TERRAMETA

SNS Lunchtime Webinar 4 – Strands B2 & B3

Project Overview

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INESCTEC

TERRAMETA

6GSNS

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TERRAMETA in a nutshell

- Investigation of ground-breaking technologies for 6G, demonstrating the feasibility of ultra-high data rate wireless communications leveraging THz metasurfaces (140 GHz and 300 GHz).
  - Novel high-performance THz hardware will be developed, including low-power consumption wideband switches, RISs, and TXs/RXs.
  - Using the designed THz components, advanced network analysis/optimization techniques will be investigated.

- Developments driven by 6G usage scenario requirements.
- Indoor, outdoor, and indoor-to-outdoor scenarios will be demonstrated in a real factory setting and a telecom testing field.

Objective 1

- **Novel hardware development for 6G THz wireless communications and its integration:**
  - At switch level, novel reconfigurable approaches based on **memristors and microfluidics** will be addressed for the first time in THz, as well as the performance of lower risk approaches, namely **CMOS-based switches**, will be advanced.
  - **TXs and RXs** capable of handling **high-power modulated THz signals** will be developed and optimized for the considered applications of RIS-enabled THz networks.
  - **Multi-functional RISs - T-RIS, R-RIS, hybrid RISs with sensing capability -** integrating different switch technologies will be designed and experimentally tested.

Objective 2

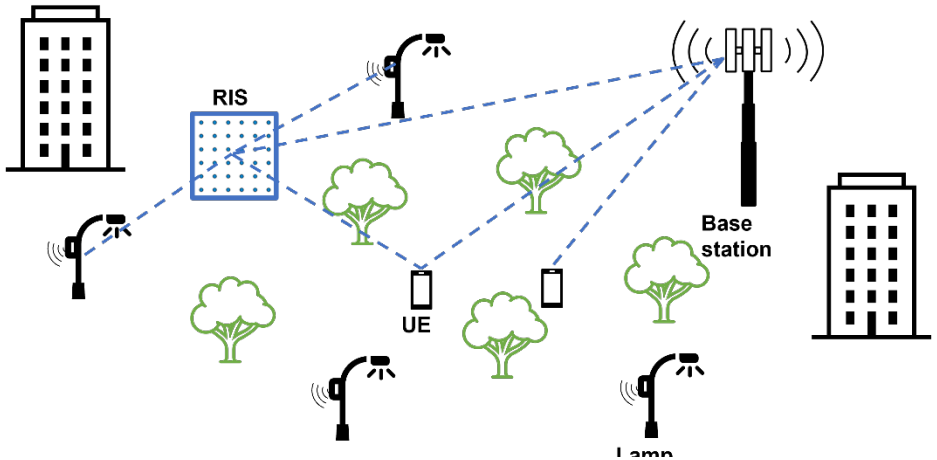
- **Development of THz-tailored network architectures based on realistic models:**
  - THz network design **based on the hardware developments** of the project.
  - Assessment of **Large active antenna arrays** (massive/ultra-massive MIMO) under
    - **power-limited and low-resolution hardware**
    - **accurate THz channel models**,
    - **centralized** and **cell-free** network architectures.
  - The **placement of RISs will be optimized** to provide extra degree of freedoms and enhance the network coverage, connectivity, and rate performance.
  - The **sharing of RISs between different nodes** and the effects of wideband processing on the network performance will be studied as well.
  - The obtained theoretical and simulation-based results will be further tested through lab emulations to demonstrate the performance of realistic THz networks.

