

**SNT**



# Overview of SNT SIGCOM 6GSPACE Lab and QCI Lab Activities

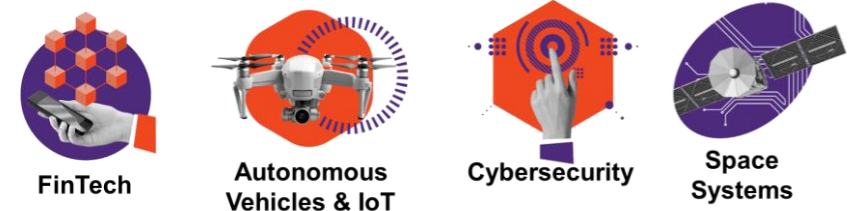


**Dr. Jorge Querol**  
Research Scientist  
Head of the 6GSPACE Lab

# University of Luxembourg – SnT



## Strategic Research Areas



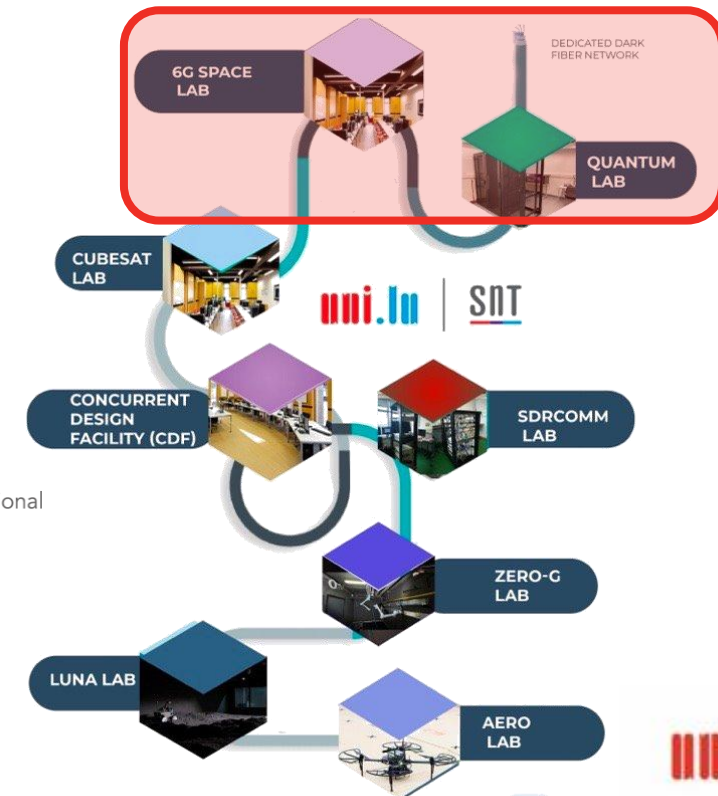
## SIGCOM – 6GSPACE Lab



- ❑ [6GSPACE Lab](#) (20+ people) composed SnT SIGCOM researchers
- ❑ Facility for design and testing of 5G/6G Satellite-NTN-Space
- ❑ Multiple 5G/6G NTN research testbeds:
  - ❑ 6G NTN Multiorbit Emulation
  - ❑ 6G NTN AI-acceleration
  - ❑ 6G NTN OTS & OTA
  - ❑ Joint Communications and Sensing – PNT

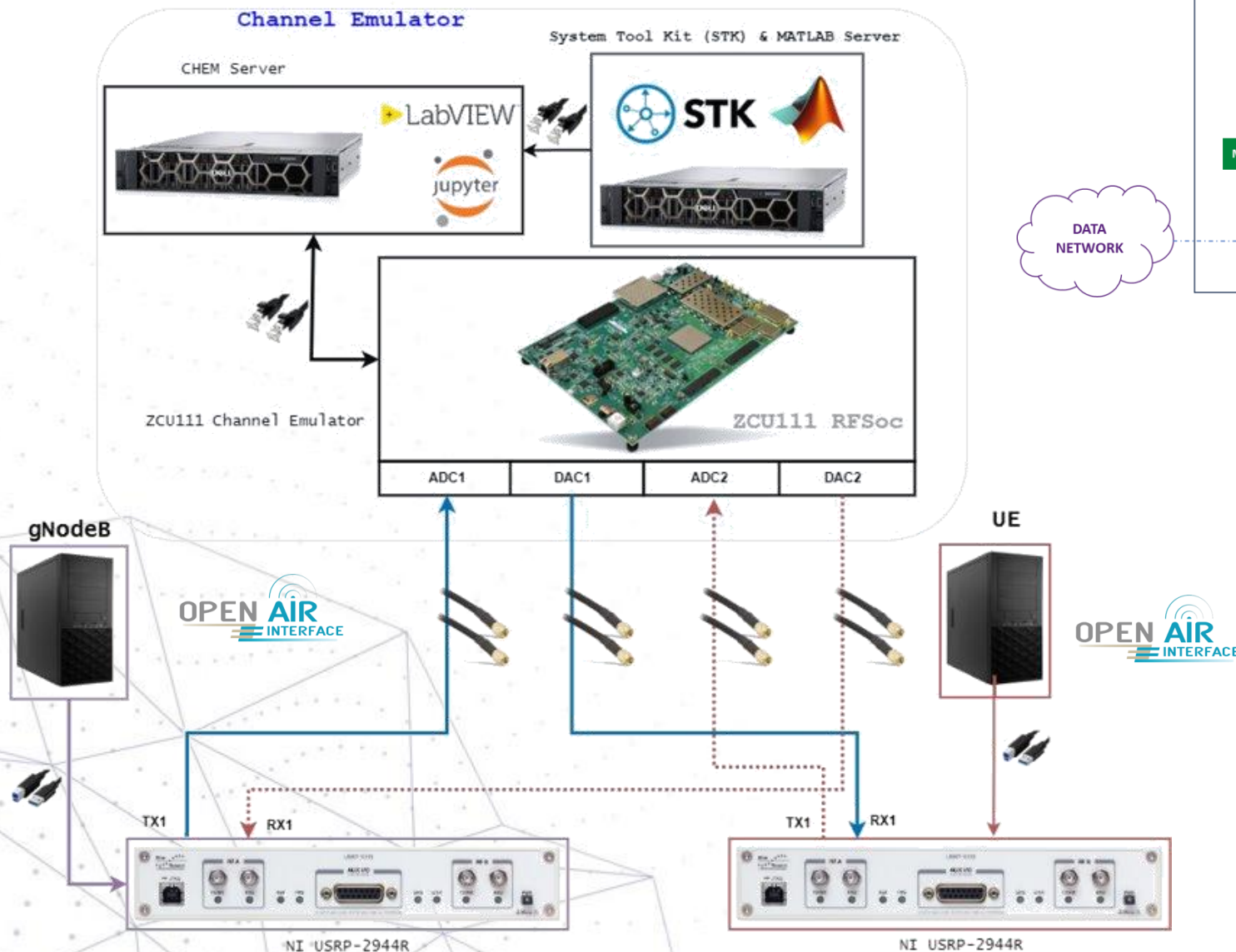


## PIONEERING SPACE EXPLORATION ADVANCED RESEARCH FACILITIES

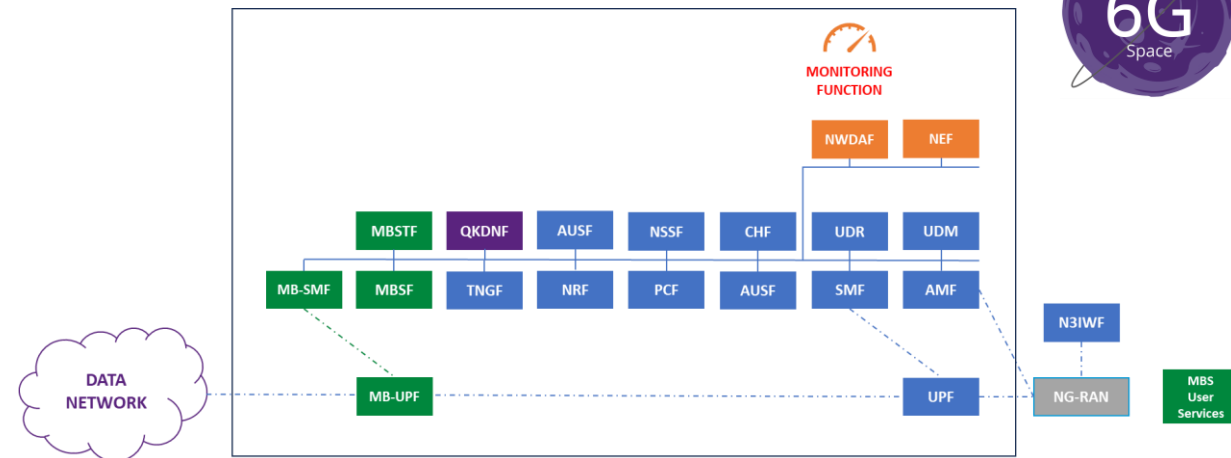


# 6G NTN Multiorbit Emulation

## 5G/6G RAN



## 5G/6G Core Network



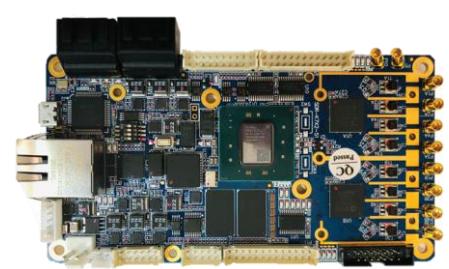
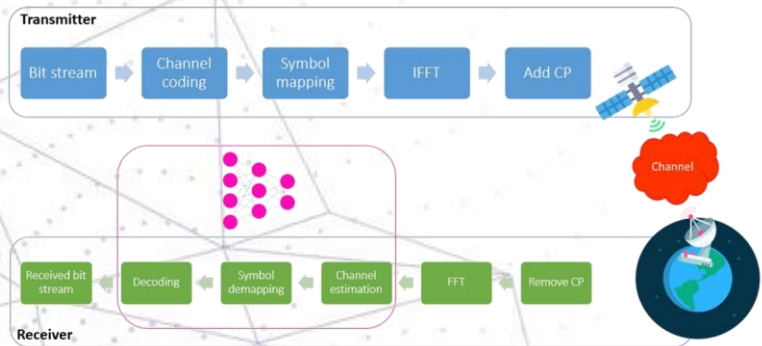
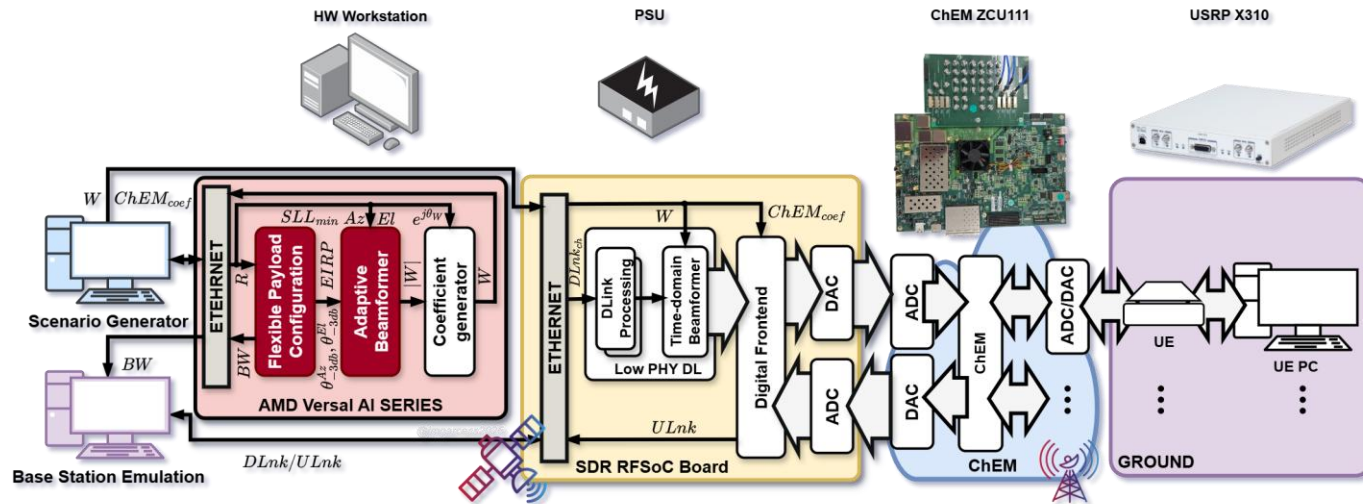
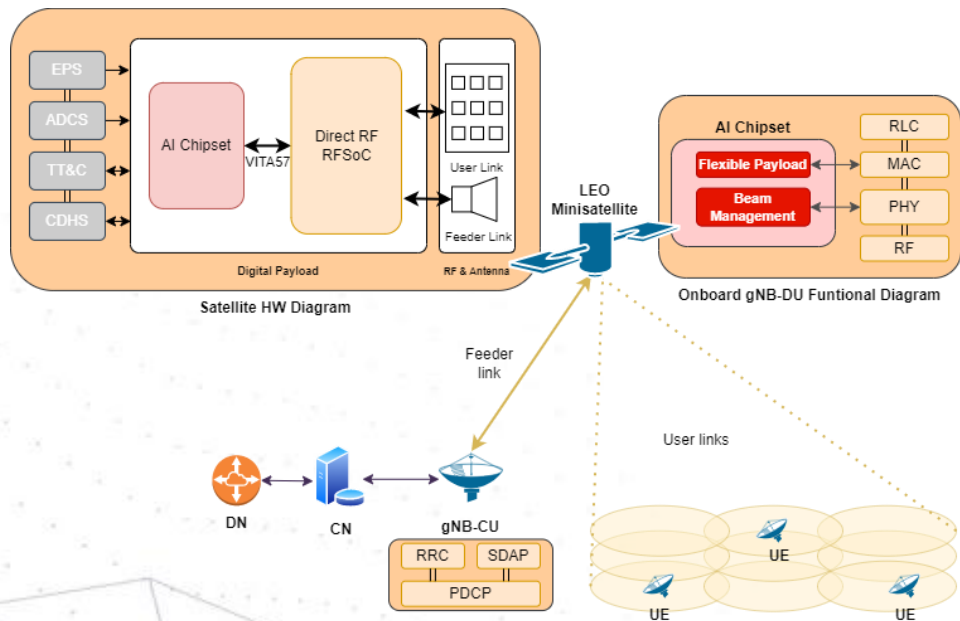
## 5G/6G NTN Demonstrations

- ☐ Multiorbit 5G connectivity LEO/MEO/GEO
- ☐ TN-NTN Handover (F1/N2)
- ☐ In-orbit UE Demonstration
- ☐ 5G NTN + Multicast Broadcast Services
- ☐ Security and Automation (QKD + NWDAF)
- ☐ Dual-connectivity / Dual-steer (Multiorbit)



# 6G NTN AI-acceleration

Onboard/onground AI-based resource allocation and beam management + AI PHY-enhancement



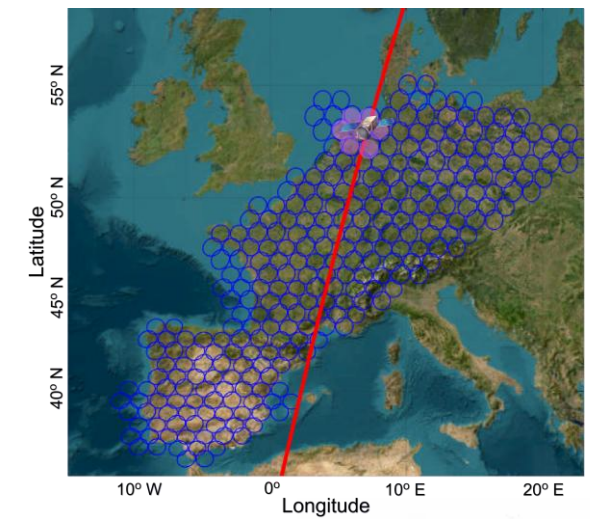
Custom SDR



Versal AI



Testbed





# 6G NTN OTS & OTA

C-/Ku-/Ka-bands GEO/NGSO/Terrestrial

beCom



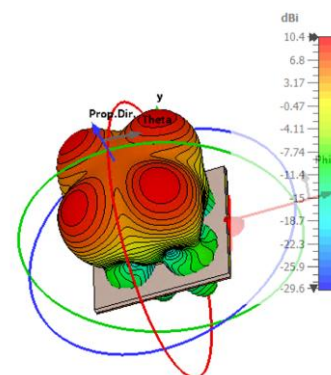
Ku-band  
BUC + LNB  
1.2 m dish  
GEO

0-40 GHz  
EMF



Ku-band LNB + Ka-band LNB – 3-axis NGSO

- ☐ OTS Demos
- ☐ Spectrum monitoring
- ☐ Direct-to-X Connectivity



INSTITUT LUXEMBOURGEOIS  
DE RÉGULATION

C-band Test License

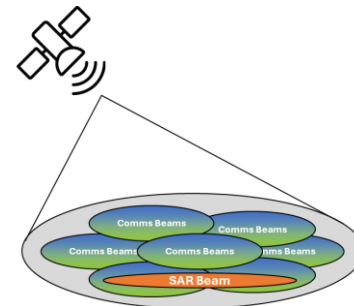
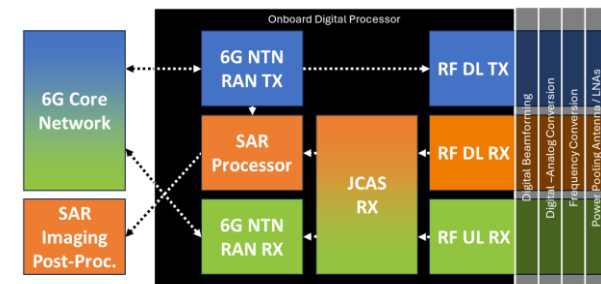


## Joint Communication and Positioning (JCAP)

- 
- The diagram illustrates the DSSS overlay receiver design. A satellite (Sat) is shown at the top right, emitting a dashed line representing the PNT beam. A large blue oval represents the coverage area, which is filled with many green ovals representing individual data beams. A solid line labeled "Data beam  $k$ " points to one of these green ovals. A user is shown at the bottom right, receiving the signal from the satellite.



