

# NOKIA

## 6G Víziótól a technológiai szabványokig

2026 április 8.

Bertenyi Balázs



# Agenda

## The Vision

### Governing conditions

6G standards timeline and machinery  
Spectrum governance

### Technology divers

Radio performance  
Diverse device types  
Architecture  
AI  
Sustainability and Energy Efficiency  
Security

### Migration to 6G

MultiRadio Spectrum Sharing (MRSS)  
Spectrum aggregation

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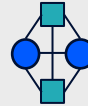
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# From Connectivity → Intelligence

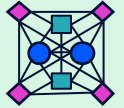
● Humans    ■ Machines/IoTs    ◆ AI agents/tokens

## Today's networks



- Excel at connecting people and devices reliably and efficiently, optimizing speed, coverage and capacity
- They are still predominantly data transport systems

## Tomorrow's networks



- Evolve from connecting data to understanding and processing intelligence
- They will provide perception, coordination, and governed autonomy.

## 2G & 3G

Built mainly for human communications

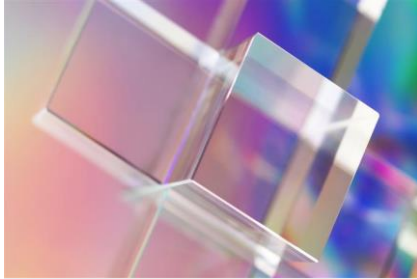
## 4G & 5G

Expanded to support machine and IoT connectivity

## 6G

Extend further to connect AI agents and intelligence

# Key considerations for architecting 6G



## Performant

Driving performance, network efficiency, innovation, and unlocking a new spectrum to fuel economic growth



## Intelligent

Leveraging AI for network design, optimization, and operation, while ensuring seamless connectivity for devices and applications



## Sustainable

Supporting a low-carbon, circular future, and fostering greater equity for people and the planet



## Secure & cyber-resilient

Focusing on innovative security measures and pioneering quantum-safe technologies

# Expected benefits



Uplink capacity boost  
by  
**10x**



Downlink capacity  
boost by  
**6x**



Uplink coverage and  
cell edge data rate  
boost by  
**2-4x**



Scalable device  
design and new value  
creation  
opportunities



Simple upgrade on  
top of 5G  
Standalone

## Performant



AI-native  
6G

## Intelligent

## Sustainable



Network energy  
saving by  
**40%**



Device energy saving  
by  
**50%**



Quantum  
safe



From AI risk to  
built-in ally



Strengthened radio  
security

## Secure & cyber resilient

Capacity scenario: 5G with 100MHz@mid-band, 6G with 100MHz@mid-band + 200MHz@upper mid-band + UL booster; Energy saving scenario: Low load / Low activity

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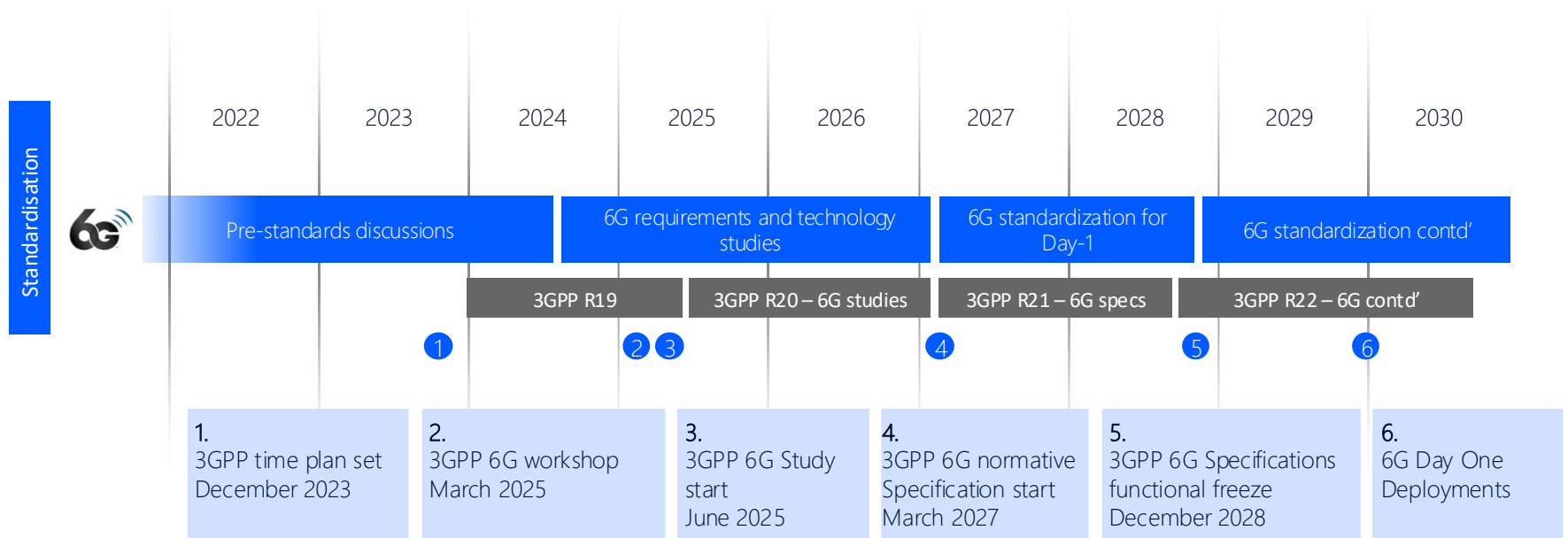
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# 6G will come with 3GPP Rel-21