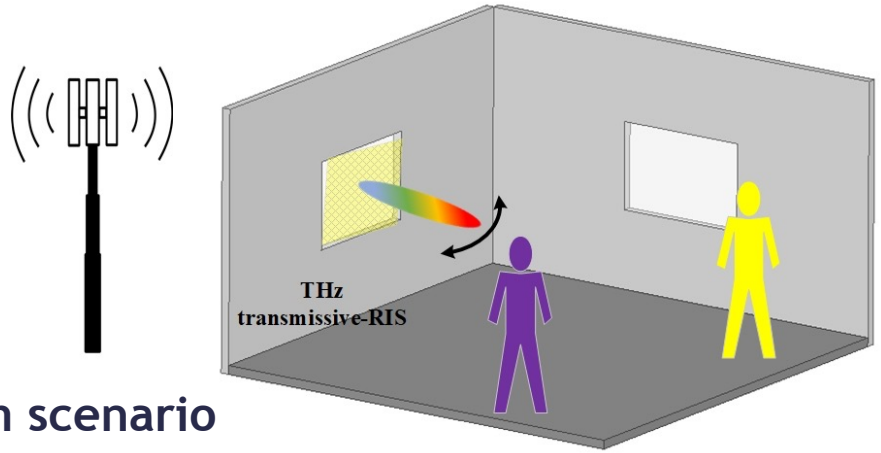
Objective 3

- **Development of signal processing techniques for THz communications, localization, and sensing with various forms of reconfigurable metasurfaces:**
  - **Signal processing algorithms and techniques** for ultra-massive THz systems, considering:
    - transceivers and wireless environment **equipped with RIS**
    - the **actual hardware specifications** and operational capabilities of metasurfaces.
  - **Development of THz channel models** profiting from a dedicated channel sounding activity.
  - The designed algorithms will focus on the selected use cases and target ultra-high data rate wireless communications, localization, and sensing.

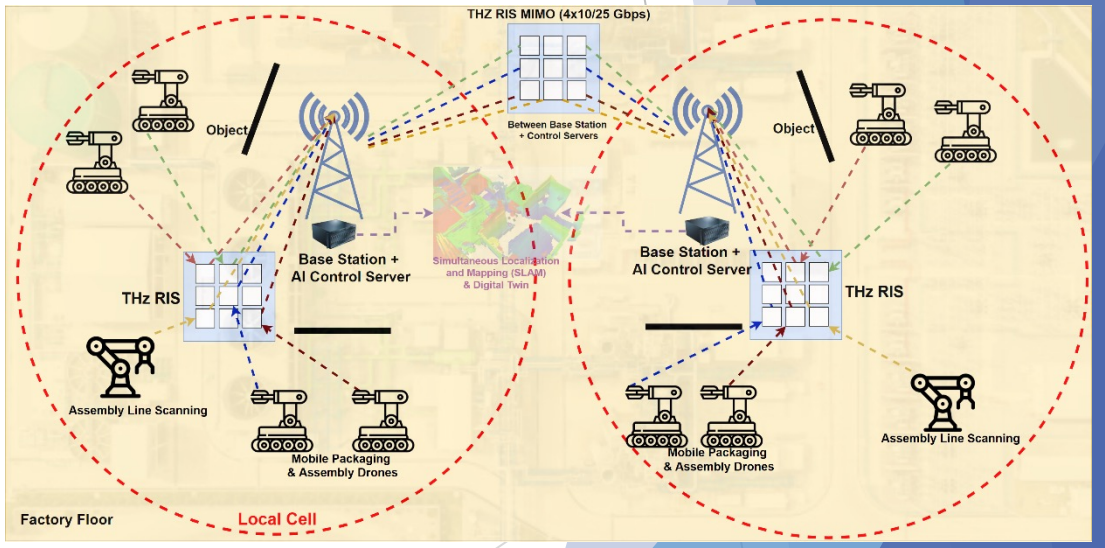
Objective 4

- Demonstrate the feasibility of applying THz RISs in an “Industrial Edge” environment and an outdoor Telecom scenario with real-world equipment





Telecom scenario



Factory Floor - Industrial Edge environment

Objective 5

- **Actively influence 6G and THz communications standardization and regulation:**
  - Standardization process at various standards bodies (3GPP, ETSI, and IEEE 802).
    - RIS **hardware reconfigurability** methods
    - RIS based THz **channel models**
    - RIS based **network architectures**
  - The project will also work on proposals for interfacing RISs into THz communication systems.
  - Influence the preparation of the World Radio Conference (WRC) 2027, where the THz spectrum is likely to be on the agenda.

