

Optical Wireless Communication – Part I – Introduction



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- **Why the need for new wireless technologies**
- **5G & 6G**
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- **Wireless technologies**
- **How to overcome spectrum congestion**
- **Optical wireless communications**
 - **Innovation timeline**
 - **Systems in the market**
 - **Future applications**
- **Final comments**



Why the need for

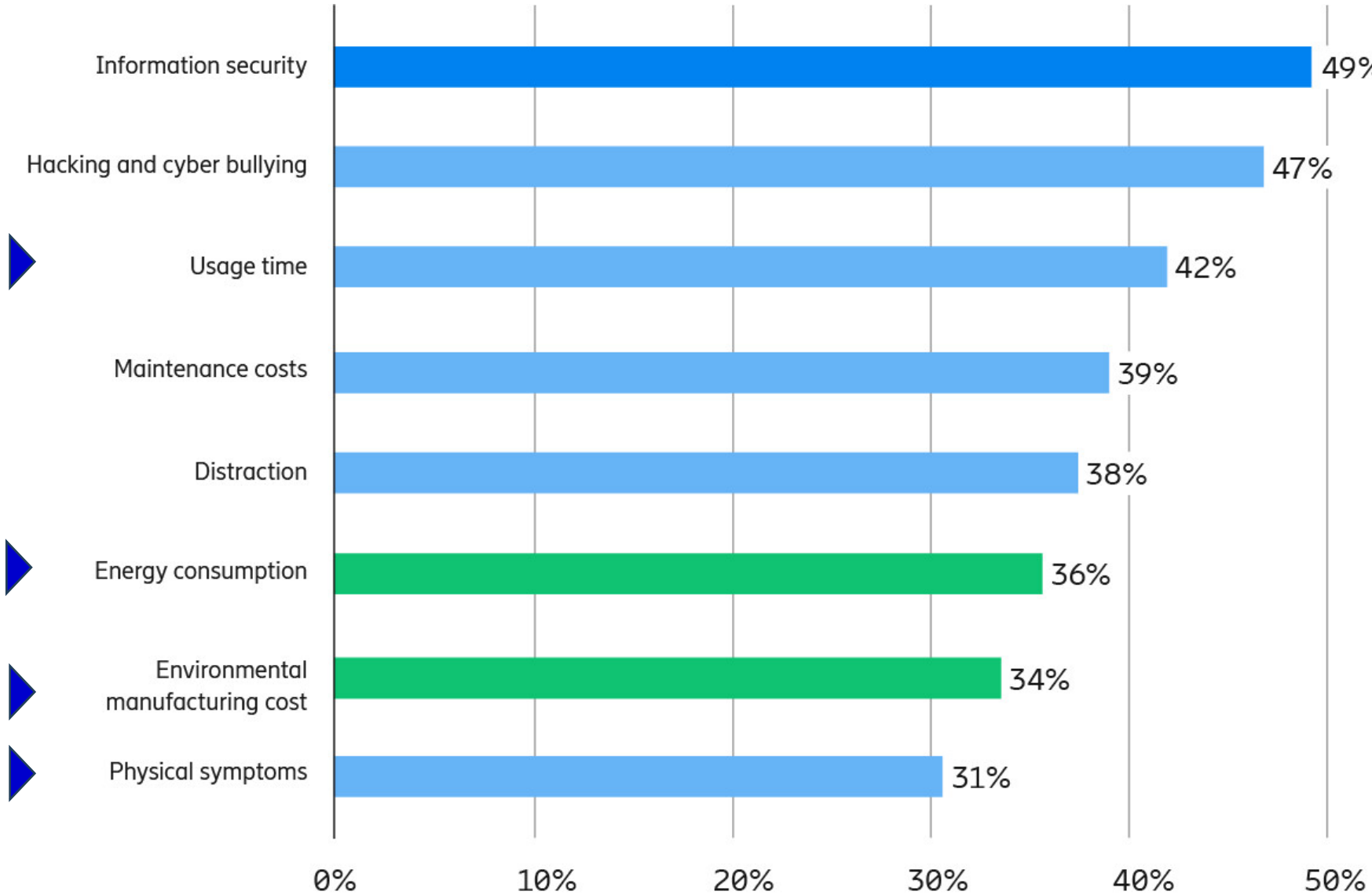
New *Wireless?*



Context:

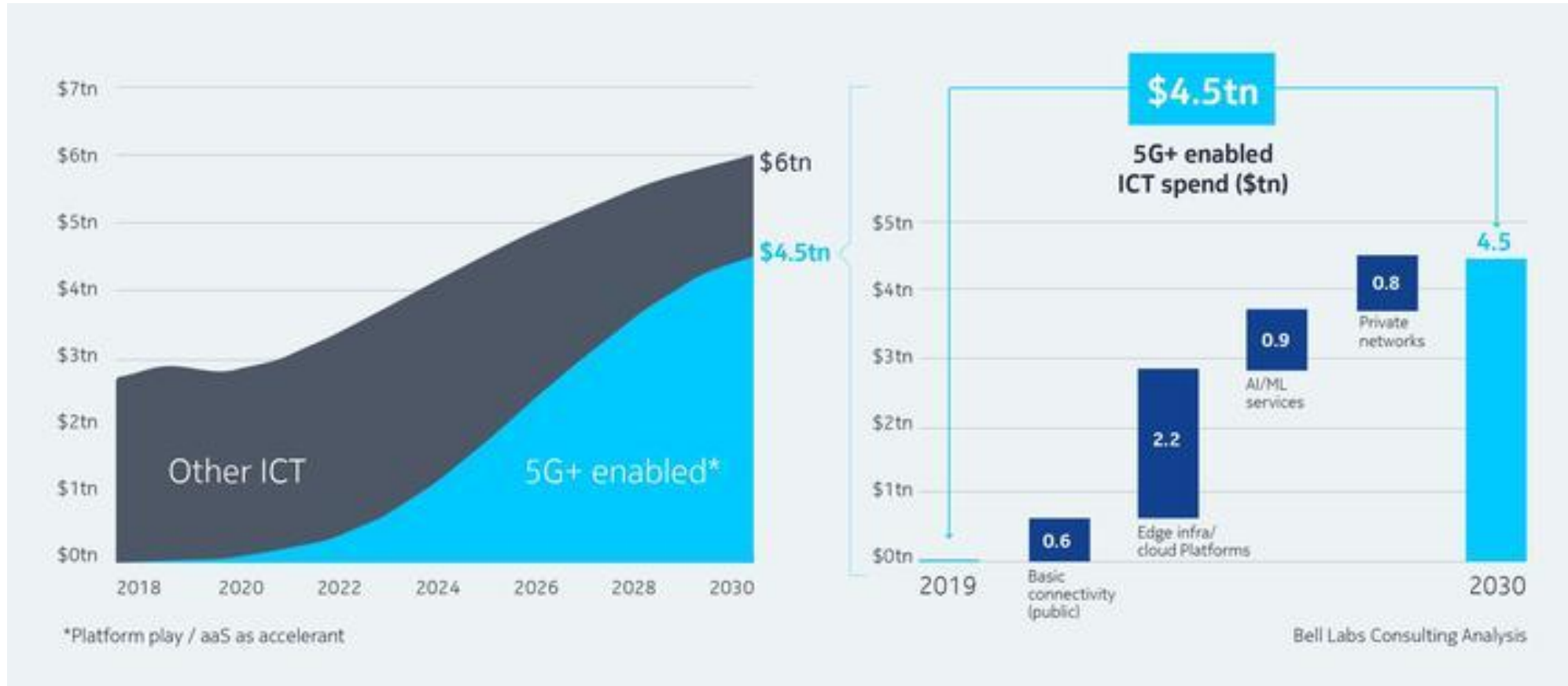
1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	The role of ICT

Context - ICT Sustainability



Percentage of consumers who express concern for different aspects of their ICT devices

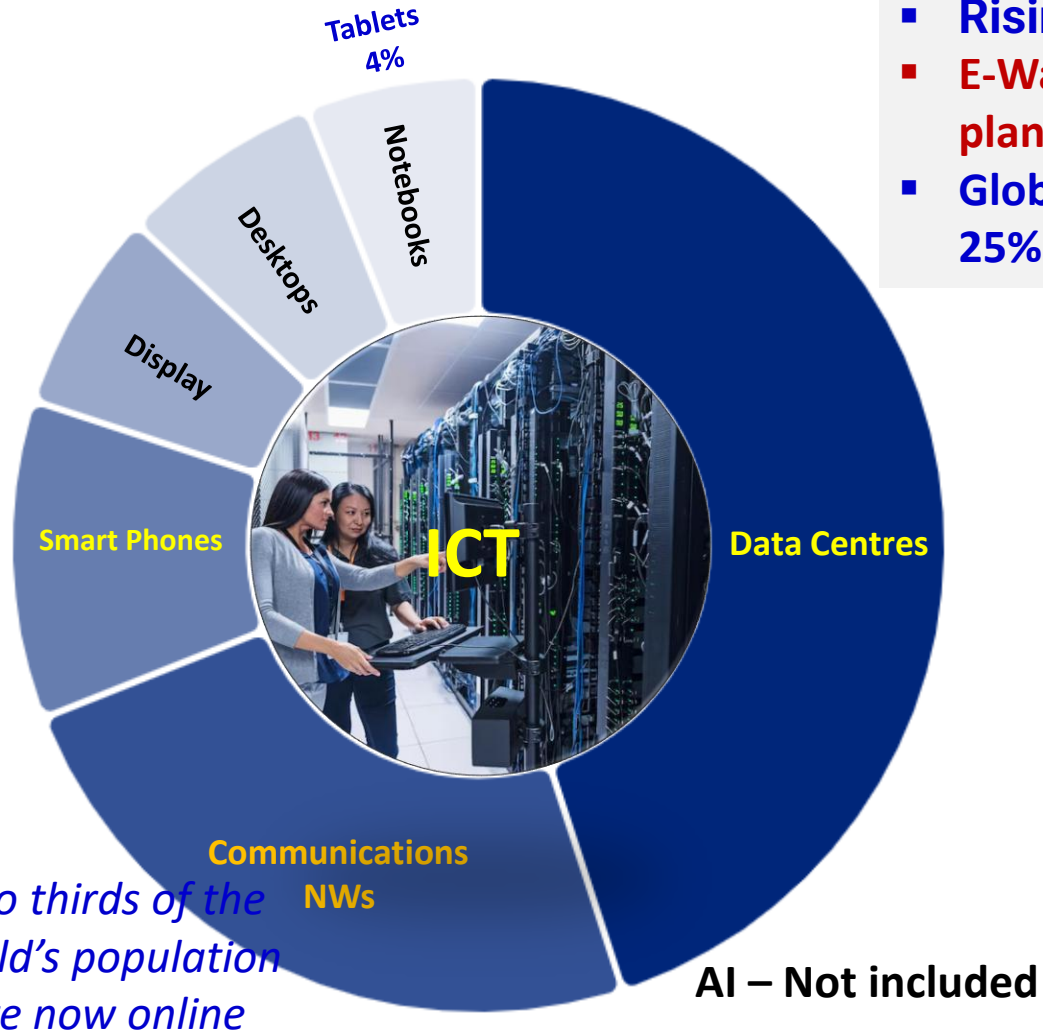
A \$4.5 Trillion Industry by 2030



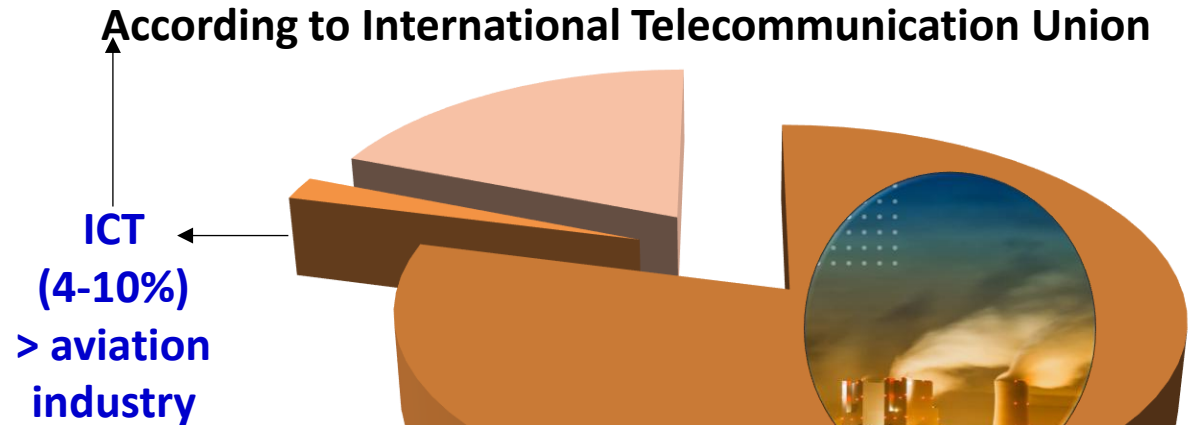
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Context - Global data - Carbon Emission

