

# Why and what you need to know about 6G in 2022

5G Advanced is establishing our early vision and the technical foundation for 6G in 2030 and beyond





## Why and what you need to know about 6G in 2022

5G Advanced is establishing our early vision and the technical foundation for 6G in 2030 and beyond

# Agenda

There is a rich roadmap of 5G technologies coming with the 5G Advanced evolution

---

6G will be the future wireless innovation platform for 2030 and beyond

---

6G will be more than a new radio, expanding AI, sensing in the connected intelligent edge

---

We are leading cutting-edge wireless research across six technology vectors on the path to 6G

Transportation



Manufacturing



Industrial



Retail

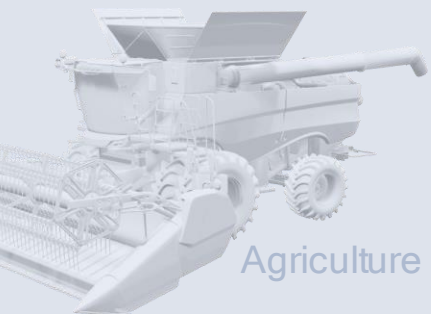


Energy



# Driving digital transformation across industries

5G will enable \$13.1 Trillion in global sales activities in 2035



Agriculture

Public safety



Smart cities



Healthcare

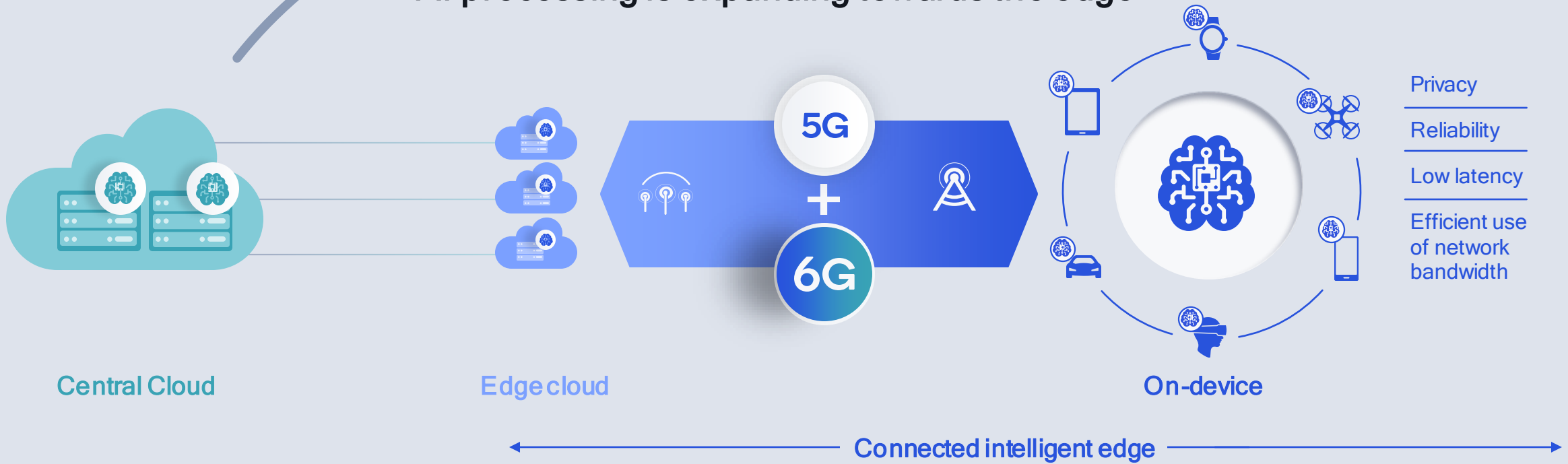


Entertainment



Source: The 5G Economy, an independent study from IHS Markit, commissioned by Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., November 2020

To scale efficiently,  
AI processing is expanding towards the edge



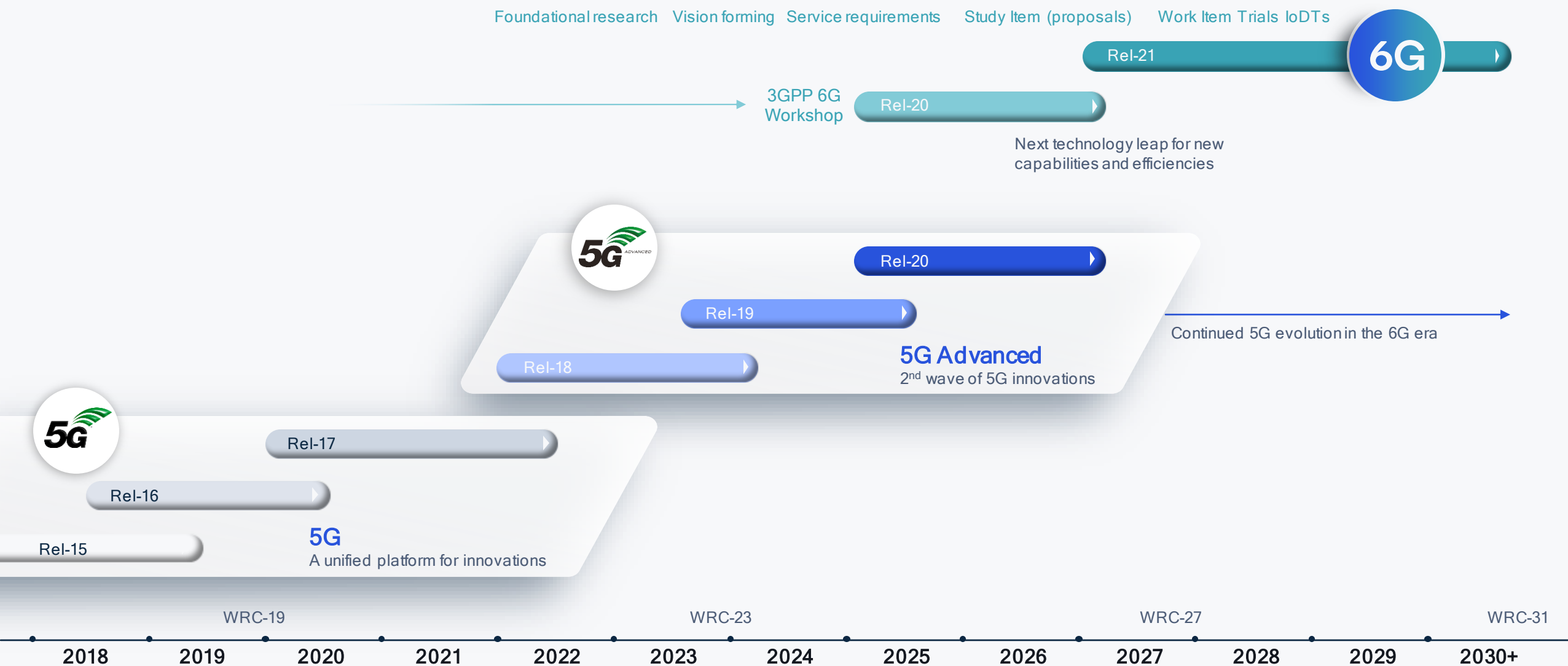
Qualcomm is leading the  
realization of the connected  
intelligent edge

Convergence of:

Wireless connectivity  
Efficient computing  
Distributed AI

Unleashing massive amount  
of data to fuel our digital future

# 5G Advanced on the path to 6G





# Leading 3GPP evolution of 5G

## Rel 15

Established 5G NR technology foundation

5G

## Rel 16

Expanding to new use cases and industries

~1.5-2 years between releases

## Rel 17

Continued expansion and enhancements

## Rel 18

New wave of 5G innovations in the decade-long 5G evolution

5G Advanced

## Rel 19

## Rel 20

## Rel 21+

Continued foundational technology evolution and expansion to new verticals

eMBB – enhanced mobile broadband services

5G core network and enhanced E2E security

Sub-6 GHz with massive MIMO

Advanced channel coding

5G broadcast

In-band eMTC/NB-IoT and 5G Core

Mission-critical services with eURLLC (e.g., 5G NR IIoT)

Positioning across use cases

eMBB evolution – improved power, mobility, more

Enhanced DL/UL MIMO, multiple transmission points

NR-Light Reduced Capability (RedCap) for low-complexity IoT

More capable, flexible IAB

Unlicensed spectrum across all use-cases

New spectrum above 52.6 GHz

Further eMBB enhancements

Full-duplex MIMO

Extended Reality (XR)

Smart repeaters for coverage expansion

Automotive and NR V2X enhancements

Scalable OFDM-based air interface

Mobile mmWave

Flexible framework

LTE integration

5G NR Cellular V2X

Better coverage with IAB, uplink MIMO

5G NR in unlicensed spectrum

IAB integrated access/ backhaul

Private Networks, SON

Centimeter accuracy IIoT with mmWave

Expand sidelink for V2X reliability, P2V, IoT relay

Enhancements to 5G NR Industrial IoT

Non-terrestrial network (i.e., satellites)

Rel-15 deployment learning, eMBB enhancements, XR, others

Non-terrestrial network enhancements

5G NR-Light expansion for IoT and more

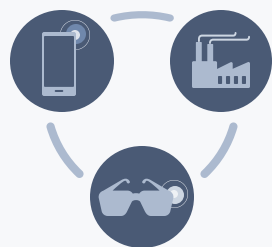
AI/ML data-driven designs

Broadcast enhancements

Sidelink in unlicensed spectrum

# Driving a balanced 5G Advanced evolution across key technology areas

## Mobile broadband evolution and further vertical expansion



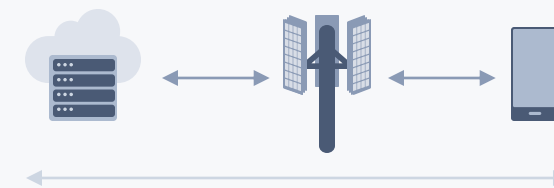
Deliver enhanced mobile broadband experiences and extend 5G's reach into new use cases

## Immediate commercial needs and longer-term 5G vision



Drive new value in commercialization efforts and fully realize 5G's potential with future deployments

## New and enhanced devices and network evolution



Focus on the end-to-end technology evolution of the 5G system to bring new levels of performance

Release 18 starts the 5G Advanced evolution and it prepares for new and enhanced features coming in subsequent releases



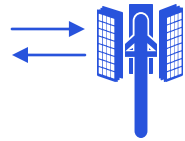
Release 18

# 3GPP Release 18

sets off the 5G  
Advanced Evolution

[Learn more about 3GPP Release 18](#)

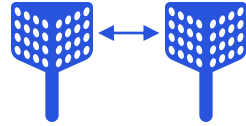
## Strengthen the end-to-end 5G system foundation



Advanced  
DL/UL MIMO



Enhanced  
mobility



Mobile IAB,  
smart repeater



Evolved  
duplexing



AI/ML data-driven  
designs



Green  
networks

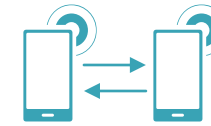
## Proliferate 5G to virtually all devices and use cases



Boundless  
extended reality



NR-Light (RedCap)  
evolution



Expanded  
sidelink



Expanded  
positioning



Drones & expanded  
satellites comm.