- 
- The diagram illustrates the architecture of a Space-based Network (SpaceNet) for maritime surveillance. It features three satellites and their interactions with ground stations and each other.
- Satellites:**
    - Demo#1 SARTX/RX + Processing:** A satellite with a radar and processing unit.
    - Demo#2 SAR TX (SARTX) and Demo#2 SAR RX + Processing (SAR RX):** A pair of satellites connected by an ISL (Inter-Satellite Link).
    - Demo#3 SAR RX:** A satellite with a radar unit.
  - Ground Stations:** Represented by icons of a ship, a car, a smartphone, and a train.
  - Communication Links:**
    - Comms DL (Downlink):** Blue dashed lines from satellites to ground stations.
    - Comms UL (Uplink):** Green dashed lines from ground stations to satellites.
    - Comms DL Echo:** Orange dashed lines from ground stations to satellites.
  - Inter-Satellite Link (ISL):** Yellow dashed lines connecting Demo#1 to Demo#2 SAR TX, Demo#1 to Demo#2 SAR RX, and Demo#2 SAR RX to Demo#3 SAR RX.
  - Offload On-ground Processing:** A dashed line from Demo#3 SAR RX to a ground station icon.

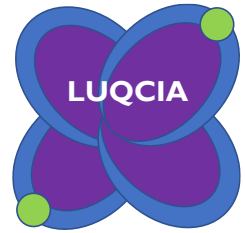
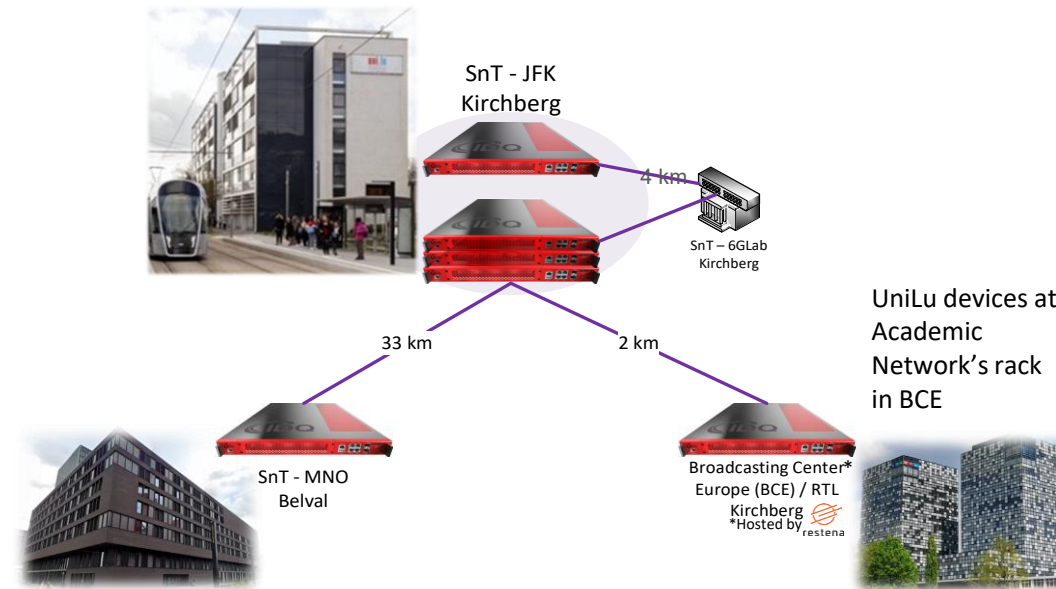




# Quantum Lab

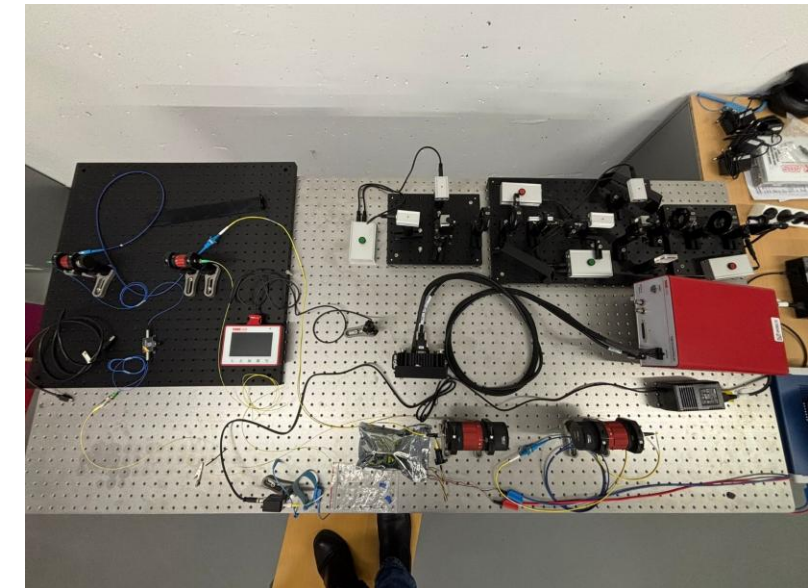
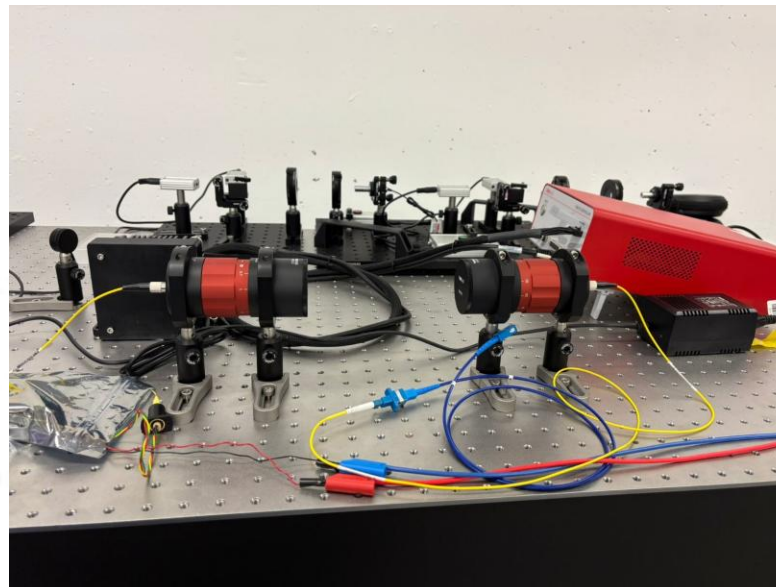
## QKD Testbed Overview

- ❑ 6 QKD Links
- ❑ 7 PoP with SDN KMS orchestration
- ❑ 4 providers with different technologies (MDI-QKD, CV-QKD, COW, BB84)
- ❑ Eagle-1 Emulator
- ❑ Crossborder Link between Luxembourg and Belgium



## FSO Testbed Overview

- ❑ Free space optics demonstrations without turbulence (e.g ISL)
- ❑ QKD testbed based on Entangled States with SPDC sources
- ❑ Free Space QKD (Integration of BBM92 in FSO link)





# Interdisciplinary Centre for Security, Reliability and Trust

**Contact:**



Jorge.Querol@uni.lu

**Connect with us**



@SnT\_uni\_lu



SnT, Interdisciplinary Centre for  
Security, Reliability and Trust





# Overview of 6GSPACE Lab activities

## Outline

- **6GSPACE Lab Introduction**
- **6G NTN Over-The-Satellite**
- **6G NTN AI-acceleration**
- **6G NTN Spectrum Sensing**
- **Lunar 5G Proximity & Edge Computing**
- **Joint Communications and Sensing - PNT**



**SNT**



# 6GSPACE Lab Introduction



# SnT – University of Luxembourg



## PEOPLE



**450+**  
Workforce



**65+**  
Nationalities



**36%**  
Alumni who stay  
in Luxembourg



**43%**  
Doctoral  
candidates on  
Industrial projects

## PARTNERSHIPS & INNOVATION



**60+**  
Partners



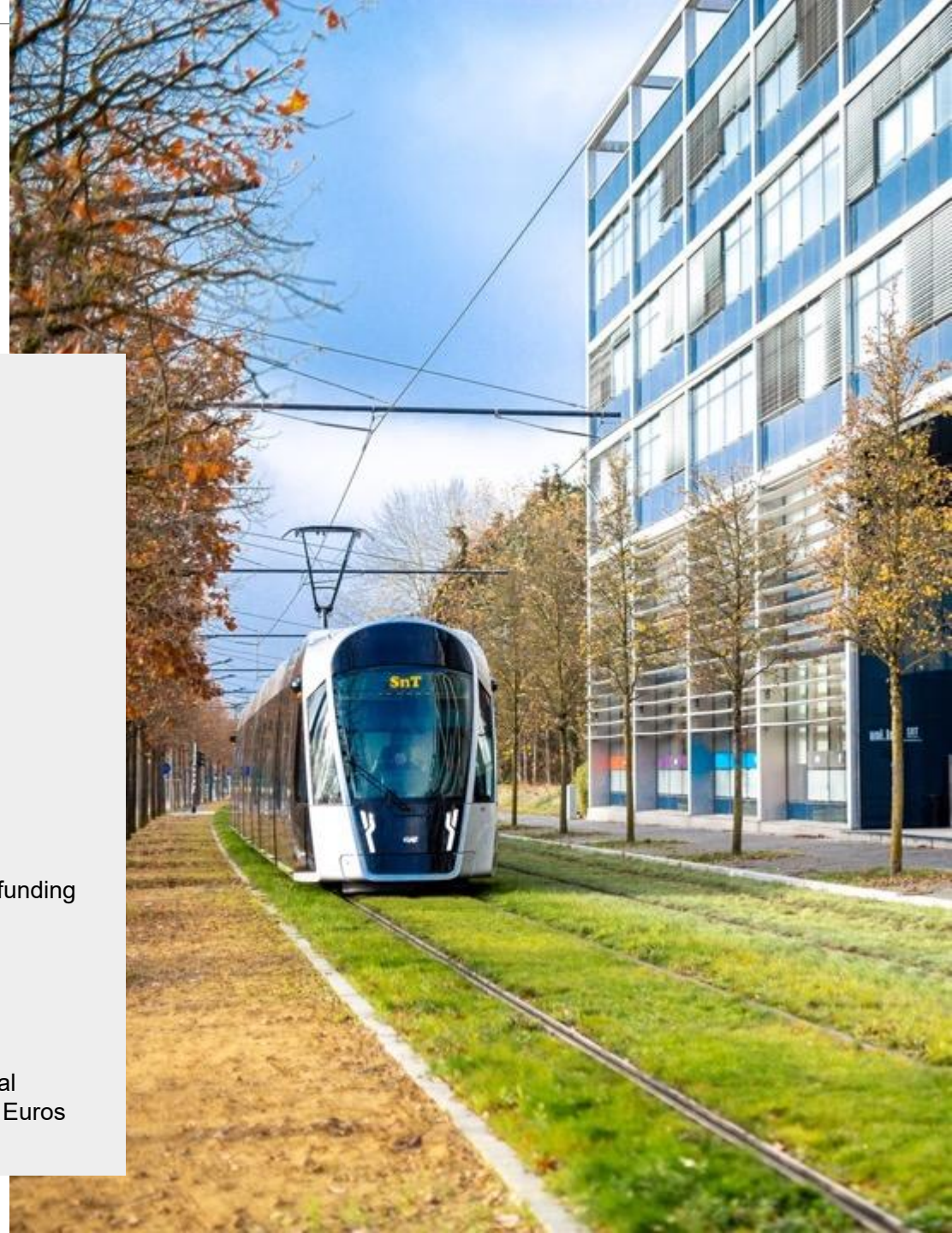
**6**  
Spin-offs



**70%**  
External project funding



**5.2M**  
Partners annual  
contribution in Euros





# SnT SIGCOM Research Group



## Track Record (2024)

- 15 years in operation
- 90+ Researchers
- 60+ R&D projects
- 60M€+ Funding
- 6 Industrial Partnerships



## Research Areas

- 6G Communication Systems
- Non-Terrestrial Networks (SatCom-UAVs)
- Massive Antenna Arrays
- Quantum Communication Infrastructure



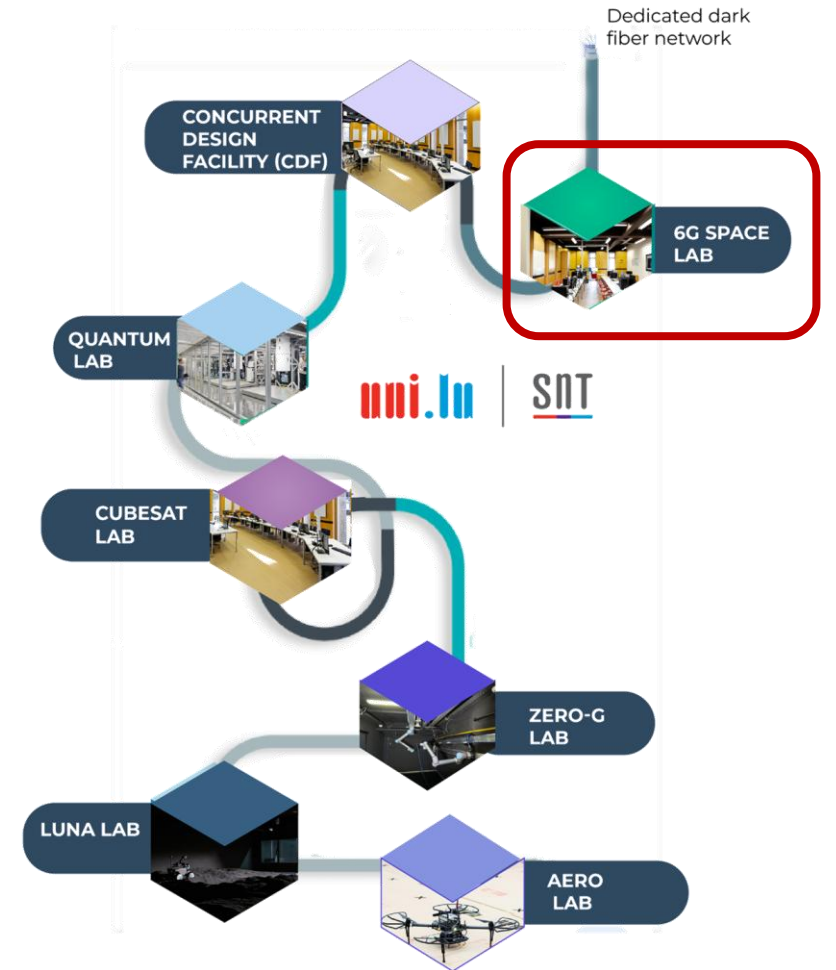
Funding Bodies

Associations  
& Standards



Industry  
Partners

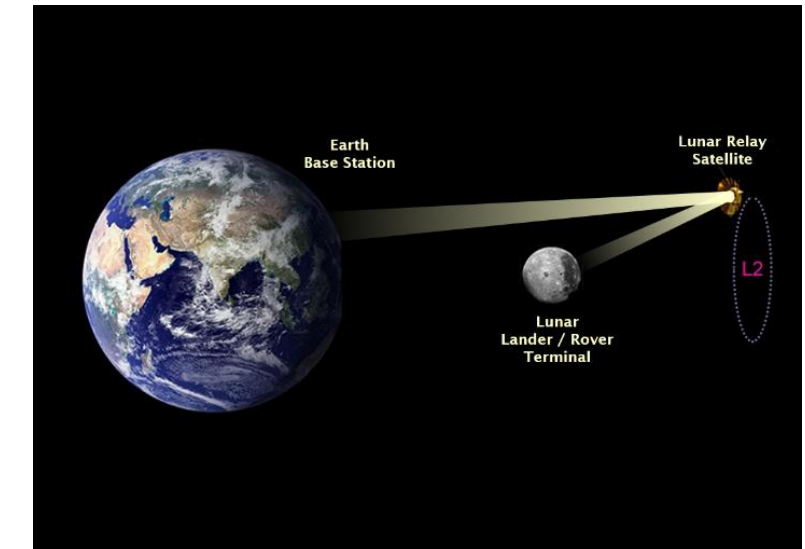
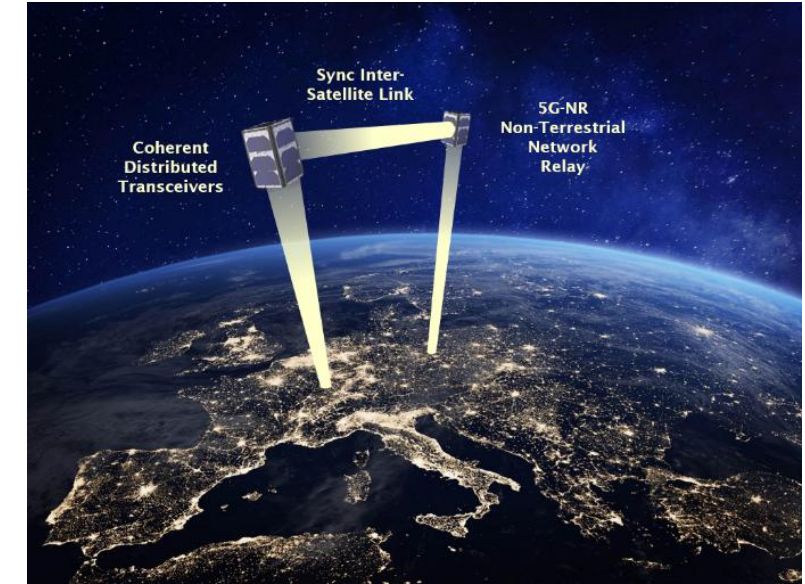
## SnT Space labs



# 6GSPACE Lab

## Overview

- ❑ [6GSPACE Lab](#) (15+ people) composed SIGCOM researchers
- ❑ Funded under the ISM / MSTB framework (Lux MECO & LSA)
- ❑ Facility for design and testing of 5G/6G Satellite-NTN-Space
- ❑ Current features:
  - ❑ OpenAirInterface-enabled 5G gNB and UEs
  - ❑ RU with PHY layer offloading for functional splits 6/7.X
  - ❑ STK-powered channel emulator
  - ❑ Edge Computing infrastructure
- ❑ Multiple 5G/6G NTN research testbeds:
  - ❑ 6G NTN Multiorbit Emulation
  - ❑ 6G NTN Over-The-Satellite
  - ❑ 6G NTN AI-acceleration
  - ❑ 6G NTN Spectrum Sensing
  - ❑ Lunar 5G Proximity & Edge Computing
  - ❑ Joint Communications and Sensing - PNT