TERRAMETA's Focus (1/3)

- **Development of THz RIS technology (both transmissive and reflective use-cases):**
  - **Materials and electronics components** that can support the THz operation frequency with appropriate performance, cost-efficient fabrication and low power consumption will be investigated.
  - Two types of THz RIS, **reflective-RIS** and **transmissive-RIS**, will be developed by exploring multiple THz capable reconfigurable **micro-electronics technologies: memristors, BiCMOS/GaN and microfluidics**.
  - **Signal processing techniques** for THz RIS communications, **localisation**, and **sensing**, including **channel modelling**, **channel estimation**, **beam management**, **baseband processing** and THz-tailored network architectures including Ultra-Massive MIMO techniques will be developed.

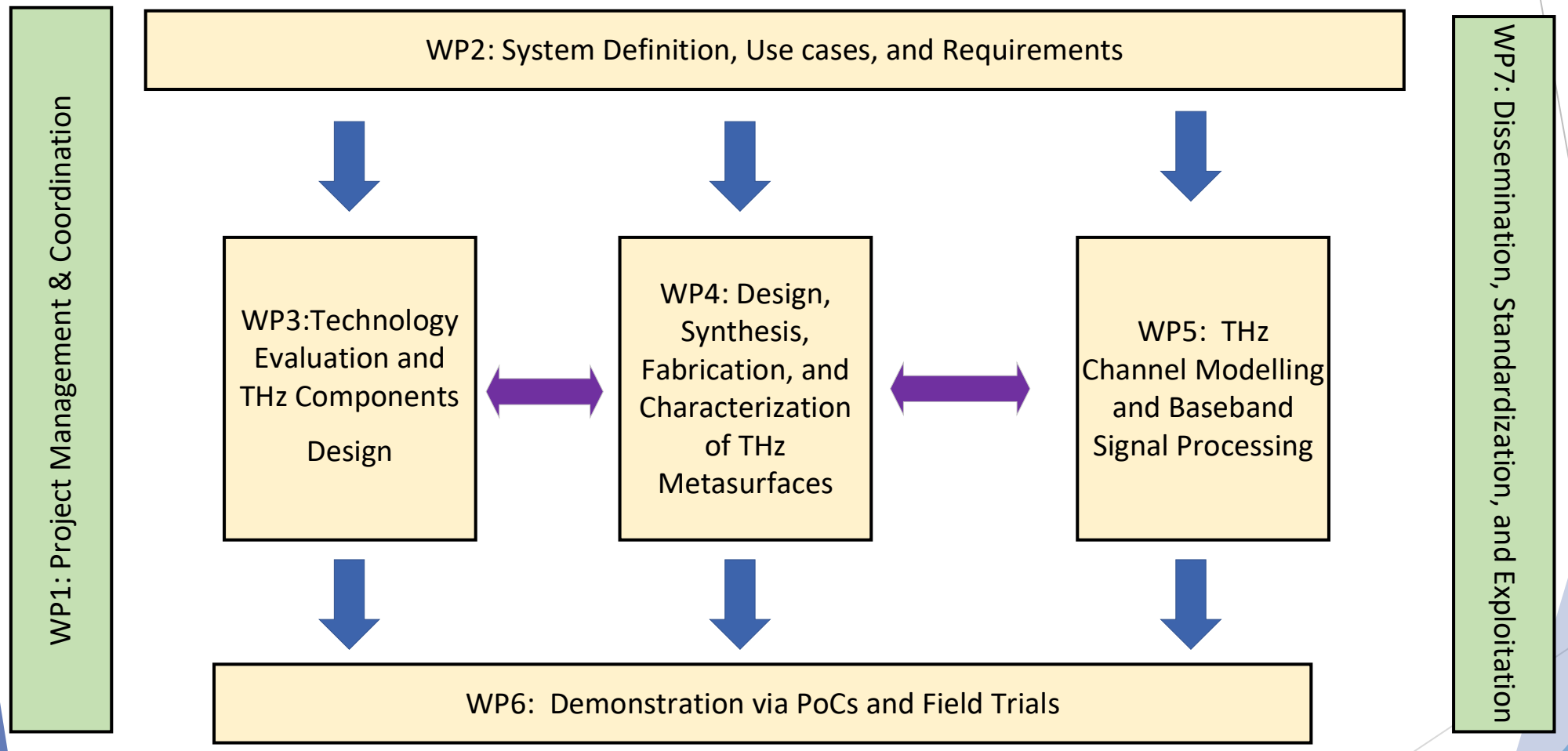
TERRAMETA's Focus (2/3)