Multicast & other  
enhancements





CONTINUED TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION



Key market trends and technology drivers

# leading the way to 6G



Core technology  
advancements



Environmental and  
societal sustainability



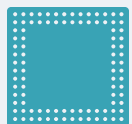
Enhanced and  
new experiences




CONTINUED TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION





## Key market trends and technology drivers leading the way to 6G





## Core technology advancements

 Advanced RF


 Compute topology


 Machine learning and AI

 Silicon / material

 Extreme disaggregation

 Multimedia / display

 Perception / human interface

 Power management

 Others...



CONTINUED TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION



## Key market trends and technology drivers leading the way to 6G



# Environmental and societal sustainability



Wireless ecosystem reach to fuel sustained global economic growth



System design to consciously minimize environmental impact



More accessible networks, devices, services to promote digital equality



CONTINUED TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION



## Key market trends and technology drivers leading the way to 6G



## Enhanced and new experiences



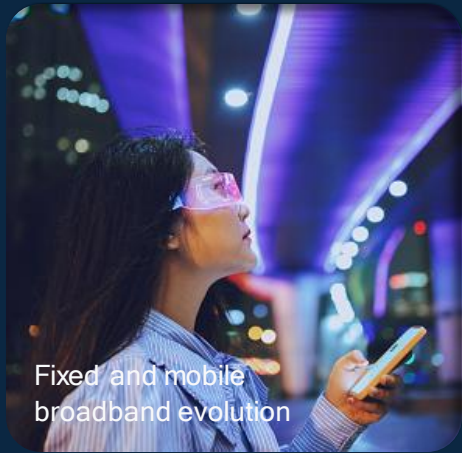
Fixed and mobile broadband to further evolve bringing next-generation experiences



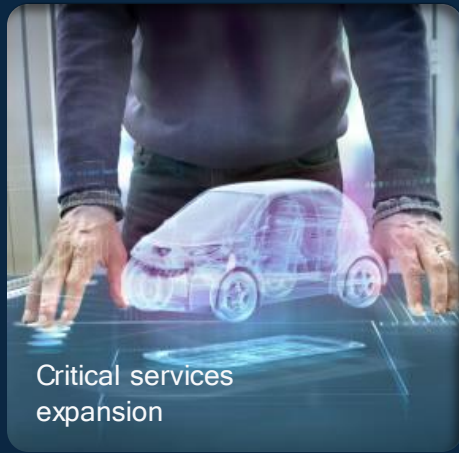
Digital twins to more accurately model the physical world continuing to derive new values



