

# OPEN POSSIBILITIES.

## Challenges Faced by 5G vRAN Providers and Open-Source Solutions

### Panel Discussion



**OCP**  
GLOBAL  
SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2021

# Panel Discussion

**Azita Arvani**

*General Manager, Rakuten Symphony*

**Kaustubh Joshi**

*Director - Inventive Science, AT&T*

**Don Tirsell**

*Head of Telco Industry Partnerships, Google*

**Jim Nelson**

*OCP Edge Co-Lead, Flex*

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T&E (Telco & Edge)



EDGE



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COMMUNITY®



# Agenda

5G Cloud and vRAN architecture with Disaggregation

Challenges facing 5G vRAN Providers

- Panel Discussion

Question and Answers

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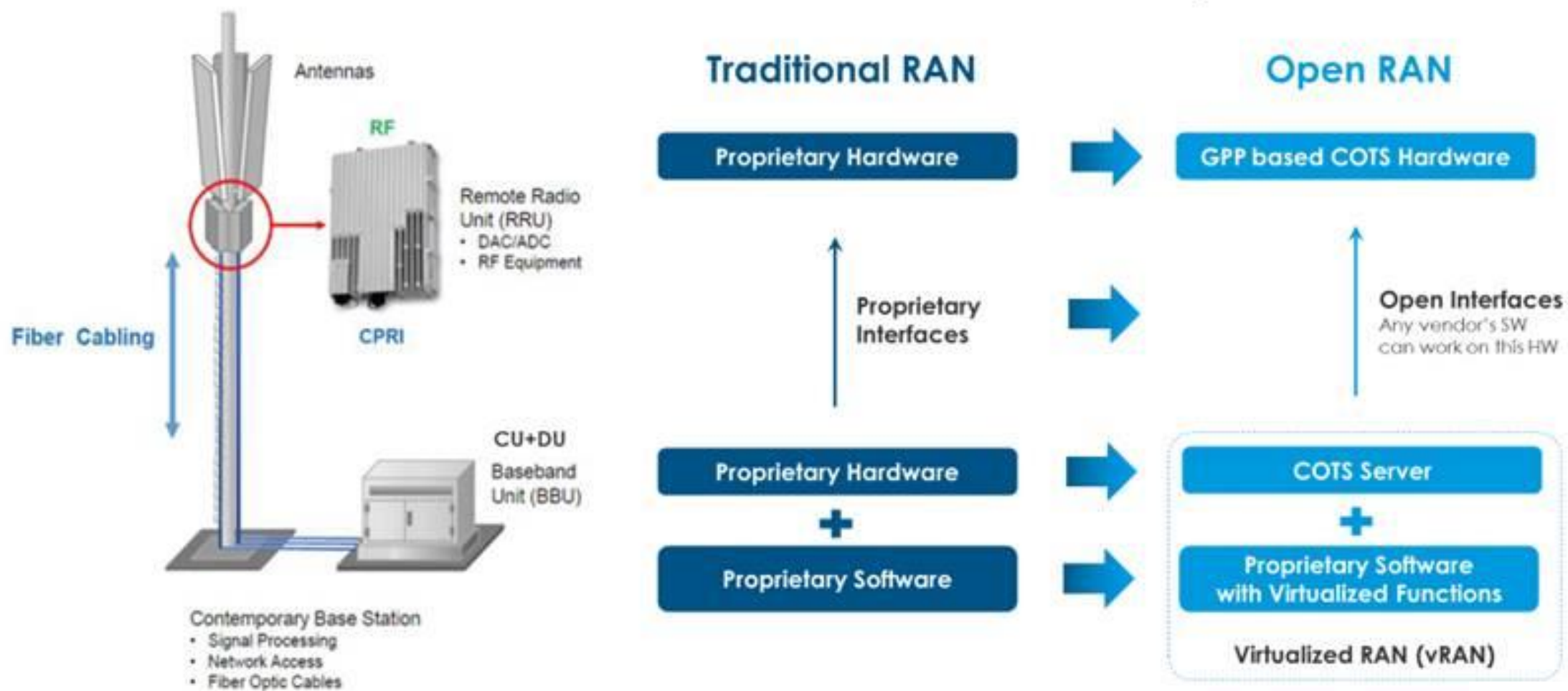