# 6GSPACE Lab

## Hardware and Space Labs integration



6GSPACE Lab Integration

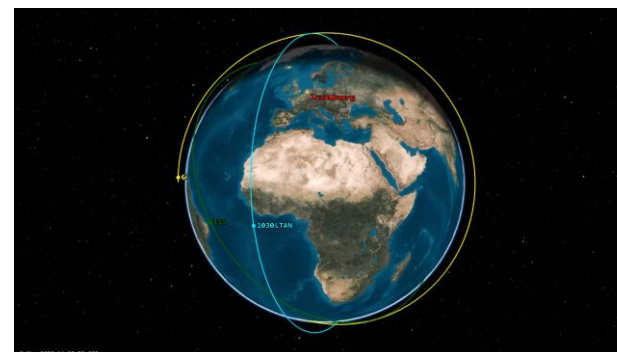
Cubesat SDR



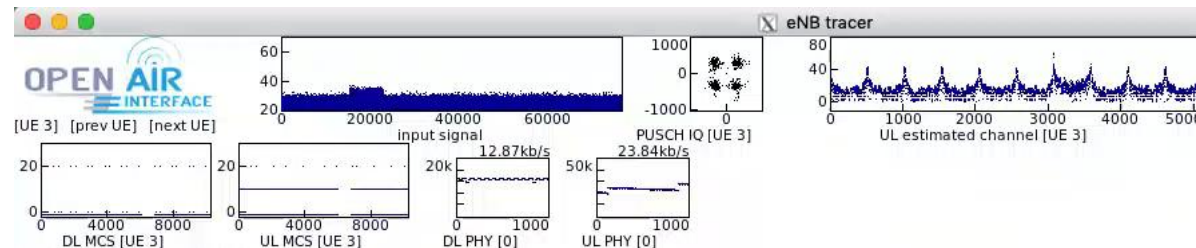
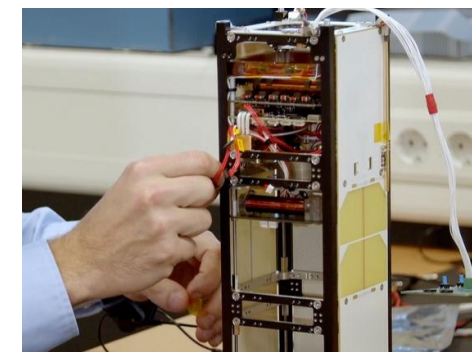
Channel Emulator



STK Scenario Design



CubeSatLab Integration

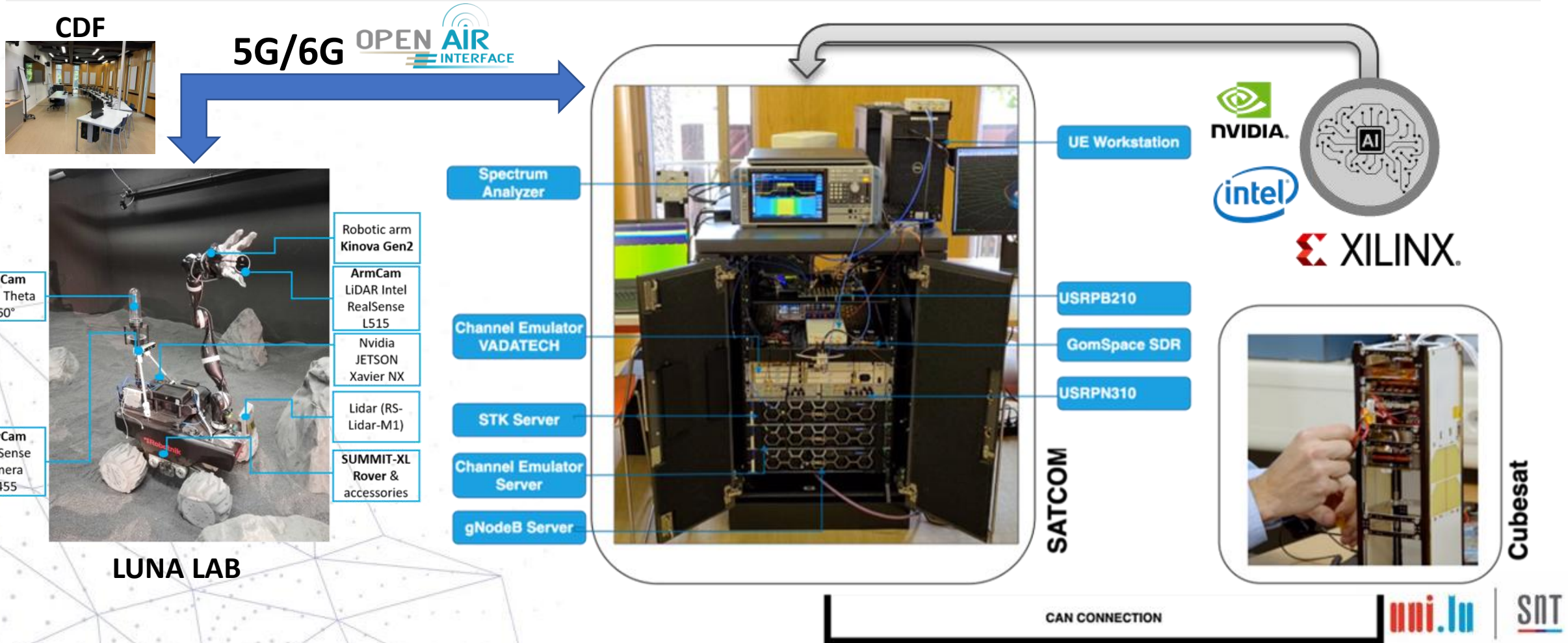


LunaLab Integration

# 6GSPACE Lab

## Interdisciplinary Joint Lab

- Communications, Robotics, CubeSats, Concurrent Design



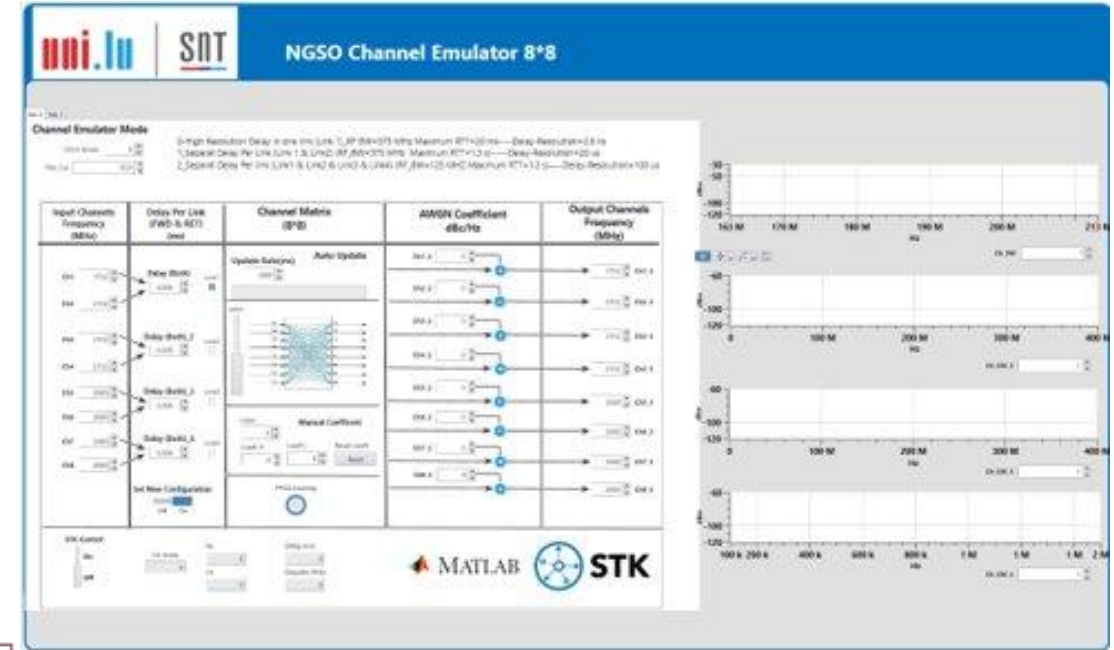
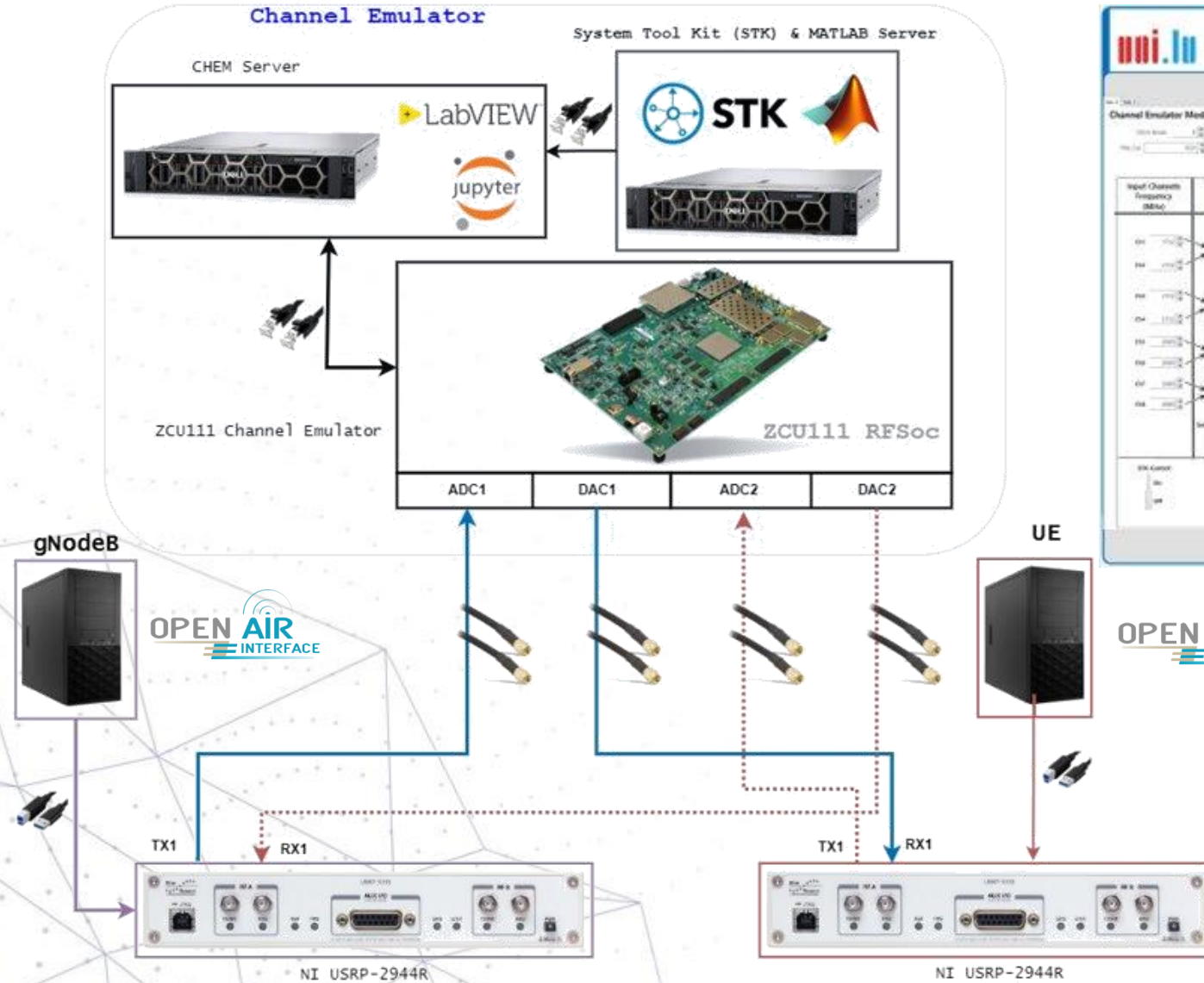


# 6GSPACE Lab

## 6G NTN Multiorbit Emulation ([6gspacelab.uni.lu](http://6gspacelab.uni.lu))



GUI



### Functional blocks

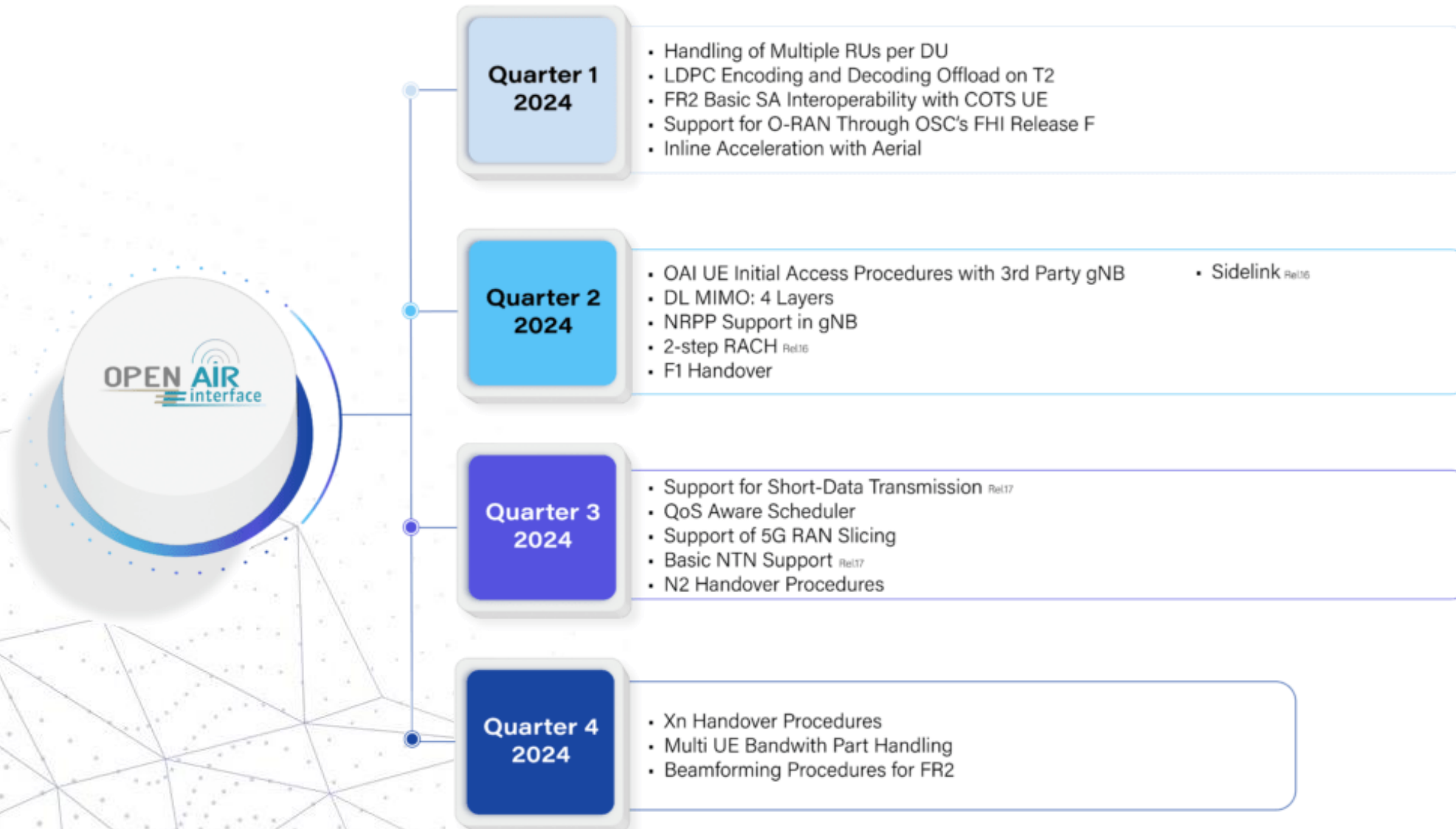


- Multiorbital
- Customizable
- 8 Independent Channels
- Up to 330 ms delay
- $\pm 34$  ppm / 0.5ppm/s Doppler / Doppler Rate



# 6GSPACE Lab

## OAI RAN Roadmap (Q4 2023)



**SNT**



# 6G NTN Over-The-Satellite

# TRANTOR: 5G+ evoluTion to mutioRbitAl multibaNd neTwORks



## Objectives

1. Adoption of 5G Advanced and pre-6G NTN by satellite operators
2. Provide novel satellite components for 5G Advanced NTN
3. Development of 5G Advanced NTN user equipment and gNB
4. Development of AI governance modules for resource management
5. Creation of mission planner for the design of future satellite networks
6. Secure satellite operator network

## Demonstration TRL 3 → TRL 6

1. End-to-End single band connectivity with a single GEO satellite
2. End-to-End single band connectivity with a single drone-emulated LEO satellite
3. End-to-End single band connectivity with CU/DU split with OBP satellite
4. Multi-band transmission from a single GEO satellite
5. Multiorbital, multi-band transmission using a GEO and a drone-emulated LEO satellite
6. Multi-satellite, multi-band transmission using two GEO satellite