Metaverse to further augment the physical world creating next-level immersivity



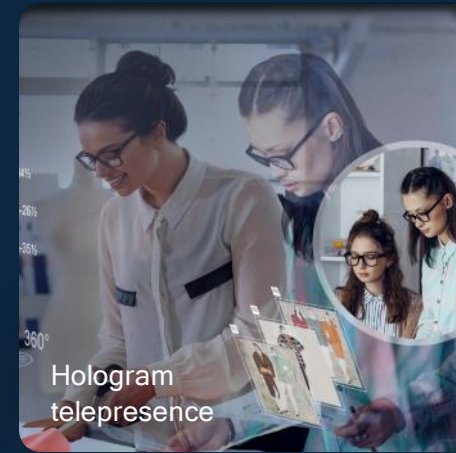
Fixed and mobile  
broadband evolution



Critical services  
expansion



Collaborative robots, real-  
time command and control



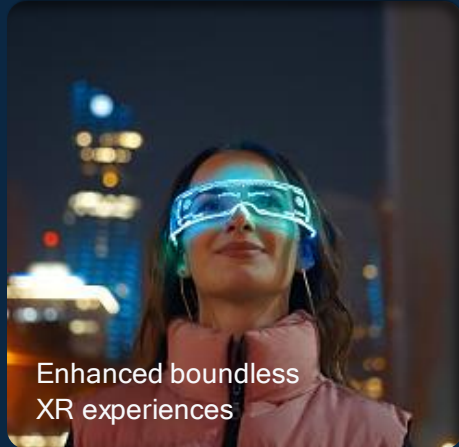
Hologram  
telepresence



Ultra-wide area to  
micro connectivity



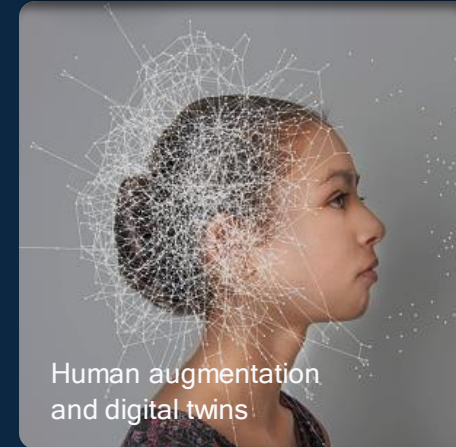
Smarter  
verticals



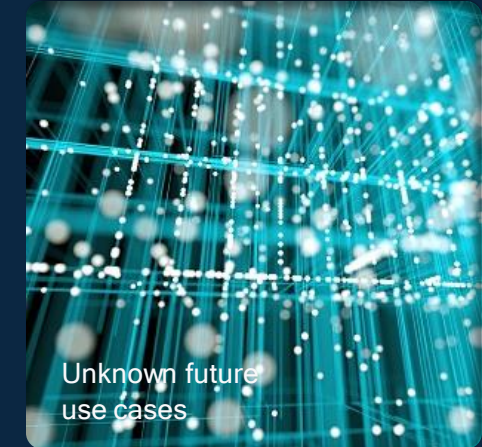
Enhanced boundless  
XR experiences



Wireless sensor  
fusion



Human augmentation  
and digital twins

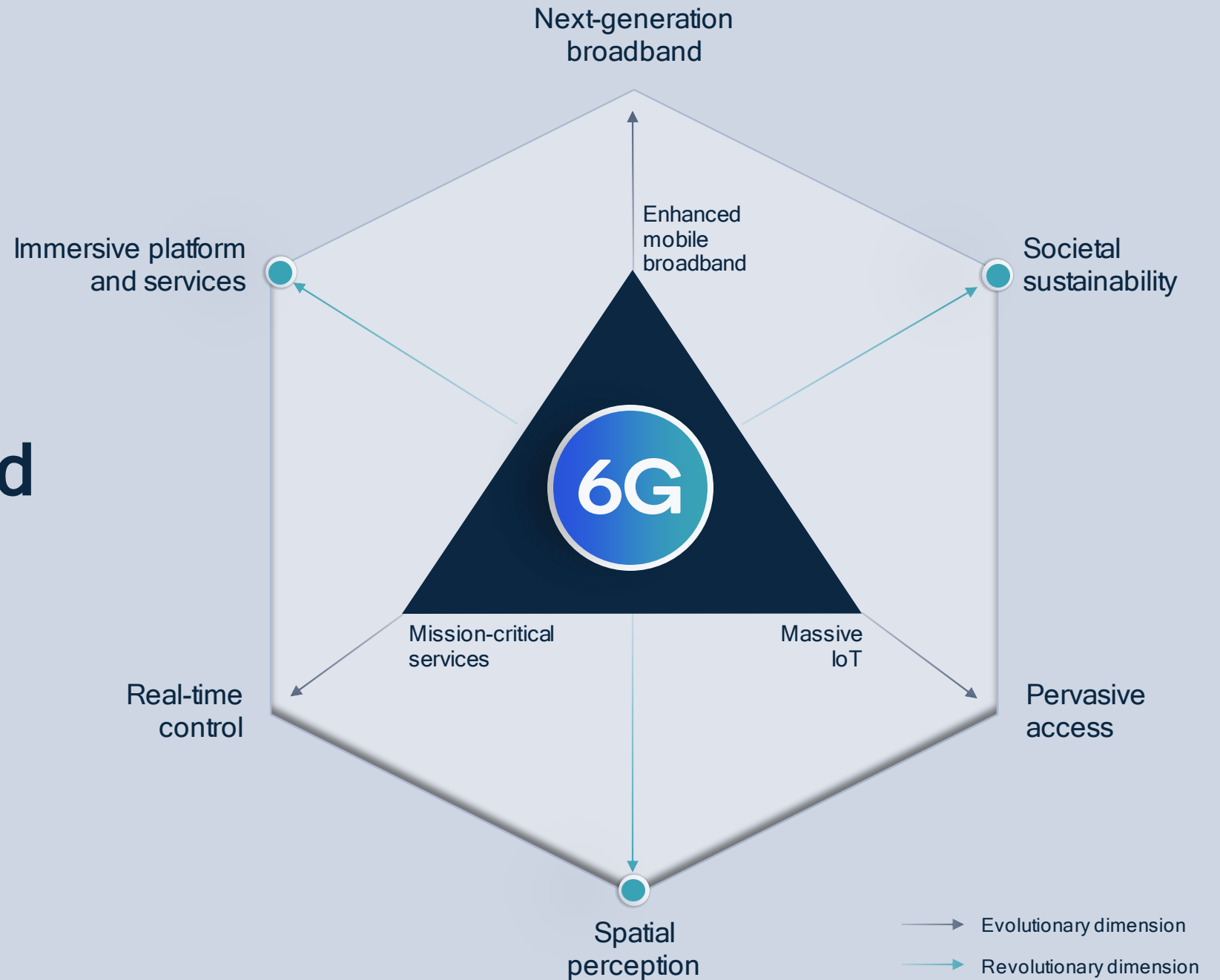


Unknown future  
use cases



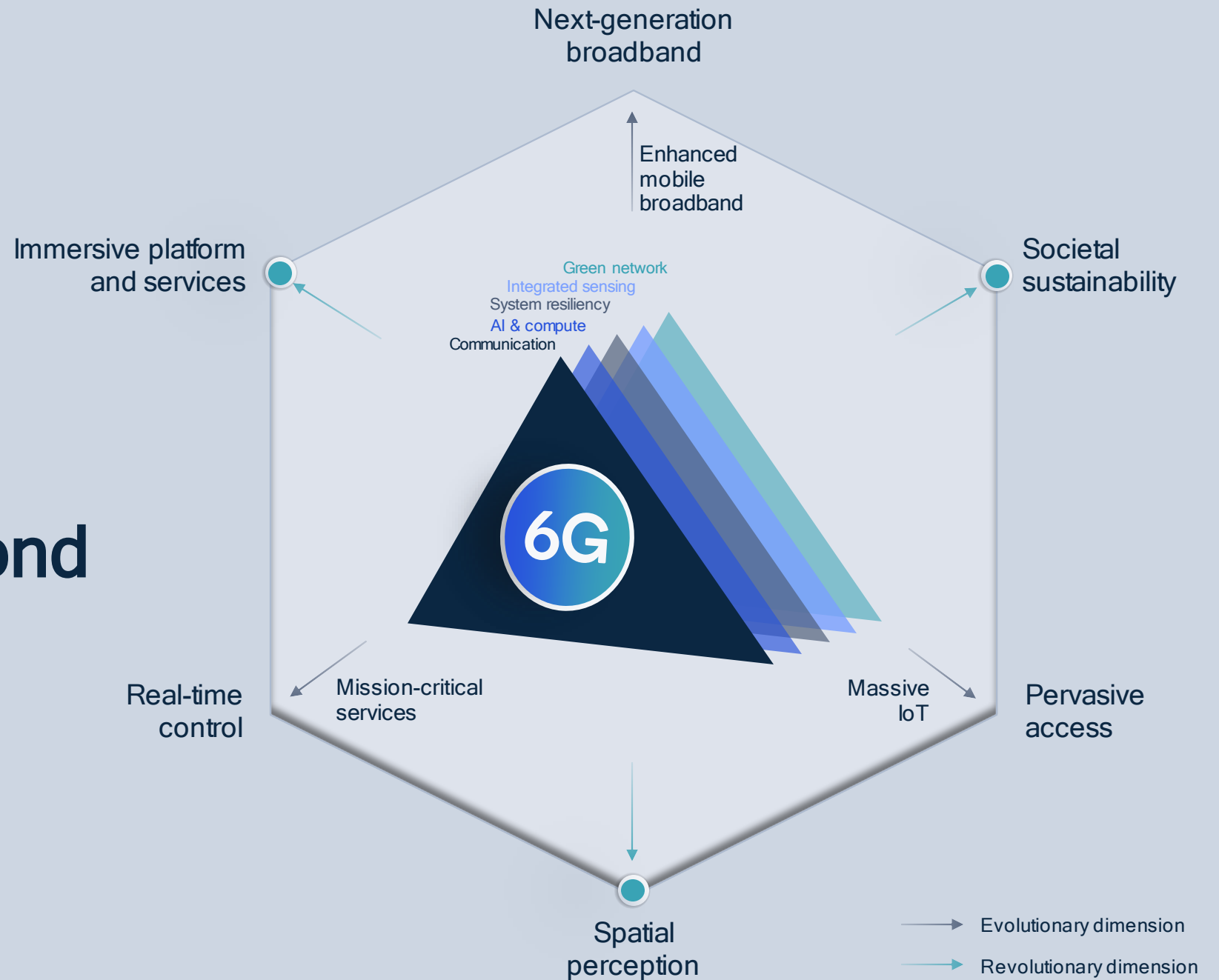
Propelling next-level experiences and innovative use cases in the new era of the connected intelligent edge for 2030 and beyond

A smarter wireless platform to  
**support enhanced  
services and  
new use cases**

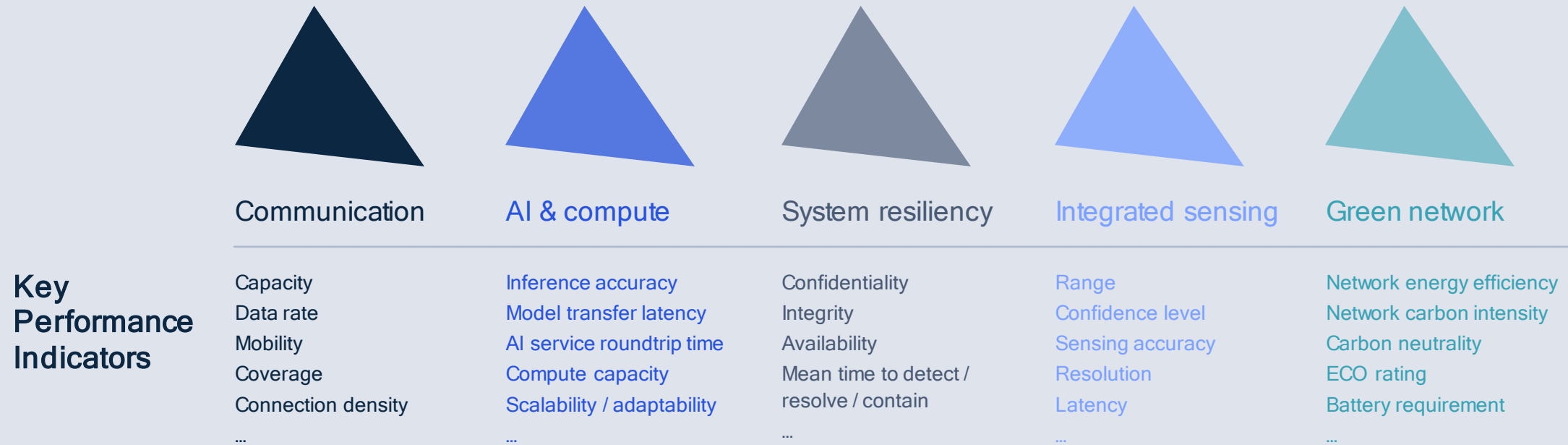




A smarter wireless platform with  
**new capabilities  
that expand beyond  
communication**



# System design targets for expanded 6G capabilities



6G will be designed to meet enhanced traditional communication requirements as well as KPIs for new capabilities

Designing 6G to meet a

# diverse set of system requirements

Further enhancing foundational wireless performance vectors (e.g., capacity, data rate, latency)

Introducing new dimensions (e.g., user experience, positioning capability, ease of onboarding)



# enabling the path towards 6G



Key longer-term research vectors

# enabling the path towards 6G



## AI-native E2E communications

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



## Scalable network architecture

Disaggregation and virtualization at the connected intelligent edge, use of advanced topologies to address growing demand



## Expanding into new spectrum bands

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



## Air interface innovations

Evolution of duplexing schemes, Giga-MIMO, mmWave evolution, reconfigurable intelligent surfaces, non-terrestrial communications, waveform/coding for MHz to THz, system energy efficiency



## Merging of worlds

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



## Communications resiliency

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

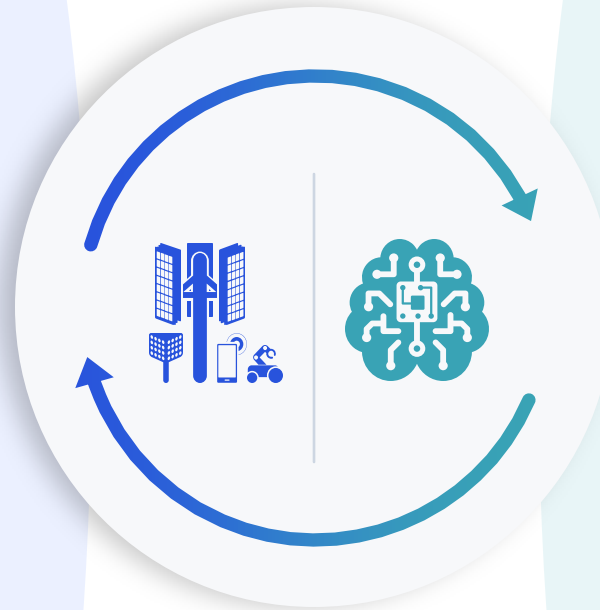




Advancement in AI is making

# Wireless better

- Elevated level of performance
- More efficient resource utilization
- Energy reduction for longer battery life
- Personalized security and privacy
- Continuous enhancements over time
- New and enhanced system capabilities



Proliferation of cellular is making

# AI better

- Responsive user experiences and services
- Lifelong learning
- Flexibility for distributed functionality across devices
- On-device intelligence assisted by cloud
- Scale intelligence through distributed learning
- Massive data aggregation for improved AI models

## 5G and AI are working together to accelerate innovations



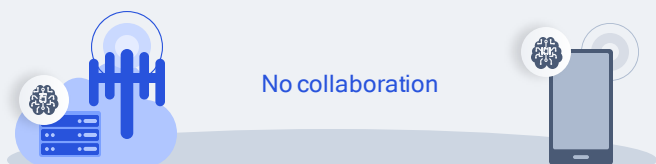
# Evolving towards native wireless AI/ML

Multiple wireless AI/ML training and inference scenarios



## Overlay AI/ML

Independently at the device or network



Network ML

On-device ML

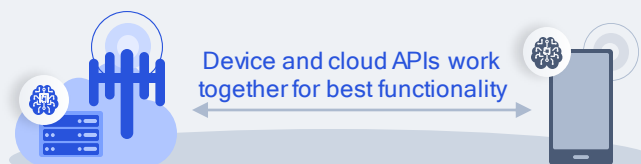
ML operates independently at the device and network as an optimization of existing functions