- Rising energy consumption by ICT is a growing global concern
- E-Waste is the one of, if not the fastest growing waste stream on the planet
- Global Energy use from ICT projected to grow from 6% today to around 25% by 2050

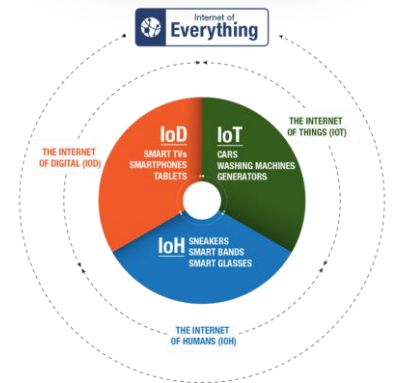
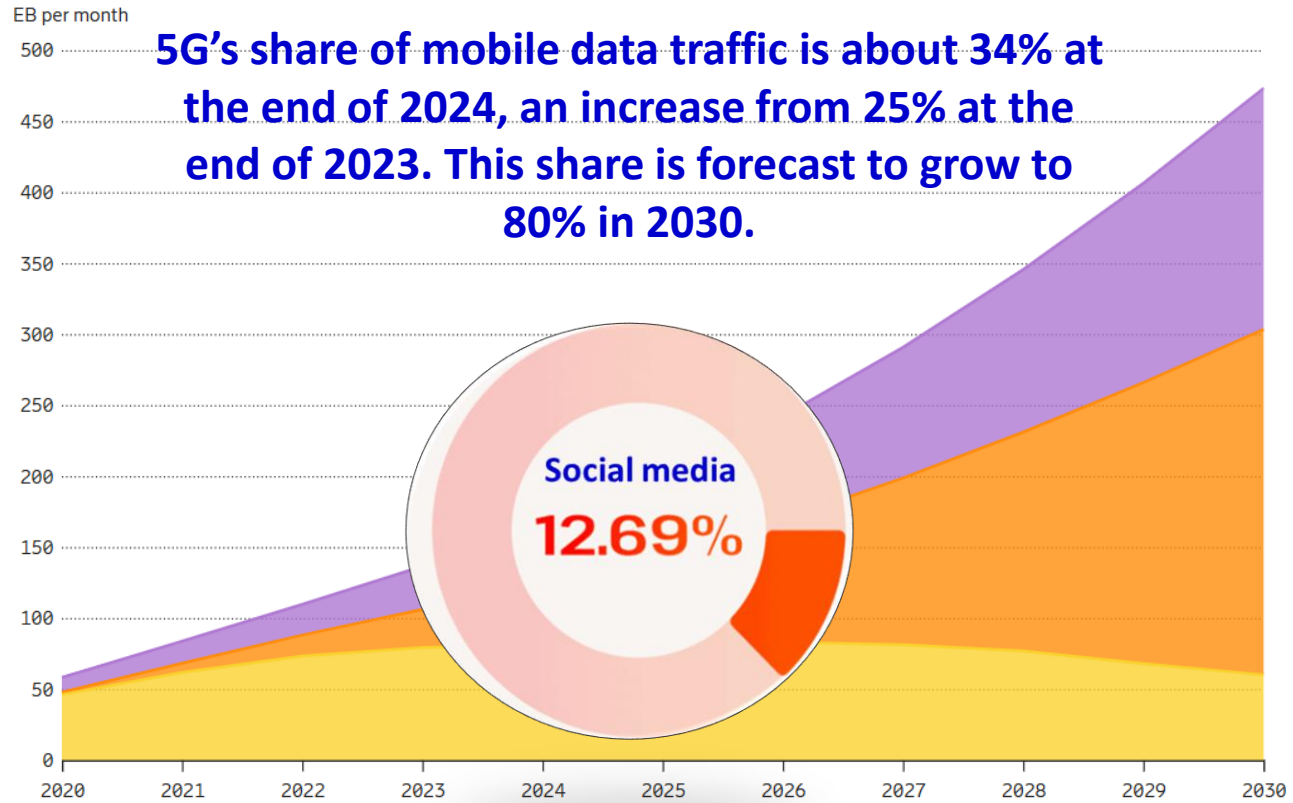
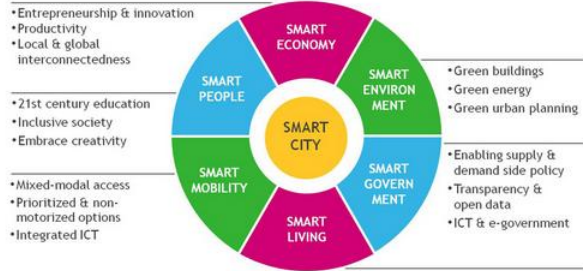


Two thirds of the world's population are now online



https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/3038679/?utm_source=showcase&utm_campaign=visualisation/3038679
<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099121223165540890/p17859702a98880540a4b70d57876048abb>
<https://sustainableict.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/27/why-sustainable-ict-is-vital/>

Context - Global Data



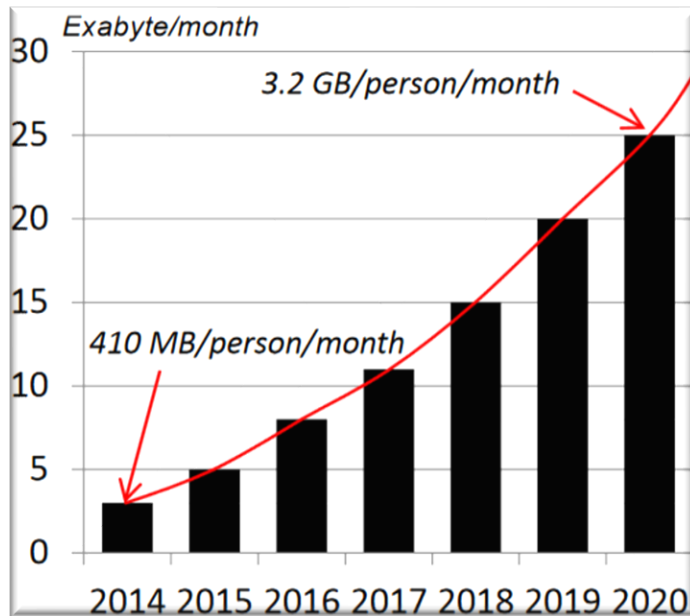
<https://www.ericsson.com/en/reports-and-papers/mobility-report/dataforecasts/mobile-traffic-forecast>



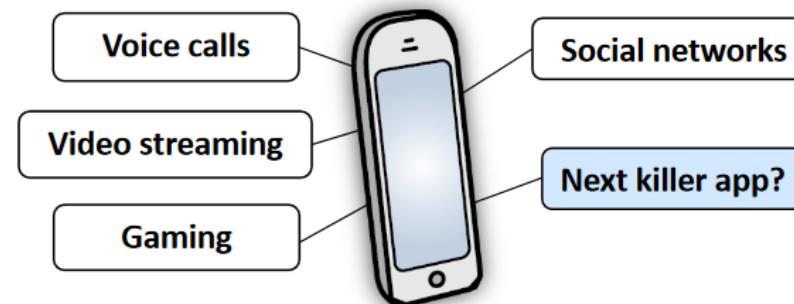
Success of Wireless Communications

Martin Cooper's law

The number of simultaneous voice/data connections has **doubled every 2.5 years (+32% per year)** since the beginning of wireless



Martin Cooper
Inventor of handheld cellular phones

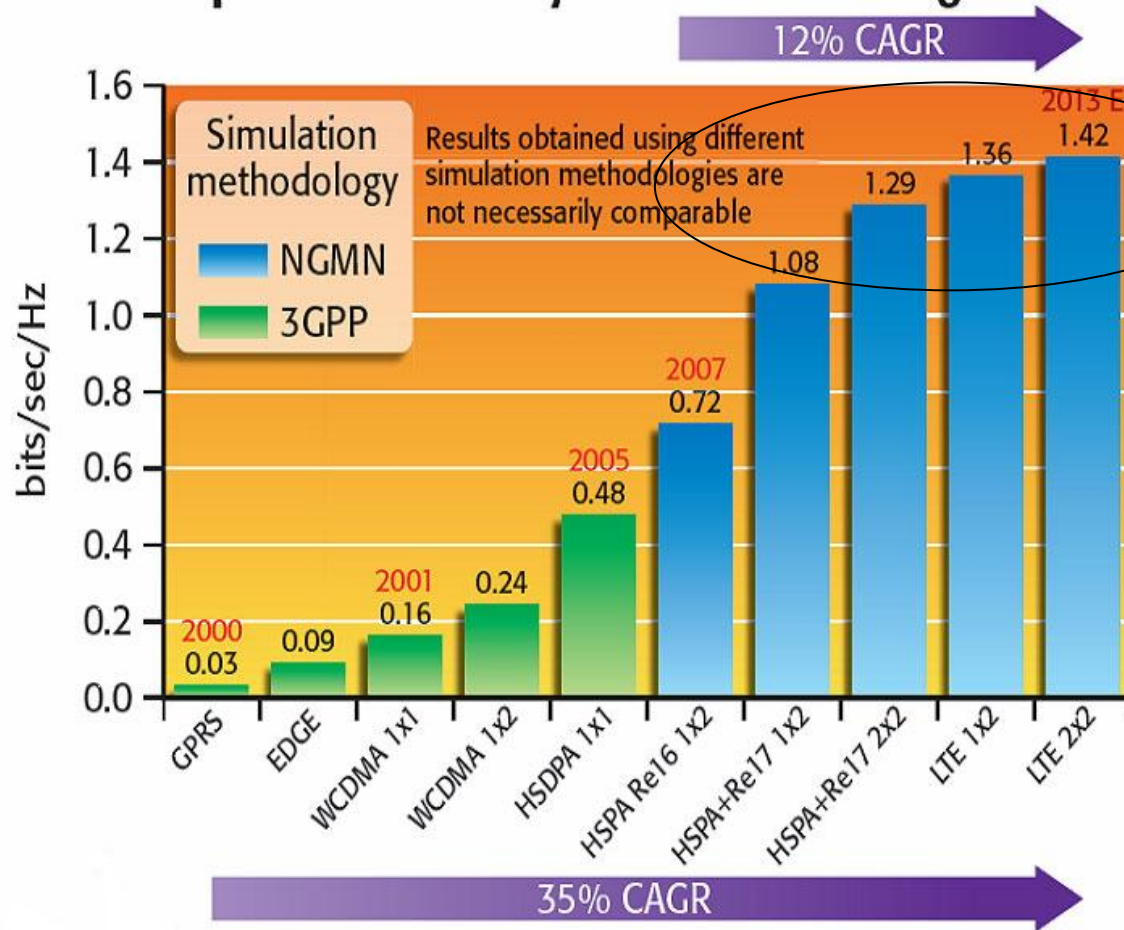


Network Throughput = Cell density × Available spectrum × Spectrum efficiency

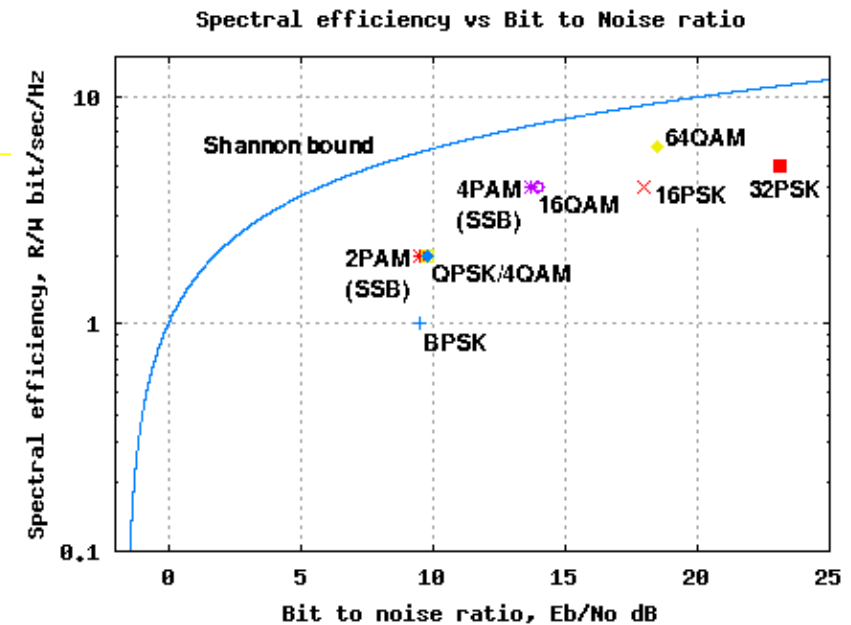
(bit/s in area) (Cell/area) (Hz) (bits/s/Hz/Cell)

Spectral Efficiency Slowing Down

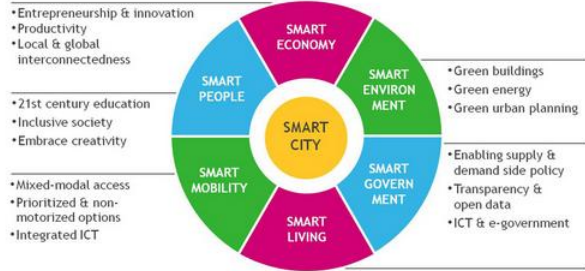
Spectral Efficiency Gains are Slowing



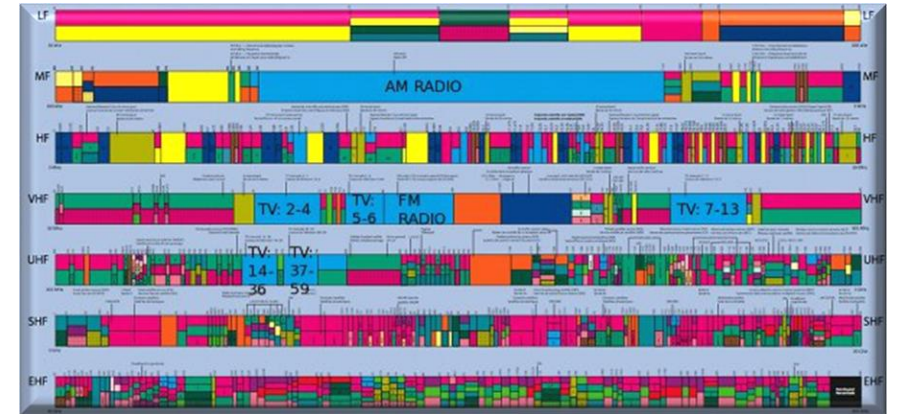
Saturation of The spectrum efficiency gains of cellular systems



Global Data Traffic - So What Is the Real Problem?