## → SnT develops its own Core Network



Consiglio Nazionale  
delle Ricerche



Fraunhofer  
IIS

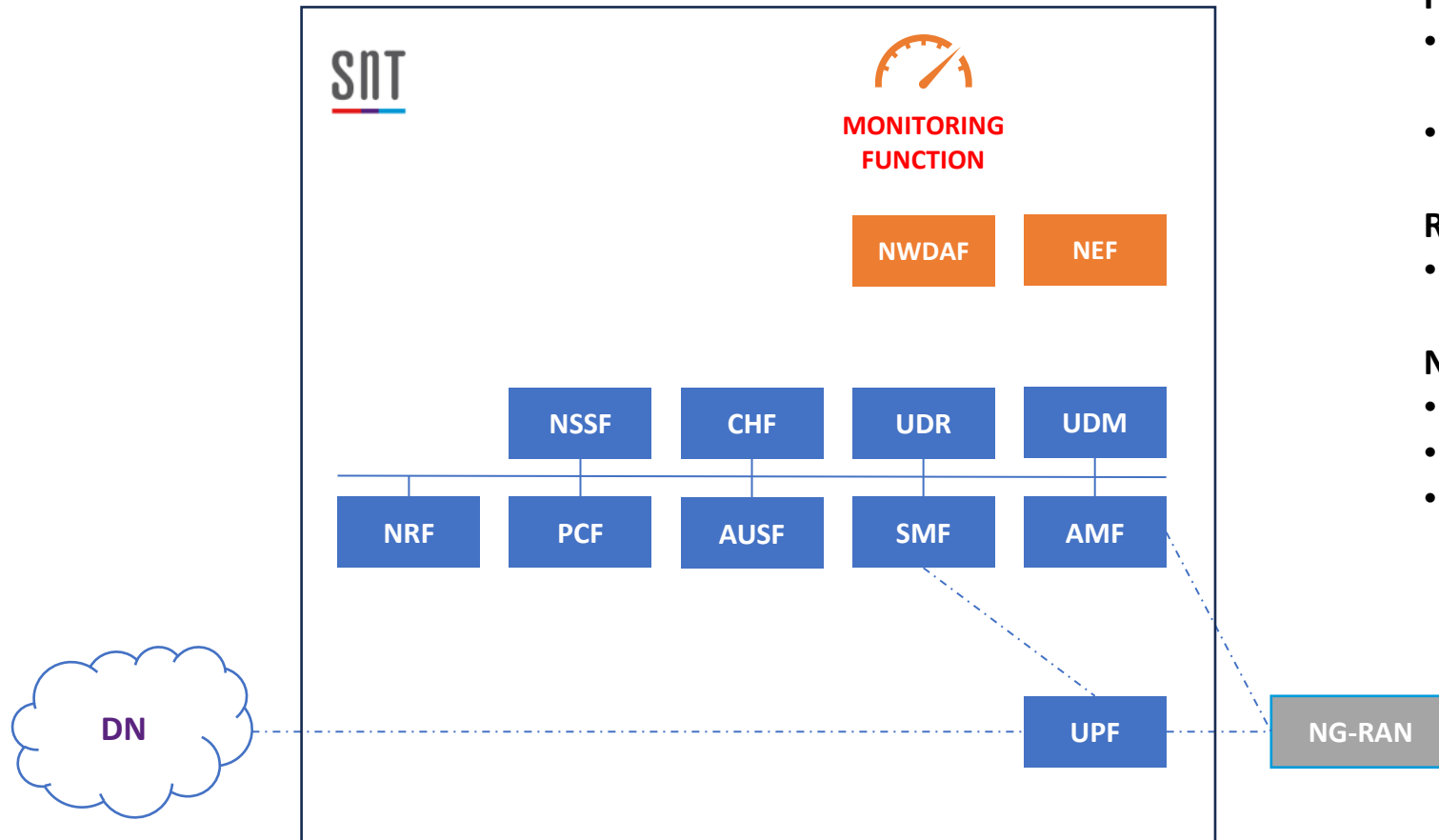


hispasat





# SnT – Core Network



## Fork of Free5gc Release 17

- Support of Network Data Analytics Function (NWDAF)
- Support of Network Exposure Function (NEF)

## Realtime Metrics Monitoring

- Grafana

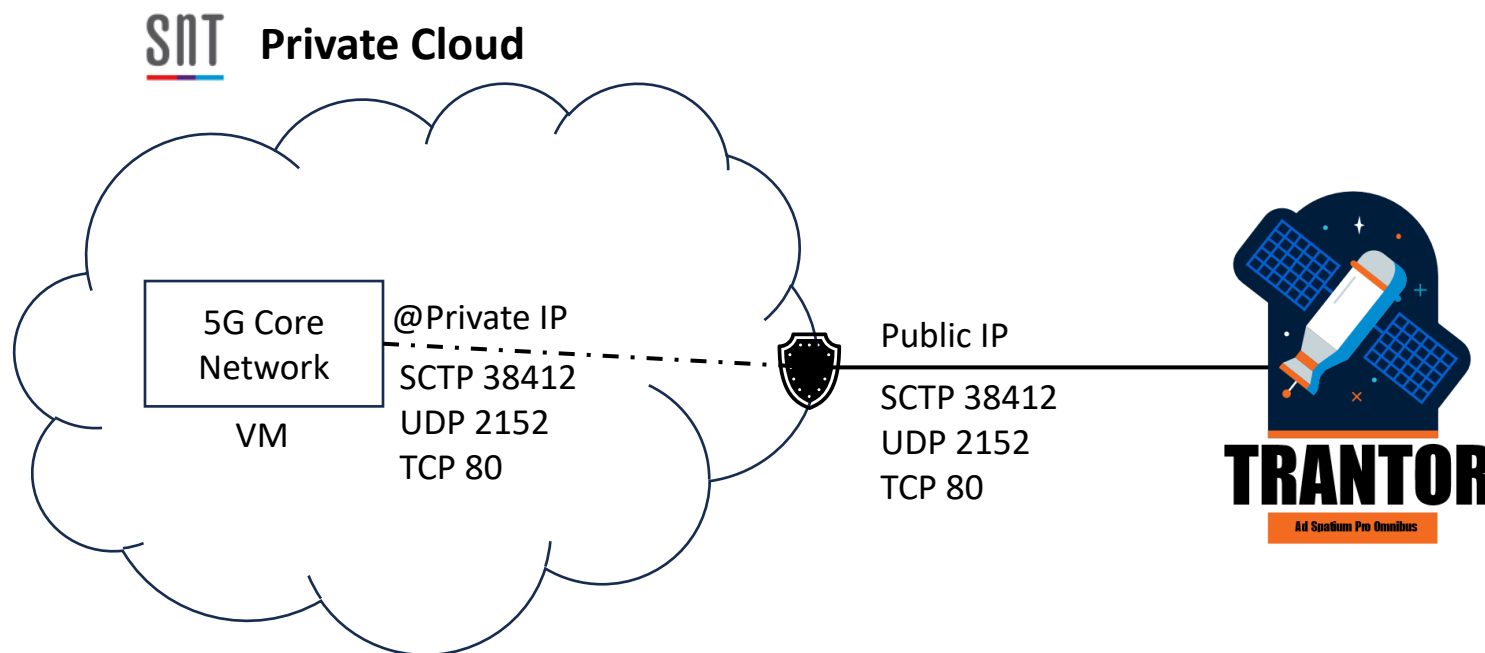
## NG-RAN Testing

- Amarisoft gNB
- OAI 5G gNB
- srsRAN gNB



# Core Network – Publicly Available

**Status:** Up and running



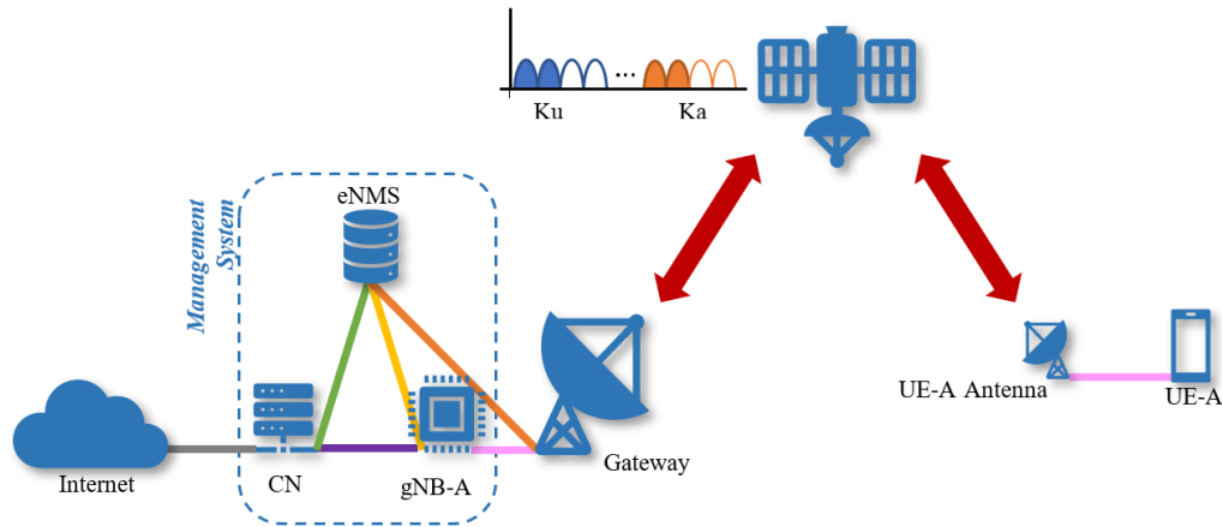
In order for partners to use the SNT Core Network, they will have to configure their tools/gNB to use it:

- AMF → Public IP:38412/SCTP
- UPF → 158.64.79.145:2152/UDP
- NEF → 158.64.79.145:80/TCP

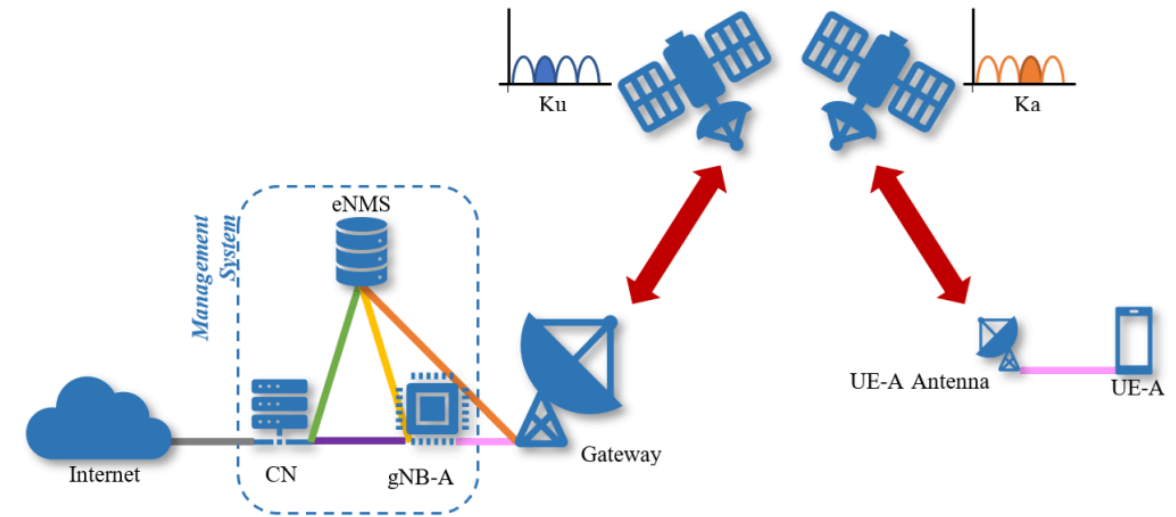
# HEU TRANTOR & SNS ETHER

## Multiorbit and multiband simultaneous connectivity

- 3D multilayer handover optimization in megaconstellations (via ISLs)
- Core Network NWDAF for real-time traffic monitoring, steering and routing



**Carrier Aggregation**



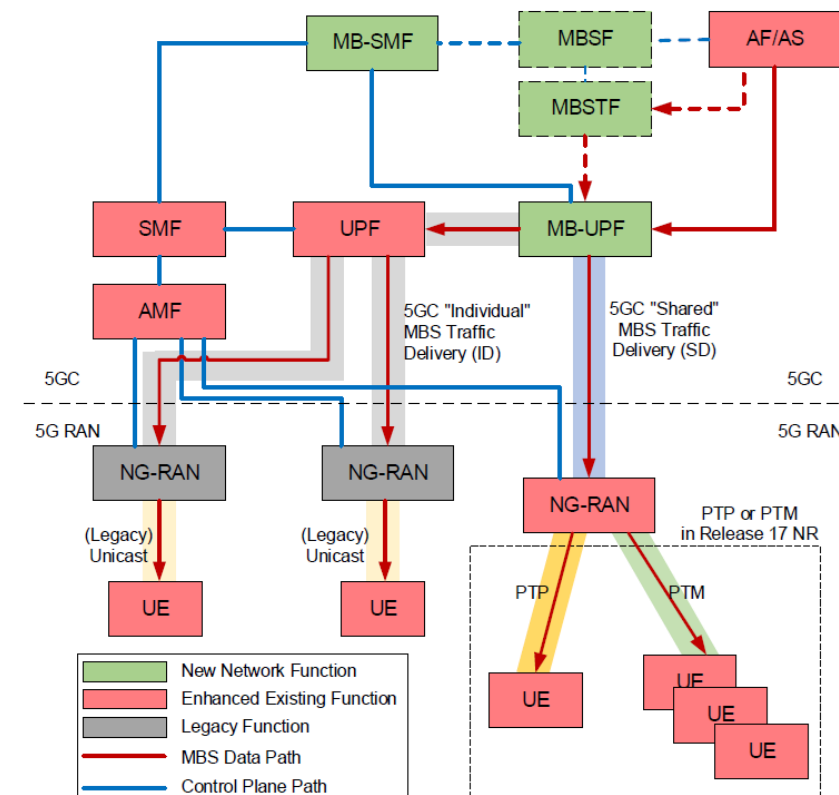
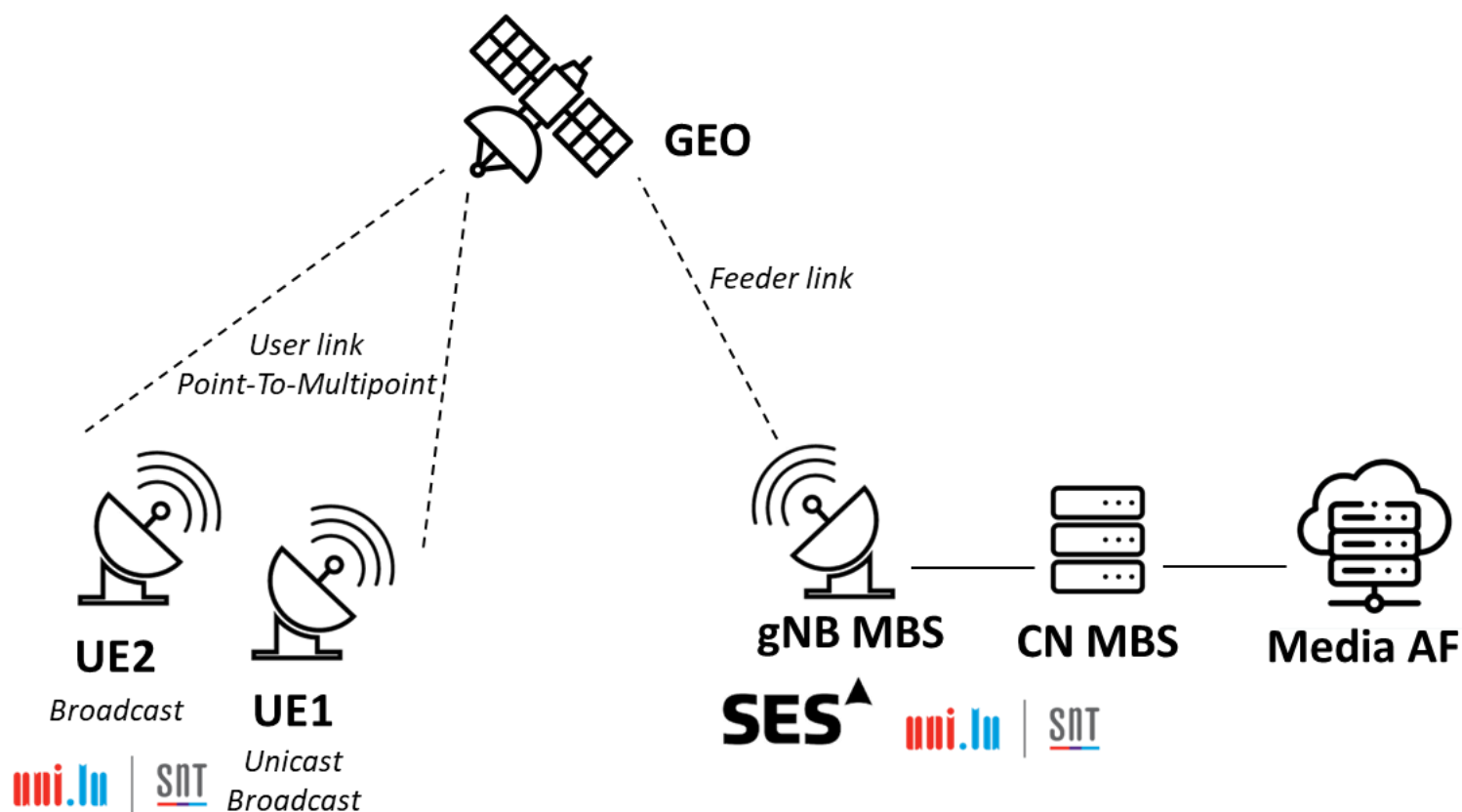
**Dual Connectivity**



# ESA 5G-EMERGE

## 6G NTN MBS Over-The-Satellite with SES GEO satellite

- Demonstration of 5G-NTN Point-To-Multipoint Direct-to-Device Receive-Only Broadcast
- ESA 5G-EMERGE Phase 2 project (KO'24)