Proprietary ML procedures including model development and management

Proprietary and standardized data collection used as input to training

## Cross-node AI/ML

Coordinated between device and network



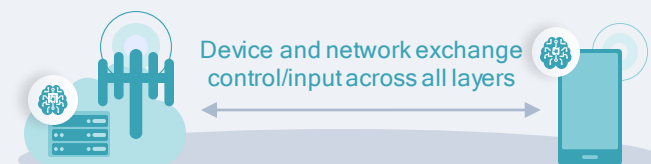
ML operates in a coordinated manner between the device and network

Proprietary and standardized ML procedures including model development and management

Further data collection used as input to training as well as monitoring

## Native AI/ML

At all device and network layers



ML operates autonomously between the device and network across all protocols and layers

Integrated ML procedures across to train performance and adapt to different environments

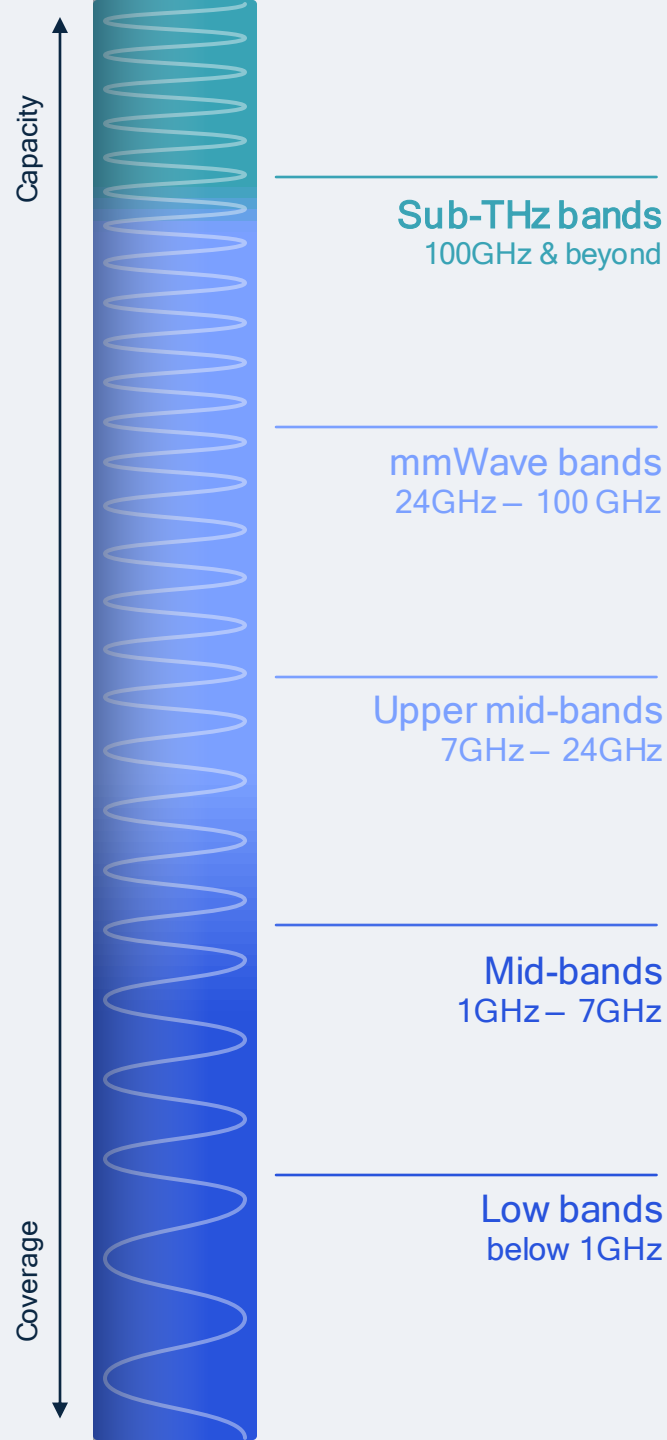
Data fusion for integrated dynamic ML lifecycle management

5G



# 6G system targets all spectrum types and bands

Critical for the success of next-generation wireless systems



## Licensed spectrum

Exclusive use of spectrum that remains the industry's top priority



## Unlicensed spectrum

Shared use of more available spectrum



## Shared spectrum

Evolving spectrum sharing that allow fair and more efficient sharing

# New upper mid-band brings order of magnitude more wide-area capacity

Larger contiguous bandwidths can bring efficiencies, fuel growing data demand, and enable new applications



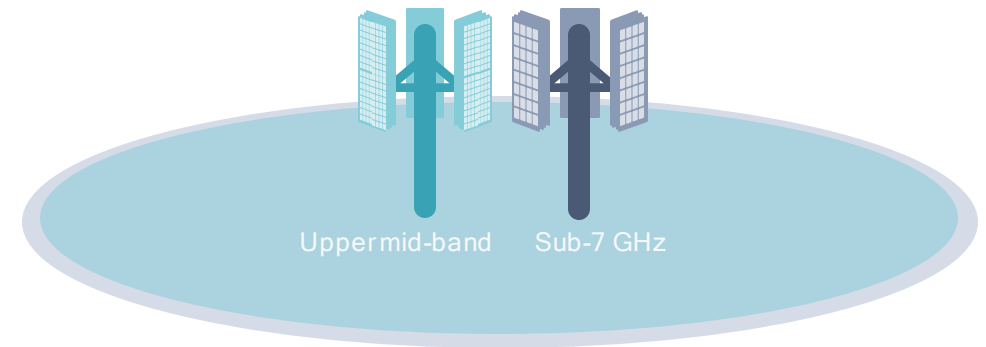
Delivering new capacity for wide-area broadband (e.g., smartphones, smart cities, automotive, verticals)



Fueling scalable boundless XR user support in wide area through wider bandwidth availability



Supporting high-resolution RF sensing for new use cases (e.g., environmental monitoring, activity detection)



Opportunity to co-site with existing sub-7 GHz deployments for comparable coverage in higher band

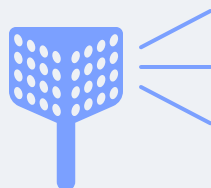
**Upper Mid-Band**  
7 to 24 GHz

Best of wide-area coverage of sub-7 GHz  
and wide-band capacity of mmWave



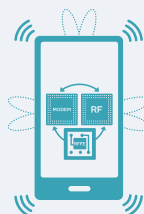
## Coverage

Innovations to overcome significant path loss in mmWave bands



## Beam management

Innovations to beam pairing, tracking and recovery



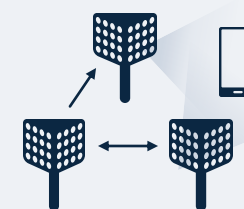
## Device size / power

Innovations to optimize mmWave design for smartphone form factor



## Robustness

Innovations to overcome blockage from hand, body, walls, foliage, etc.



## Topology enhancement

Innovations to efficiently scale and densify the network



CONTINUED EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT OF

# mobile mmWave technologies

Building on the solid foundation of 5G NR

# Making sub-Terahertz spectrum viable for communications and beyond

Building on our mmWave experience to address key system challenges at higher band spectrum

## Use case feasibility

Evaluating diverse use case, form factor requirements and how sub-THz can deliver an effective solution

## System design

Building early prototypes to overcome implementation challenges (i.e., device formfactor, power consumption, etc.)

## Propagation loss

Advancing intelligent beamforming to overcome indoor path loss, penetration loss, foliage loss, and others

# Sub-THz can unlock new and enhanced use cases



Wireless fronthaul



Wireless data center



Wireless fiber to the home



Ultra-precise positioning



RF sensing



Unlocking new spectrum that may require non-exclusive licensing and sharing with primary users



Designing for efficient and coordinated spectrum sensing / sharing that improves overall system performance



Leveraging O-RAN architecture to allow operators to cost-efficiently offer service differentiations (e.g., through RU sharing)



Utilizing adaptive AI/ML to address high-mobility scenario and public / private networks coexistence in the same band

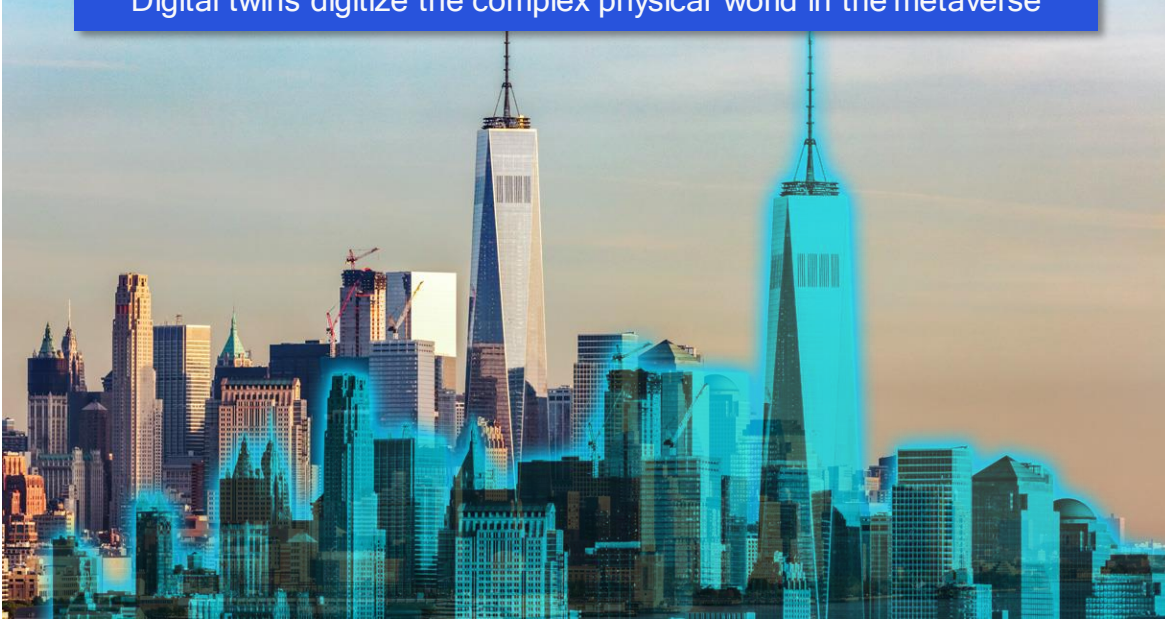
**Evolution to licensed spectrum sharing for improved efficiency, flexibility, and user experience**