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# Disaggregation Opportunity for 5G vRAN

## Traditional RAN vs Virtualized RAN vs Open RAN



Source: National Instruments; [YouTube: Open RAN Whitebox RAN & vRAN](#)

Notes: GPP = General Purpose Processor; COTS = Commercial-Off-The-Shelf

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# Challenges facing 5G vRAN Providers

vRAN Providers are not alone in dealing with the growing demands on data centers and edge infrastructure, however vRAN Providers challenges are more pronounced, more extreme, due to more users, more services and more servers.

## Time to market

Exceeding TTM expectations to hit the opportunity window and beat competition to service deployment

## Customized solution

New workload and software demands require specialized hardware designs to right-size solutions

## Global flexibility

Data localization laws regulating the storage and transmission of data require a global strategy

## Value Delivery

Heavier workloads from AI/ML applications are demanding greater processing power balanced by TCO

## Sustainability

Advance environmental goals to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency

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# Disruption-as-a-Service

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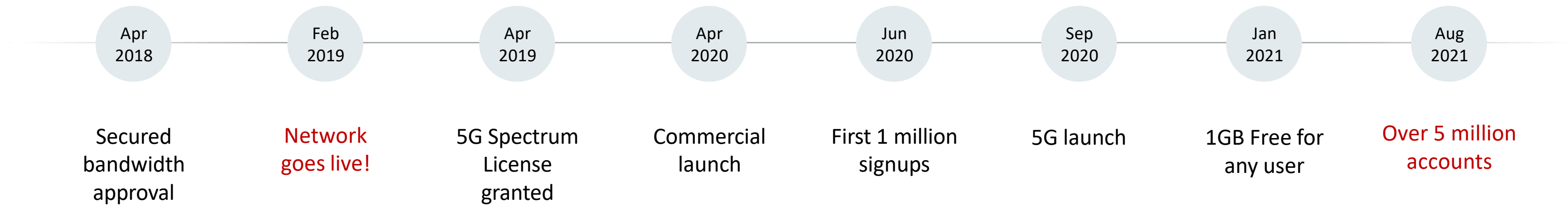
**Rakuten** Symphony



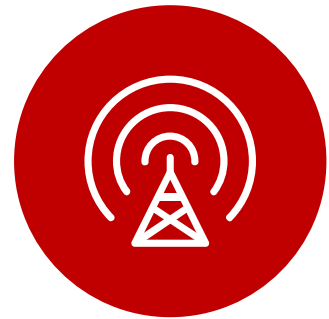
**Azita Arvani**  
GM, Rakuten Symphony



# A young company already transforming the Telco industry



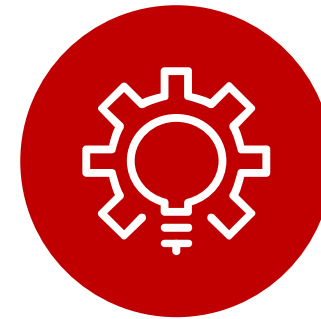
# Four strategic innovations enabling transformation