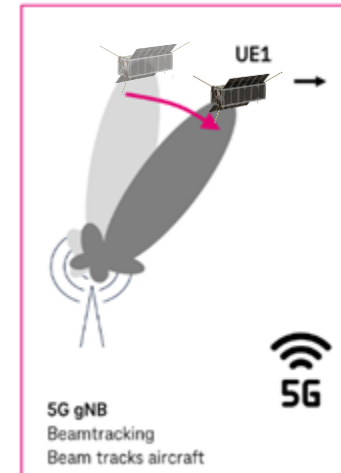
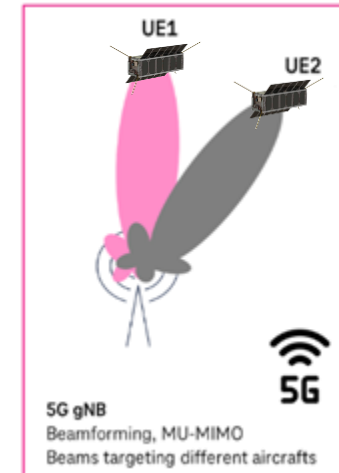
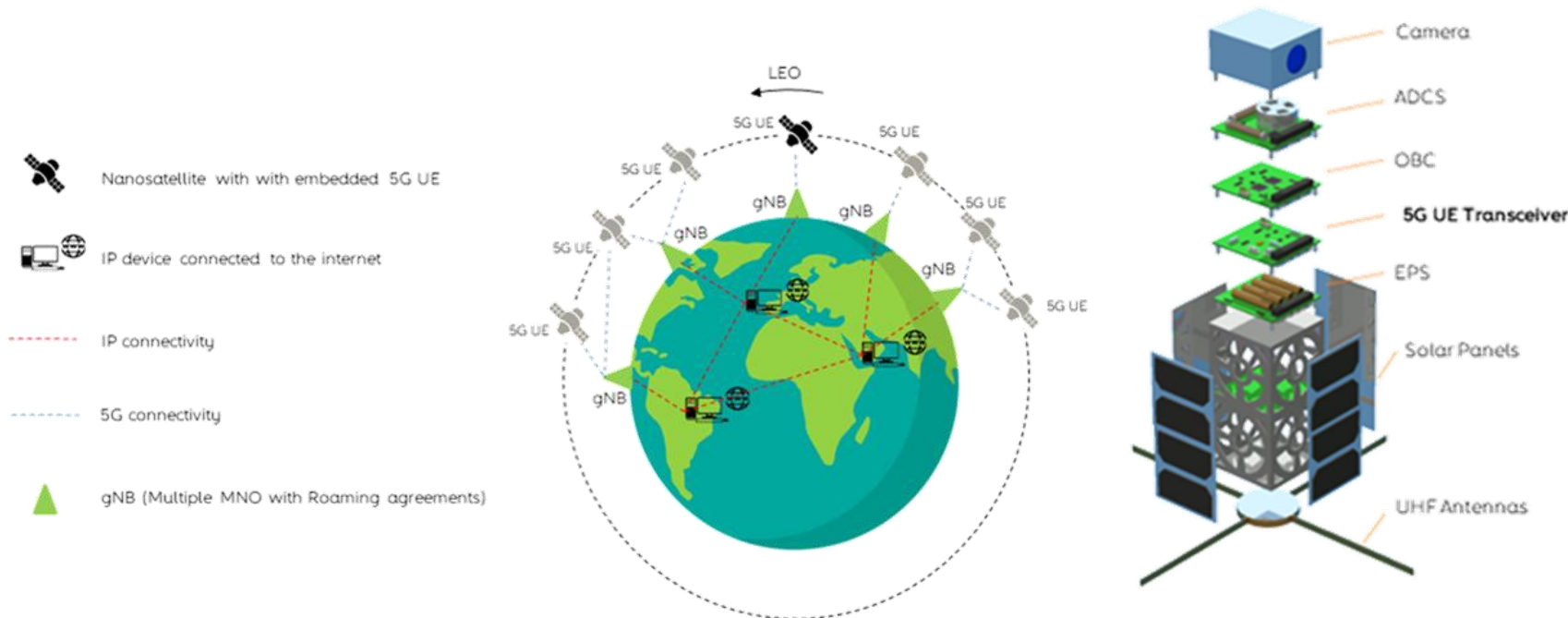


V. K. Shrivastava, S. Baek, and Y. Baek, "5G Evolution for Multicast and Broadcast Services in 3GPP Release 17"

# ESA 5G-Nanosatellite

## ESA Industry-driven project co-funded by Altice Labs

- Earth-observation missions generate huge amounts of data that needs to be downloaded from the satellites
- A network of dedicated 5G ground stations can provide high-bandwidth connectivity to thousands of satellites
- The 6GSPACE Lab is developing its own 5G terminal to be embarked in a 3U Cubesat Proof-of-Concept
- Project KO'24. Launch, operation and in-orbit validation are planned for 2026

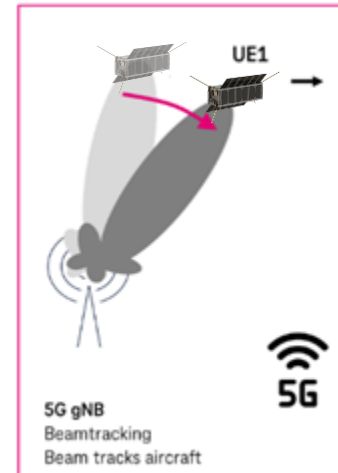
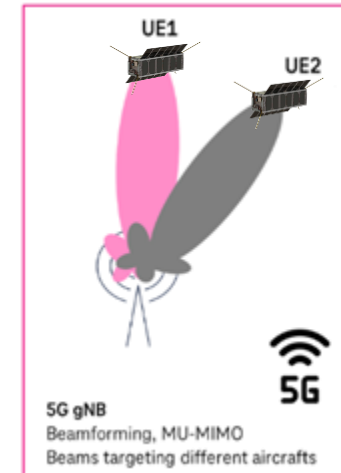
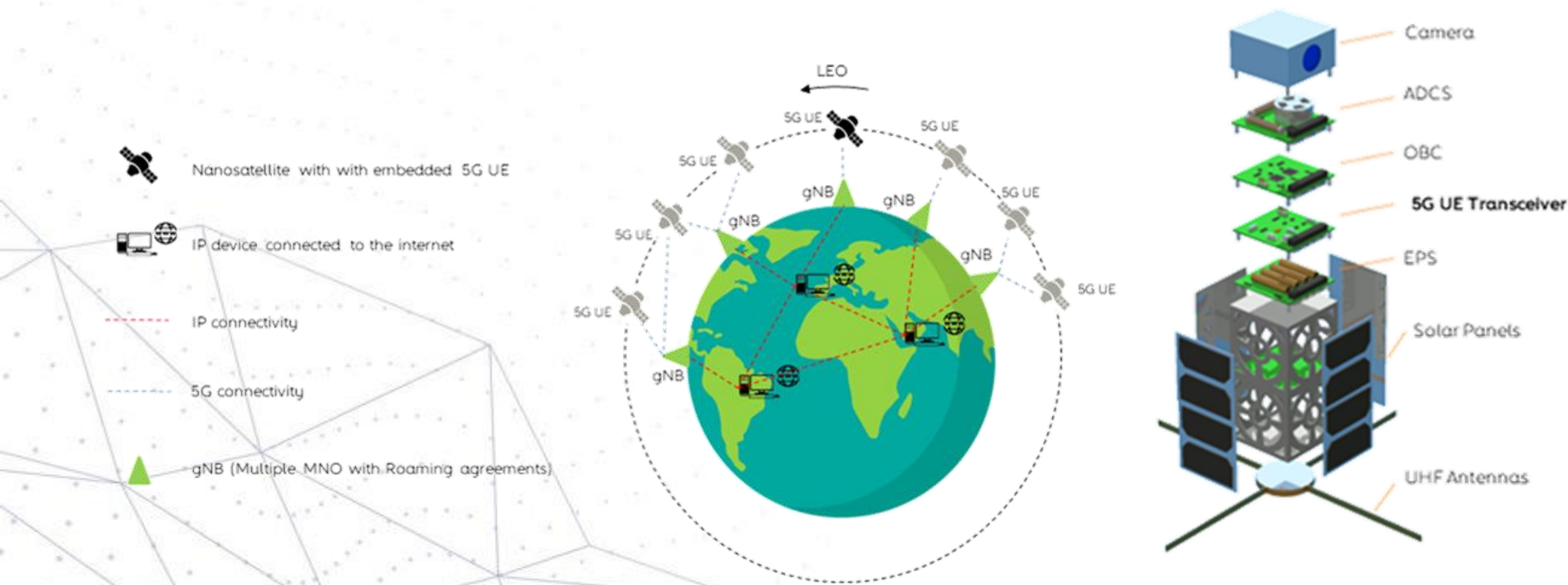


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# ESA 5G-GOA

## OAI Extensions during 5G-GOA To Support NTN Features

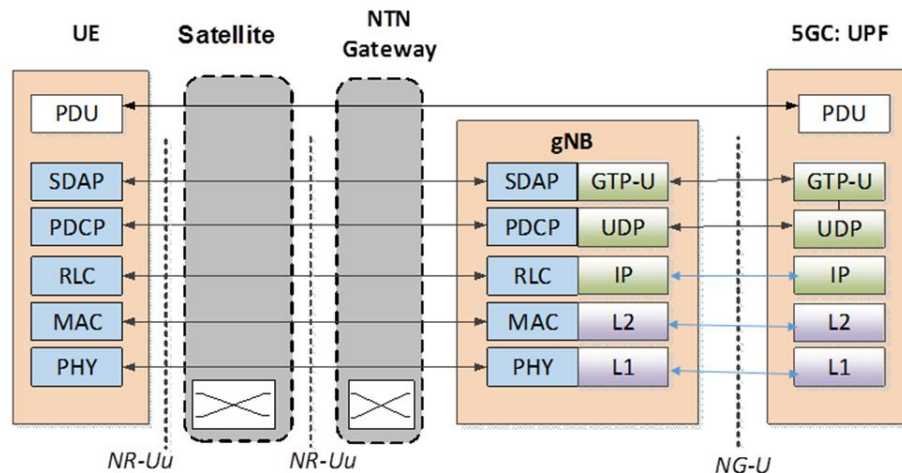


### Features broader than NTN, but necessary for NTN experimentation

- PHY Layer
  - Extend OAI rf-simulator to support simulation of long delay
  - Support for 5 MHz BW with 15 kHz SCS
  - Extended support for multiple bandwidth parts (BWP)
- MAC Layer
  - Support for Multi-UE
  - Implementation of real FDD Scheduling
  - Implementation of QoS scheduling
- Implementation of a new KPI GUI

### NTN specific feature extensions

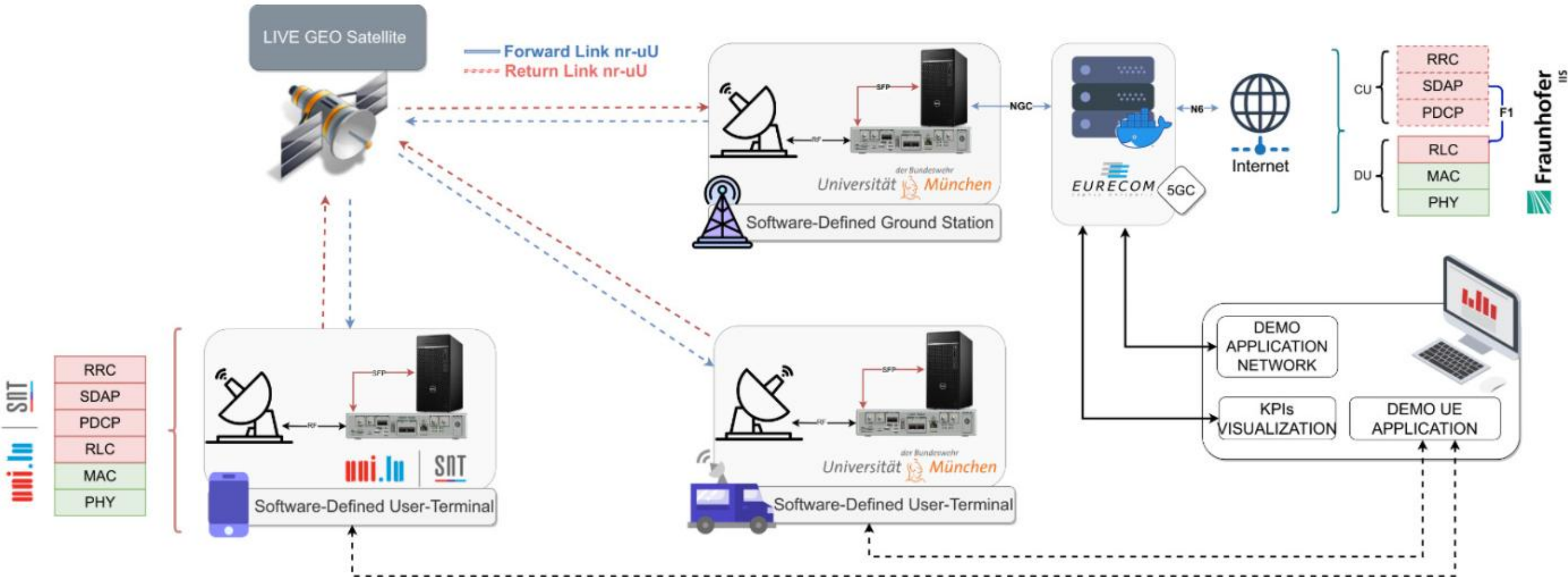
- PHY Layer
  - Disabling HARQ at gNB and UE
  - Consider large delay for UL scheduling at gNB (FDD)
- MAC Layer
  - Adapting Uplink timing advance and RA procedure
- RLC Layer
  - Disable HARQ-ARQ interaction
  - Increase ARQ buffer size to cope with large GEO delay
  - Increase maximum Sequence Number value
- PDCP Layer
  - Increase discard timer for transmit SDU buffer
  - Increase t-reordering timer for receive PDU buffer
  - Increase size of transmit PDU buffer
- RRC Layer
  - Increase selected timers (T300, T301, T311)
- NAS Layer
  - No adaptations foreseen



\*3GPP TR 38.821 V16.1.0 (2021-05)

# ESA 5G-GOA

## System setup

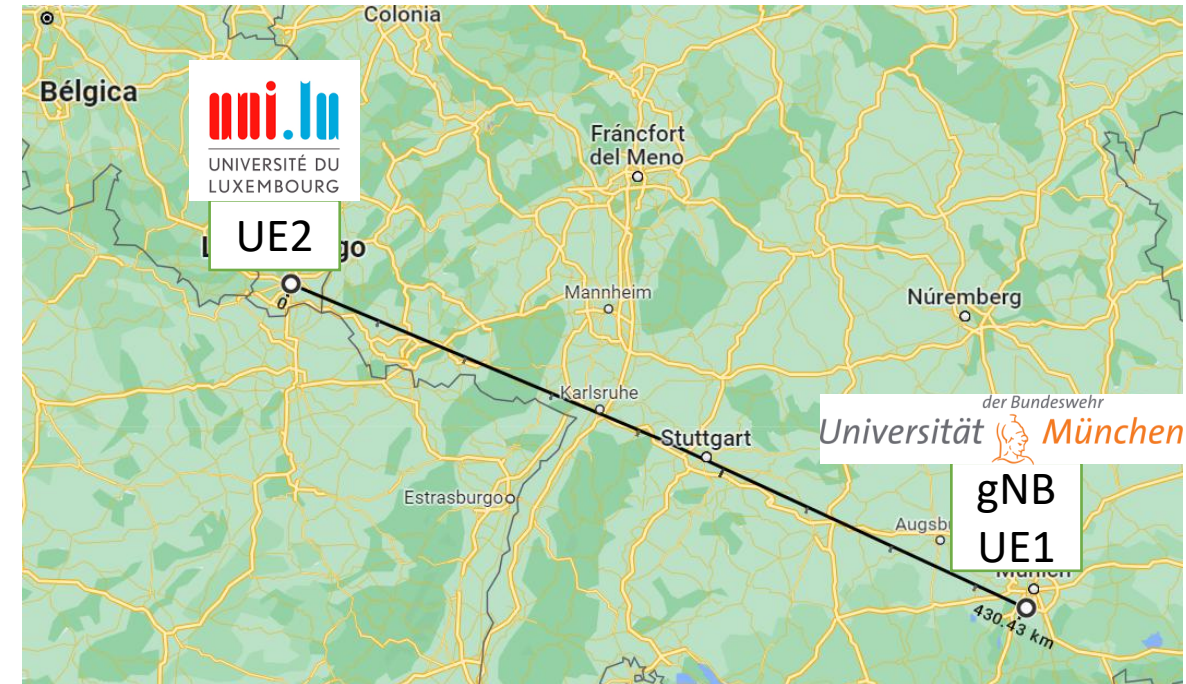


# ESA 5G-GOA

## OTA Demo (Fall 2022)



### Demo OTA locations



5G OAI UE



1.2 m dish



Ku-band  
BUC + LNB



OAI GUI





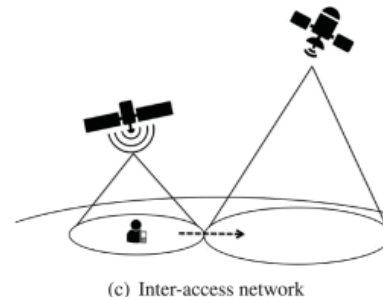
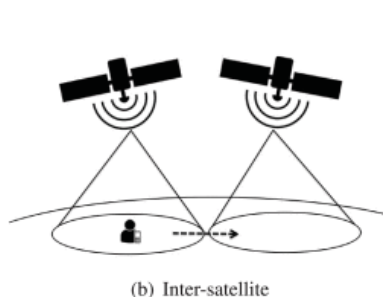
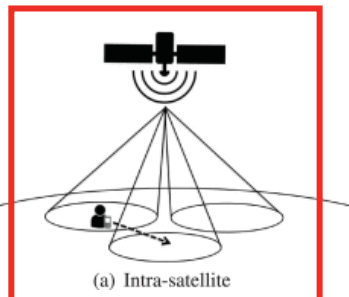
# ESA 5G-LEO



## OAI Extensions during 5G-LEO To Support NTN Features

### Features broader than NTN, but necessary for NTN experimentation

- PHY and MAC Layer:
  - Continuous frequency offset compensation
  - SNR measurement and Channel State Information (CSI) Reporting
  - Uplink Power Control (Open loop & Closed loop)
  - Adaptive Modulation and Coding (AMC)
- Other
  - Extensions to the OAI gNB and UE KPI GUI