Commercialization from Q4 2029





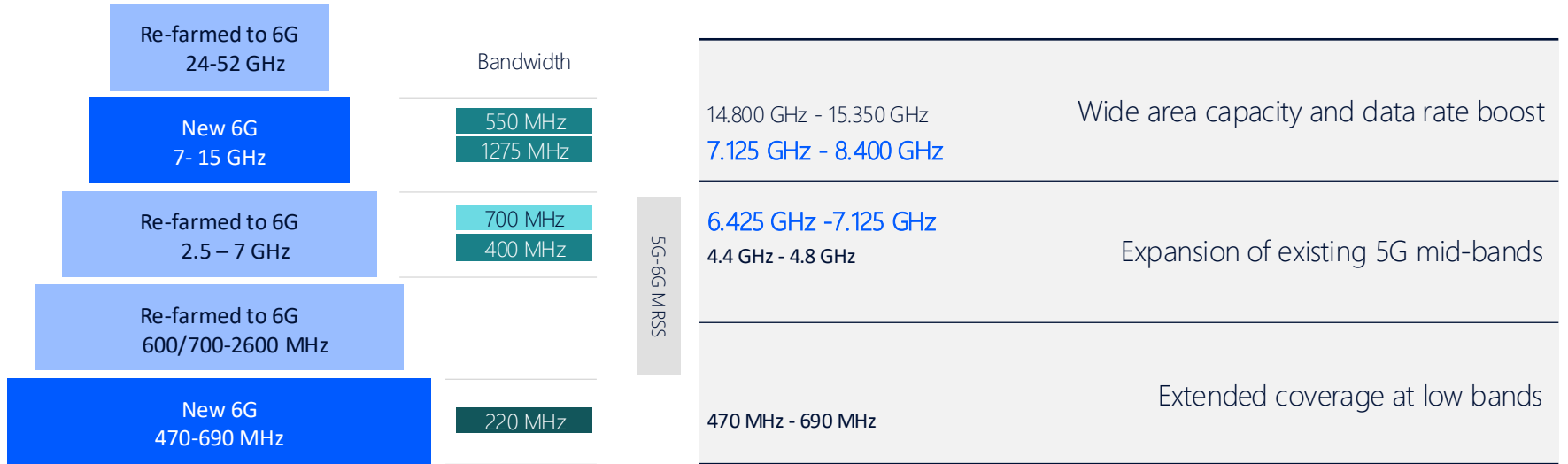
# Nuts and bolts of 3GPP

- Inputs: The set of “contributions” or “tdocs”
- Outputs: The set of TS/TR, describing the system for a given Release
- The 3GPP Process: the meetings & online tools, decision process



# WRC-27/31 expected to provide good spectrum grounds for 6G

## Existing and new bands for 6G



Note: frequency ranges and availability of bands may vary from one ITU Region to another

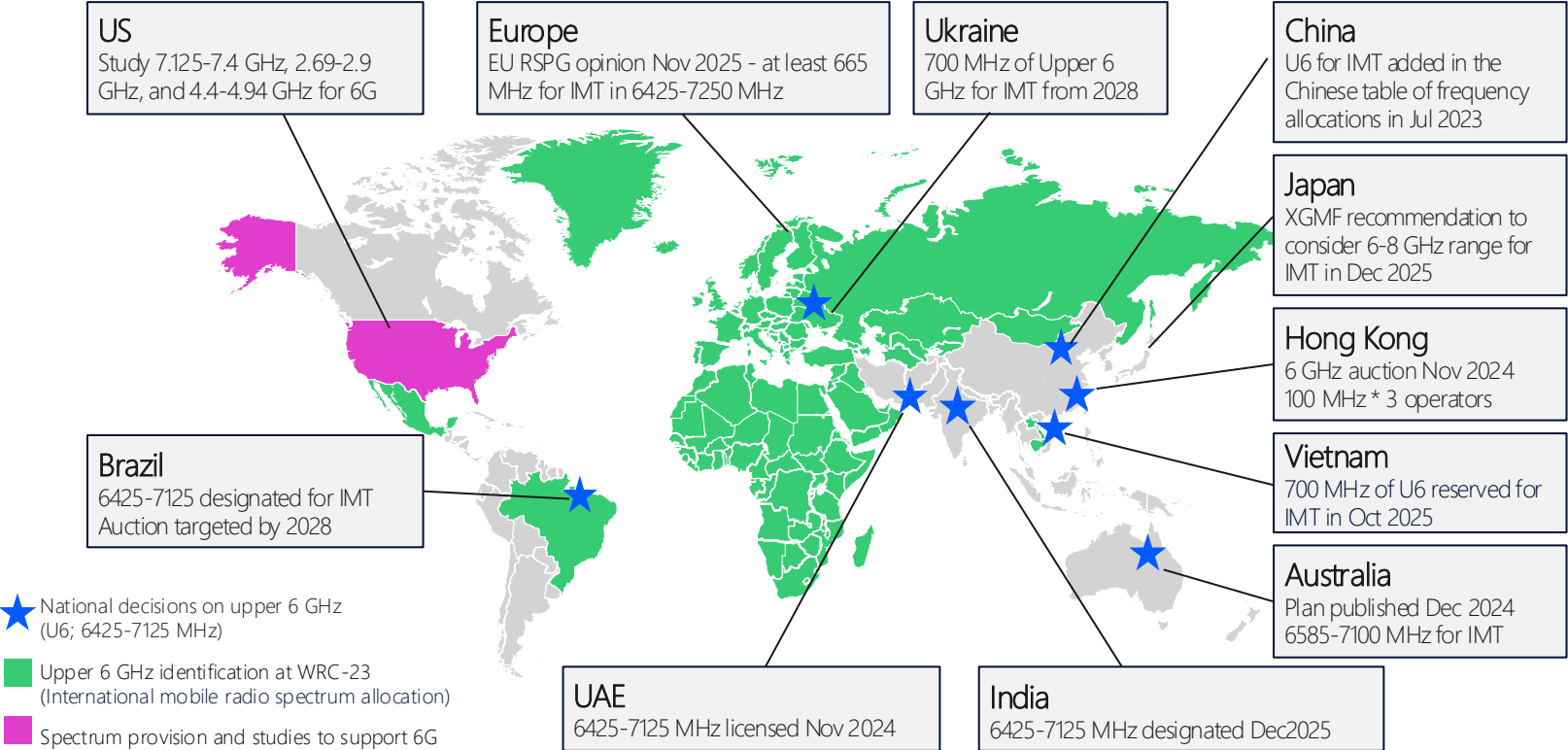
IMT: International Mobile Telecommunications