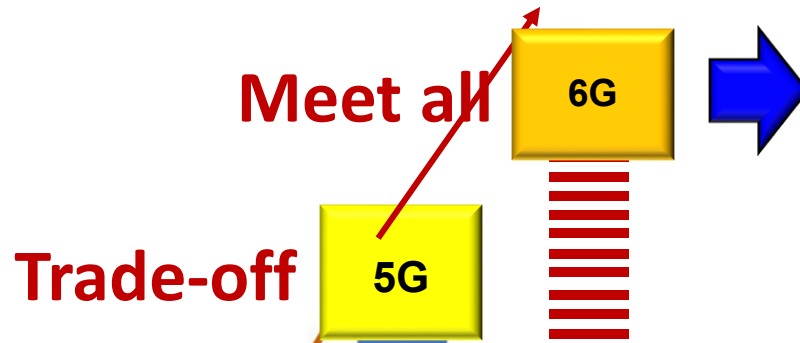
Bottleneck (existing NW)



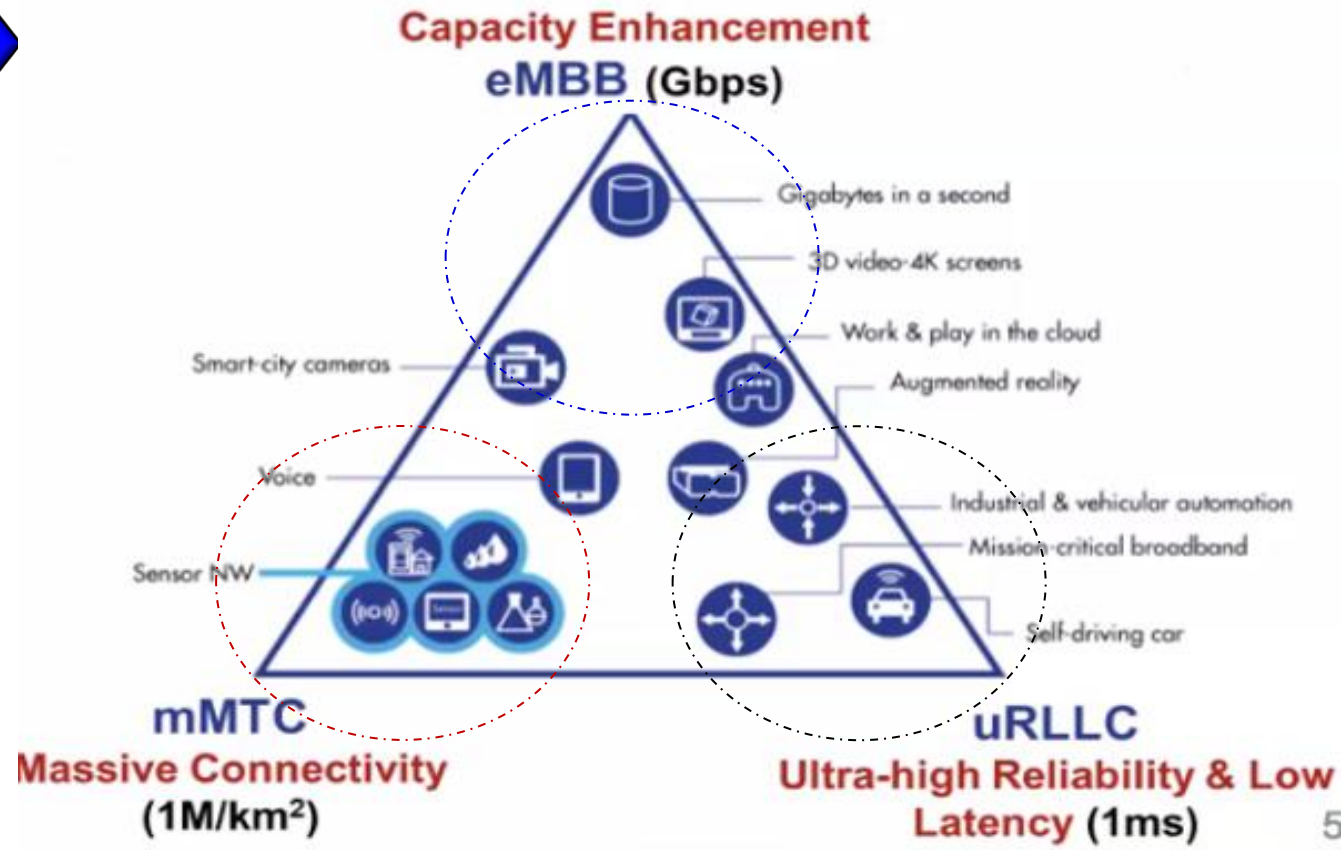
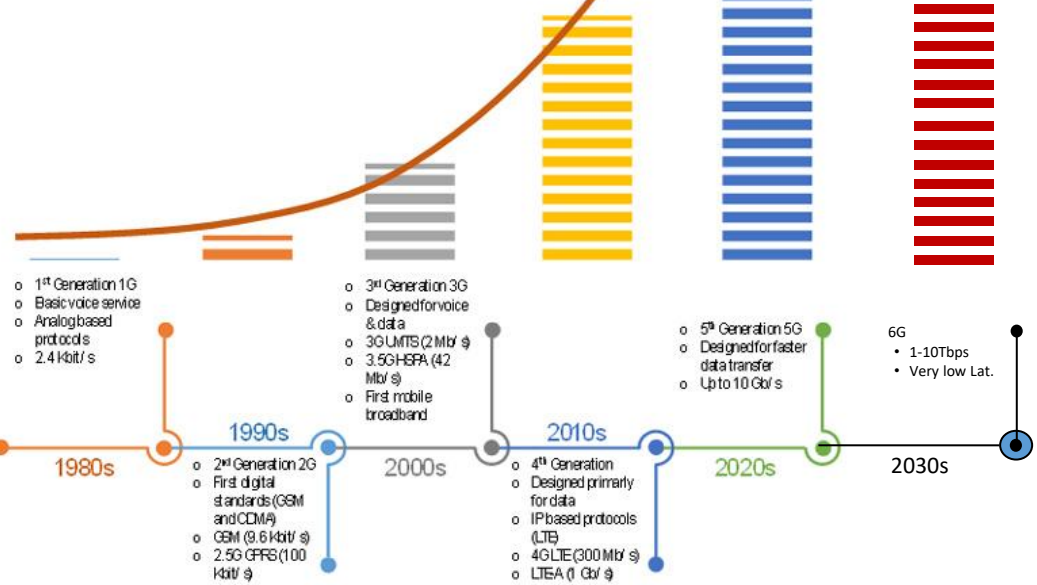
Spectrum (frequency) congestion in RF domain



Context - Wireless Networks – Beyond 2030 - Applications



Exponential growth in the data transfer rates in the wireless communication



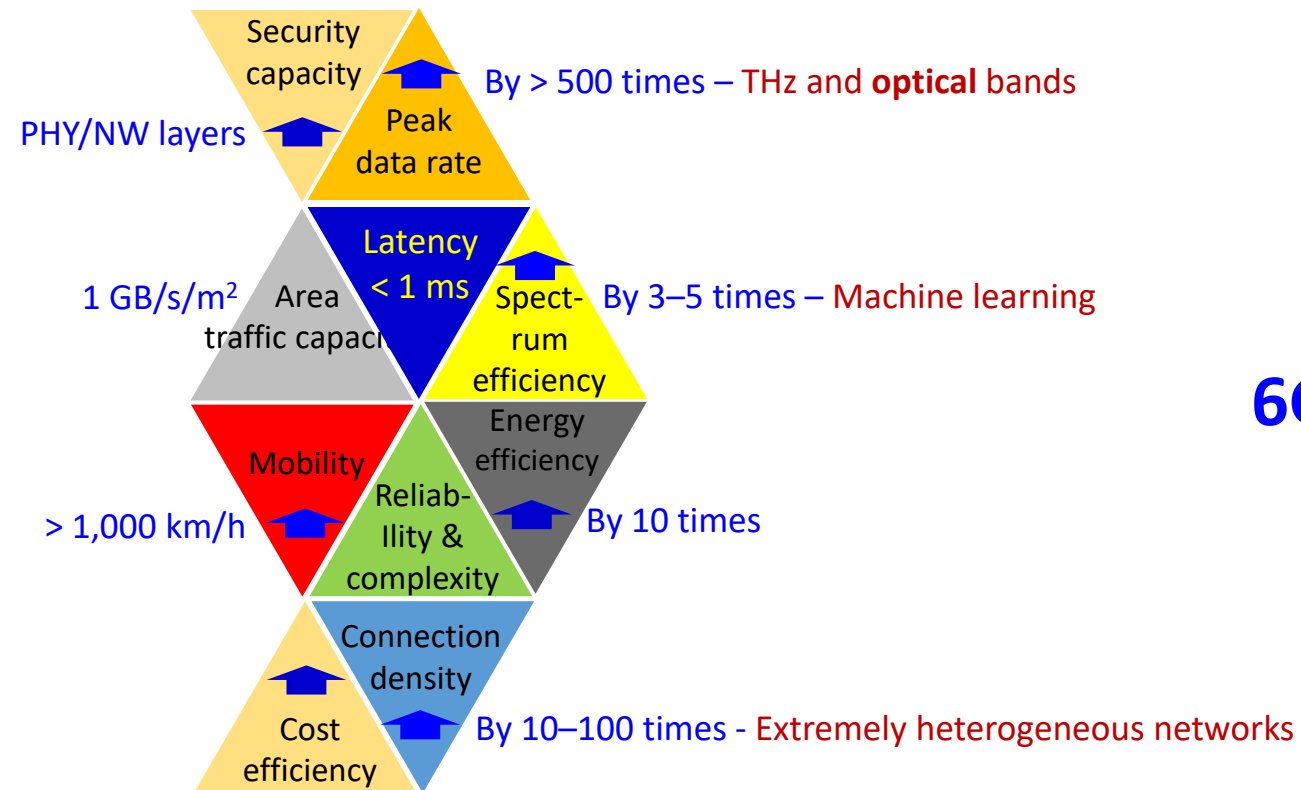
Key wireless technologies?

Wireless Networks – Beyond 2030

Resilient networks – Avoiding failure and resuming service as quickly as possible

5G – Trade-off

6G – Meet all



E.g.,

- NTT – Outlined the expectations for 6G [1] – Requiring extreme coverage by integrating the space, air, terrestrial and underwater networks.
- European - vision for the 6G network i.e., 5G PPP [2] - Supporting higher capacity, higher data rates, higher device density, and less latency, as illustrated

5G and Beyond ...

5G is fundamental to achieving a European gigabit society by 2025

But, can 5G meet all of the requirements of future networks?



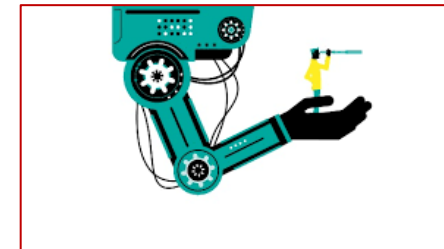
Various robots, rovers, drones, and other agents of mass-produced products are expected to encounter scenes, where they will intersect and collaborate.



Individual identification and communication play crucial roles.