- **Two frequency bands being currently under strong research focus at device level and expected to play a key role as part of 6G (enabling ultra-high data rates):**
  - **140GHz** (D-band: 110-170 GHz): around 30GHz spectrum available especially for backhaul/fronthaul applications
  - **300GHz** (253-322GHz band; IEEE 802.15.3d): almost 70GHz spectrum considered in IEEE 802 Std 15.3d-2017 with most of it allocated to fixed and mobile services.

TERRAMETA's Focus (3/3)

- **R-RIS design target:**
  - Different reconfiguration technologies: **memristor switches, BiCMOS/GaN switches, and microfluidic** with piezoelectric actuation, striving to improve technologies that have been shown to work at lower frequencies in order to demonstrate their viability in the 140 GHz band.
- **T-RIS design target:**
  - Demonstrate the first such device operating in the D-band and at 300GHz, using more advanced **RF-SOI-based CMOS processes**. The switch architecture will be co-designed with the RIS elements to achieve the best trade-off between Ron, Coff, power dissipation, insertion loss, and bandwidth.

Work Plan


WP1: Project Management & Coordination
WP2: System Definition, Use cases, and Requirements
WP3:Technology Evaluation and THz Components Design
WP4: Design, Synthesis, Fabrication, and Characterization of THz Metasurfaces
WP5: THz Channel Modelling and Baseband Signal Processing
WP6: Demonstration via PoCs and Field Trials
WP7: Dissemination, Standardization, and Exploitation

TERRAMETA's Consortium

Sector	Partner	Expertise	Role inTERRAMETA
Research Center	INESC TEC	THz antennas; switch modelling; IC design.	**Project coordinator**, Task leader
University	University of Athens (NKUA)	Signal processing; multi-element transceiver hardware architectures; reconfigurable metasurfaces.	**Technical coordinator**, WP leader
University	University of Hertfordshire	Reflectarrays and transmitarrays; beam-forming algorithms; localization and sensing.	Task leader
University	University of Oulu	THz antennas and measurement; micro-fluidics.	Task leader
Research Center	Instituto de Telecomunicações	Reflectarrays and transmitarrays; antenna characterization.	WP leader
Large Industrial	Intracom	Baseband unit; signal processing.	Task leader
Research Center	CEA-Leti	Reflectarrays and transmitarrays; array and metasurface modelling, design and characterization; IC design.	WP leader
University	University of Luxembourg	Network design and optimization; metasurfaces.	Task leader
Large Industrial	Dell EMC Research	Industrial operations and management.	WP leader
University	Technical University of Braunschweig	THz characterization and propagation modelling; standardization.	WP leader
SME	ACST GMBH	THz transmitter and receiver.	Task leader
University	NOVA.ID.FCT	Memristor design and fabrication.	Task leader
Large Industrial	British Telecom	System architecture; Exploitation of application scenarios.	WP leader

Thank you for your attention!