WRC-23 IMT identification

WRC-27 approved to study for IMT

WRC-31 subject for discussion

# Global momentum for spectrum for 6G



# Realizing the vision of 6G in upper mid-bands

20+ trials and PoC completed during 2025



Public references



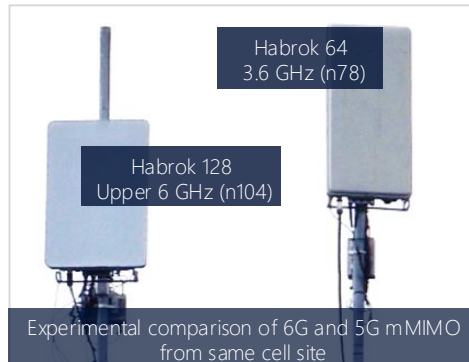
Telia Company 

T Mobile 

- Nokia is building industry consensus on 6G spectrum with government bodies and telecom providers.
- Initial pilots indicate the 6-8 GHz frequencies are good prospects for utilizing existing site grids for capacity and coverage.



## Key learnings:

6G can be deployed at upper 6 GHz and 7 GHz radios with 5G site grid in urban and dense urban areas by means of :

- Double the spectrum (3.5 GHz → 7 GHz)
- Double # of TRX (64 → 128)
- Add at least 4x more antenna elements (198 → 768)

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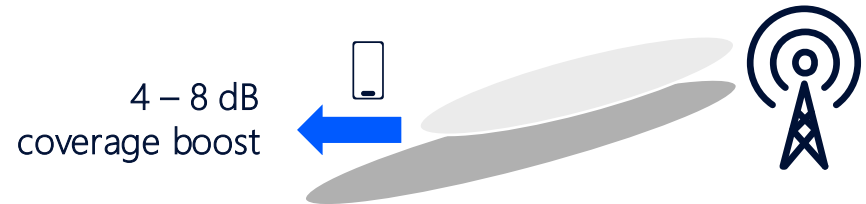
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# Uplink coverage and cell edge data rate boost

Solution	Gain
Higher power up to 26/29 dBm	Up to 3.0 dB
Spectrum shaping	Up to 2.0 dB
Dynamic UE RF requirements	Up to 1.5 dB
Wideband 200-400 MHz	Up to 1.5 dB
Redefine $P_{\text{CMAX}_H}$	Up to 1.0 dB
UL scheduling range introduction	Up to 1.0 dB
Multi-slot transmission	Up to 0.5 dB
<b>Total combined coverage gain</b>	<b>4 – 8 dB</b>



- Enhancing uplink coverage: filtering, power optimization, and multi-slot solutions.
- Evaluated in 5G-Advanced. Implemented in 6G.