Building on 4G/5G spectrum innovations to optimize 6G experiences



# 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



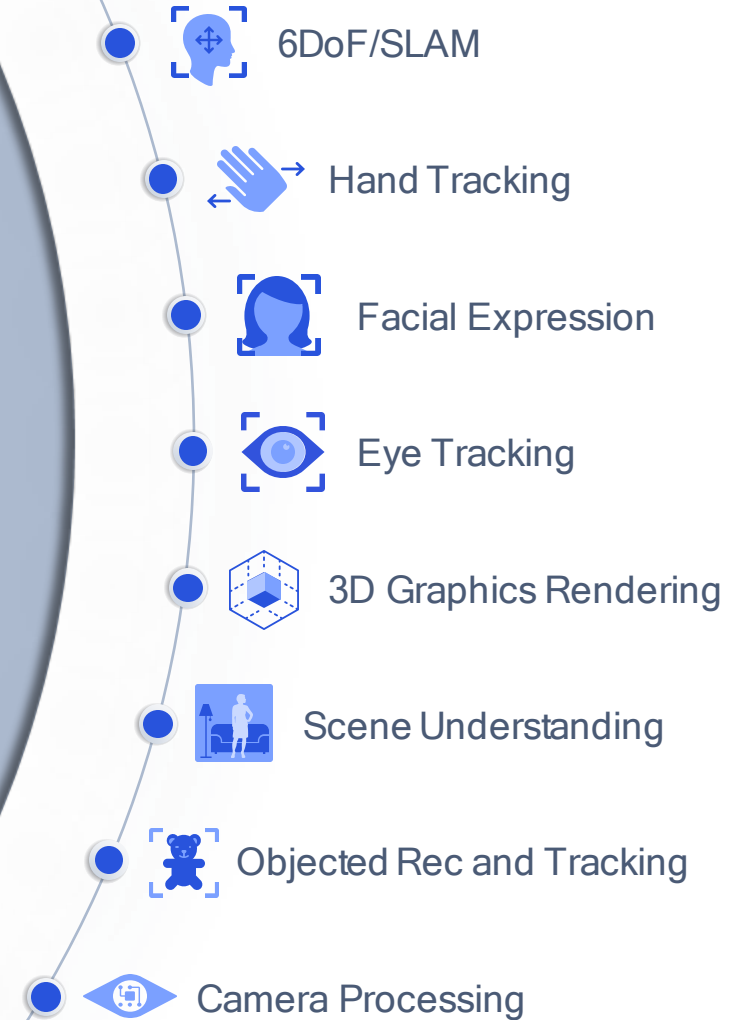
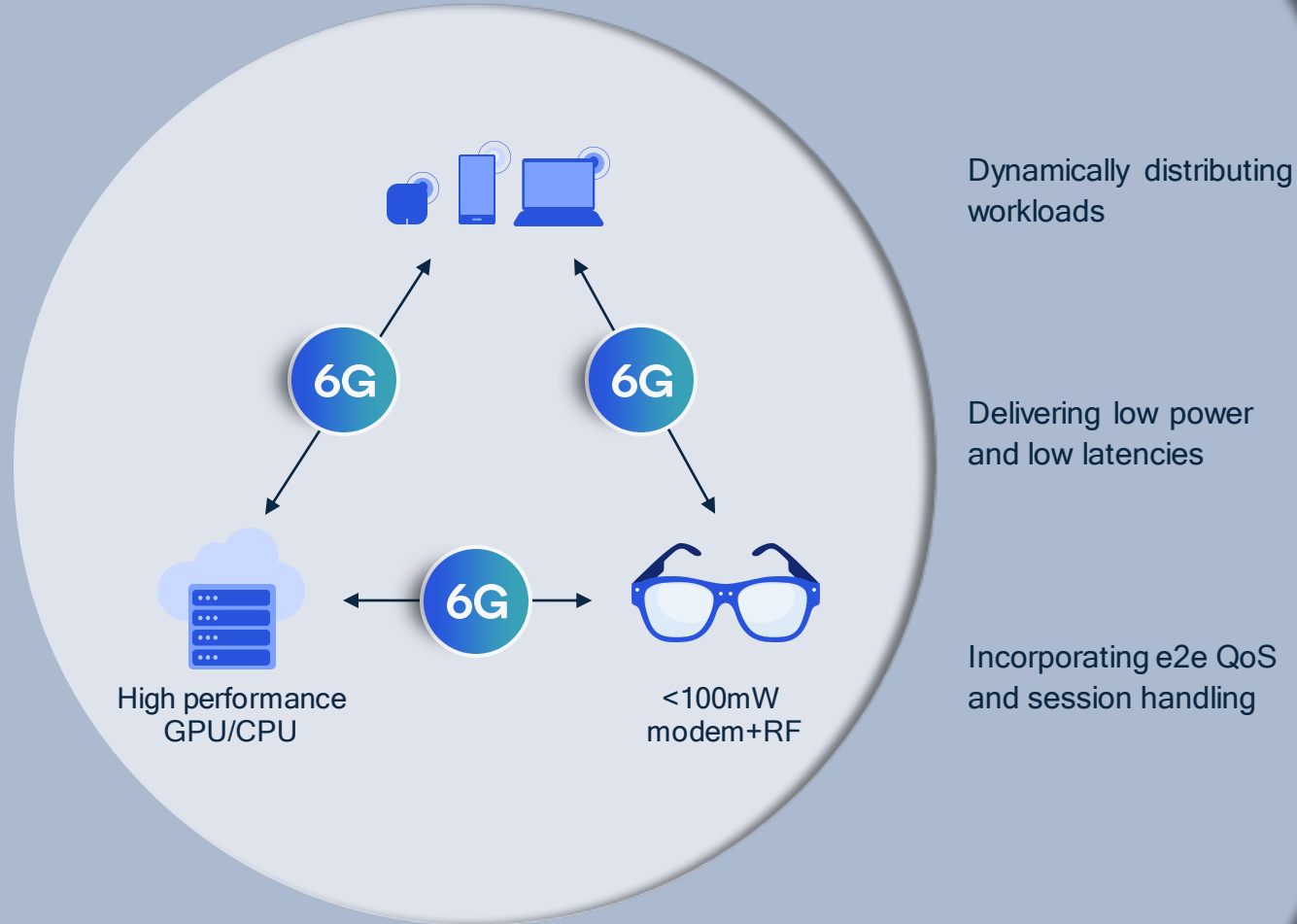
100x network  
capacity

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



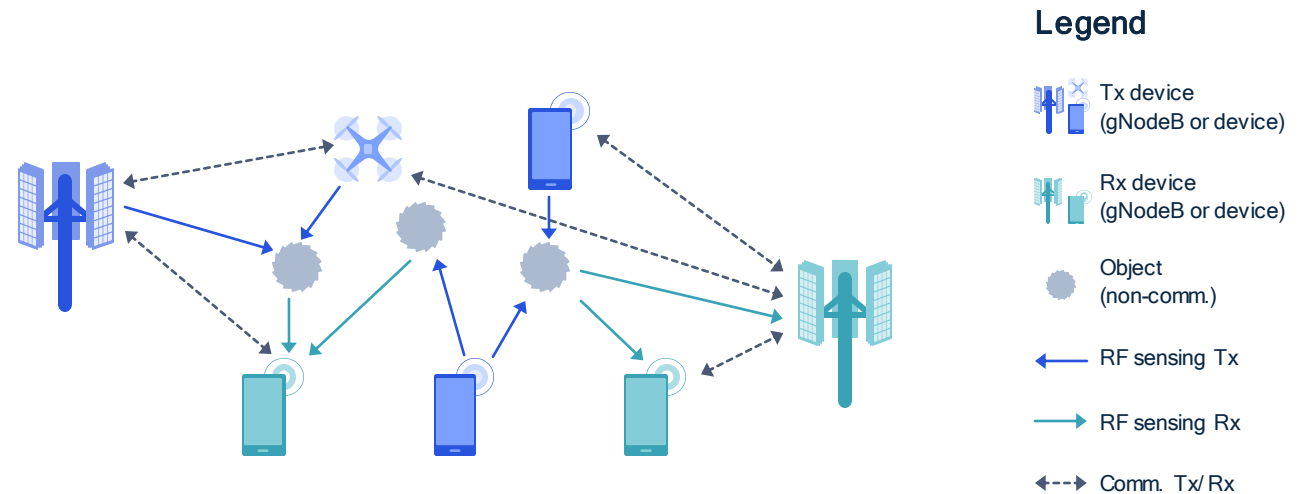
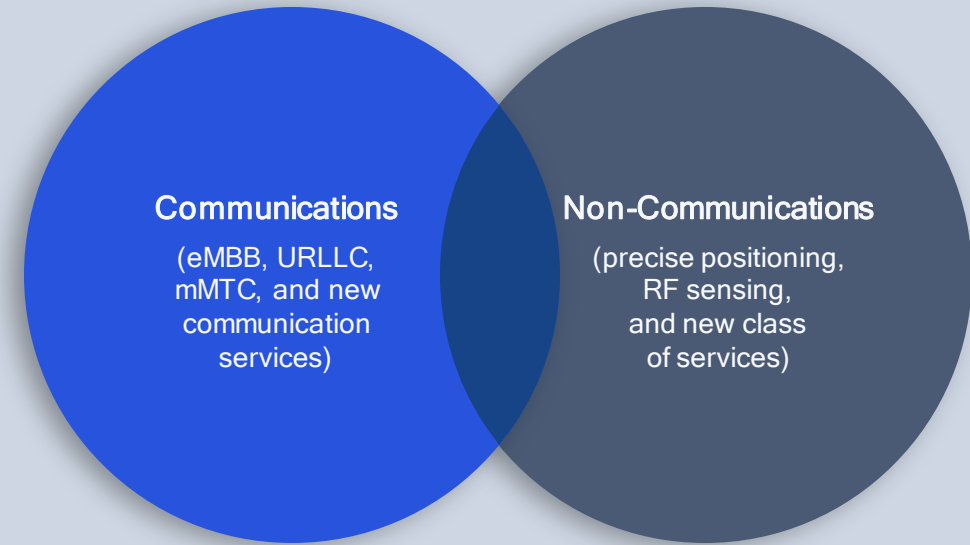
INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM THAT CAN