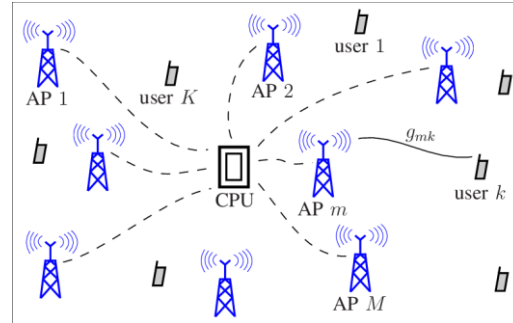


Generally, agents with identical appearances in mass-produced products are visually indistinguishable when using conventional CMOS cameras. **Therefore, linking visual information with information acquired through conventional radio communication is challenging.**





Internet of Nano-thing



Cell-free Communications - Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - not using a specific cell

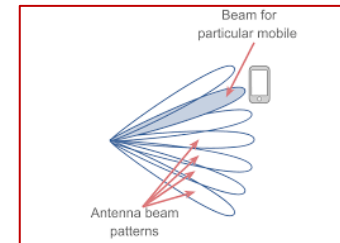


Extended Reality - Audios, videos, GPS for creating an interactive environment



Blockchain Technology

- Large data represented as distributed blocks connected to each other and cryptographically secured
- Spectrum sharing – Secure, low cost, smart and efficient spectrum utilization
- + Machine learning - Improve QoS and smatterer resources sharing
- **Challenges: Latency and scalability**



Beamforming

- Better coverage and throughput
- Higher SINR
- Track users
- **Holographic beamforming via Software-Defined Antenna**

M.Giordani, M. Polese, M. Mezzavilla, S. Rangan, and M. Zorzi, "Towards 6G Networks: Use Cases and Technologies," arXiv: 1903.12216, 2019.; H. Elayan, O. Amin, R. M. Shubair, and M.-S. Alouini, "Terahertz communication: The opportunities of wireless technology beyond 5G," in International Conf. on Advanced Communication Technologies and Networking (CommNet). IEEE, pp. 1–5, 2018.; NTT DOCOMO 6G White Paper, [Online]. Available:

https://www.docomo.ne.jp/english/binary/pdf/corporate/technology/whitepaper_6g/DOCOMO_6G_White_PaperEN_v5.0.pdf; 5G PPP, "European vision for the 6G network ecosystem," [Online]. Available: <https://5g-ppp.eu/European-vision-for-the-6g-networkecosystem/>; M. Piran, D. Suh, "Learning-driven wireless communications, towards 6G," arXiv: 1908.07335, August 2019; S. Elmeadawy and R. M. Shubair, "6G Wireless Communications: Future Technologies and Research Challenges," 2019 Intern. Conf. on Electrical and Computing Technologies and Applications (ICECTA), Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, 2019, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.1109/ICECTA48151.2019.8959607; Y. Dai, D. Xu, S. Maharjan, Z. Chen, Q. He and Y. Zhang, "Blockchain and deep reinforcement learning empowered intelligent 5G beyond," in IEEE Network, 33 (3), pp. 10-17, May/June 2019.; B. Fei and Y. Zhang, "UAV communications for 5G and beyond: recent advances and future trends," IEEE Internet of Things Journal, vol. 6, no. 2, pp.2241-2263, April 2019

IoT Technology - Trends for Businesses in the Future

Artificial Intelligence & IoT Technology - AI is benefitted by IoT with distributed data, and IoT is benefitted by AI with advanced management.

IoT Connectivity — 5G, WiFi 6 & 7, Low-power wide-area network, and Satellites

Wi-Fi 6 - A new networking standard. Unlike past wireless upgrades, Wi-Fi 6 will focus not on speed but rather on efficiency by sharing bandwidth across many devices.

LPWAN - Allowing devices to communicate with each other over long distances using very little power in a non-cellular configuration.

Edge Computing – Low Latency & Security - Real time applications depend on edge computing. Instead of calculating everything at a central source, edge networks process information closer to the user and lighten the load of the entire network for all users.



IoT Technology - Trends for Businesses in the Future

Private 5G Cellular - Private cellular, which effectively takes cellular technology and repurposes it for use on your enterprise local area network.

Wearable IoT Technology - While sensors and edge devices are important for many IoT technology solutions, wearable IoT devices shouldn't be overlooked.

Wi-Fi Sensing - The ability of devices to detect the presence of Wi-Fi networks and to gather information about them. This information can be used to determine the location of Wi-Fi networks, to identify the type of network, and to estimate the number of devices



Software Defined Radio/Optics/Neworks + ML/AI

IoT Technology - Trends for Businesses in the Future

- **Smart Homes and Cities – mmW, THz and optical**
 - Data communications, Sensing, positioning
- **IoT Technology in Healthcare**
- **Connected Networks Aid Manufacturers**
- **Contextual Wireless Networks**
 - Require contextual knowledge, environmental awareness, and the ability to make projections of future scenarios.
 - Using hyper-aware Wi-Fi/Li-Fi access points as hubs for an array of sensors



Wireless Technologies - Innovations

- Dynamic Spectrum Management
- **Advanced Interference Mitigation Techniques**
- Propagation Prediction Techniques for Dynamic Spectrum Sharing
- **Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning for Radios/Optics**
- Flexible, Extensible, and Secure Transportation Communication Framework, Architecture, and Management
- **Receiver Performance Interference Thresholds**



Wireless Technologies - Innovations

- Low Cost Wide Spectral Range RF Front-End (Multi-decade; Contiguous) (Tx,Rx)
- Efficient Techniques to Minimize Power Amplifier Spectral Regrowth in Non-contiguous Spectral Environment
- Network Management of Mobile Ad-hoc Networks (MANET)
- Integrated Development and Debug Environment to Create Portable SW-Based Applications on Embedded Heterogeneous Platforms



Societal performance MUST have the same importance as system performance!

Energy efficiency and sustainability – Will be much better than 5G using AI/ML, **but**

- Massive MIMO in 5G and 6G
 - **Consume too much power** than (i.e., 3 times more) traditional 4G antenna
 - Offers beam forming
- DSP - Great in energy per bit compared with the noise

EMI awareness

Ideal device - Life time needs to be long

Intelligent networks

- Assessing network users, services, and environments
- Decision making, and dynamic adjustment of the network
- Network self-evolution mechanism

But. AI is not totally secure!

Asymmetrical security

Digital inclusion - People must have access to the technology, which is simple and user friendly

Cost - More complexity - Many base stations in a small area.

- According to European Commission estimates, to reach the target, including urban areas, the cost is estimated at **€500 billion by 2025** [1].

Impacts on human health and environment [2, 3]

- **Massive MIMO**
- **Possible ranges** - 20-150 m with smaller coverage areas/small cell
 - A cell radius of 20 m would imply **about 800 base stations/km²**
 - This contrasts with 3/4G which use large or 'macro' cells, ranges of 2-15 km or more.



**Reaching the EMI limit
(World Health
Organisation
recommended
regulations)!**

Already reached!

Compact cell antennas deployment

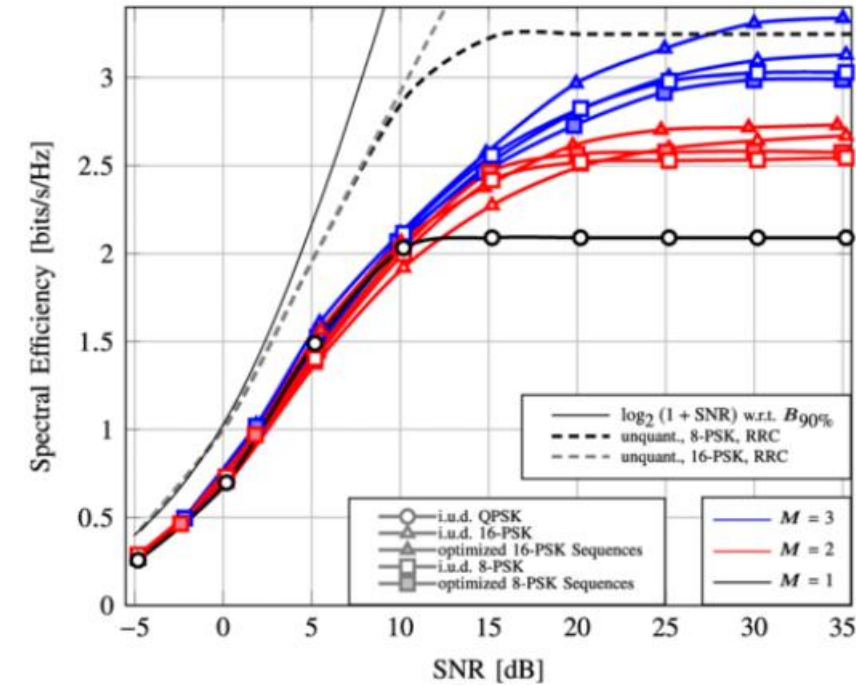
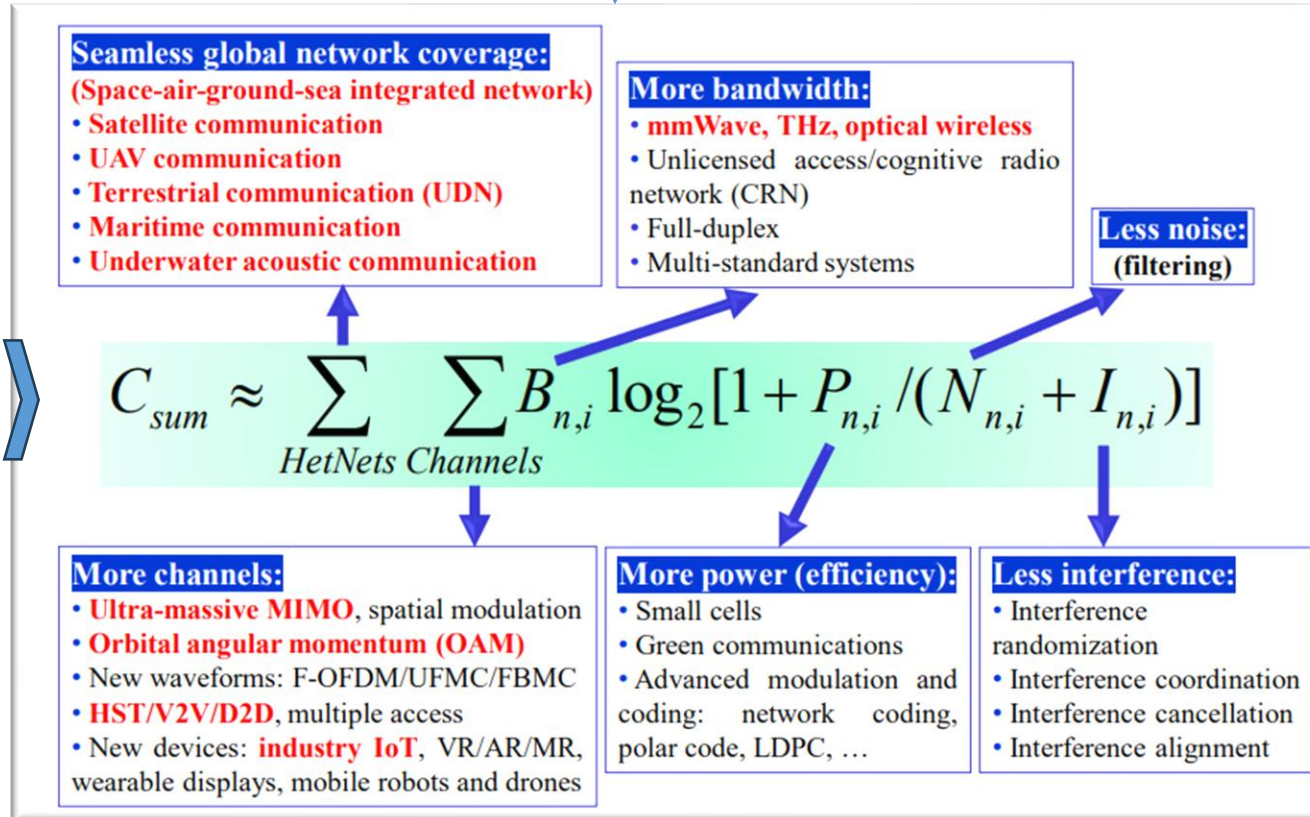
Constant exposure of people to mmW and THz radiations.

[1] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2020/646172/EPRS_BRI%282020%29646172_EN.pdf; [2] See '5G Deployment: State of Play in Europe, USA and Asia', European Parliament, June 2019; [3] R. M. Powell. See also similar opinions from experts such as T. Schoechele and P. Héroux, 'Fiber is safer, faster, more reliable, and far more cyber secure and energy efficient than wireless; Cheng-Xiang Wang, et al, 6G WIRELESS CHANNEL MEASUREMENTS AND MODELS Trends and Challenges, IEEE VEHICULAR TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE | DECEMBER 2020; J. Huang, et al, "5G millimeter wave channel sounders, measurements, and models: Recent developments and future challenges," IEEE Commun. Mag. 257 (1), pp. 138–145, Jan. 2019.; T. S. Rappaport et al., "Wireless communications and applications above 100 GHz: Opportunities and challenges for 6G and beyond," IEEE Access, vol. 7, pp. 78,729–78,757, June 2019; K. M. S. Huq, S. A. Busari, J. Rodriguez, V. Frascolla, W. Bazzi, and D. C. Sicker, "Terahertz-enabled wireless system for beyond-5G ultrafast networks: A brief survey," IEEE Netw., vol. 33, no. 4, pp. 89–95, July/Aug. 2019. doi: 10.1109/MNET.2019.1800430.