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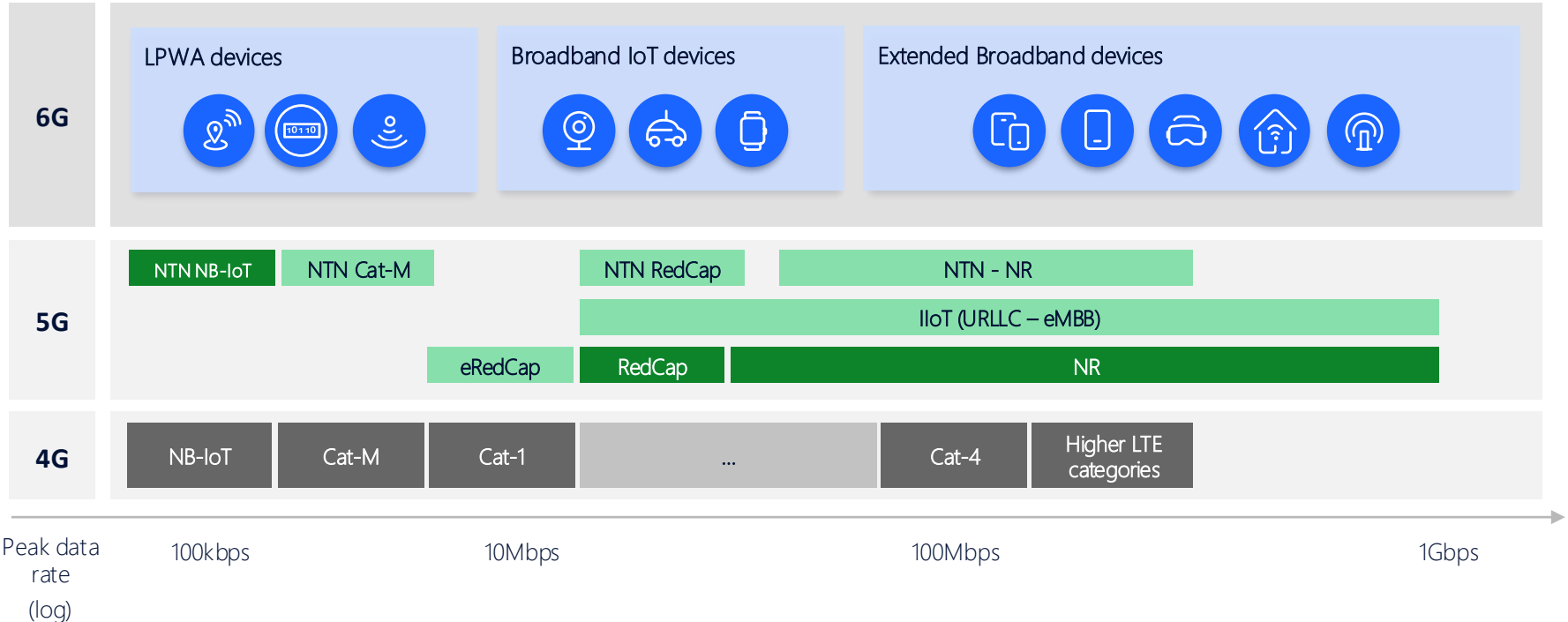
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# Native support of different 6G device types

Terrestrial and non-terrestrial connectivity for all devices





# With a modular radio protocol design for optimized experience

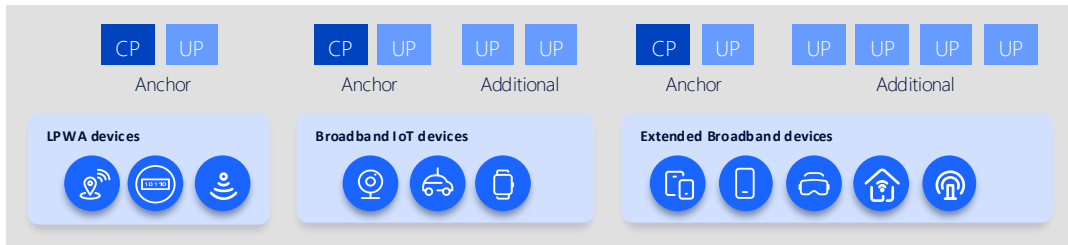
## Modular radio protocol architecture for 6G

Radio protocols define how devices communicate efficiently across the network.

To support diverse device types optimized for different purposes, a modular design is critical.

### Modular design components

- Anchor user plane (UP) + Control plane (CP): Supports lowest-capability devices and anchors existing services with known operation.
- Flexible UP modules: Enable additional processing and scalable implementation for higher-capability devices, such as immersive communications.



## 2G-5G:

A one-size-fits-all design to serve all possible use cases

(Challenges faced: growing complexity, less efficient)



## 6G:

A modular design to support diverse use cases and devices

(Simple, scalable, reliable - ensuring a high-quality customer experience)

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# Single standalone architecture for smooth deployments

## 5G today

7 architectures defined in 3GPP and 2 implemented (NSA, SA)