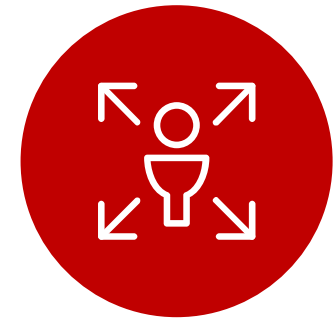
Disaggregated  
Radio



Unified  
Cloud



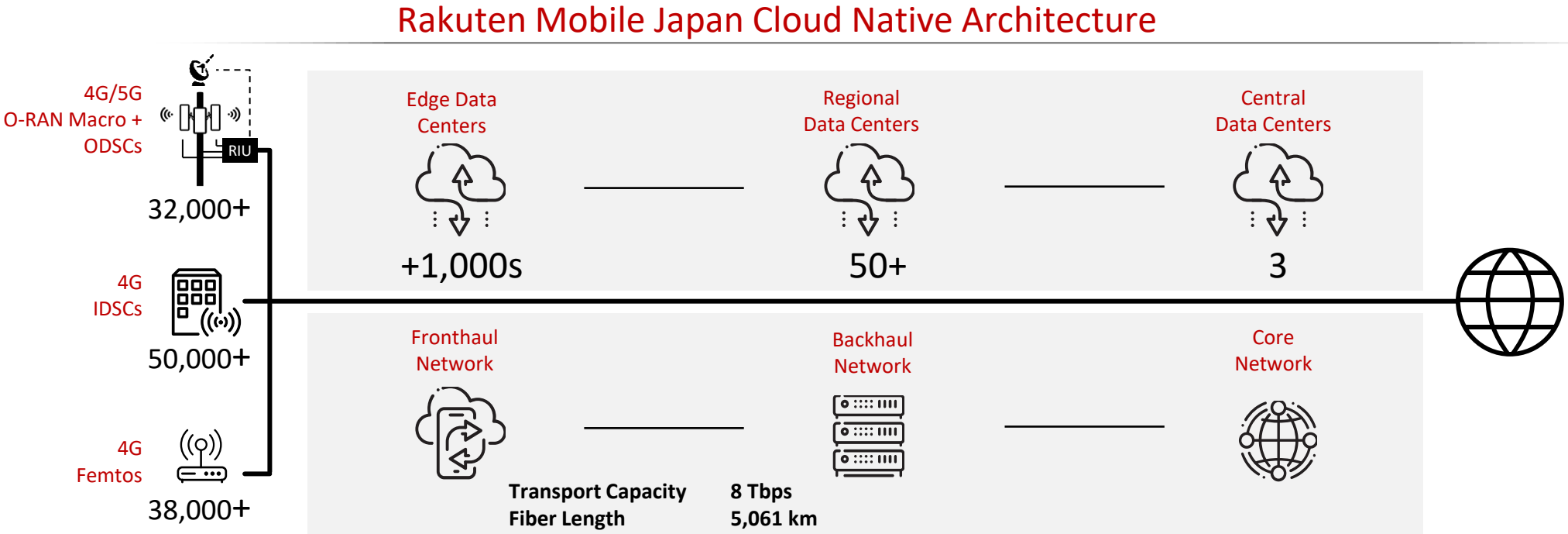
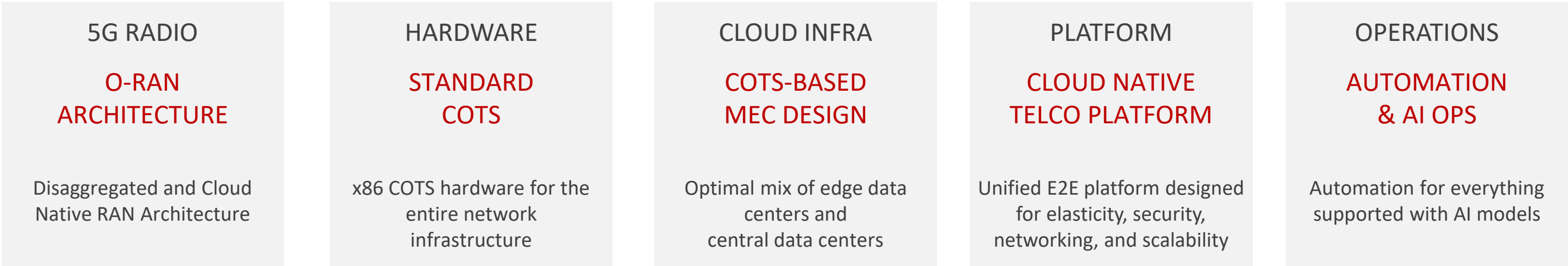
Massive  
Automation



