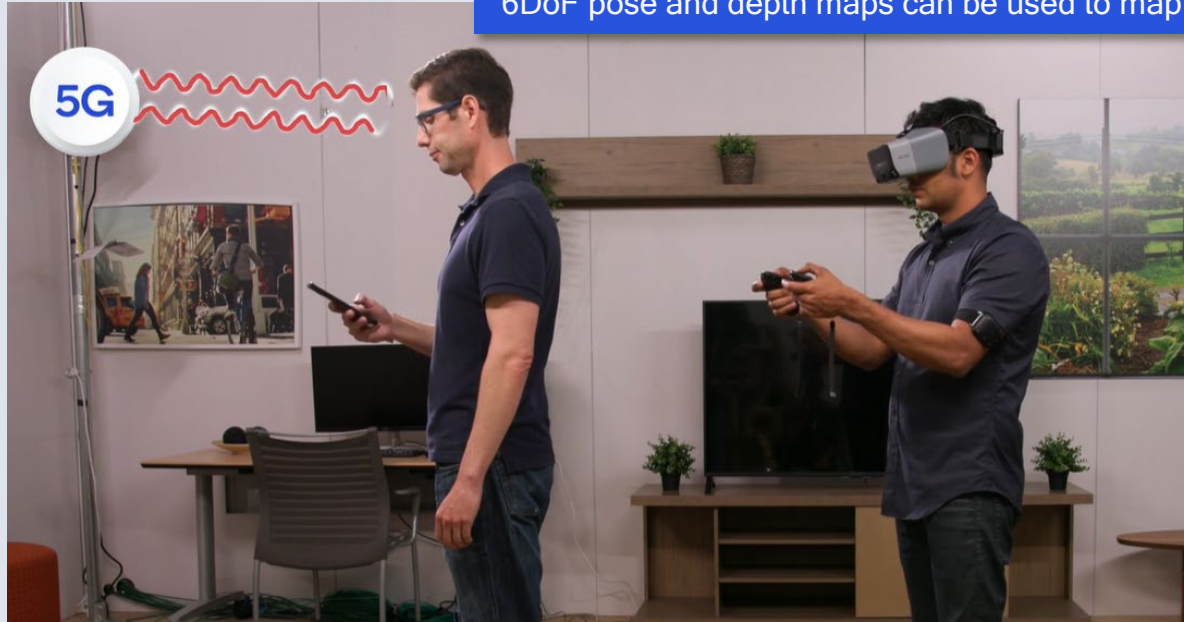
Incorporating e2e QoS and session handling

-  6DoF/SLAM
-  Hand Tracking
-  Facial Expression
-  Eye Tracking
-  3D Graphics Rendering
-  Scene Understanding
-  Objected Rec and Tracking
-  Camera Processing

6G can fuse perception and wireless to improve performance

We demonstrated that perception inputs can improve mmWave beamforming accuracy

6DoF pose and depth maps can be used to map reflectors and blockers, improving beamforming



SSB: Synchronization Signal Block

6G protocols can enable network and device perception services

Platforms

 **Snapdragon**
XR2+ platform
Gen 1

 **Snapdragon**
XR2 platform
Gen 1

 **Snapdragon**
XR1 platform
Gen 1

Software & algorithms


6DoF/SLAM


Object Rec
& Tracking

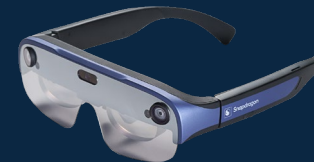

Eye
Tracking


Pass Through
(video see through)