## Enable joint communications, positioning, RF sensing, and more

Utilizing existing waveform and other fundamental physical layer designs in existing spectrum (sub-7, mmWave) and new higher-band spectrum (e.g., upper mid-band, THz)

Integrating environmental detection capabilities (e.g., positioning, RF sensing) to enhance quality of service and support emerging applications

Providing cooperative sensing capability across networks (e.g., TRP<sup>1</sup>) and devices, utilizing overall network processing with diverse topology



# 6G technology platform will require a new air interface design

An innovation opportunity to achieve higher capacity, system throughput and efficiency

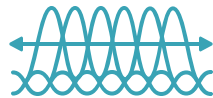


## Channel Coding

Advanced channel coding targeting high-throughput, low-power, cost efficient implementation, approaching the theoretical bound on different block length and SNR regimes

## Modulation

Enhanced modulation schemes to achieve more efficient use of spectrum and resources, while enabling higher data rates and adapting to different MIMO transmission schemes



## Waveform

New waveforms and advanced signal processing to deliver higher spectral and power efficiency across a variety of spectrum bands within 6G unified air interface (UAI)

## Multiple Access

Continued evolution of scheduled multiple access in conjunction with advanced MIMO, duplexing technologies to support extremely high cell capacity. Development of contention based random access to facilitate scaling up massive large number of devices in cellular system

## Foundational PHY designs are crucial for enabling 6G new features:

### Advanced RF and baseband joint design

Supporting wider bandwidth, faster Tx/Rx switching, higher PA efficiency, massive spectrum aggregation across new bands and existing bands

### Efficient modem system implementation

Modem-RF implementation friendly PHY to facilitate data rate envelope scaling while maintaining superior power efficiency

### Advanced air interface features

Coevolution of waveform and multiple access with next-gen MIMO, flexible/full duplex

### Extreme energy-efficient devices

Diverse devices and use cases, ranging from extreme data rate to passive IoT

### Seamless multi-RAT connectivity and spectrum sharing

Flexibility and efficient multi-RAT (5G/6G) spectrum access and resource sharing over multiple users and multi-RAT connectivity on the same device

### Enabling immersive experience

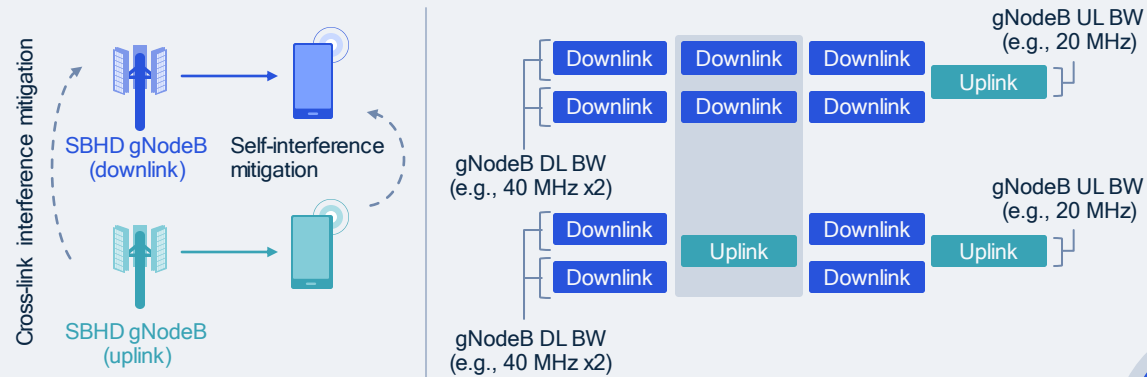
Enabling high capacity XR to facilitate immersive metaverse experiences using 6G air interface and new network topology technologies

# Driving towards a full duplex wireless system

Lower latency, better coverage, expanded capacity, flexible spectrum deployment and service multiplexing

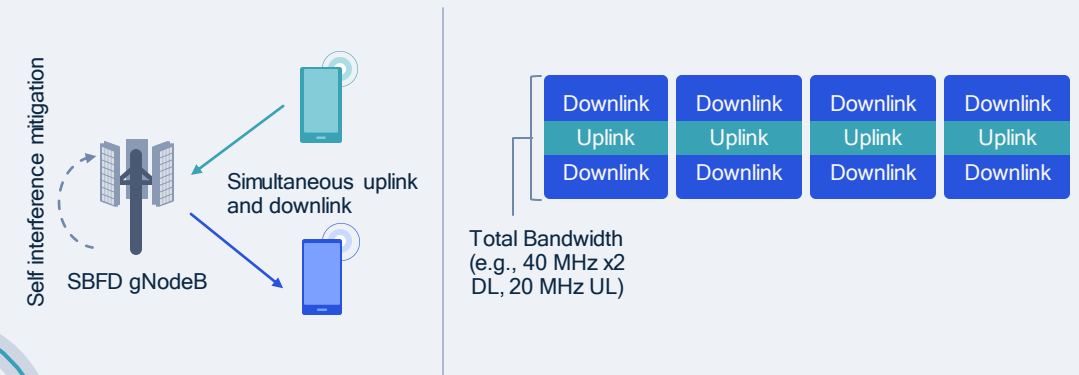
## Subband half duplex (SBHD)

Frequency aligned to avoid inter-site interference; Time separation to avoid self-interference; Implemented in SD test network (MWC'21)



## Subband full duplex (SBFD)

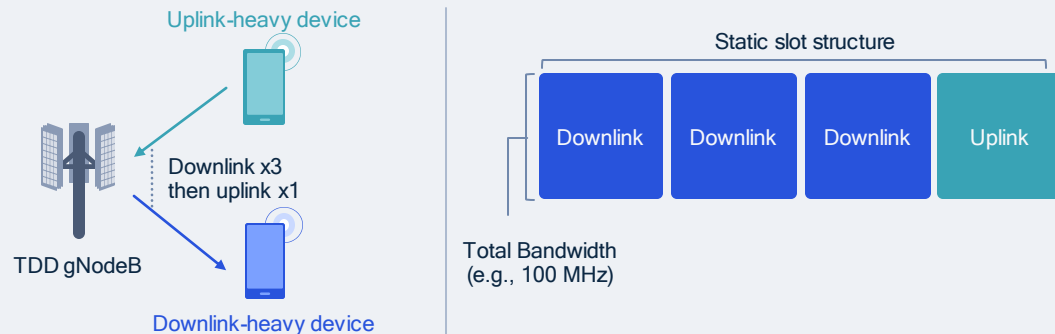
Frequency aligned to avoid inter-site interference; Frequency separation + interference cancellation to avoid self-interference; Implemented in SD test network (MWC'22)



Duplexing evolution

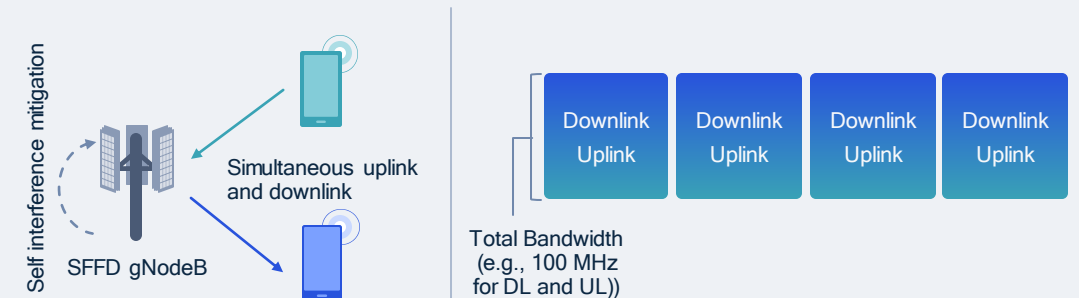
## Static TDD

Time aligned to avoid inter-site interference; Time separation to avoid self-interference; Existing 5G systems (i.e., Rel-15) adopt static TDD (and FDD) duplexing

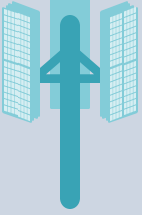


## Single frequency full duplex (SFFD)

Interference cancellation to avoid self-interference; Targeting future simulations, prototyping, and standardization in 6G and beyond





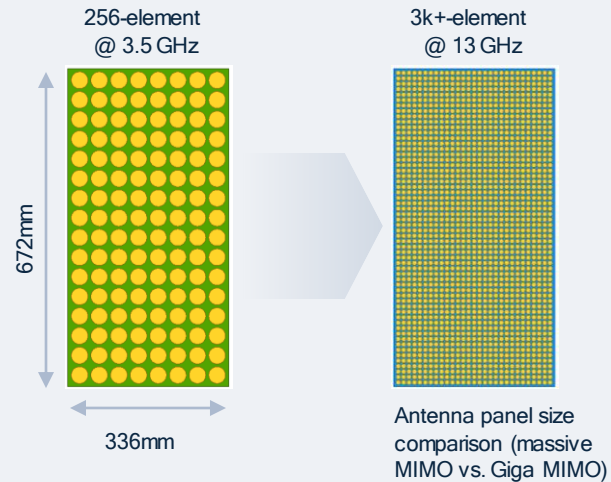


# Giga-MIMO expands network coverage to upper mid-band

Giga MIMO with wide bandwidth and large number of antenna elements (i.e., >2k)

More antenna elements with same aperture, 3-4x wavelength reduction vs. sub-7 GHz

Building on 5G sub-7 GHz and mmWave technologies and approaches



For supporting wide-area use cases in X-band (8– 12 GHz) and Ku-band (12– 18 GHz)