6G – Spectrum Efficiency Gain

$$\eta_{sp} = \frac{R/B}{k} \text{ Bit/s/Hz/site (i.e. cluster size)}$$

Shannon capacities of different types of channels over HetNets with interference.

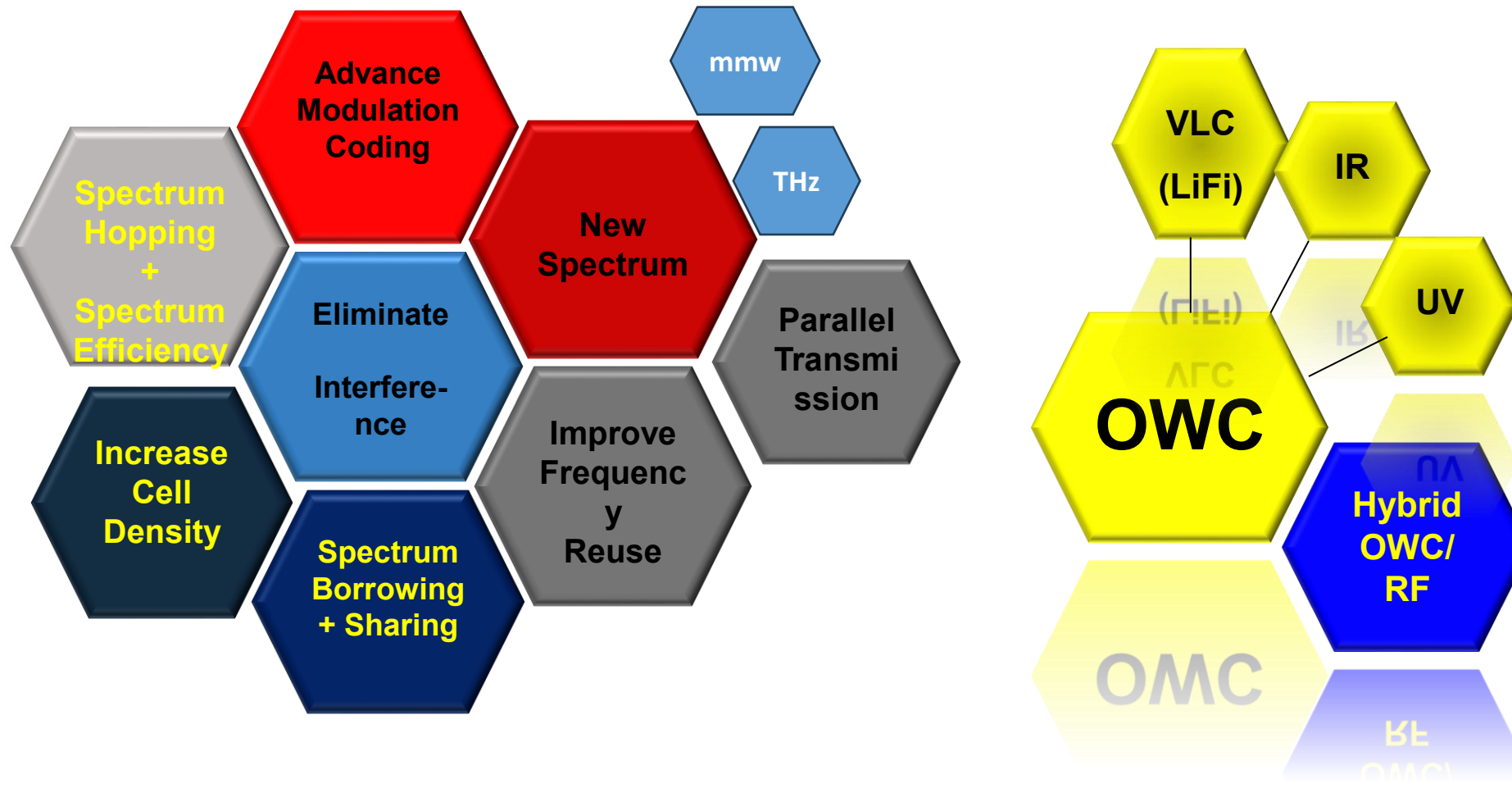


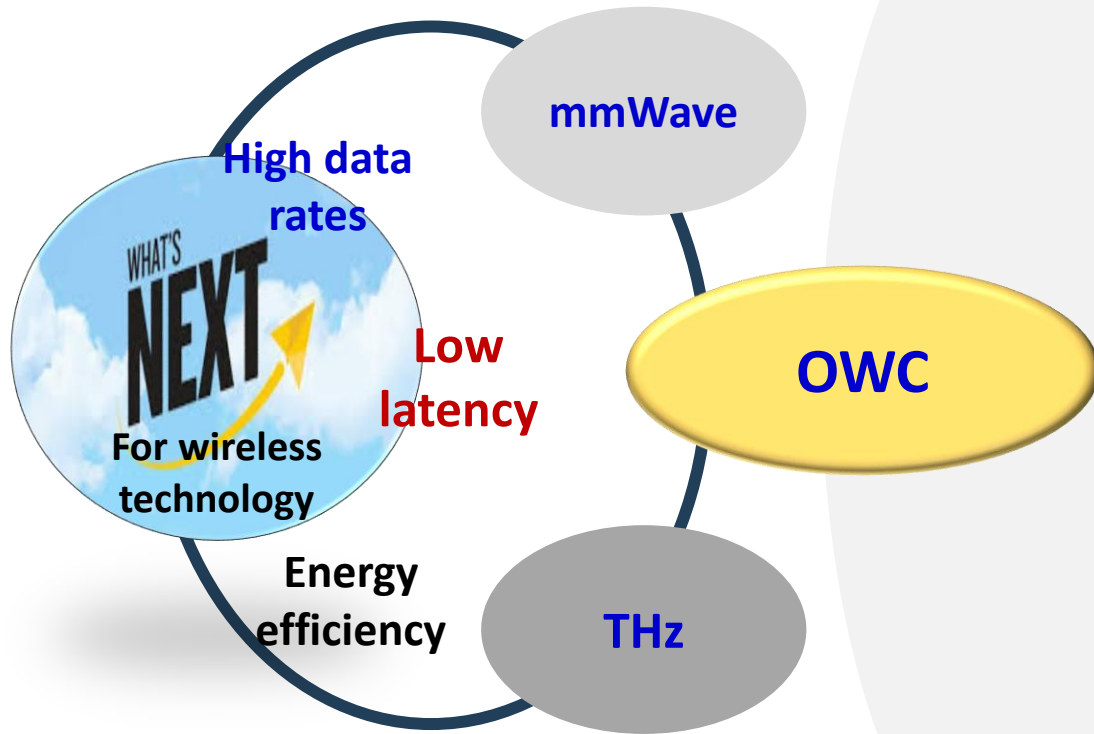
So What Next?

WiFi, WiGig, **LiFi/VLC**:

- High data rates
- Low latency
- Energy efficiency

How to Overcome the Spectrum Congestion?





Is there a need for optical wireless technology?

Will WiFi 6 and 7 block the use of OWC?

Do we need high-speed wireless links for all cases?

Should we be driven by industry or by curiosity or both?

What are the killer applications in OWC?

Complexity and cost of OWC?

Hybrid RF-OWC-THz?

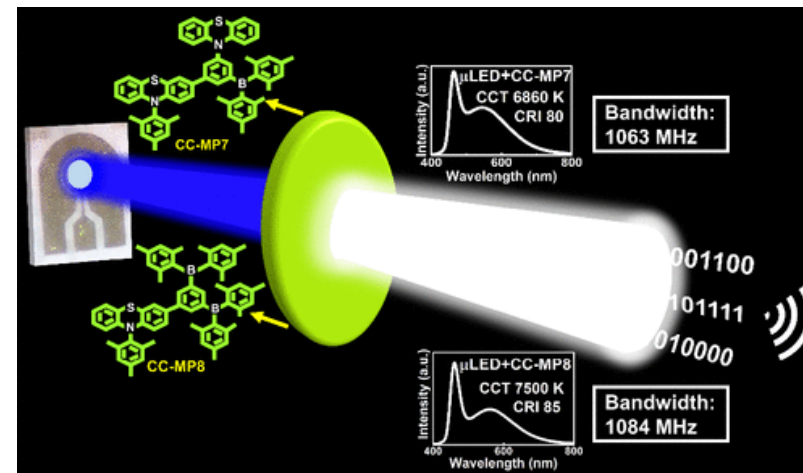
Light flickering

Has VLC a future?

.....? *What do you think?*

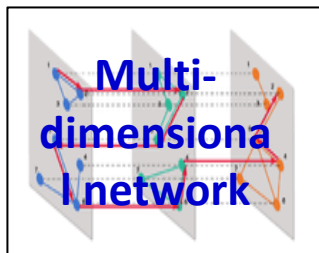
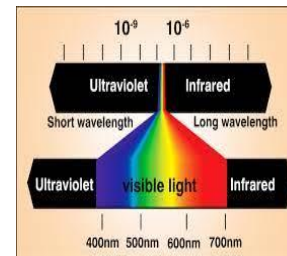
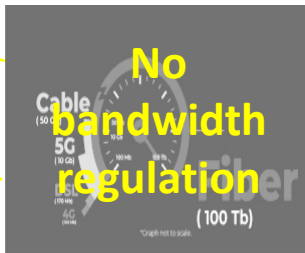
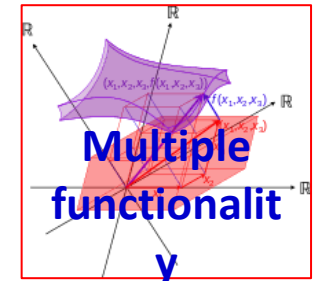
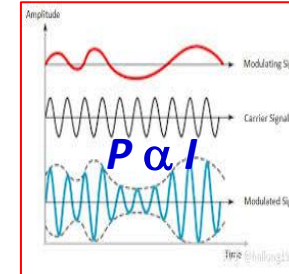
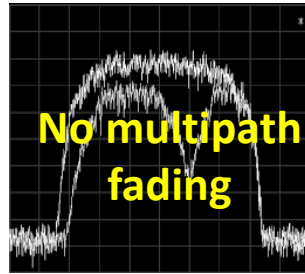
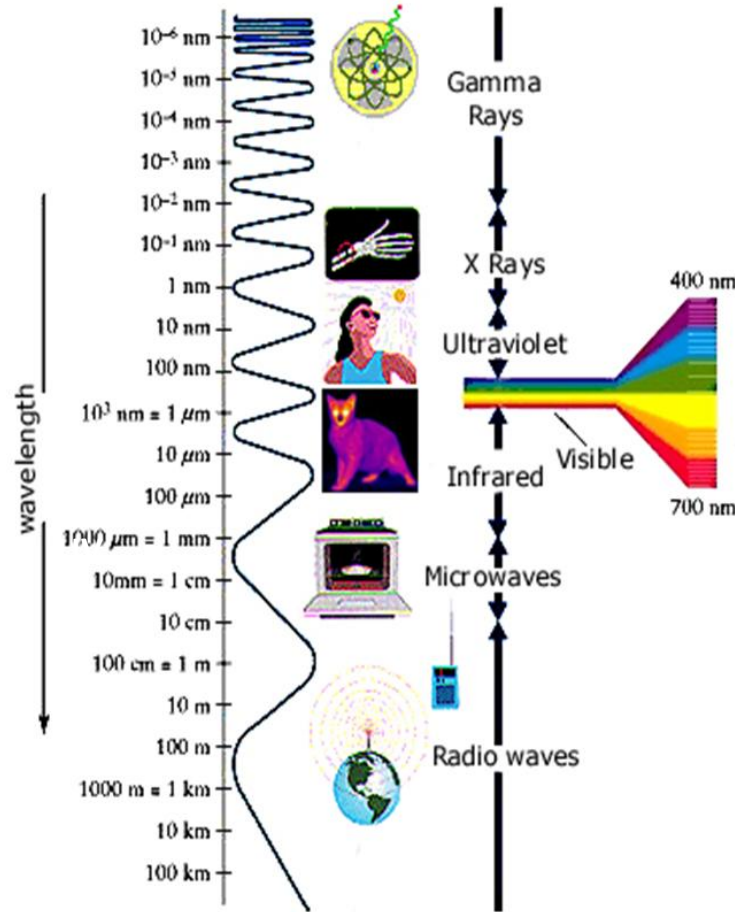
Optical Wireless