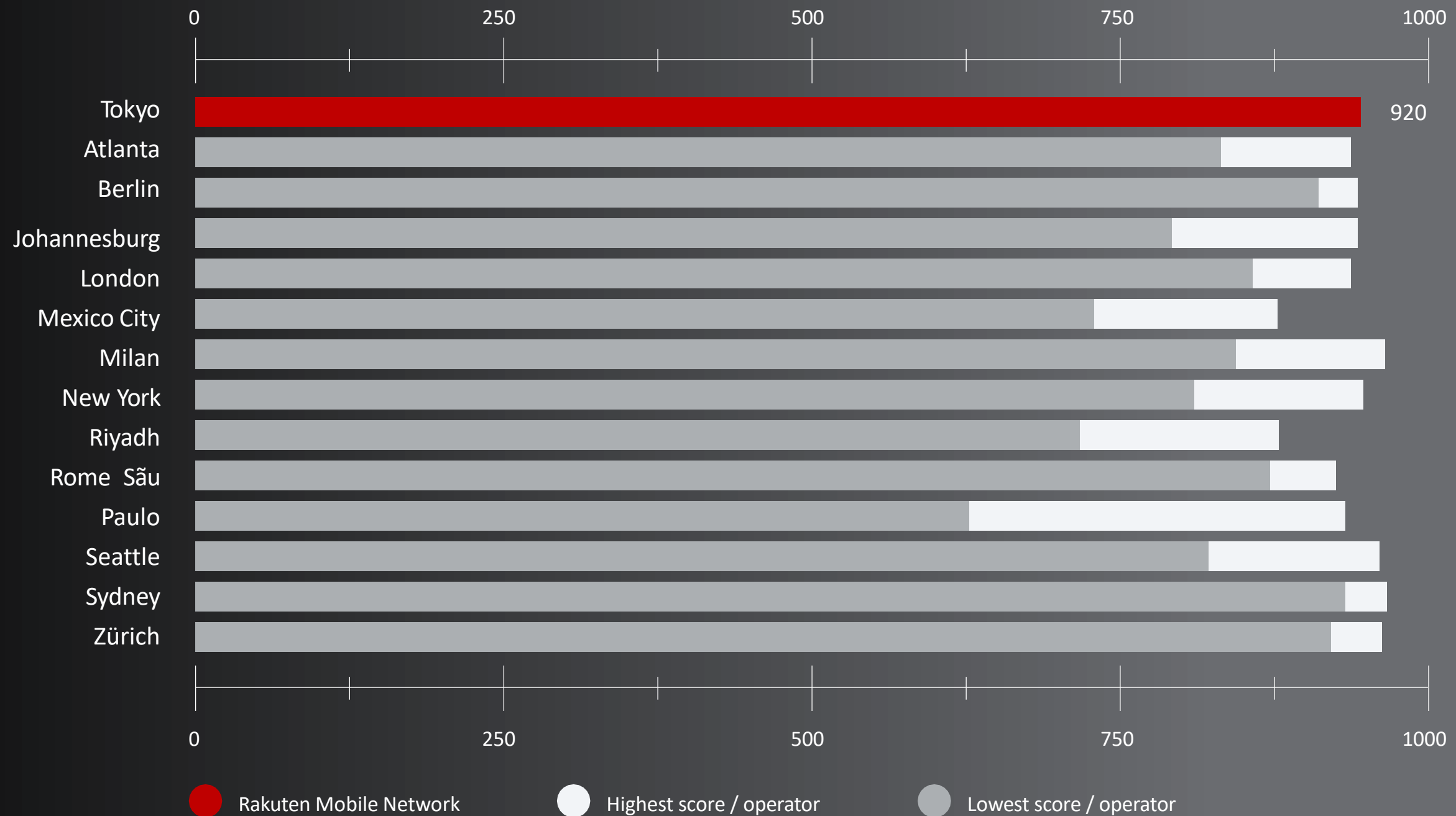
Platform  
Organization



# Our architecture vision and design principles