Global spectrum discussions underway

Experimental licenses e.g., 8.5-9 GHz, 12.75-13.25 GHz

Regional and ITU discussions ongoing for longer term refarming



256-element  
@ 3.5 GHz



2048-element  
@ 10 GHz

Network coverage testing near Qualcomm campus in San Diego, CA

## Best of wide-band mmWave and wide-area sub-7 GHz

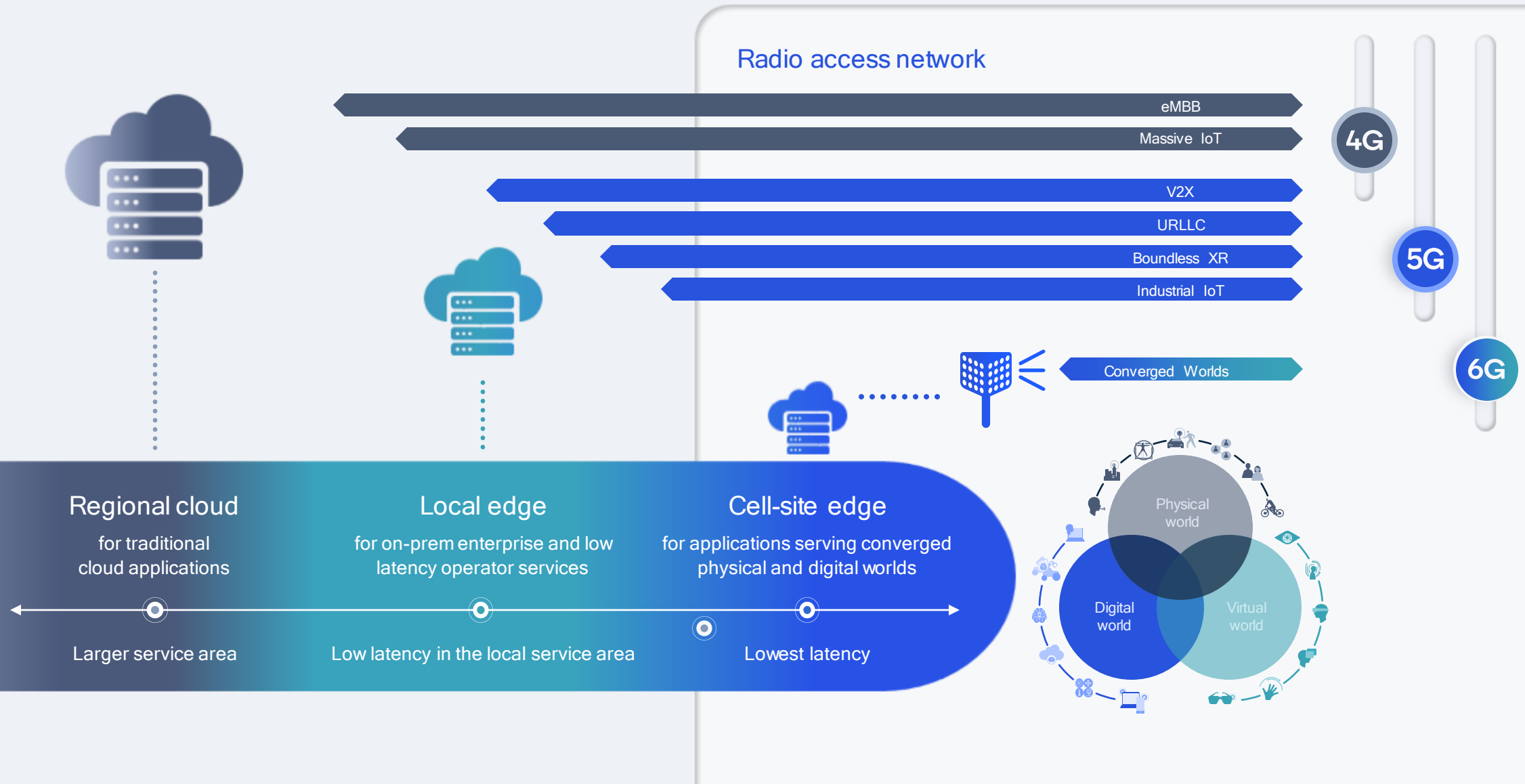
GHz bandwidth – 10x more capacity than existing massive MIMO systems

Comparable wide-area coverage to massive MIMO in sub-7 GHz

Higher positioning, radar, and RF sensing resolutions

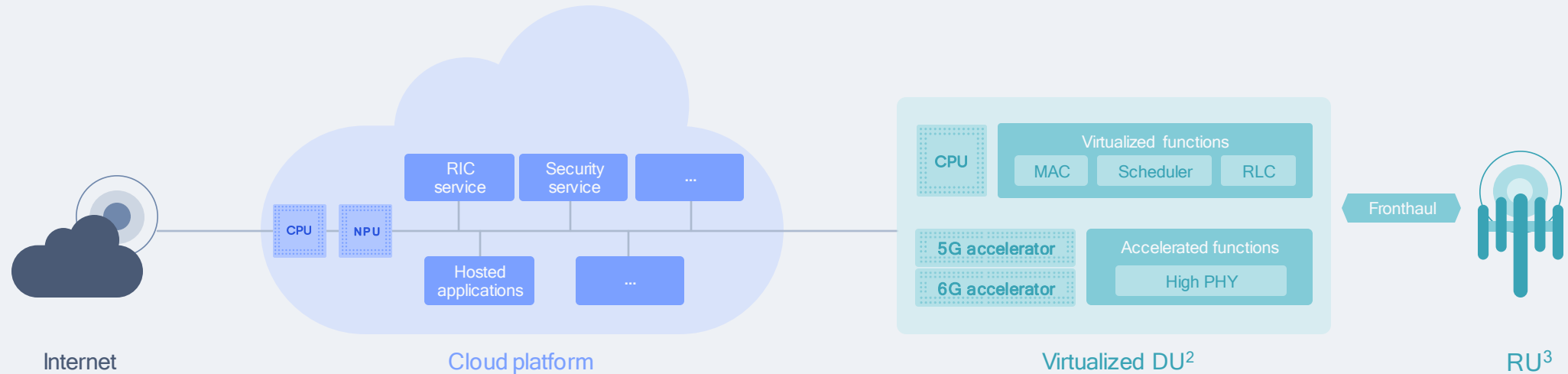


# Serving more diverse requirements with an evolving topology



# Evolving network architecture towards 6G

Driven by disaggregation and cloudification of tiered services



## Cloud-based core network

Core network hosted in public and/or private clouds  
Flattening of architecture by moving 5G CU<sup>1</sup> functions to Core in 6G  
Applications and Core on same platform create opportunity for differentiated E2E performance

## RAN Intelligent Controller (RIC)

Intelligent optimization via RIC applications from third-parties  
Opportunity for network and device side intelligence framework synergy

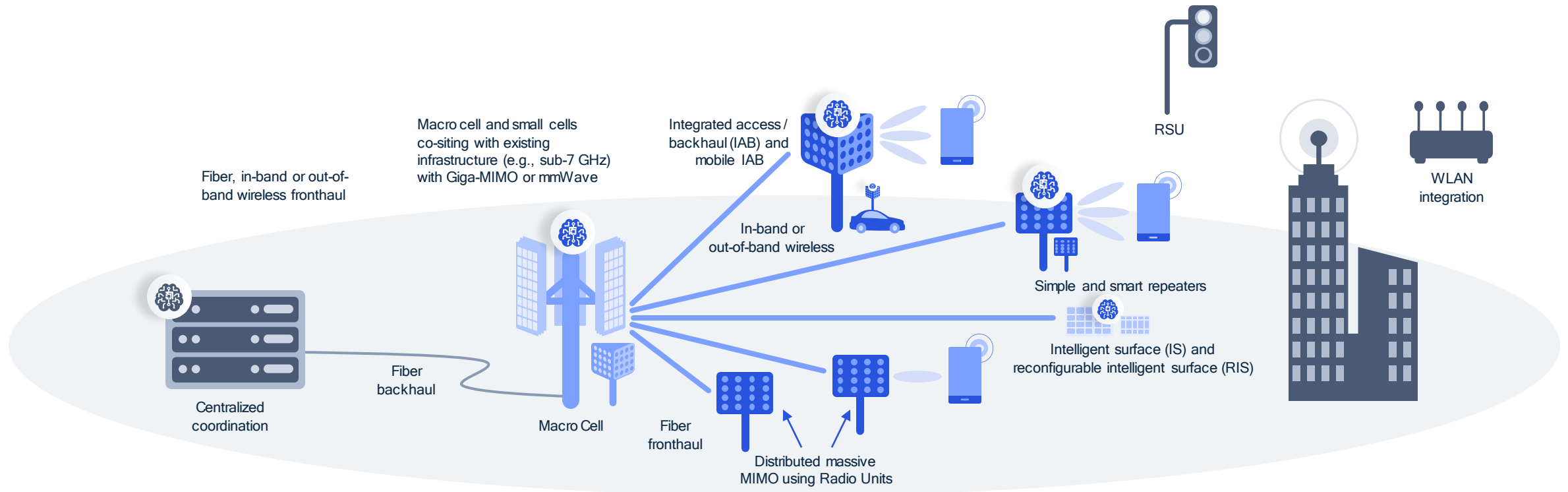
## Virtualized DU and open fronthaul

Virtualized DU with PHY processing in accelerators  
Widespread adoption of standards-based fronthaul for interoperable RU  
Rapid upgrade cycles on network create opportunity for more upgradable and modular device software

## Upgrade for legacy bands

Leverage flexible 5G design to support efficient DSS with 6G  
Potential reuse of legacy RU if 6G supports 5G symbol numerology  
Easy upgrade of virtualized DU by adding 6G accelerator cards

# 6G will drive diverse deployment topologies and technologies



A scalable and distributed network architecture can meet diverse coverage, capacity, and other performance requirements