### NTN specific feature extensions

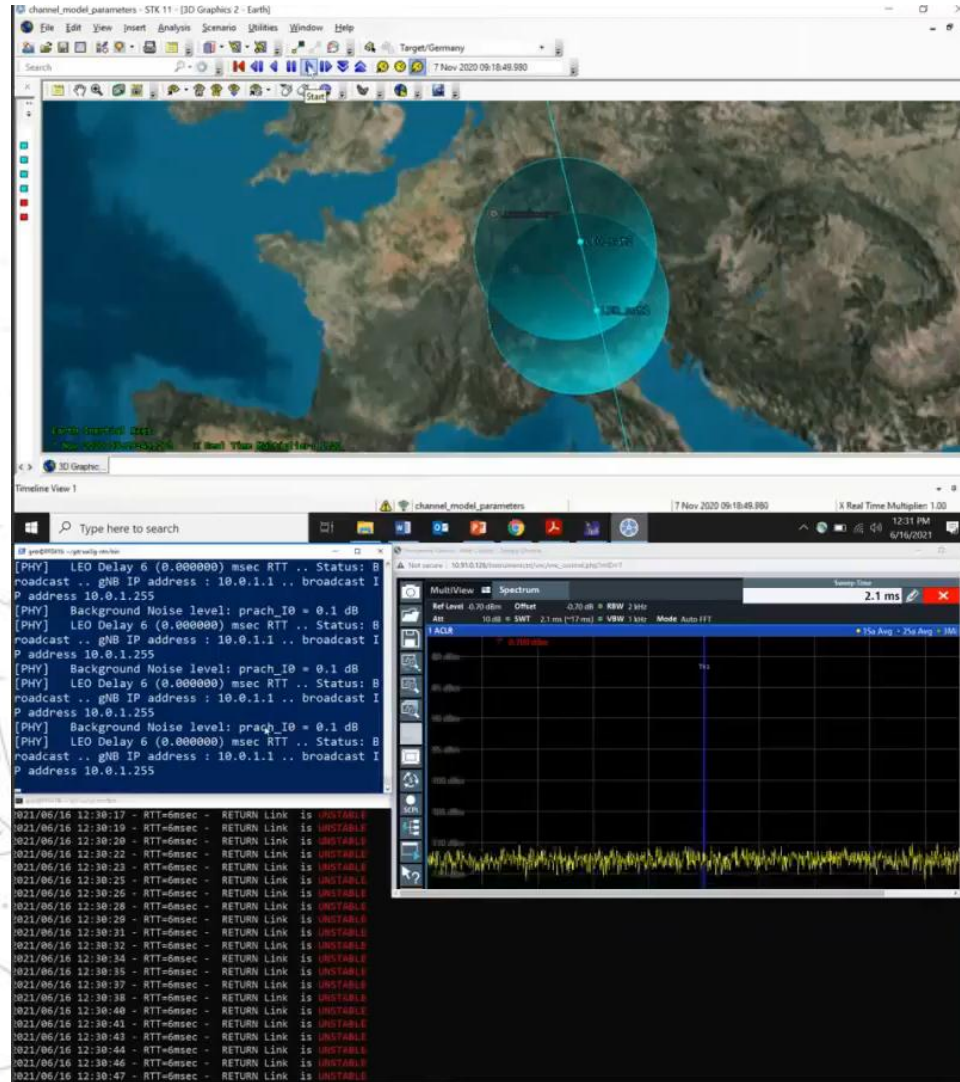
- PHY and MAC Layer
  - Adapted continuous timing drift compensation (and Doppler)
  - Support for up to 32 HARQ Processes (following 3GPP Release 17)
- RLC Layer
  - Increased t-ReassemblyTimer when HARQ is enabled
- PDCP Layer
  - Increased discardTimer at the transmit entity
  - Increased t-ReorderingTimer at the receive entity
  - Increased SDU buffer at the transmit entity
- RRC Layer
  - Increasing UE-timers and constants used by the UE when in RRC\_CONNECTED, RRC\_INACTIVE and RRC\_IDLE state
  - Extending sr-Prohibit Timer
  - Adaptation of the basic 5G NR Handover procedure and paging protocols (for intrasatellite handover)

# 5G-SpaceLab Demo

## Earth-orbiting Scenario: Small Satellites and NGSO Constellations

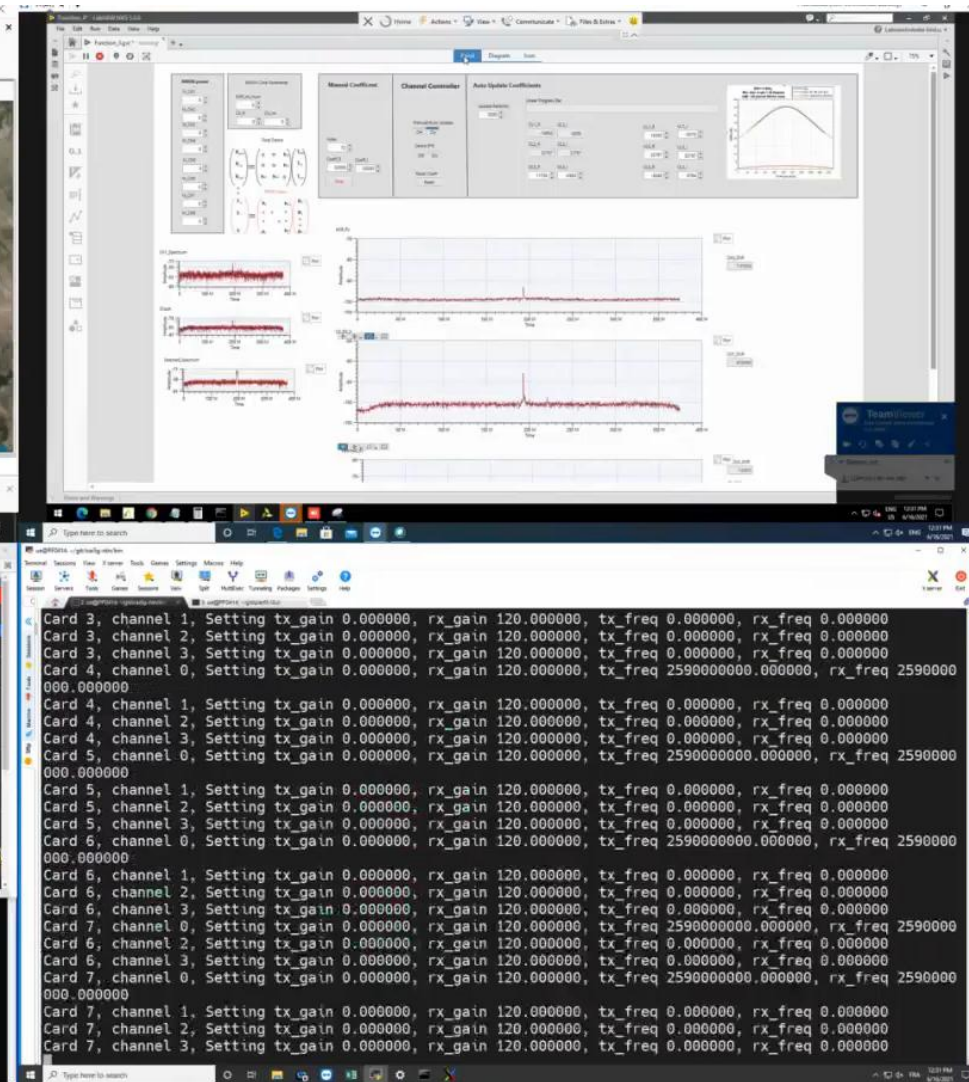
# STK Orbit

**gNB +  
Sat**



**Chan.**  
**Emul.**

**UE  
(SNR+  
Mbps)**





**SNT**



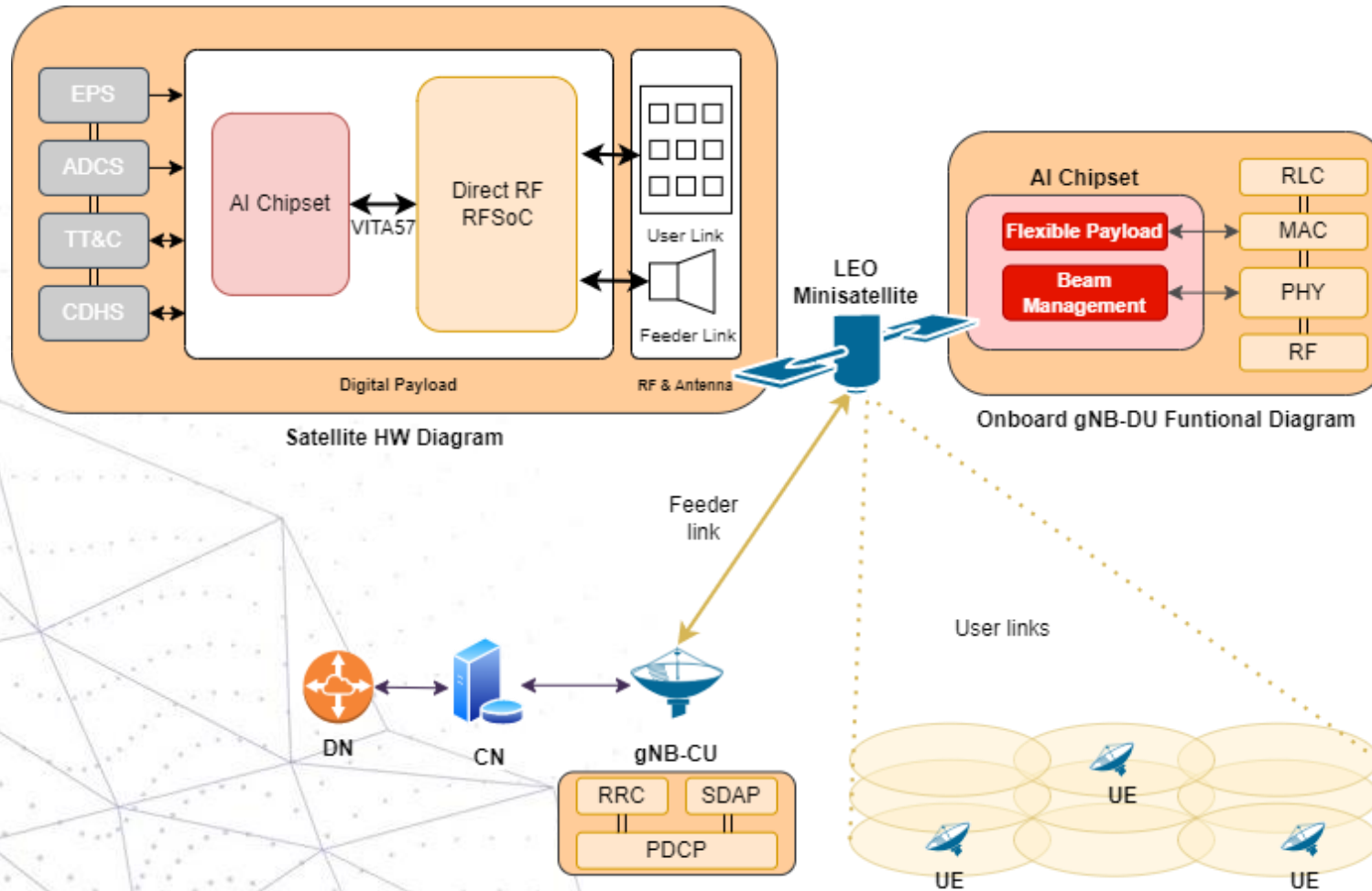
# 6G NTN AI-acceleration



# AI-acceleration for regenerative satellite payloads

## AI-acceleration for MAC/PHY layers using AI chipsets

- AI chipsets: AMD Versal, Intel Loihi, NVIDIA Jetson
- ESA [SPAICE](#), [NEUROSAT](#), SAFARI (SatNEx) Projects