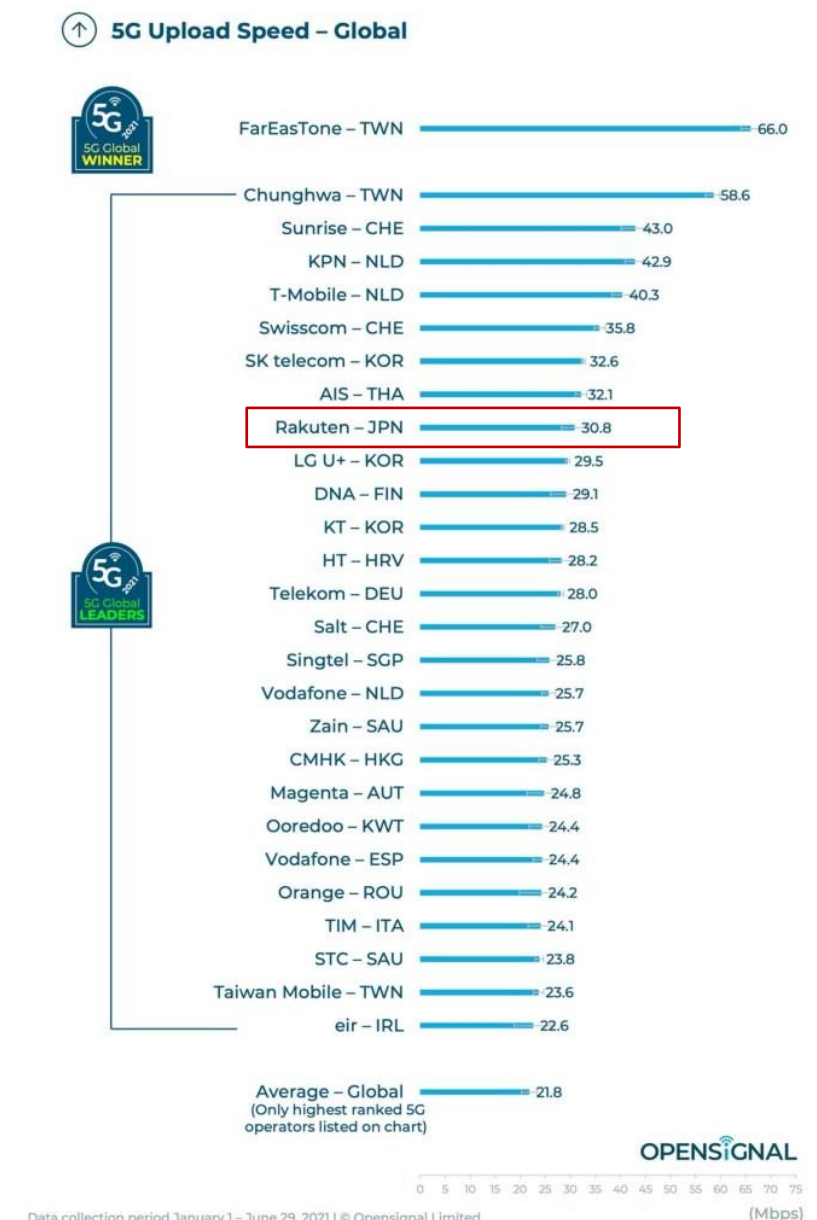
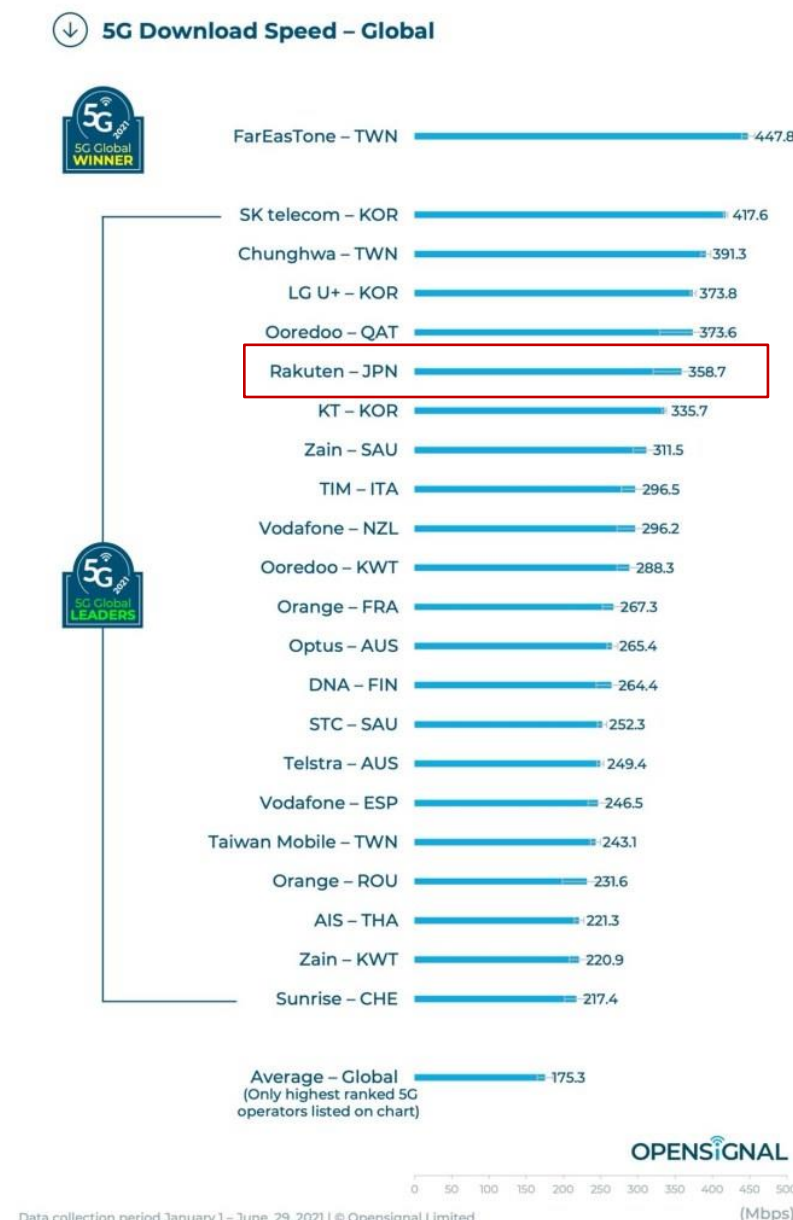
# Ranked among the best networks of the world