*A disruptive technology offering a free spectrum,
security and high data rate!*



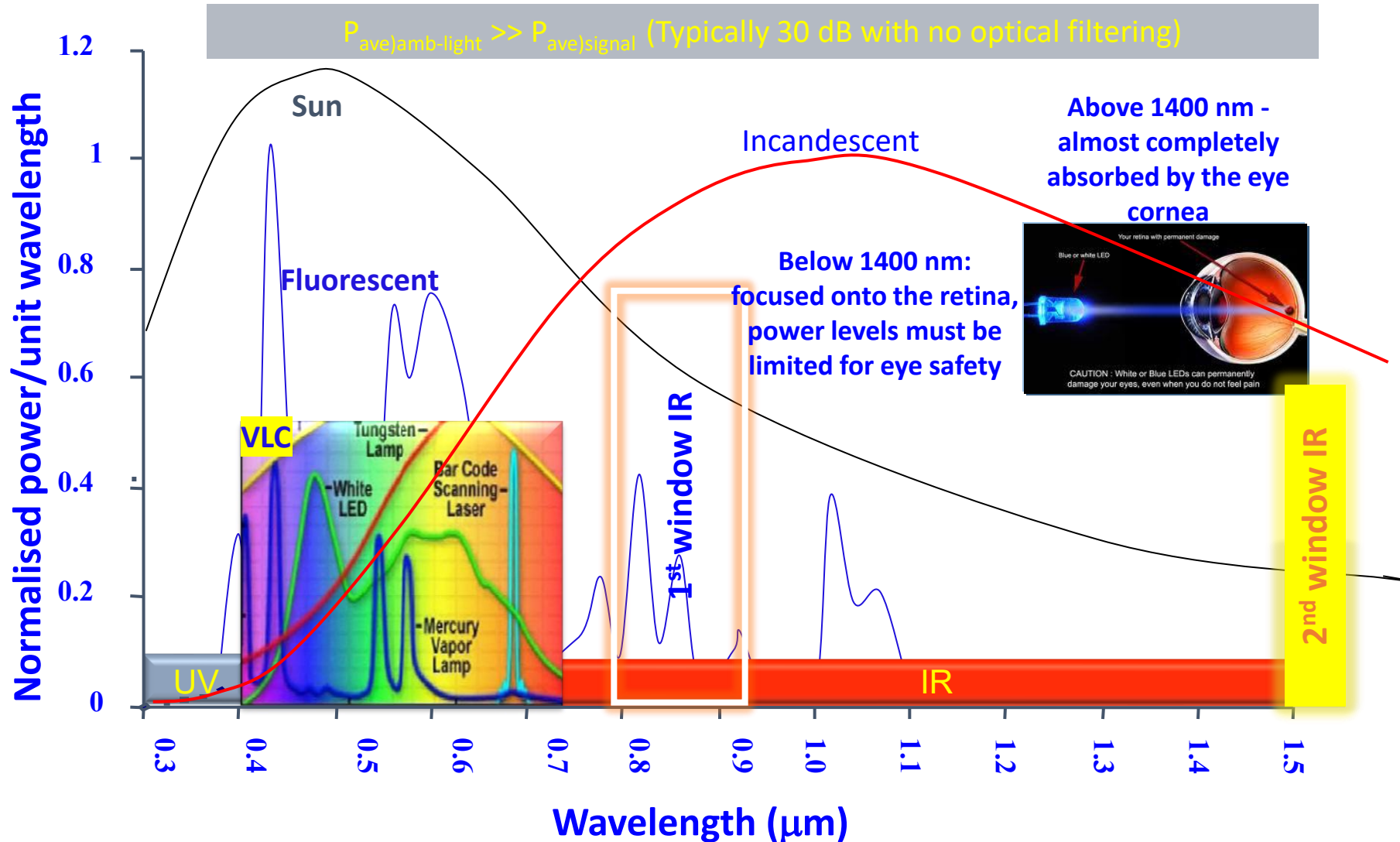
<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsp Photonics.3c01332>

OWC – KPIs Important for 6G

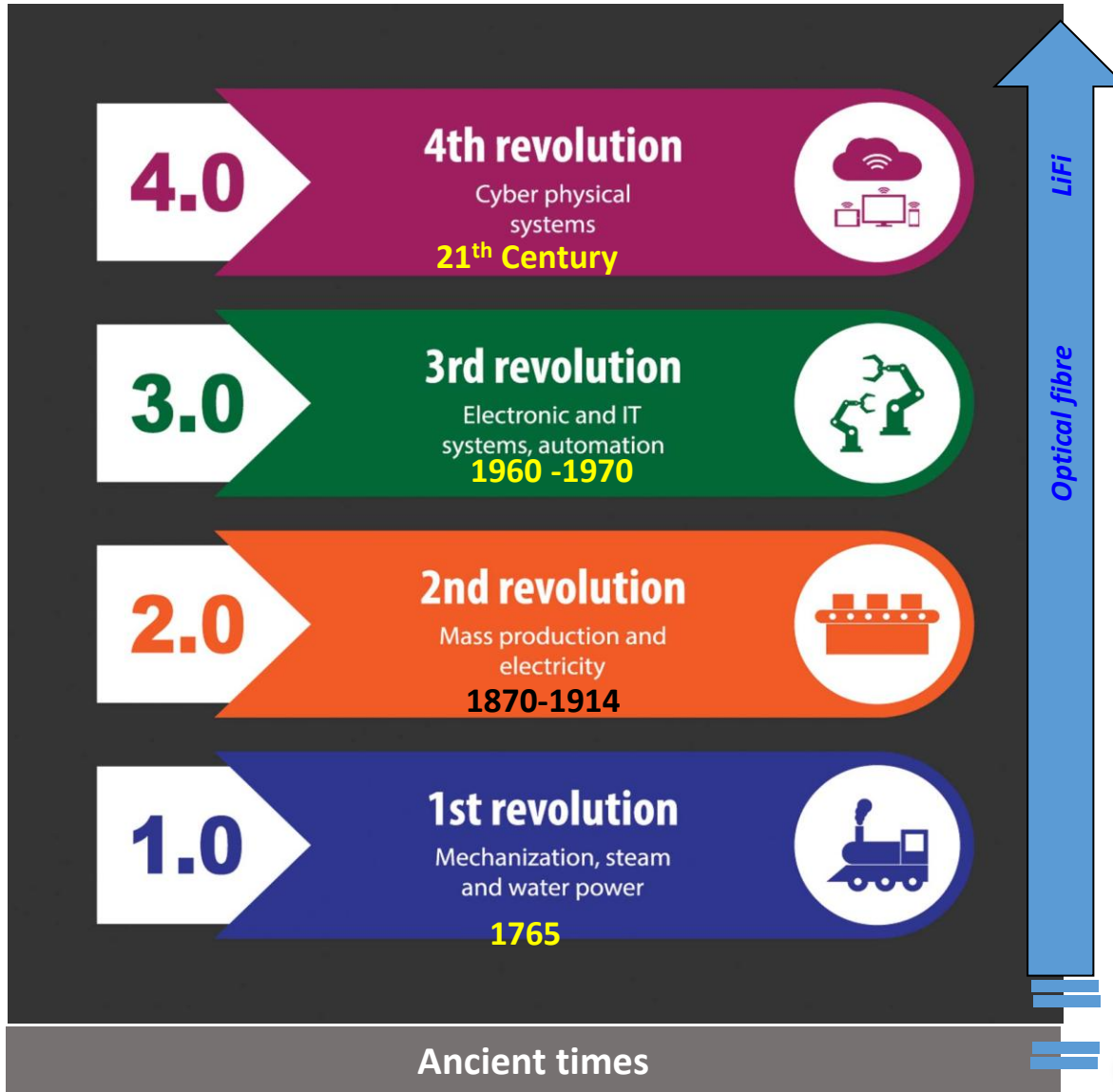


- 1- HR. Ji, S. Wang, Q. Liu, and W. Lu, High-speed visible light communications: Enabling technologies and state of the art, in Applied Sciences, vol. 8, no. 4, Art. no. 589, 2018, doi: 10.3390/app8040589.
- 2- C. Rohner, S. Raza, D. Puccinelli, and T. Voigt, Security in visible light communication: Novel challenges and opportunities, in Sensors Transducers vol. 192, no. 9, pp. 915, 2015.
- 3- D. Karunatilaka, F. Zafar, V. Kalavally, and R. Parthiban, LED based indoor visible light communications: State of the art, IEEE Commun. Surv. Tut., vol. 17, no. 3, pp. 16491678, 2015, doi: 10.1109/COMST.2015.2417576.

OWC - Transmission Windows



Industrial Revolutions – Light Revo.

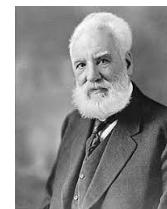


- Massive MIMO
- Blue LED
- VR/AR
- IoT/IoE
- Wearable

- Laser (1960)
Theodore Maiman

- Space Comm. MIMO
- AI/ML

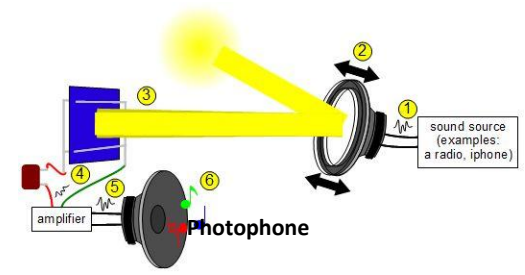
- Photophone
- Light bulbs

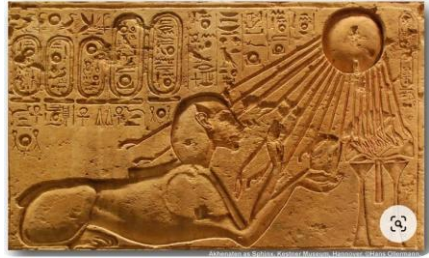


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International
Day of Light
16 May





~1340 BC.

Dynasty 18.
Akhenaten as Sphinx.
Kestner Museum,
Hannover, Germany.

1810

William Murdoch
Oil gas lamp.

~1934

The first practical
fluorescent tube.

~1976

Compact Florescent
Light (CFL) lamp

2006

Shuji Nakamura wins
the
Millennium
Technology Prize for
the development of a
white LED

2019

Many countries do
not have any
incandescent light
bulb phase out policy
currently in place



Ancient Egyptians
Candle.

1800



The first incandescent
light bulb was
invented by Thomas
Edison.

1879

1960
Laser development
Theodore Maiman



First practical light-
emitting diode (LED)
was developed.

1962



Blue LEDs were
discovered by Shuji
Nakamura of Nichia.

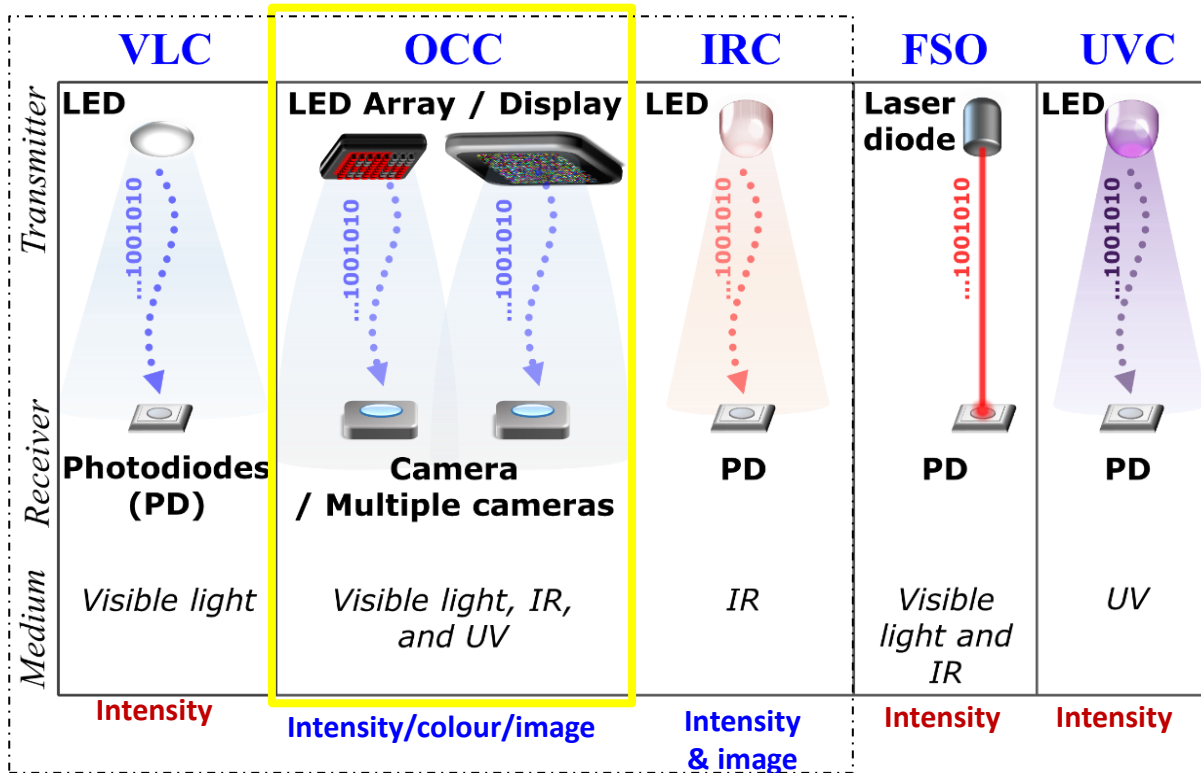
1993

- Torraca becomes the
first township to
convert its entire
illumination system to
LED