### AI-Accelerated functionalities

- Scheduler (flexible payload)
- Beamforming
- PAPR & ACI reduction

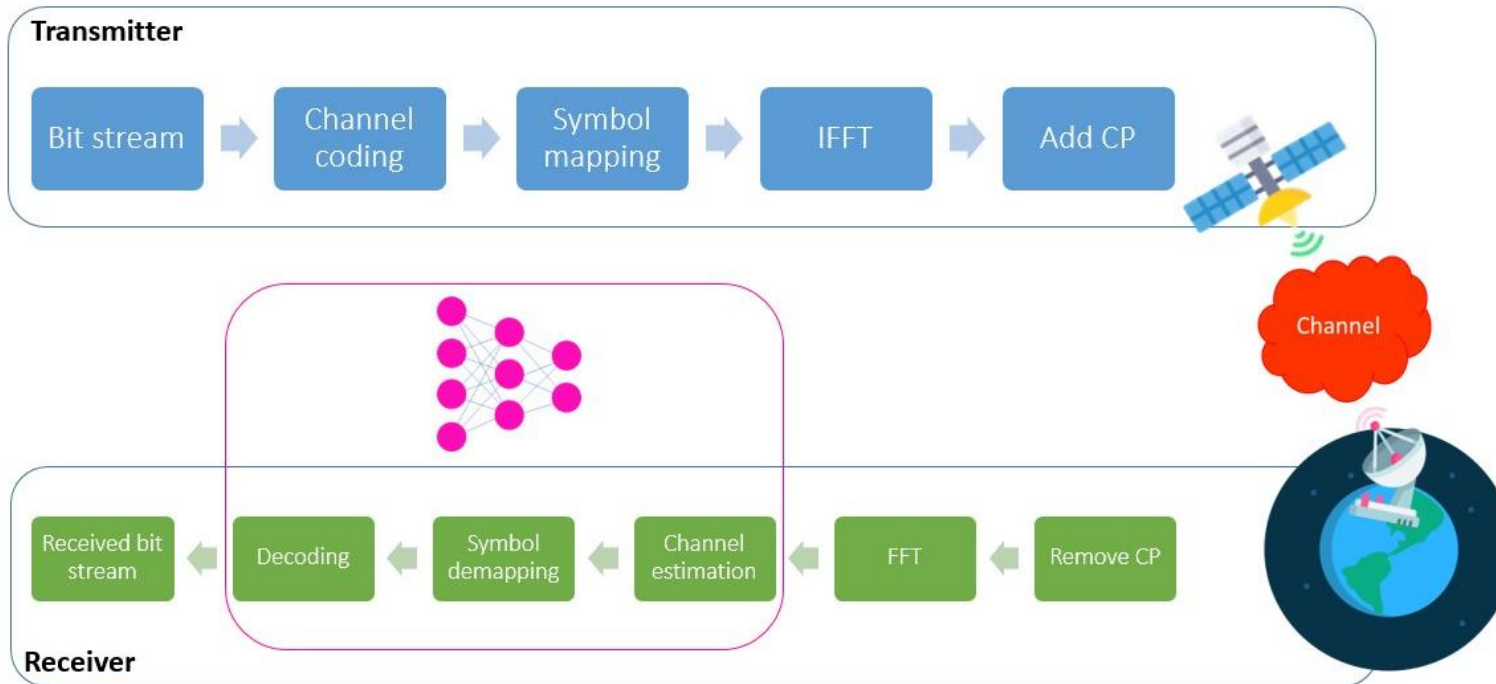
### LEO MSS use cases

- Onboard LEO regenerative payload

# AI-acceleration for 5G UEs

## AI-acceleration for UE PHY layers using AI chipsets

- AI chipset: AMD Versal
- ESA TANDEM project



### AI-Accelerated functionalities

- Channel decoding
- Symbol demapping
- Channel estimation

### LEO MSS use cases

- UE NTN D2D optimization

**SNT**



# 6G NTN Spectrum Sensing



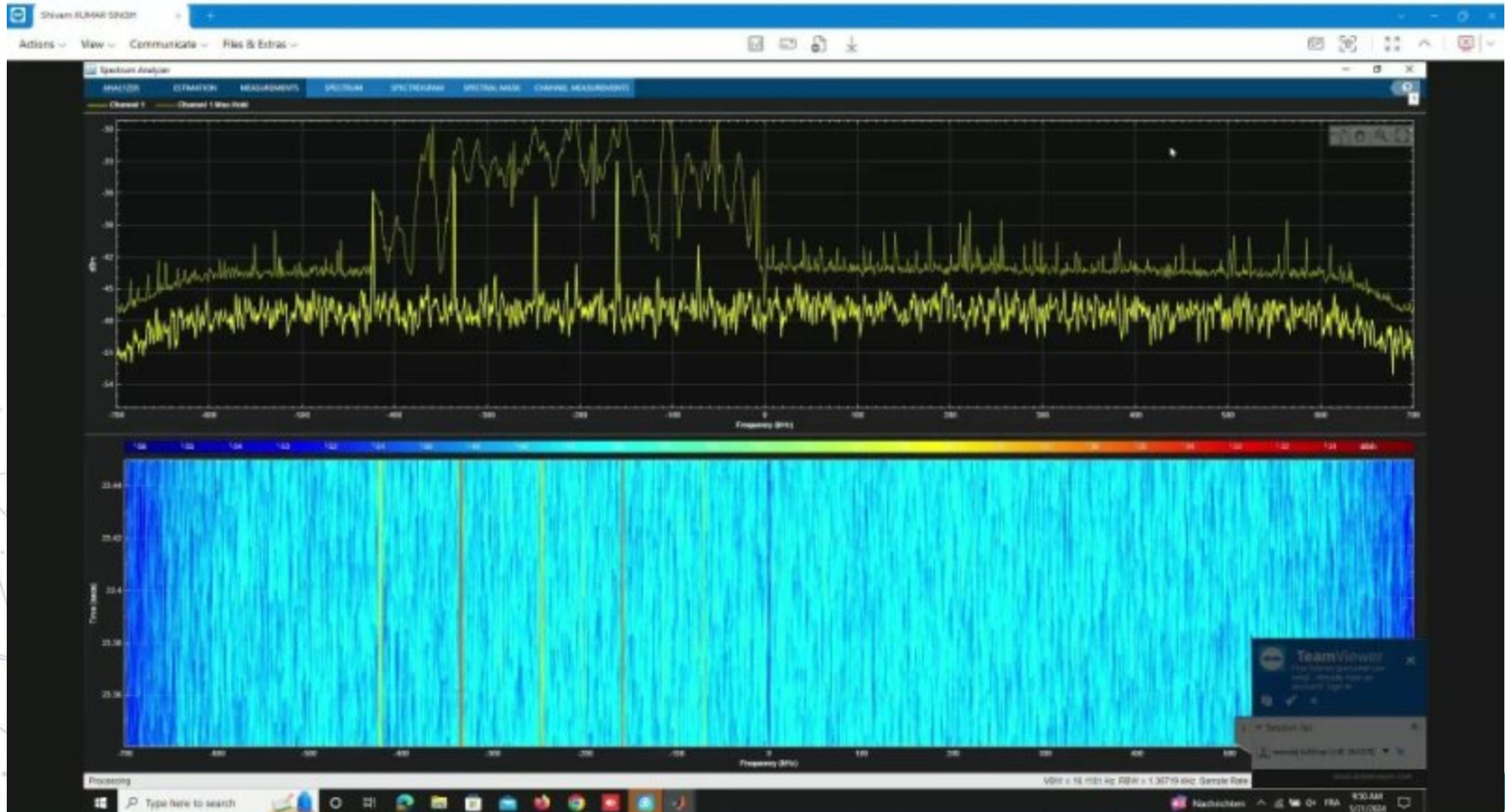
# NGSO-Sense

PROTOTYPE FOR MEASURING NGSO SATELLITE NETWORK INTERFERENCE AND RADIOFREQUENCY CHARACTERISTICS

## Dual-band Tracking Antenna for Spectrum sensing



# NGSO-Sense





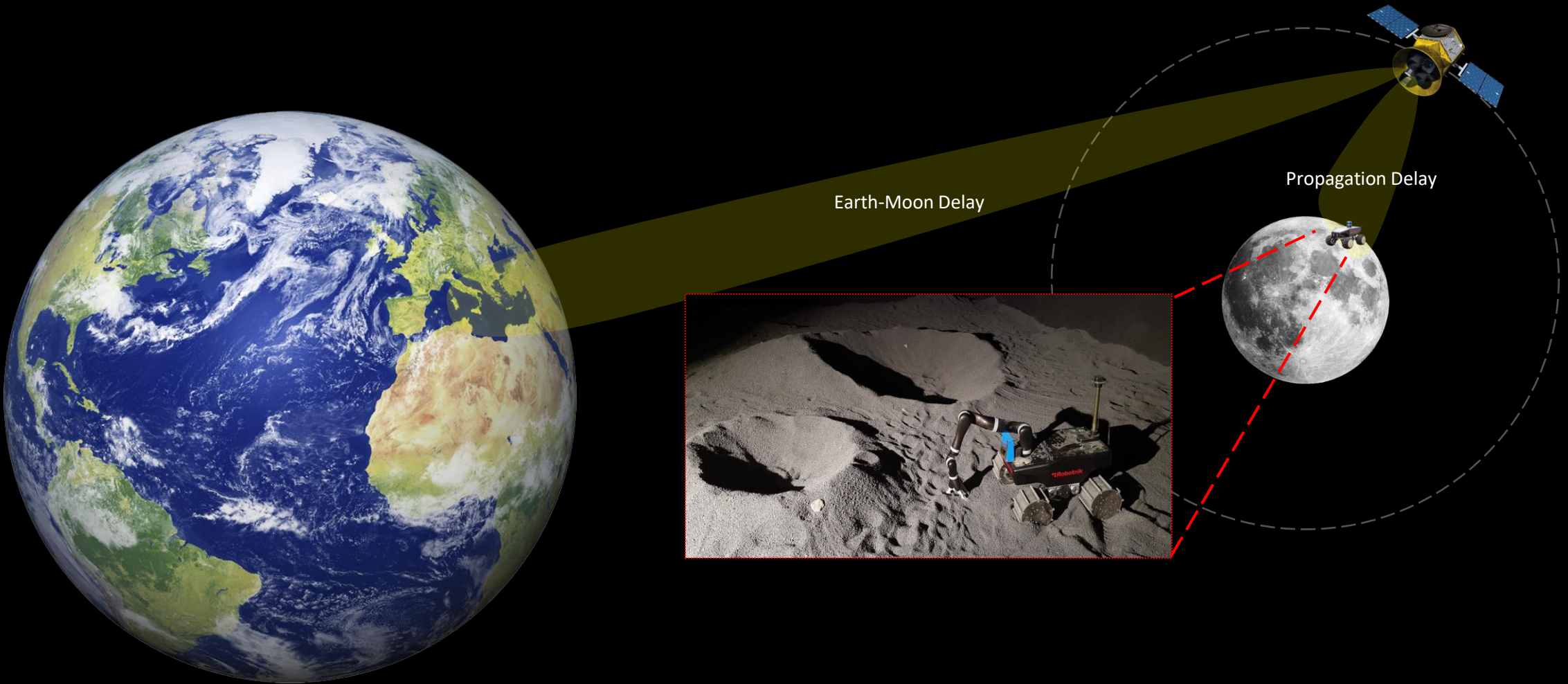
**SNT**



# Lunar 5G Proximity & Edge Computing



# LLO Mission scenario



Teleoperator  
Concurrent Design Facility  
Core Network



Earth-Moon  
delay



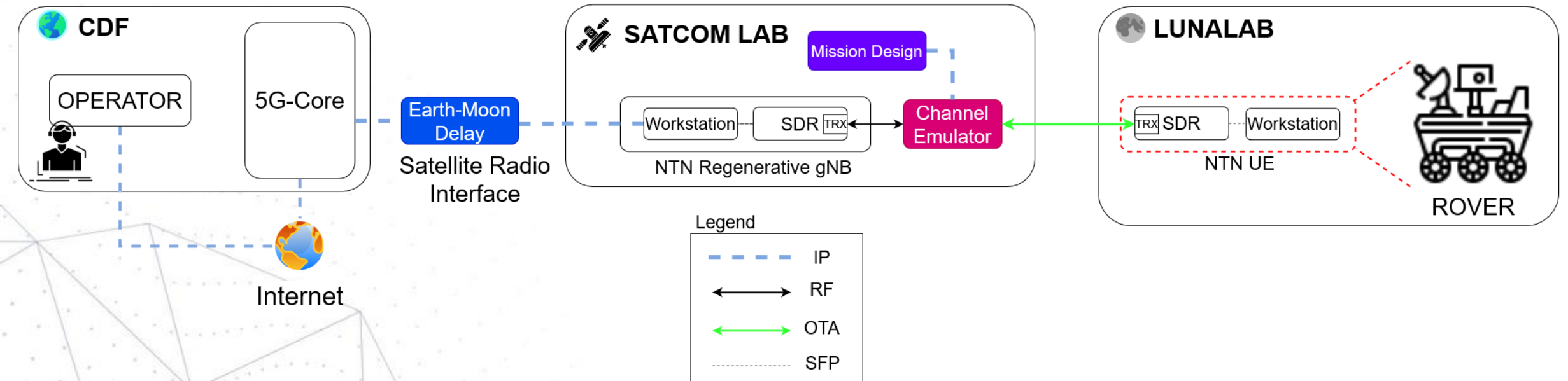
LLO Regenerative  
5G-NR satellite

Propagation  
delay



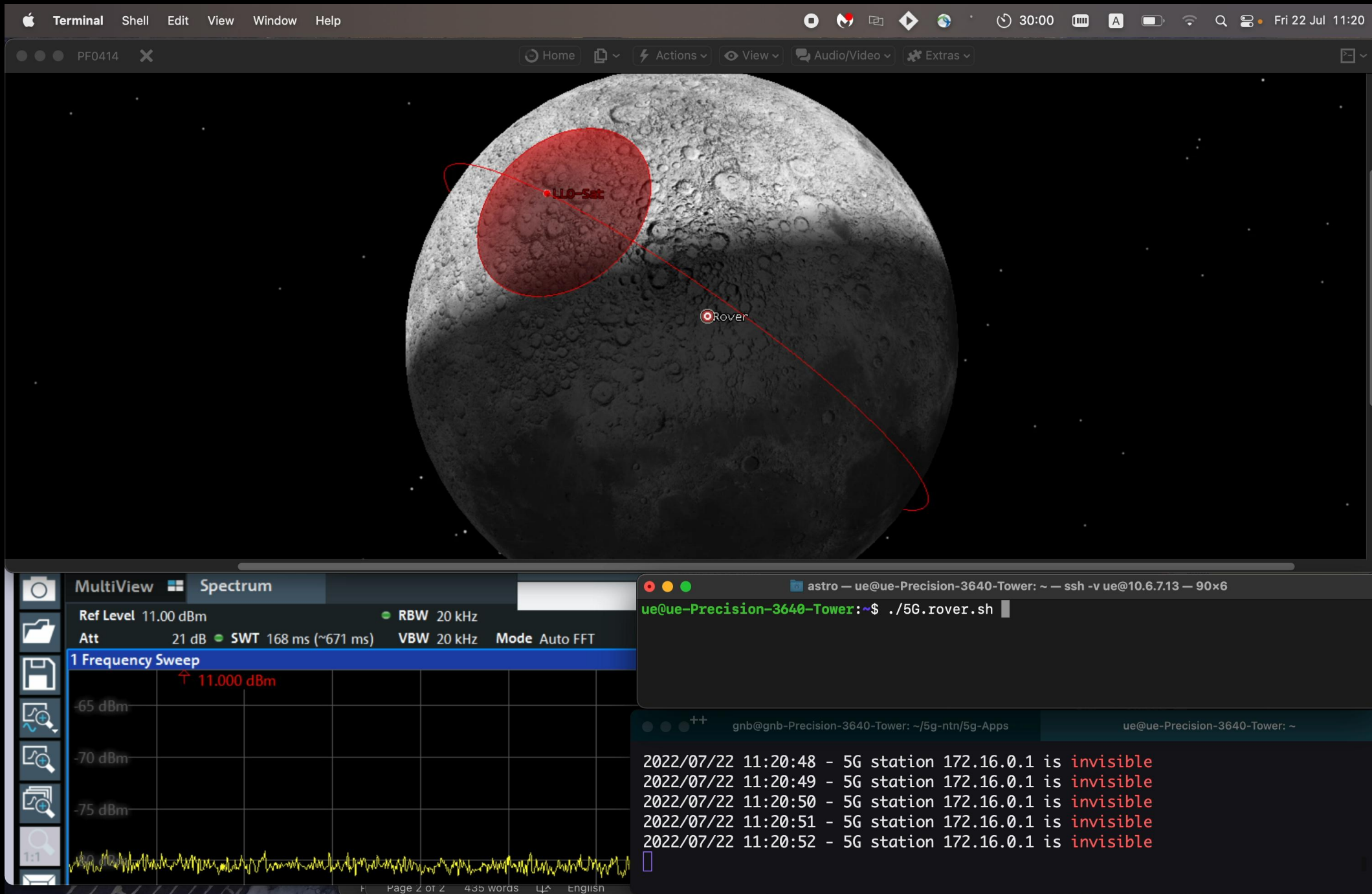
ROVER

# Functional architecture of scenario testbed



# 5G-NTN LLO Mission

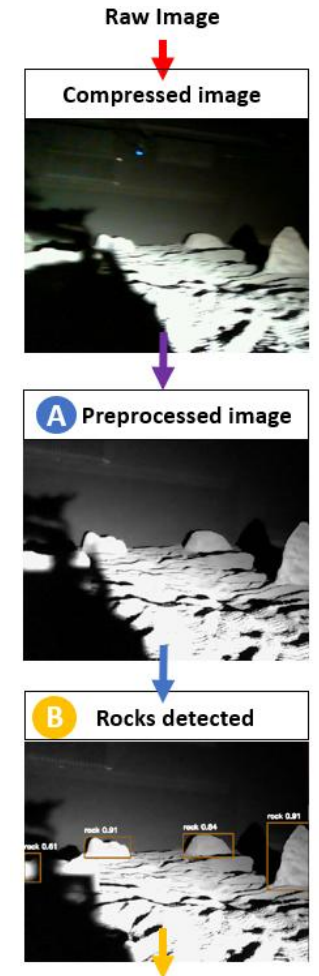
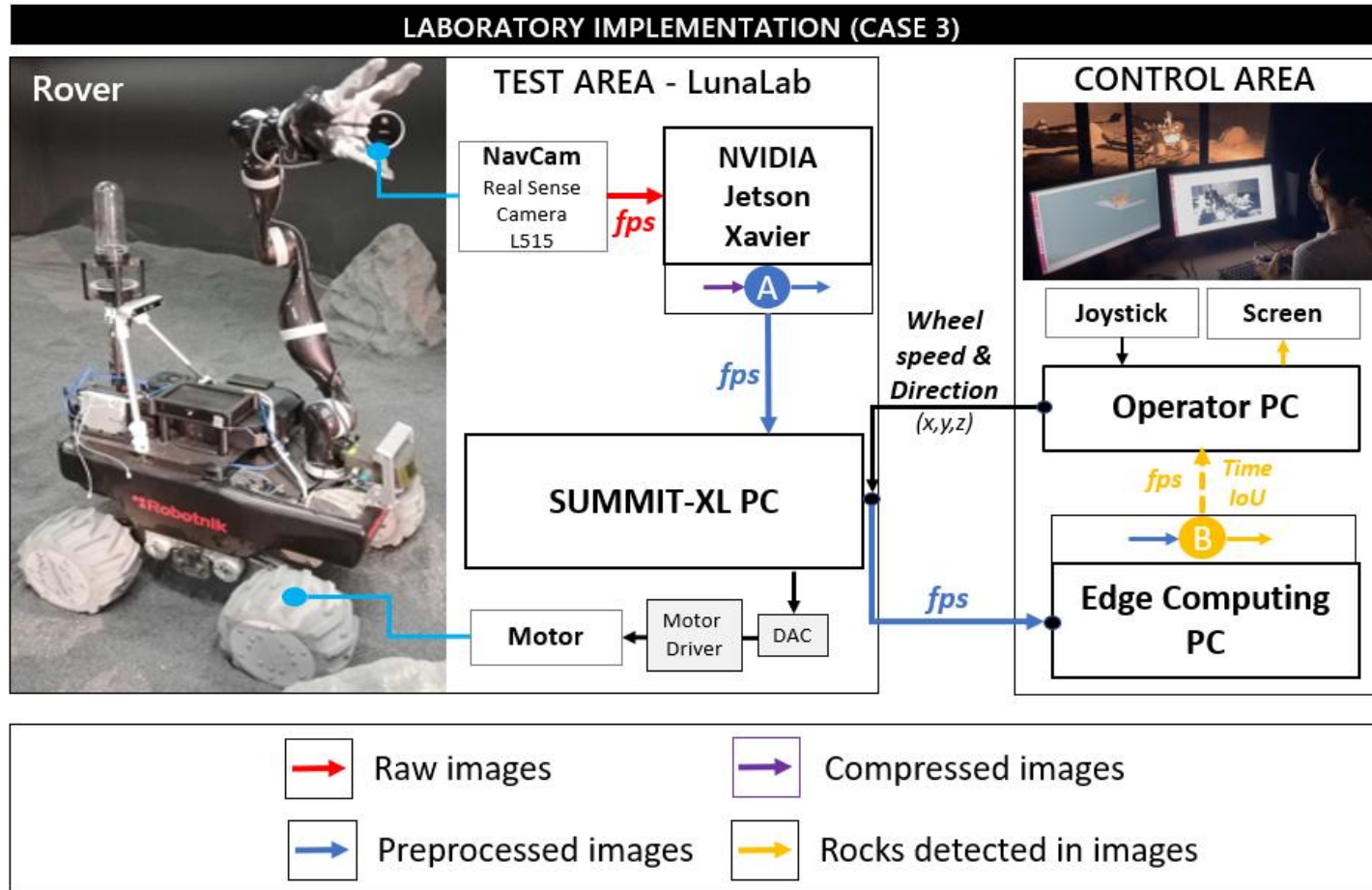
## Access-Time: 48~sec





# System Setup for Rock Recognition Algorithm

Preprocessing of the images in the NVIDIA Jetson Xavier and execution of YOLOv5 in the Edge Computing PC



## Experiment Comparison (Qualitative)

Edge computing using 5G  
technology in LunaLab



**SpaceR**

*Space Robotics Research Group*



**SNT**

**SNT**



# Joint Communications and Sensing - PNT



# Actual situation for PNT service providers

- At this moment, the PNT services are offered via Global Navigation Space Services (GNSS)
- This could be **easily attacked** (jamming and spoofing techniques)
- Any disruption of these PNT services could be **catastrophic for the Critical National Infrastructures (CNI)** that rely on them

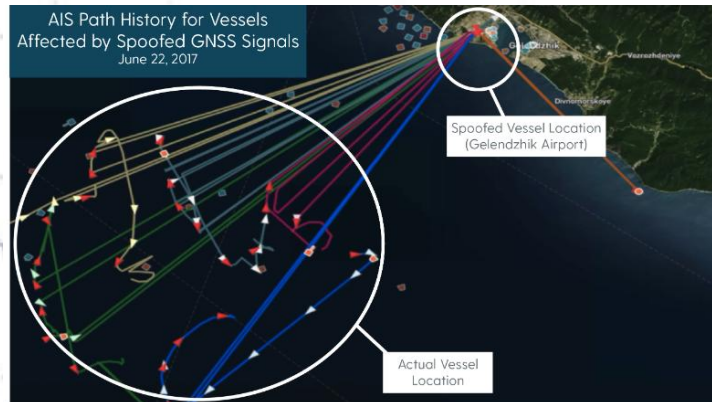


Fig. 1. Spoofed GNSS Signal in the Black Sea [1]



**Safety Information Bulletin**  
Operations – ATM/ANS  
SIB No.: 2022-02  
Issued: 17 March 2022

**Subject:** Global Navigation Satellite System Outage Leading to Navigation / Surveillance Degradation

**Ref. Publications:**  
None.

**Applicability:**  
National Aviation Authorities (NAAs), Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and air operators.

**Description:**  
In the current context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the issue of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) jamming and/or possible spoofing has intensified in geographical areas surrounding the conflict zone and other areas.

Eurocontrol, Network of Analysts and open-source data reports analysed by EASA indicate that since 24 February 2022, there are four key geographical areas where GNSS spoofing and/or jamming has intensified, namely:

- Kaliningrad region, surrounding Baltic sea and neighbouring States;
- Eastern Finland;
- The Black Sea; and
- The Eastern Mediterranean area near Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Israel, as well as Northern Iraq.