5G core is a major upgrade on top of 4G core

4G + 5G dual connectivity (DC) and 4G RAN – 5G RAN interface

Two radios (LTE + 5G) active in devices simultaneously

Refarming mostly with static spectrum split

## 6G evolution

Only **single architecture** option for simple evolution

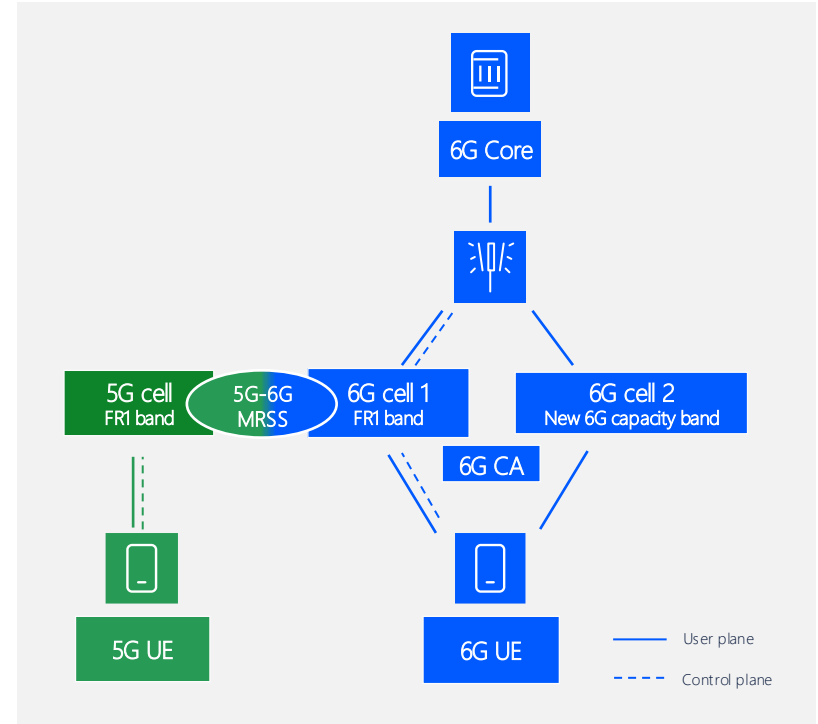
6G **core** is a smooth migration from 5G core

**No 5G – 6G dual connectivity** (just MRSS\* control)

**Only a single radio** active (6G) in a device at a time

**Multi-Radio Spectrum Sharing (MRSS)** for truly dynamic refarming

\* MRSS: Multi-RAT spectrum sharing



**Note:** These are preliminary views for discussion – options need to be evolved as 6G concepts become more mature

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# AI-RAN unlocks monetization and efficiency opportunities

Paving the path to AI-native 6G networks



RAN augmenting  
AI-app performance

Monetization



AI augmenting  
RAN performance

RAN efficiency



Leveraging  
synergies

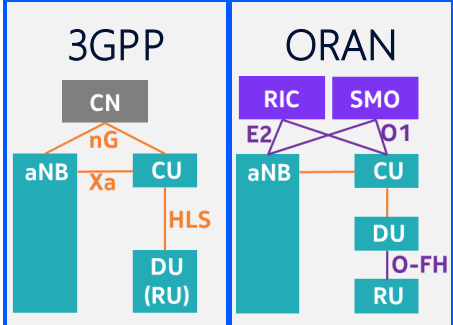
Future-proof

# What is AI-RAN Architecture?



## Standards Domain

### Basic Design of Interfaces



Enable true multi-vendor interface design

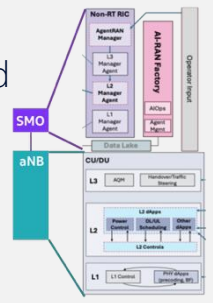
### Protocols / Usage of Interfaces

- Service Awareness
- Data collection
- Information exchange (e.g., prediction)
- Exposure

*Enable protocol enhancements to support AI for RAN and RAN for AI*

### Functional Split inside logical nodes

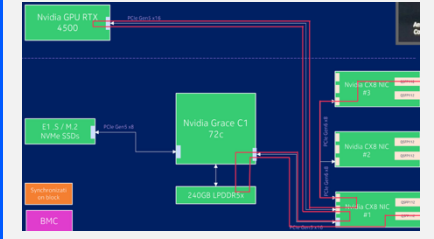
What is implemented in which node and how?



*Well defined AI/ML framework and RAN functionalities*

### Hardware (and Software) Architecture

#### Hardware of the nodes



*Integration of GPUs in RAN to provide better support for AI applications*

# AI-for-RAN use cases

## Enhancing RAN performance with AI

### Motivation and related use cases:

AI is a powerful tool for network management and user experience

Key use cases:

- 1) Mobility optimizations
- 2) Load balancing
- 3) Energy savings
- 4) Network slicing
- 5) Capacity and coverage optimizations

Other use cases like QoE were discussed as well.

### AI/ML Framework:

- Natively support use cases where AI/ML can help improve performance and user experience. However, system should work without AI as well.
- AI/ML models and algorithms remains implementation specific. Data collection and signaling enhancements remains the main enabler of AI in RAN.
- AI services and any enablement of AI in RAN domain uses the existing interfaces to operate.
- Standards should not mandate mapping of the training and inference functionalities to the network element, or 6G NB. Same deployment scenarios (OAM vs Node B) as assumed in 5G are supported.
- Specific RAN Architecture for AI/ML should be avoided, and introduction of new interface/network element should be justified technically and commercially.

AI/ML in RAN is supported without disrupting the RAN architecture.

# AI-on-RAN use case – Service Awareness

## Efficiently supporting mobile AI traffic

### Motivation and related use cases:

- RAN needs to be able to quickly adapt to end users needs.
- RAN should play a stronger role in realizing the value of service differentiation to end users.
- RAN needs to know what end user wants in a dynamic manner: no time to rely on static allocations or so.
- There is also a need for a new KPI to measure how well applications are performing.