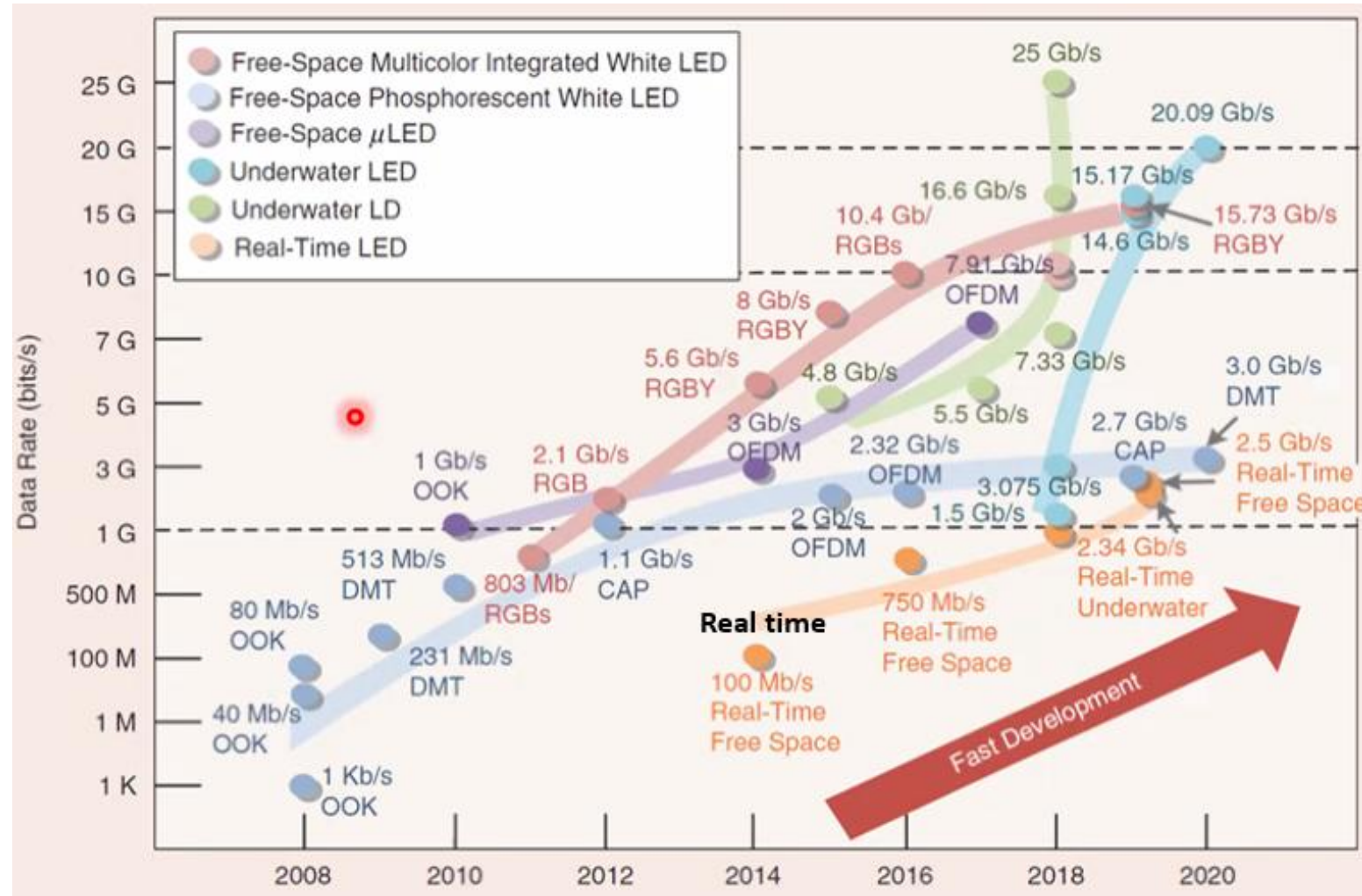
- The first car to use
fully LED headlamps

2007

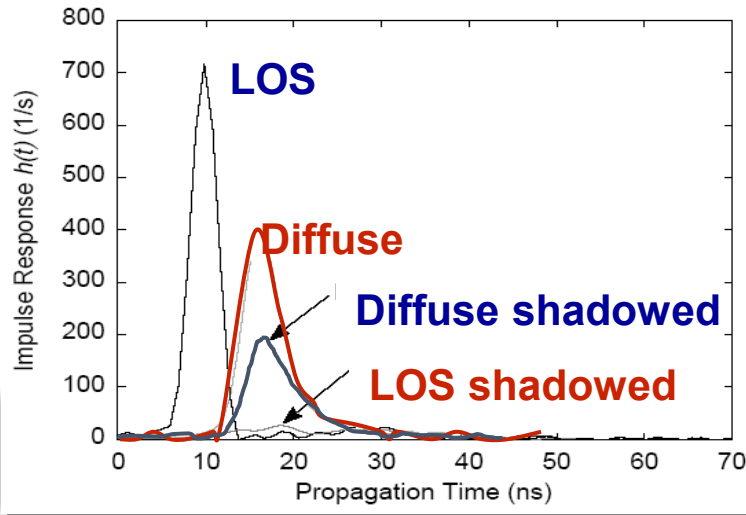
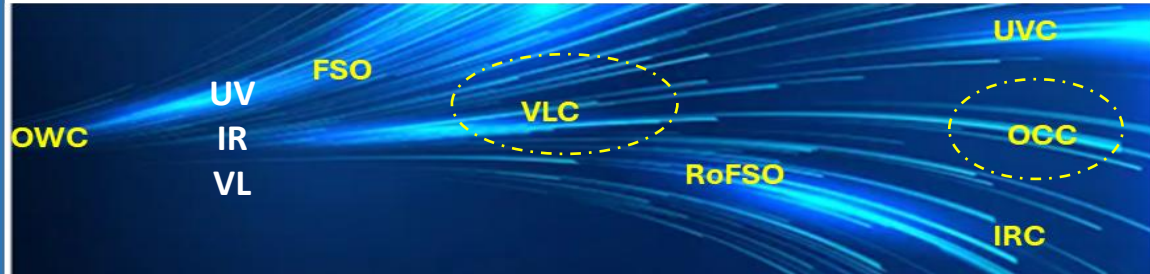




- Is there the need for high-speed VLC systems?
- Has VLC got a future?
- Do we need to focus more on:
 - IR, IR/VLC
 - IR Optical Camera Communications (OCC)
 - VLC/OCC
 - IR/VLC/OCC?



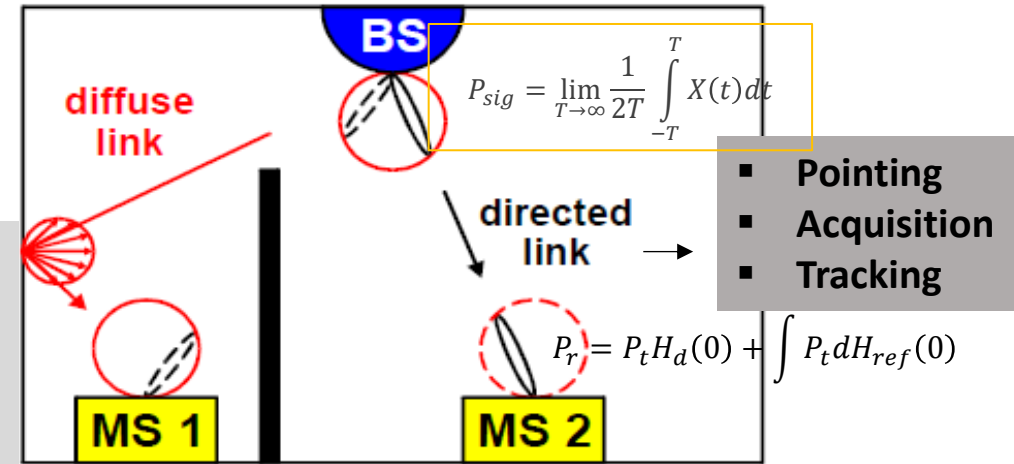
OWC – Types



- **Optical beam-steering:**
 - Mechanical; MEMS
 - Optical phase arrays; Liquid crystal-based spatial light modulators
- **Reconfigurable intelligent surface**

VLC - Transmission link

BS: base station, MS: mobile station



Ceiling bounce model (Carruther)

$$h(t) = G_0 \frac{6a^6}{(t+7)^7} u(t) \quad a = \frac{2H}{c} \quad G_0 = \frac{\rho A}{3\pi H^2}$$

$u(t)$ - unit step response, H - height of ceiling above transmitter & receiver, ρ - plane reflectivity, A - receiver photo diode area, c - velocity of Light

Received Signal


$$r_e = \eta[(h_d h_p h_a h_t) I_s + I_a] + n$$

signify *Netherland*



Trulifi - A USB access key

- USB-based Tx and Rx
- 250 Mbps DL IR
- 160 Mbps UP IR




pureLiFi *UK*



LiFi Xc

- DL 43 Mbps Visible; UL IR; 1 sec handover; 802.11




Fraunhofer *Germany*



- Standard high-power IR LEDs
 - Optical bidirectional
 - Dynamic rate adaptation
- Adaptable optics Peak DL data rate 1 Gbit/s
 - Latency < 2 ms

VLC – Systems in the Market

vincomm Netherlands



- LumiNex- LED LiFi Access Point
- DL 70 Mbps; UL 60 Mbps IR; Latency of 0.4 ms; No. of simultaneous users 15

oledcomm France



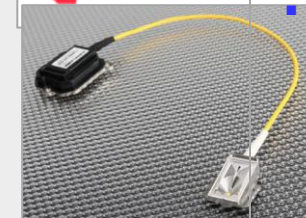
- 38 W; 100 lm/W; Windows, macOS, Linux with type A USB port; Android & iOS

HYDROMEA Switzerland



- LiFi optical modem for underwater
- Range down to 6 km ; Collecting data over 50 m, Data rate – 10 Mbps

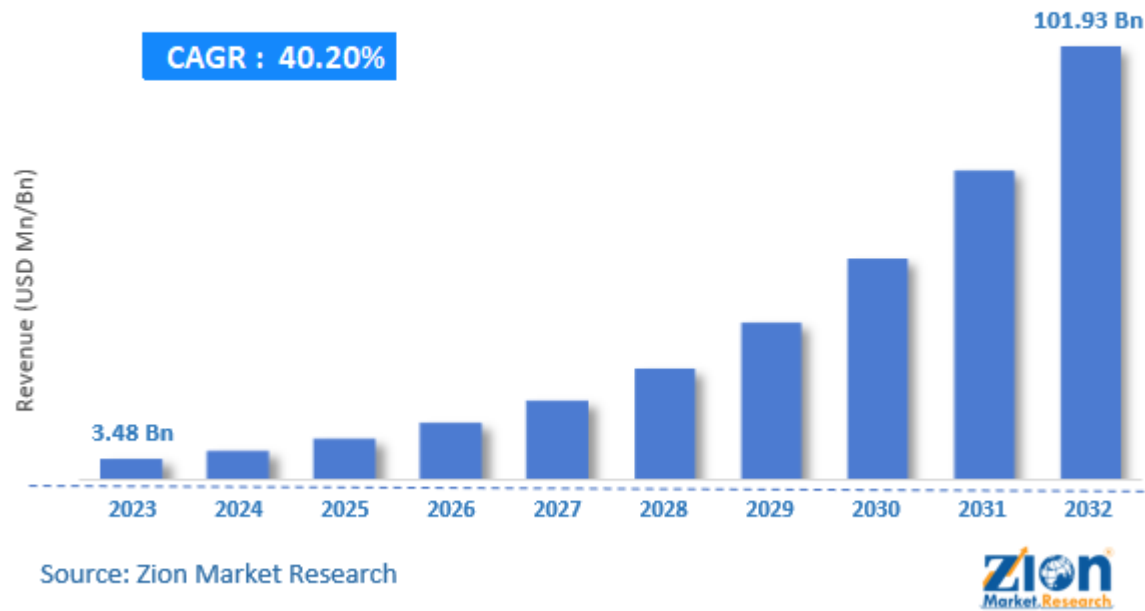
KYOCERA KYOCERA SLD Laser



- Laser light fibre – White light ; High power; Illuminating phosphor; Brightness (lm/unit area: 50x – 100x the brightness of a LED).