Hand
Tracking


3D
Reconstruction

Reference designs



Ecosystem



**Snapdragon
spaces**

Qualcomm Technologies is enabling the **XR industry**

Snapdragon powers key XR platforms



Snapdragon

XR2+ platform
Gen 1



Snapdragon

XR2 platform
Gen 1



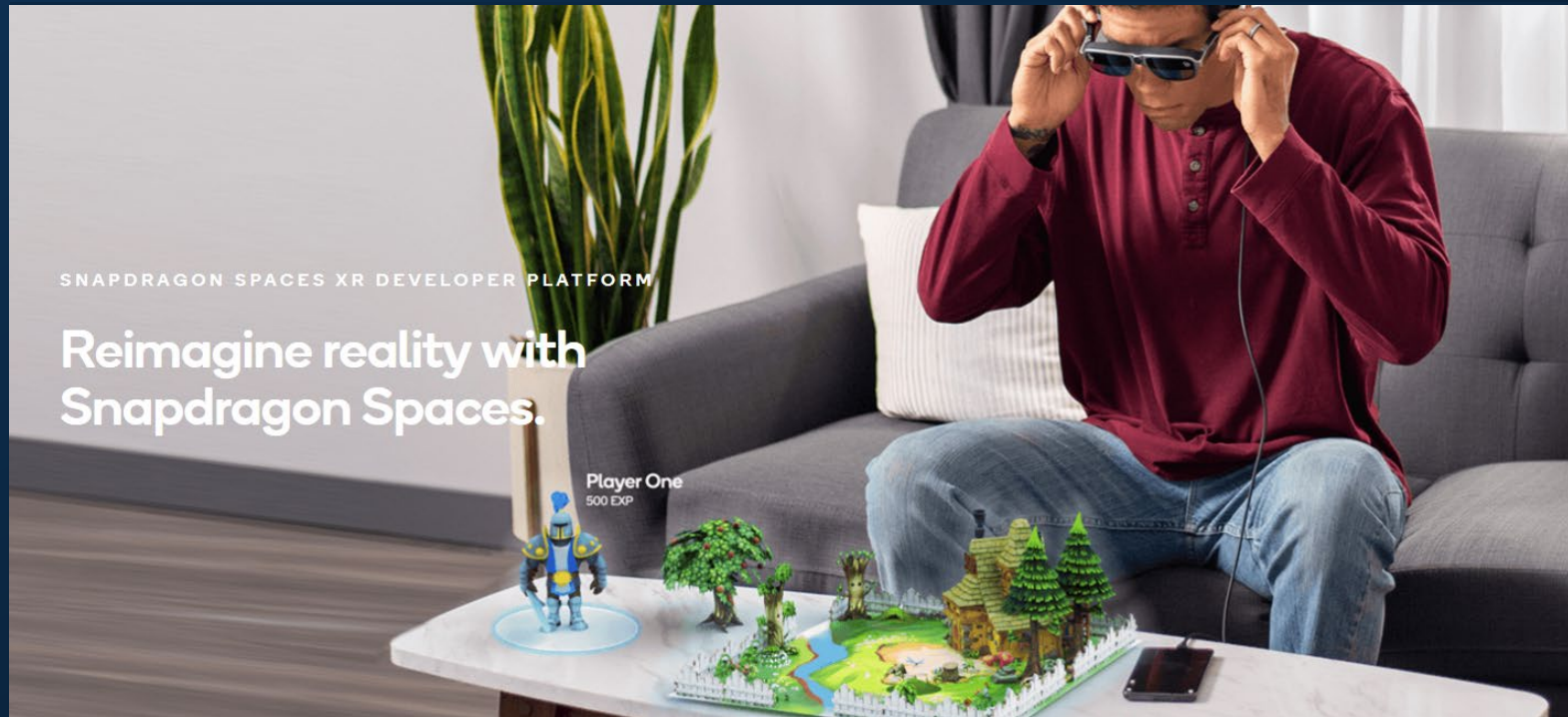
Snapdragon

XR1 platform
Gen 1



Snapdragon Spaces™ XR Developer Platform

Empowering developers to create immersive experience for AR Glasses



- Open platform and open ecosystem
- Paves the way to a new Frontier of Spatial Computing

Qualcomm launches
up to \$100M
Snapdragon™ Metaverse Fund



Qualcomm

5G enables boundless XR at scale and is ready for commercialization

Device APIs with 5G optimizations enable richer user experience and more efficient deployments

5G standards have a strong evolution path for enhanced XR experiences, leading into 6G.

We are making boundless XR possible by enabling the industry with 5G modem APIs, XR platforms, XR SDKs, and XR reference designs



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