### Clause 5.3.6 in TR 38.914

#### 5.3.6 Service characteristics awareness in RAN

*6G RAN shall be able to understand and be capable of adapting to traffic demands of applications while maintaining overall system efficiency in terms of radio resource utilization and energy consumption.*

*6G Radio and 6G RAN need to enable service characteristic differentiation for improving end-to-end user experience and enabling more dynamic and intelligent service and AI traffic handling in 6G RAN.*

RAN should be able to support existing and new services (e.g., AI applications).



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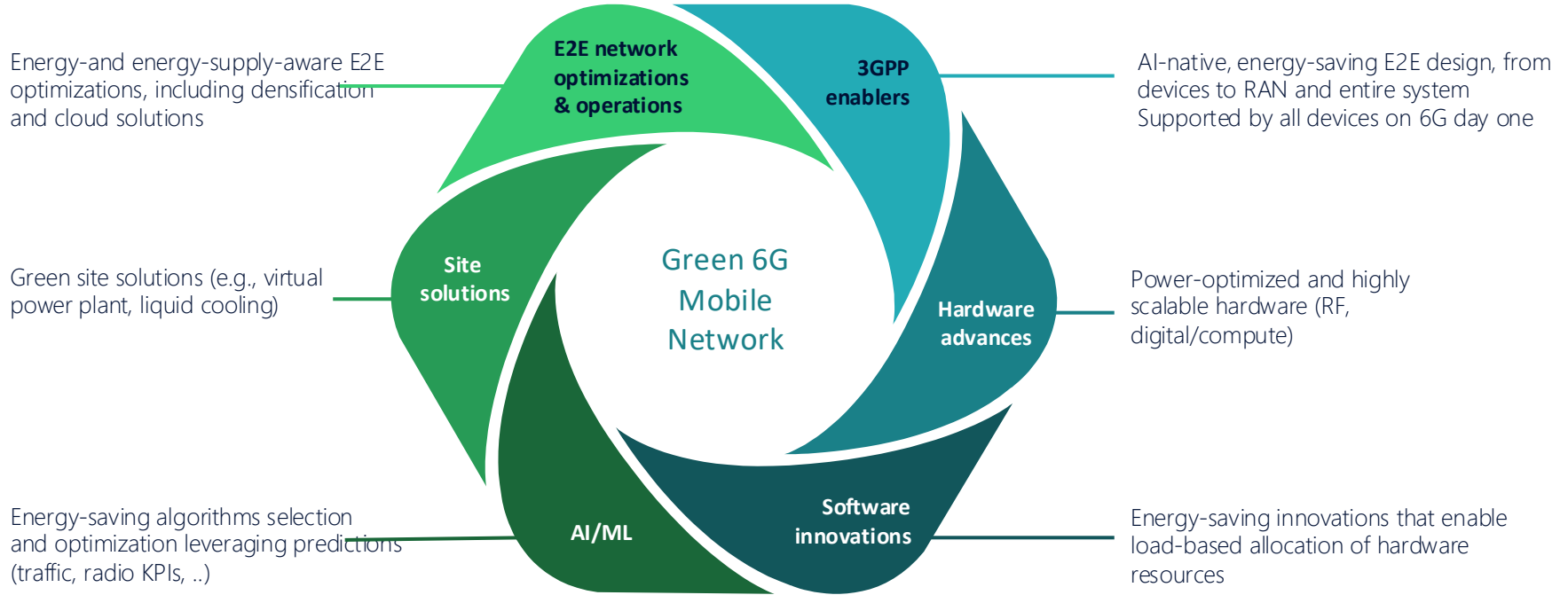
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# Key components for a green 6G network

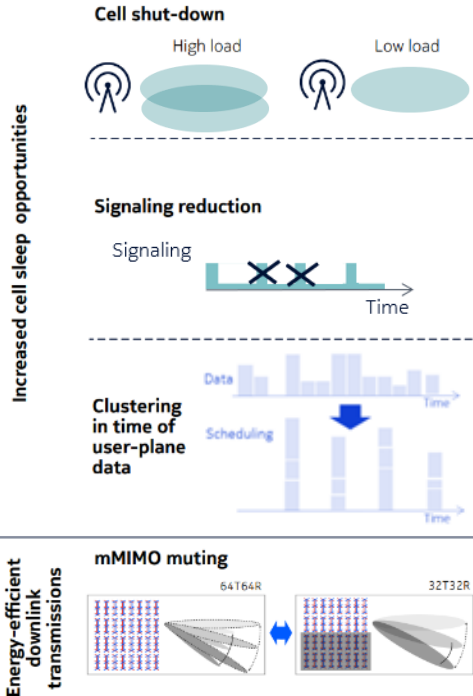
## An end-to-end view



# RAN energy saving

3GPP Release 21 focus\*

Key targets



## Cell / beam shut-down schemes

Enhanced elegant, more reliable, and faster shut-down of capacity cells and beams

## Network Energy Saving design for Signaling Reduction

Leaner carrier for always-available network with on-demand or load-based provisioning of SSB, synchronization signals, system information, PRACH and paging occasions

## Network Energy Saving schemes for Data

More flexible and effective cell discontinuous transmission and reception (cell DTX/DRX)

Adaptive base station transmit antennas and transmit power control with UE assistance via SRS and CSI feedback

Near-zero Watts  
at zero load

Maximize bits per  
Watt without  
compromising  
QoS/QoE

\* Full device support required from 6G day one

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# Ensure a robust 6G security posture from the start