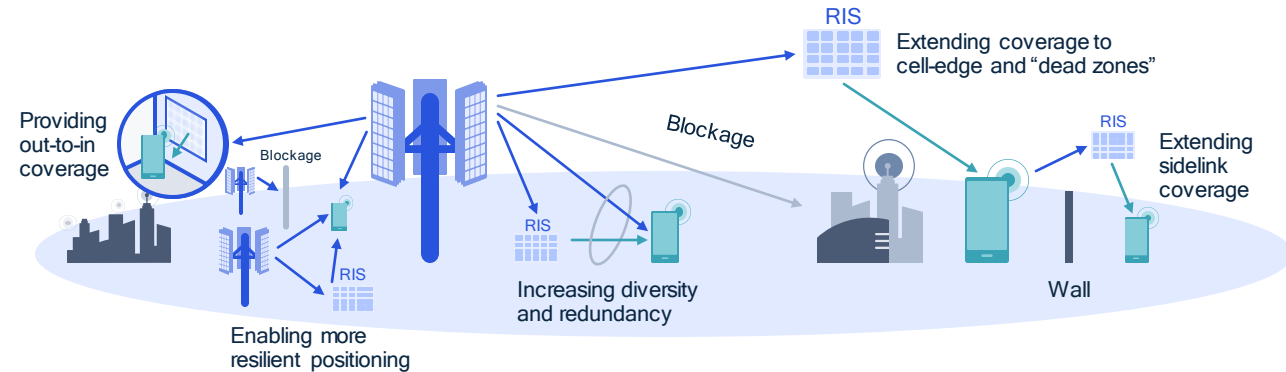
# Passive MIMO for coverage extension and improved energy efficiency

Also known as RIS – Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces that can support various deployments and use cases

Providing dynamic control of reflective beam directions with PA<sup>1</sup>-less operations

Extending coverage for users in challenging locations (e.g., cell-edge, indoors, and with blockage)

Achieving better network energy efficiency



<sup>1</sup> Power amplifier

Expanding the deployment toolbox to efficiently provide broader network coverage

Macro cells

Micro cells

Remote radio heads

Small cells

RF repeaters

Smart repeaters

Integrated access/backhaul

Passive MIMO

Smart passive MIMO (IS & RIS)

Other infrastructure options...

# Further evolving cellular for non-terrestrial communication

That complements terrestrial communication

## 5G Rel-15

Study Item focused on deployment scenarios and channel models

## 5G Rel-17

Work Item focused on supporting satellites and HAPS for eMBB and IoT<sup>1</sup> with enhancements to synchronization, scheduling, HARQ, mobility, and more

## 6G

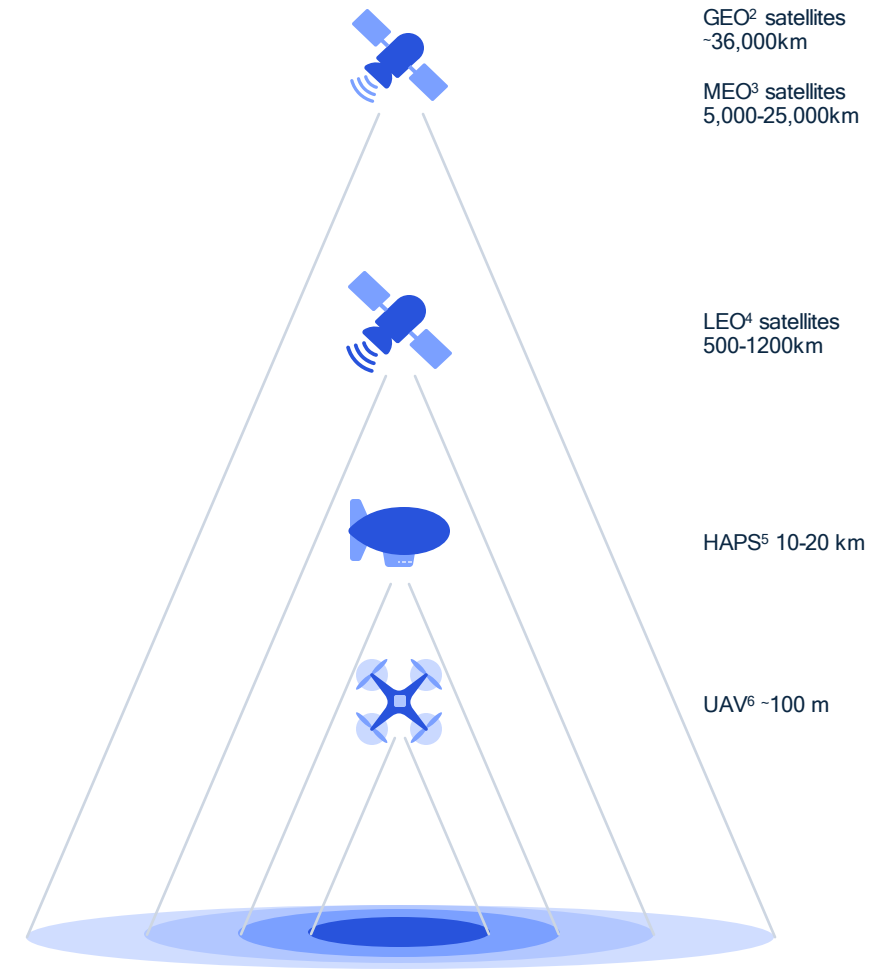
Potential focus on delivering an integrated 3D heterogeneous network, where terrestrial infrastructure can be complemented by non-terrestrial ones

## 5G Rel-16

Study Item focused on solutions for adapting 5G NR to support NTN

## 5G Rel-18+

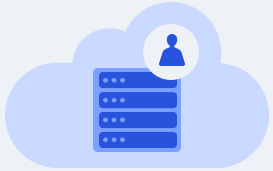
Expected to further enhance communications for UAV, HAPS, and satellites



1 eMTC and NB-IoT; 2 Geostationary; 3 Medium Earth Orbit; 4 Low Earth Orbit; 5 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles; 6 High Altitude Platform Station;

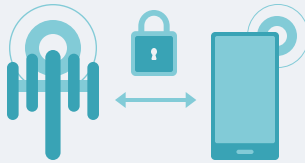
# Our research focus in 6G security and privacy across all layers

Building on the proven, solid security foundation of 5G



## Data security and privacy

- Data provenance (e.g., to defeat deep fake)
- AI/ML federated learning
- Secure multi-party computation
- Differential privacy
- Homomorphic encryption of secure off device data processing
- Zero knowledge proof for data/identity privacy



## Secure communication

- PHY/MAC security
- Ultra secure communication
- Network hiding
- All encryption (including broadcast / scheduling info.)
- Jamming resilience
- Post quantum cryptography (resilient against quantum computers)
- Quantum security (key generation, key distribution)



## Identity and device management

- Identity privacy
- Multifaceted trust
- User / device / subscription authentication
- Device onboarding and ownership structure/management
- Device / user attestation, multi-factor, continuous authentication
- Electronic ID ecosystem (e.g., secure, private, agile root of trust for identity, trusted D2D security bootstrapping)

Platform security

Blockchain

Web 3.0

Confidential Computing

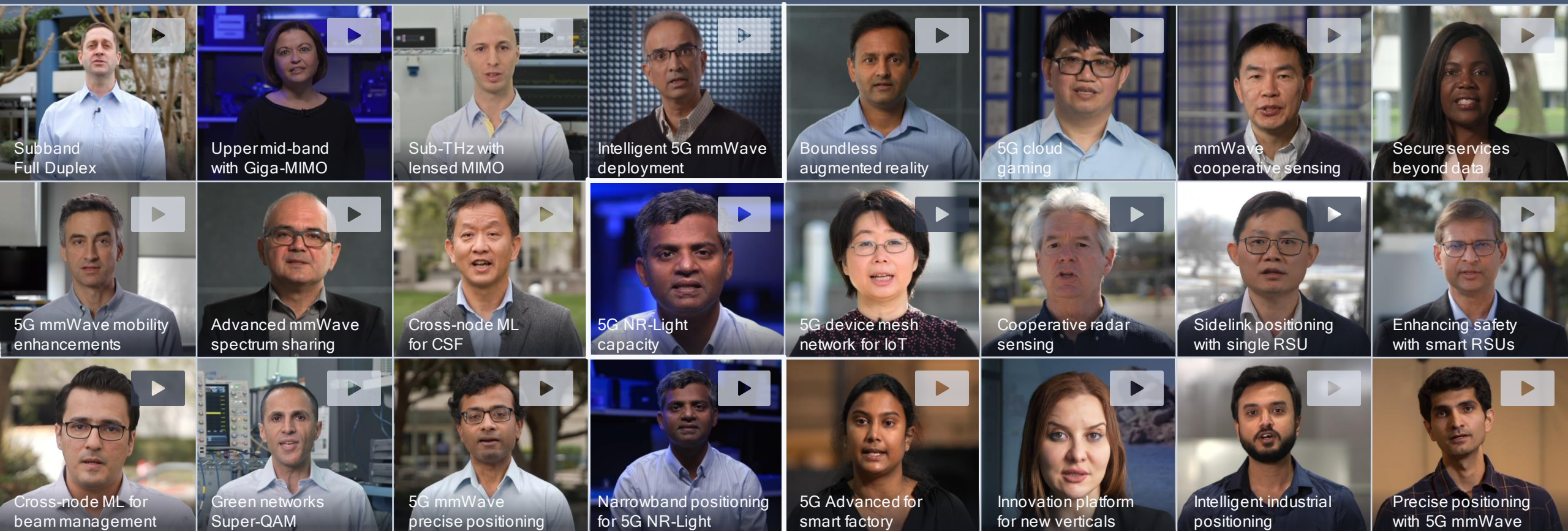




# Driving the 5G evolution with our advanced R&D demonstrations



[Watch all on YouTube](#)



Foundational Air Interface Innovations

Expansion to New Applications



# Driving the 5G Advanced technology evolution into 6G



# Thank you



Follow us on:     

For more information, visit us at:  
[qualcomm.com](http://qualcomm.com) & [qualcomm.com/blog](http://qualcomm.com/blog)

Nothing in these materials is an offer to sell any of the components or devices referenced herein.

©2018-2022 Qualcomm Technologies, Inc. and/or its affiliated companies. All Rights Reserved.

Qualcomm is a trademark or registered trademark of Qualcomm Incorporated. Other products and brand names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

References in this presentation to "Qualcomm" may mean Qualcomm Incorporated, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., and/or other subsidiaries or business units within the Qualcomm corporate structure, as applicable. Qualcomm Incorporated includes our licensing business, QTL, and the vast majority of our patent portfolio. Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., a subsidiary of Qualcomm Incorporated, operates, along with its subsidiaries, substantially all of our engineering, research and development functions, and substantially all of our products and services businesses, including our QCT semiconductor business.