OWC - The Global Market Size

Free Space Optics & Visible Light Communication Market, Global Market Size, 2024-2032 (USD Billion)



GLOBAL FREE SPACE OPTICS AND VISIBLE LIGHT COMMUNICATION MARKET 2024-2032

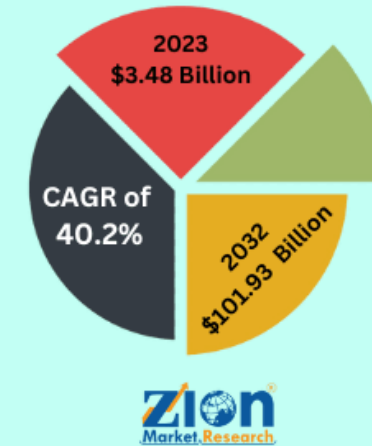
Key Companies Covered- Trimble Hungary Kft, LightPointe Communications, Inc., Wireless Excellence Ltd., fSONA Networks Corp., and Plaintree Systems Inc. The major market players in the visible light communication market include Panasonic Corp., LVX System, General Electric Co., Oledcomm, Koninklijke Philips N.V., and IBSNtelecom.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

- North America, Europe, Asia Pacific (APAC), Latin America, Middle East, and Africa (MEA)

BY APPLICATION

- Enterprise Connectivity
- Defense
- Healthcare
- Engineering And Design
- Mobile Backhaul
- Disaster Recovery
- Satellite



BY COMPONENT

- Photodetector
- Software
- LED
- Microcontroller

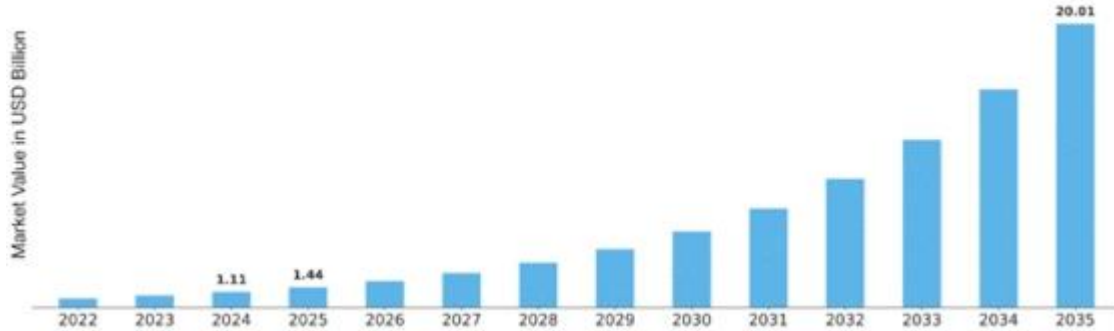
BY TRANSMISSION TYPE

- Bidirectional
- Unidirectional

Source- Zion Market Research

VLC - The Global Market Size

Li-Fi Market



<https://www.marketresearchfuture.com/reports/visible-light-communication-li-fi-market-3561>

Li-Fi Market By Region, 2025-2035 USD Billion



OWC [VLC, IRC, and FSO] – Commercial Players

Lucibel S.A.

LiFi Labs

Fizyr

Ayla Networks



Nakagawa Laboratories, Inc.

pureVLC™



NEC Corporation



TOYO ELECTRIC CORPORATION



Panasonic

AXIOM OPTICS



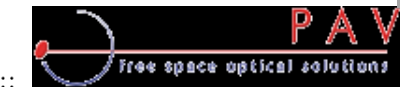
Outstanding Technology Co., Ltd.

LiFi Photonics



SONABEAM

Media Lario



TAIYO YUDEN

TNO innovation for life

PhotonFi Inc.

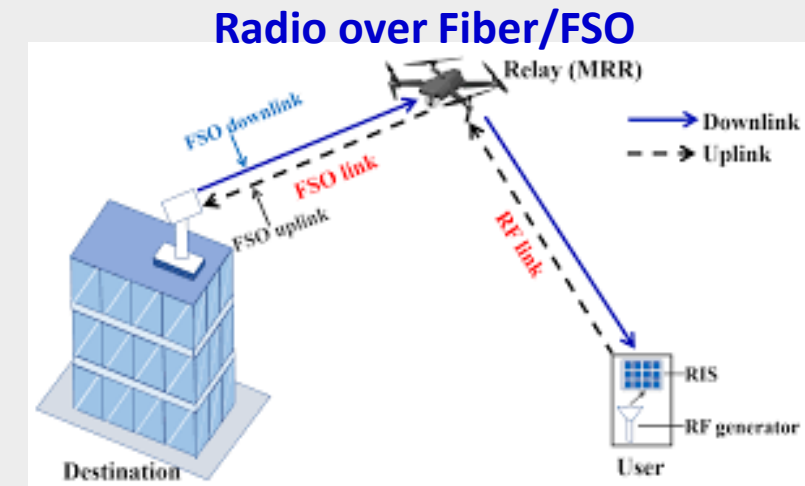
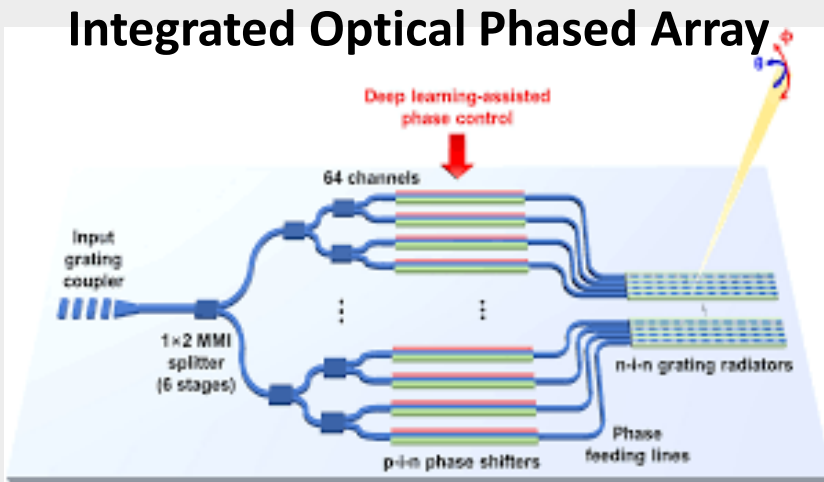
ams OSRAM AG

ZERO1 Pte. Ltd.



IBSENtelecom Ltd.

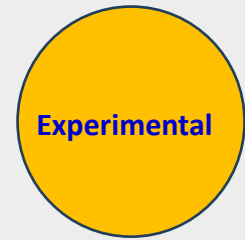
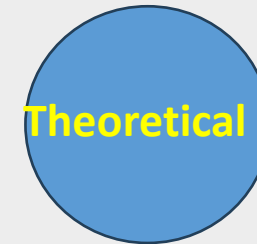
OWC – Future applications



OWC – Future applications



Current OWC activities:



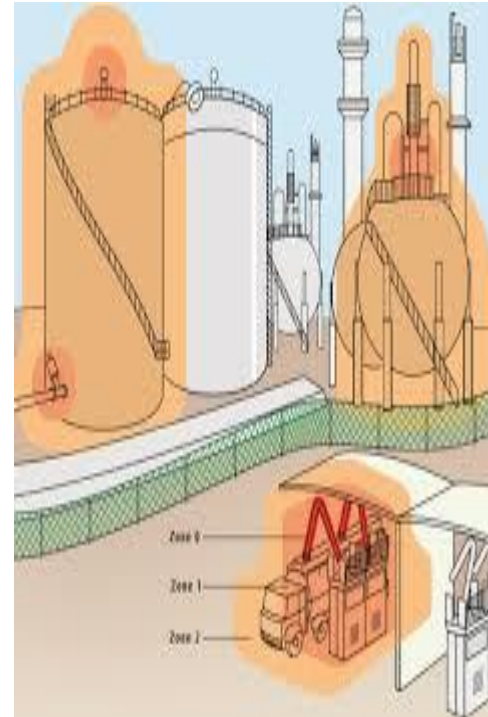
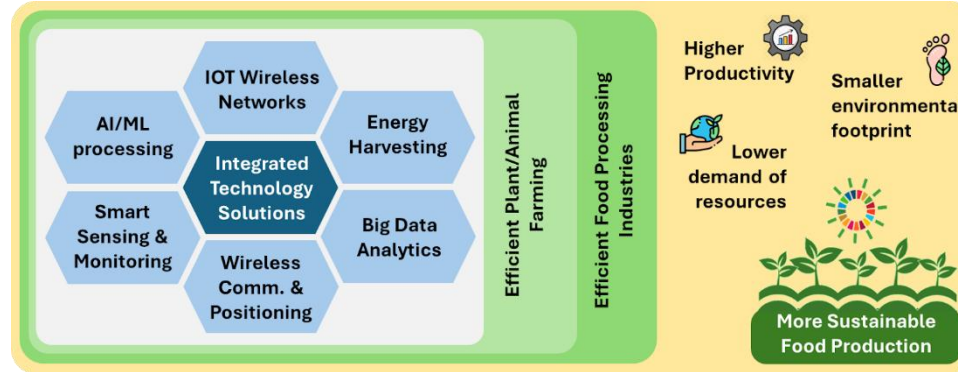
OWC – Future applications



Vertical Farming

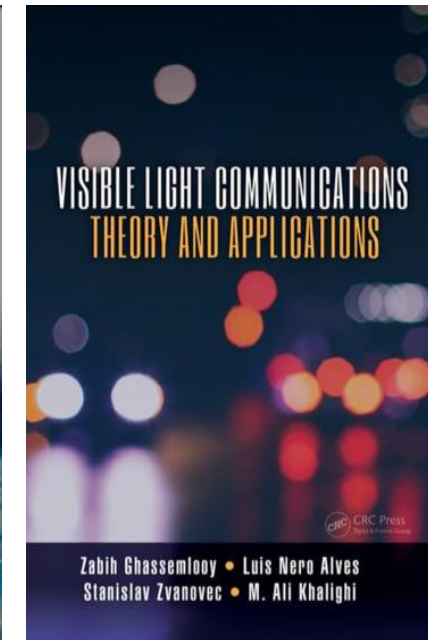
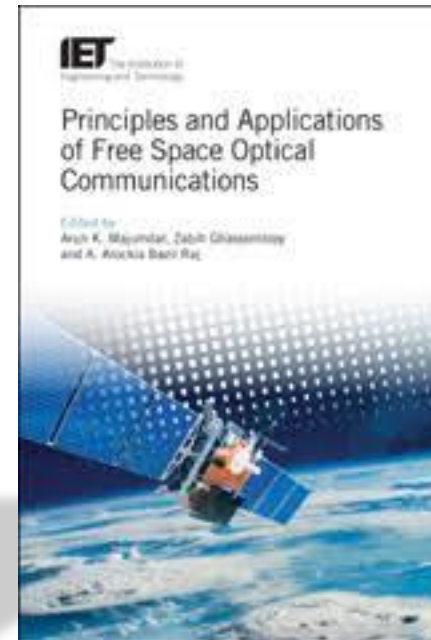
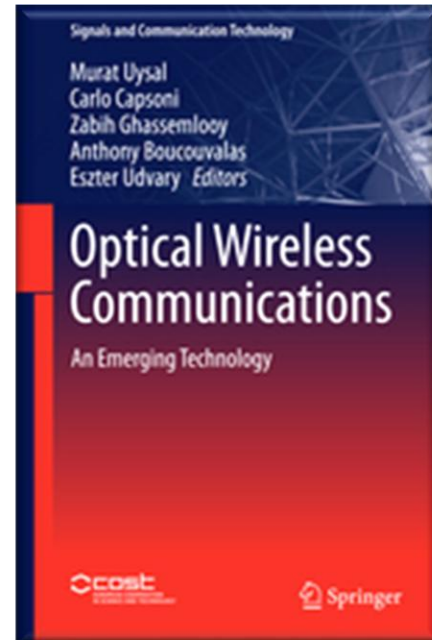
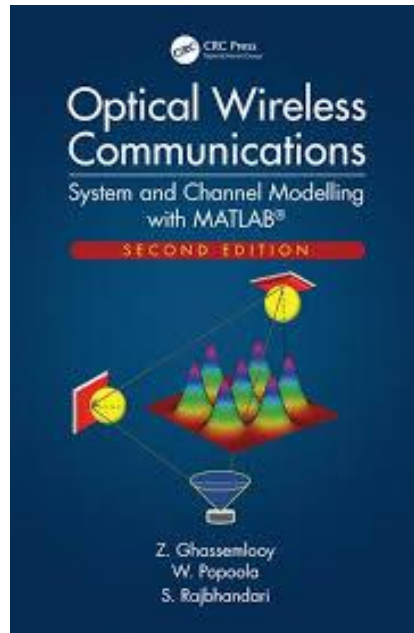


WC



Further Reading

Our Contributions:

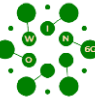


+

+ A large number of papers.

Final Comments

- A complementary wireless technology to RF.
- The OWC will continue to grow driven by technological advancements and increasing demand for high-speed connectivity.
- Enhanced security features especially in outdoor point-to-point and indoor networking is highly attractive.
- Energy efficiency – Continue to remain a key focal point.
- Integrated with various applications and wired/wireless networks.
- Key drivers pushing market expansion are demand for high-speed internet and the integration with Internet of Things.



Acknowledgment:

- All our research students and colleagues
- All funding bodies

Thank You!