## Threat vectors for 6G - fueled by emerging technologies



Quantum computing threatens current cryptography



Offensive use of AI crafts adversarial inputs

AI will amplify current cyberattacks



SW-defined radios can spoof signals and jam

## We need to prepare today for tomorrow

Post-quantum cryptography

AI security

Radio lower-layer protection

Security for sensing

AEAD support

Authentication enhancement

Security for new NAS

Data security

Security monitoring

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# 5G-to-6G Migration

Framing the  
Problem  
& MRSS  
Overview

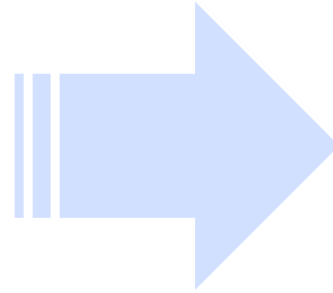
1

6G Spectrum  
Aggregation  
(CA vs DC)

2

Key Takeaways

3



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# 6G cannot afford a 4G-to-5G-style migration

NW-led MRSS is the only scalable path: No UE Heroics Required

The previous migration round to 5G:

- Relied on multiple migration paths and dual radios in devices
- Phased migration, extra complexity and long tail of legacy devices
- Suffered from LTE always-on overhead that sacrificed (spectrum) value and 5G customer experience

The reality we all still face:

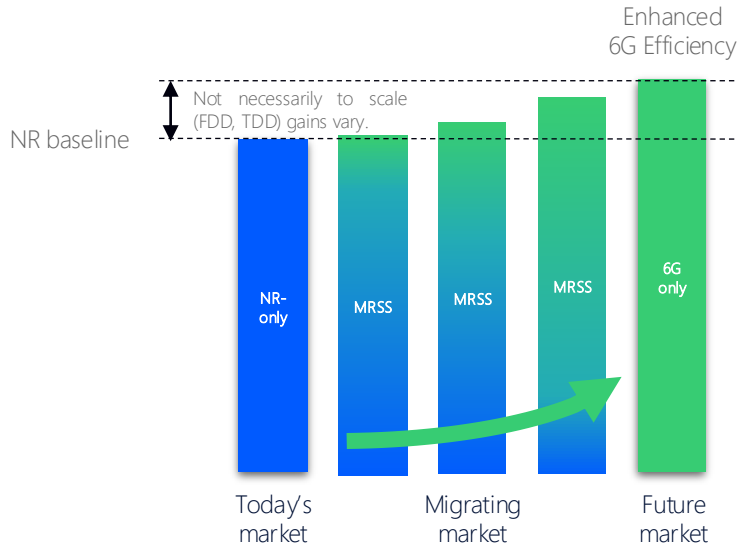
- Low-band spectrum remains the coverage anchor
- Revenue per MHz must be optimized continuously
- Static refarming leads to capacity cliffs and compromised user experience

Expectations for the next migration round to 6G:

- 3GPP agrees that 5G-6G MRSS is the streamlined migration pillar
- Existing spectrum will continue to carry 5G traffic for many years, well into the 6G era
- Migration solution should work for all 6G device types and we cannot mandate dual-radio UEs

# Simplifying the Spectrum Migration to 6G

Industry baseline: Native spectrum sharing between NR and 6G (Day-1)