The effects of GNSS jamming and/or possible spoofing were observed by aircraft in various phases of their flights, in certain cases leading to re-routing or even to change the destination due to the inability to perform a safe landing procedure. Under the present conditions, it is not possible to predict GNSS outages and their effects. The magnitude of the issues generated by such outage would depend upon the extent of the area concerned, on the duration and on the phase of flight of the affected aircraft.

Fig. 2. Report about GNSS outage for flights surrounding Ukraine [2]

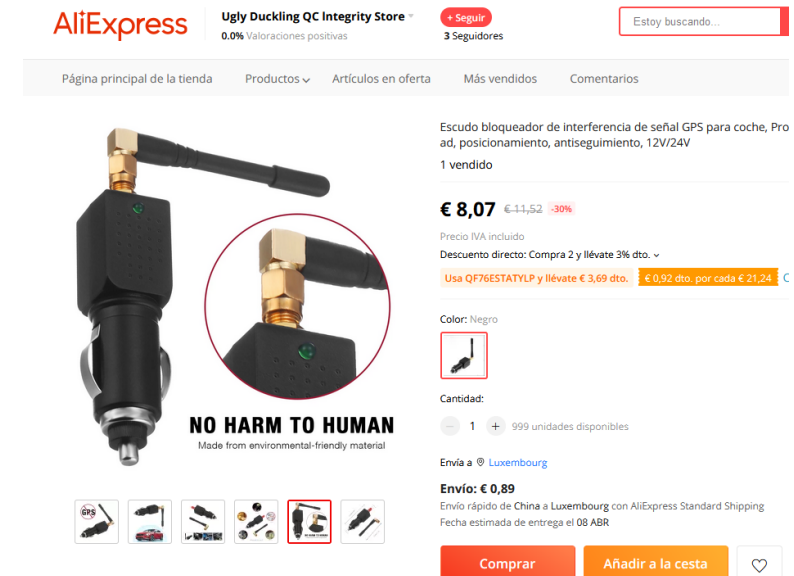


Fig. 3. GNSS jammer accessible by anyone for less than 10\$

# And the solution: Diversification of PNT sources

- ✓ Lowering the likelihood of a single-point failure
  - ✓ 5G enables **joint communication** and **localization** into a single receiver
  - ✓ **Integrity** of the signal can be **verified** with the use of the communication network.
  - ✓ Terrestrial waveforms penetrate better inside buildings, therefore **indoor navigation** is possible
  - ✓ Combined with satellite, the 5G PNT service **coverage** in rural areas is **better** than using only terrestrial systems
- 
- ⚠ Increased complexity of the receiver
  - ⚠ Terrestrial PNT has local/regional coverage only

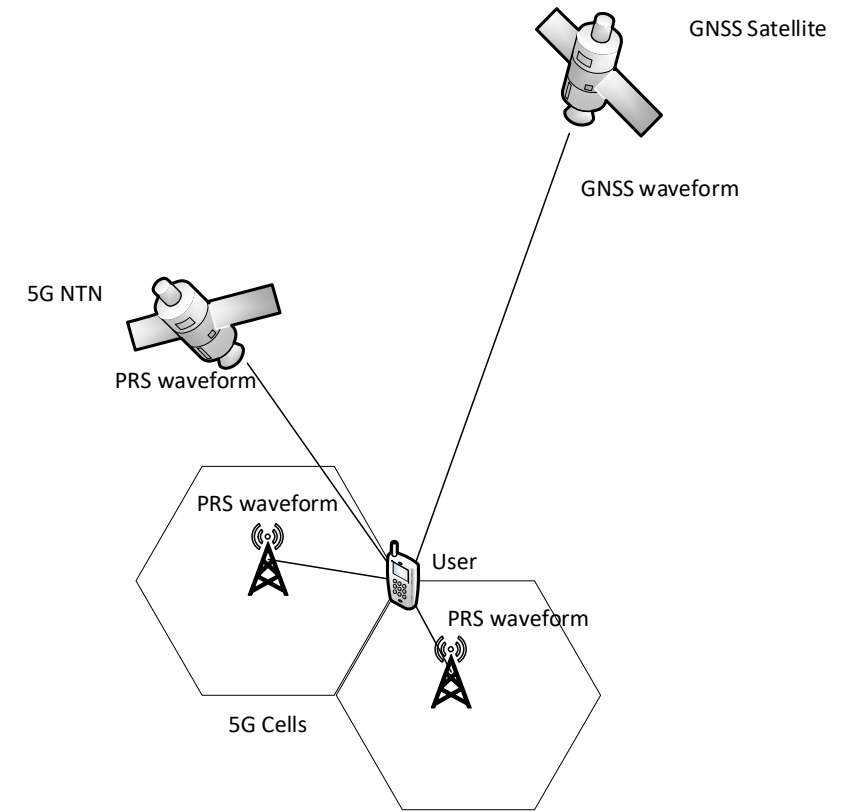
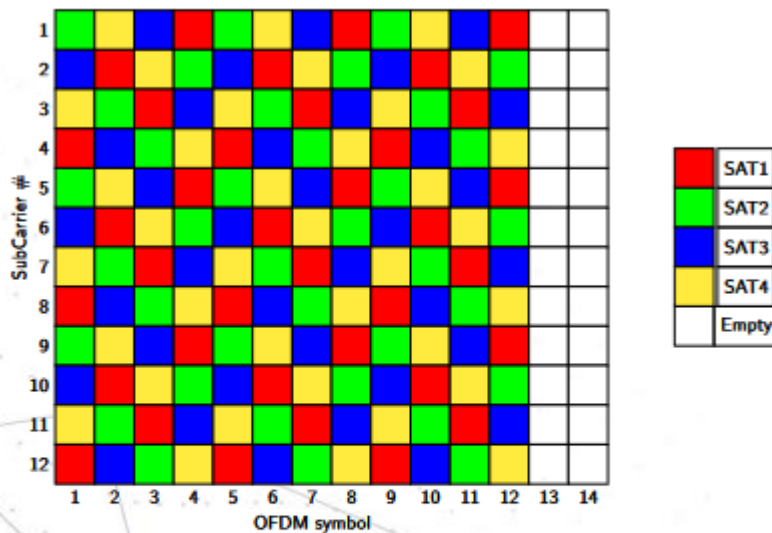


Fig. 4. Diversification of PNT sources

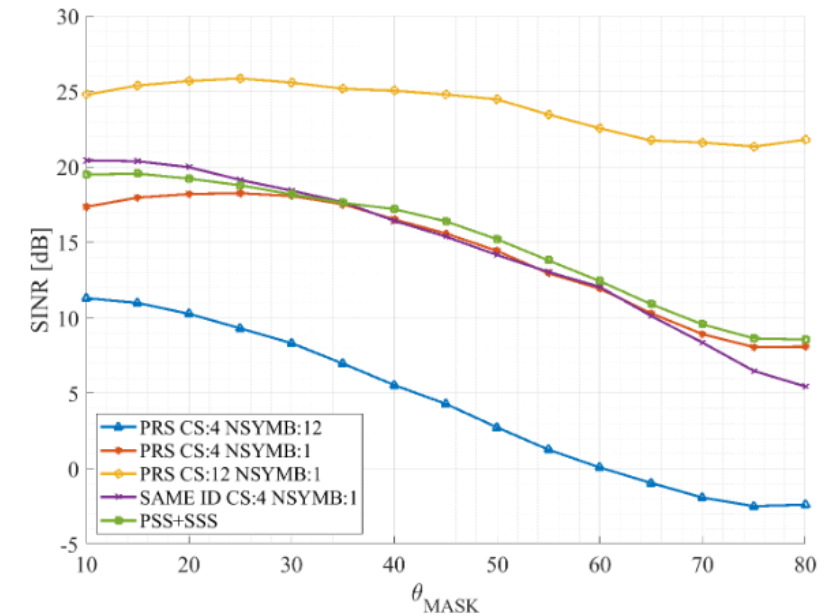
# Interference analysis for a shared Resource Grid in an NTN scenario

Example of a shared Resource Grid between 4 transmitters



Differential delays and Dopplers between transmitters

**Figure:** 5G PRS Resource Grid allocation. Size 1 Resource Block  $\times$  1 Slot



**Figure 18:** Received SINR for different  $\theta_{MASK}$



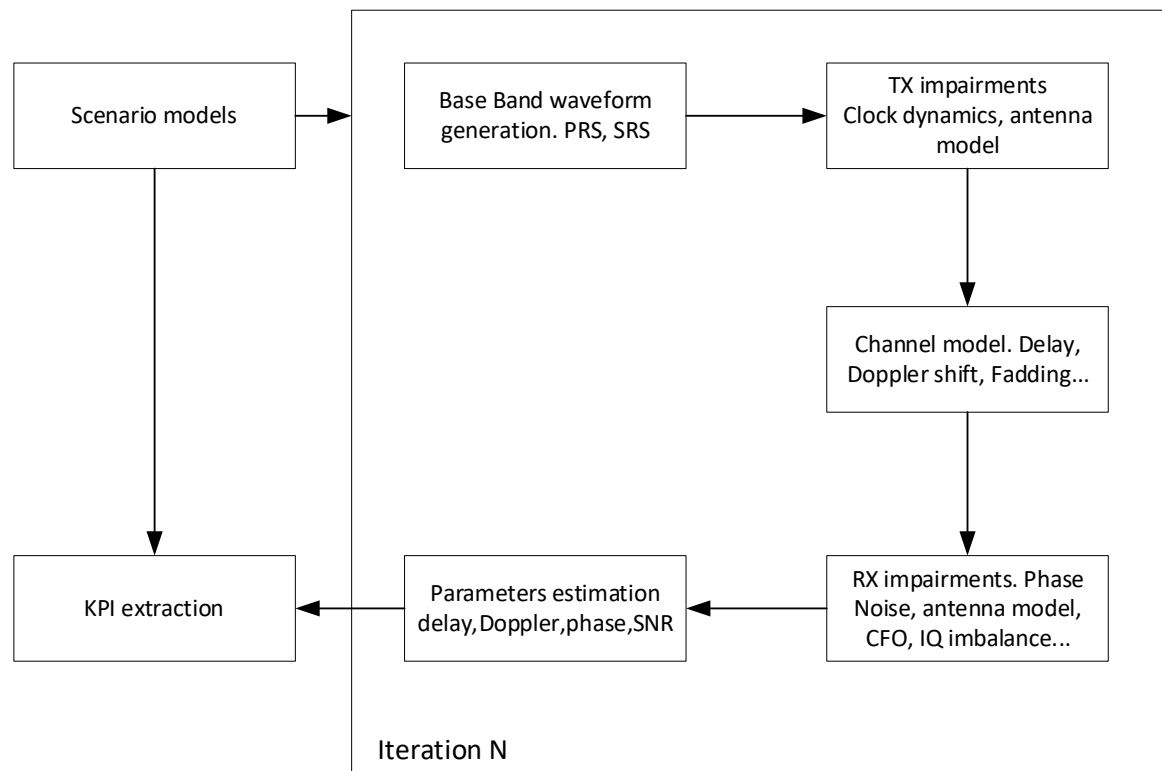
# 5G-LEON: RADIO POSITIONING TECHNOLOGIES FOR 5G SATELLITE NETWORKS

## UniLu WP responsibilities:

- WP Leader of WP3300 and WP4200: Physical Layer Measurement Module
- WP Contributor to WP1300, WP2200, WP2300, WP3100 and WP5100

## UniLu Main Tasks

- Develop the PHY layer measurement module. This module is responsible for obtaining the statistical distribution of the different parameters used for the position estimation (delay, doppler, phase, SNR,...) based on the transmitted waveform and the scenario.



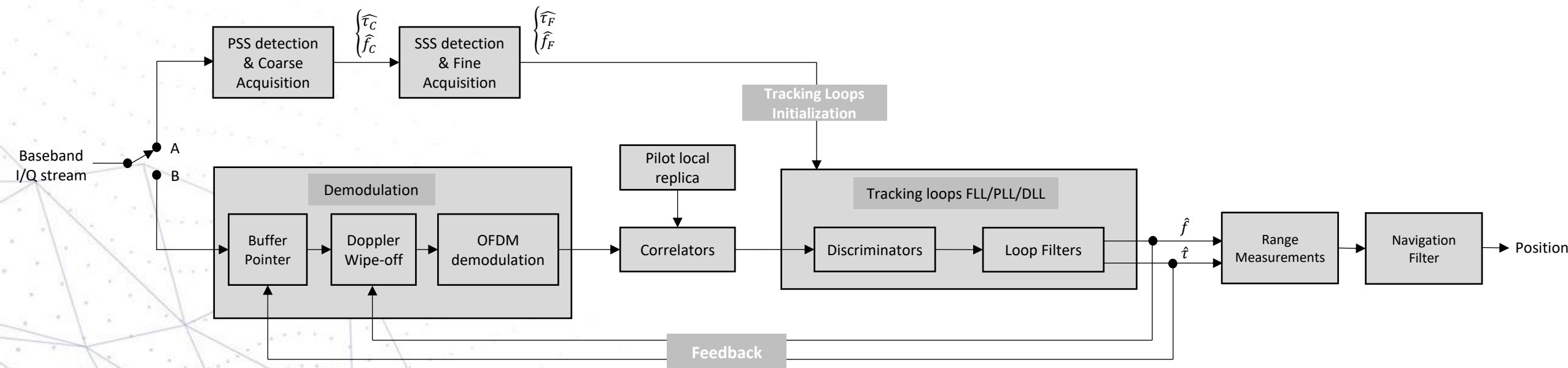
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# JCAS for 6G-NTN

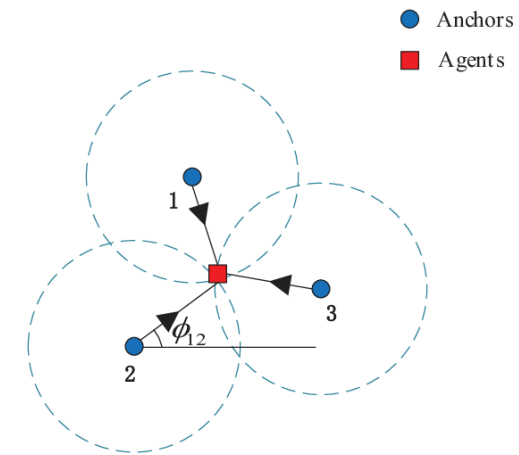
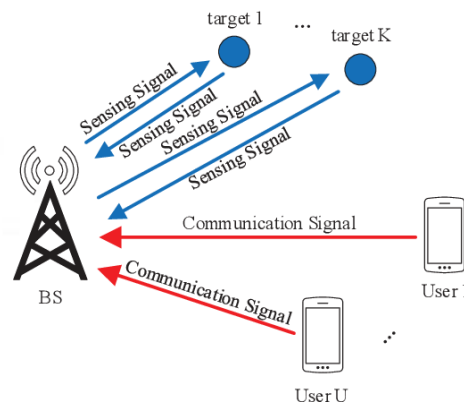
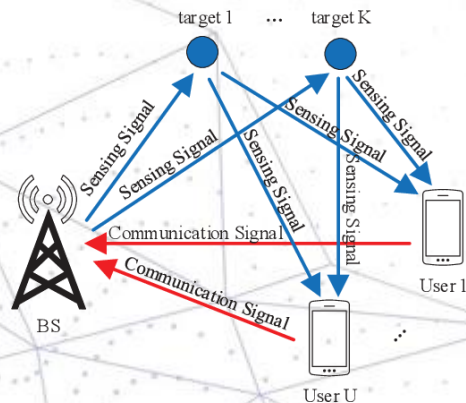
Funded by T-Labs (DE)

## Objectives

- 1) Conduct a Literature Review to Gain a Comprehensive Understanding of Existing JCAS Literature for NTN (not only)
- 2) Identify Relevant Use Cases and their Enabling Techniques/Technologies
- 3) Gather Information on Relevant Regulatory Requirements and Constraints

## Use case classification

- **Channel-based parameters (Remote Sensing)**
  - Estimated parameters are external to the network
  - Prior knowledge or calibration at TX/RX (position/antenna/receiver)
- **Device-Based (Positioning, Navigation and Timing)**
  - Estimated parameters depend on the TX/RX connected to the network





# Summary of research outputs and projects

## Projects:

- 5G-LEON: RADIO POSITIONING TECHNOLOGIES FOR 5G SATELLITE NETWORKS, funded by ESA TDE program
- SATNEX WI Y3.3 LEO-PNT, funded by ESA
- JCAS for 6G-NTN, funded by T-labs, Berlin
- 5G-Sky: Interconnecting the Sky in 5G and Beyond – A Joint Communication and Control Approach, funded by FNR

## Journals:

- S. E. Trevlakis et al., "Localization as a Key Enabler of 6G Wireless Systems: A Comprehensive Survey and an Outlook," in IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society, vol. 4, pp. 2733-2801, 2023.
- Gonzalez-Garrido, Alejandro, Querol, Jorge, Chatzinotas, Symeon, "Interference analysis of Positioning Reference signals in 5G NTN" in IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society, *Submitted*. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.09157>

## Conferences:

- Gonzalez-Garrido, Alejandro, Querol, Jorge, Chatzinotas, Symeon, "Hybridization of GNSS and 5G Measurements for Assured Positioning, Navigation and Timing," *Proceedings of the 35th International Technical Meeting of the Satellite Division of The Institute of Navigation (ION GNSS+ 2022)*, Denver, Colorado, September 2022, pp. 2377-2384. <https://doi.org/10.33012/2022.18385>
- A. Gonzalez-Garrido, J. Querol and S. Chatzinotas, "5G Positioning Reference Signal Configuration for Integrated Terrestrial/Non-Terrestrial Network Scenario," *2023 IEEE/ION Position, Location and Navigation Symposium (PLANS)*, Monterey, CA, USA, 2023, pp. 1136-1142, doi: 10.1109/PLANS53410.2023.10140024

## Book chapter:

- Nguyen Diep N. 2022. *Enabling Technologies for Social Distancing : Fundamentals Concepts and Solutions*. London United Kingdom: Institution of Engineering and Technology. Retrieved January 16 2024 (<https://doi.org/10.1049/PBTE104E>).



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