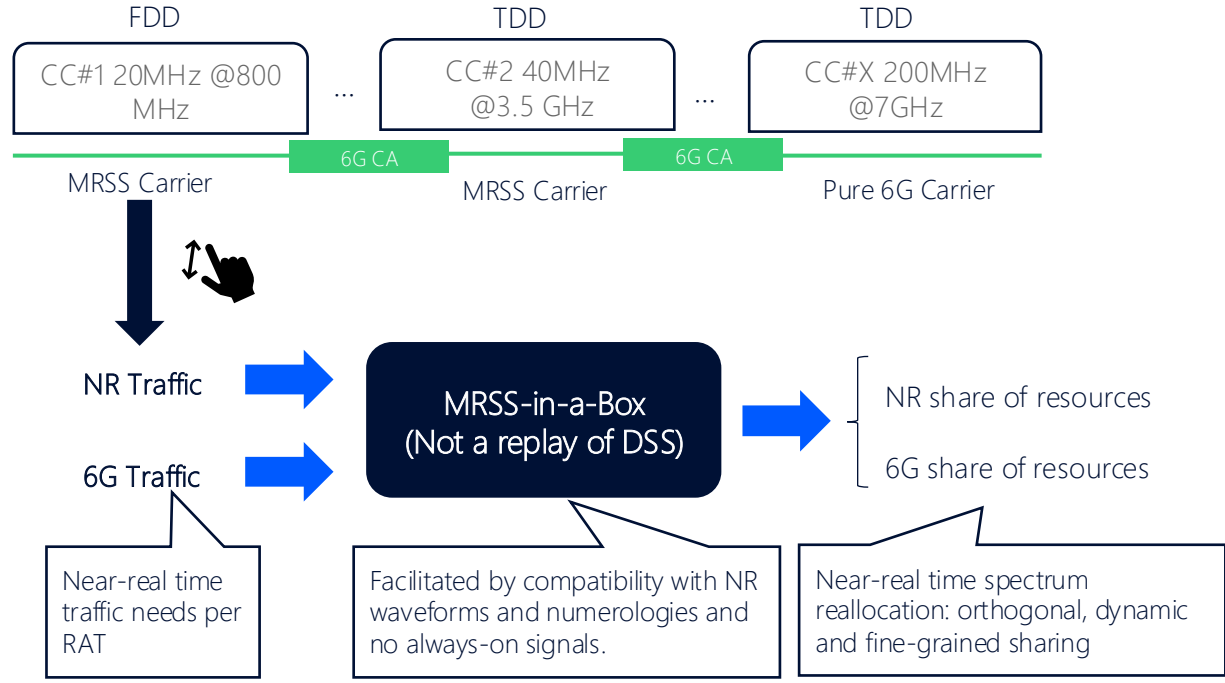
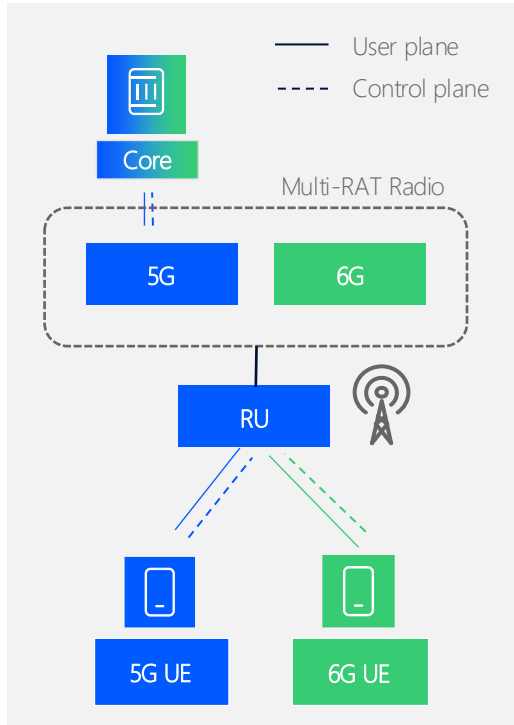
Minimal extra overhead due to MRSS

With increasing 6G traffic share, 6G performance gains result with increasing net capacity gain on an MRSS carrier

Multi-RAT Spectrum Sharing (MRSS) enables 6G deployment over existing 5G macro infrastructure (coverage) and spectrum (FR1 assets)

# MRSS 101: How does it work?

(Over-) simplified black-box model of MRSS → capacity follows traffic



# Summary of MRSS design

MRSS offers flexible capacity balancing between 5G and 6G.  
Analysis did not account for any 6G gains, only overhead impact shown.

MRSS outperforms  
static refarming even  
with 5 MHz FDD

Less than 2-5%  
degradation for MRSS  
with 10 MHz FDD

With 20 MHz FDD and 100  
MHz TDD, MRSS  
performance difference is  
almost invisible

Even in 5 MHz cells MRSS overhead has only a small performance impact.  
In 20 MHz and wider BW cells the overhead impact all but vanishes.

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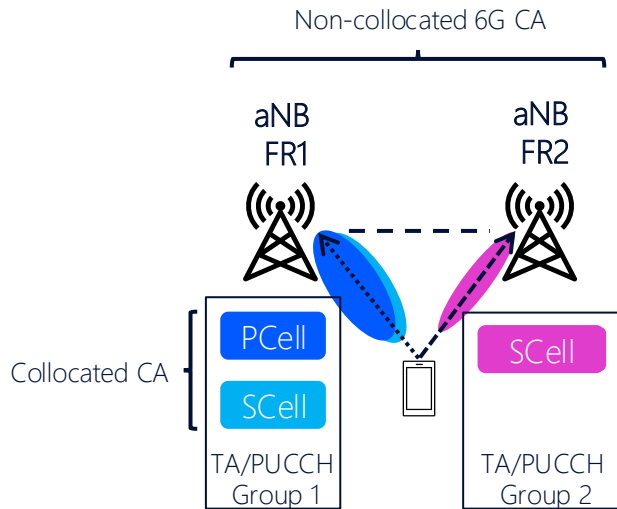
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# 6G FR1 & FR2 non-collocated spectrum aggregation

Common PHY for DC and CA: Protocol behavior defines FR1-FR2 spectrum aggregation



Non-collocated FR1 & FR2 Carriers will have:

- Different propagation (delay)
- Potentially different numerology
- Possibly different beamforming techniques
- Non-collocated backhaul

MAC/RLC/PDCP/RRC

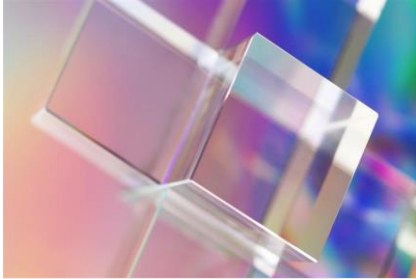
- L2 protocol stack coupling assumptions
- Scheduling, data split, reordering and flow control
- Tight x relaxed coupling determines spectrum aggregation

Dual PUCCH + TA groups:

- Help decouple timing and UL control between FR1/2 legs
- Reduces the amount of per slot coordination
- Allows loosely coupled scheduling architectures to function

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