Source: Umlaut Audit Report – June 2021; <https://www.umlaut.com/en/benchmarking/japan>

# Rakuten Mobile named a 5G Global Leader

OpenSignal 5G Global Mobile Network Experience Awards 2021





# Rakuten Symphony

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## Vision






Connect everything to fulfill its potential for a sustainable future

## Purpose

Empower industries, societies and individuals to transform themselves through cloud, edge and automation technologies

# Rakuten Symphony

Organized around five unique business opportunities

	<b>Internet &amp; Ecosystem Services</b>	Membership & Loyalty Platforms	Media & Gaming Platforms	Payment & Finance Platforms
	<b>Digital Experience</b>	Business Support System		Marketplace
	<b>Intelligent Operations</b>	Operation Support Systems	Network & Service Orchestration	Automation & Artificial Intelligence
	<b>Network Functions</b>	RAN	CORE	EDGE
	<b>Unified Cloud</b>	Cloud Infrastructure		Cloud Orchestration



# Collaboration in Technology and Policy Groups

Rakuten Symphony is designed and built upfront as a platform to enable co-innovation and openness



Leveraging open-source **technology** across the board as a critical enabler to drive innovation and openness:



Actively driving and **co-innovating on key industry** cloud native open source initiatives such as:



Creating a **global network of co-innovation labs** with Rakuten Symphony customers:



# Leading OpenRAN greenfield competition

Driving brownfield telco transformation

OpenRAN Greenfield  
Innovators

**Rakuten** Mobile



**dish**

Early Brownfield  
Adopters

*Telefonica*



**stc**

Majority  
Operators



2019

2021

2023

2025

# Road to vRAN

**Kaustubh ‘KJ’ Joshi, Director – AT&T Labs**

Nov 10, 2021



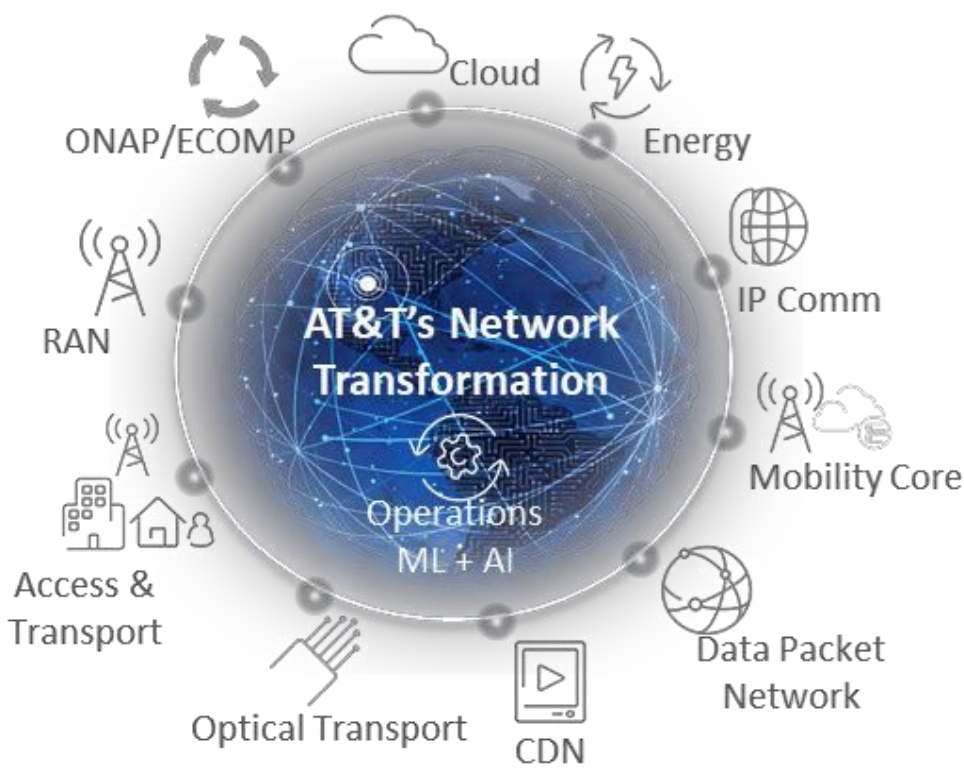
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# AT&T's road to vRAN

## State of the Union



75% core network virtualized by 2020 <sup>(1)</sup>

=> RAN is next

Nation's best 5G network <sup>(2)</sup>

100M+ devices, 250M covered by 5G

Aggressive C-band rollout

70-75M covered by 2022, 200M by 2023 <sup>(3)</sup>

Early days for VRAN

FDD stable, TDD maturing

Brownfield is critical

Seamless customer experience, integrity

Previous announcements

Early pilots and partners

More will follow

Cloud RAN goes prime time as Nokia and AT&T prove fully virtualized capabilities

by Mark Atkinson  
5 Mar 2021



Intel announces new projects with AT&T, Google Cloud, FedEx

Intel said its hardware is involved in a slate of new projects ranging from university research to autonomous FedEx delivery robots.

By Jonathan Greig | October 27, 2021 | Topic: Intel

Intel announced a new pact with AT&T that will see the company provide silicon to deploy the telecom's virtualized radio access network (vRAN).

**HARDWARE**

What does this black dot on the iPhone do?

Raspberry Pi Zero 2 W

COHESITY

We Have Your Cloud Covered

(1) [https://about.att.com/content/dam/snrdocs/7\\_Tenets\\_of\\_ATT\\_Network\\_Transformation.pdf](https://about.att.com/content/dam/snrdocs/7_Tenets_of_ATT_Network_Transformation.pdf)

(2) [https://about.att.com/story/2021/att\\_nations\\_best\\_5g.html](https://about.att.com/story/2021/att_nations_best_5g.html)

(3) <https://about.att.com/innovationblog/2021/c-band-5G.html>

(4) <https://www.nokia.com/blog/cloud-ran-goes-prime-time-as-nokia-and-att-prove-fully-virtualized-capabilities/>

# AT&T's Road to vRAN

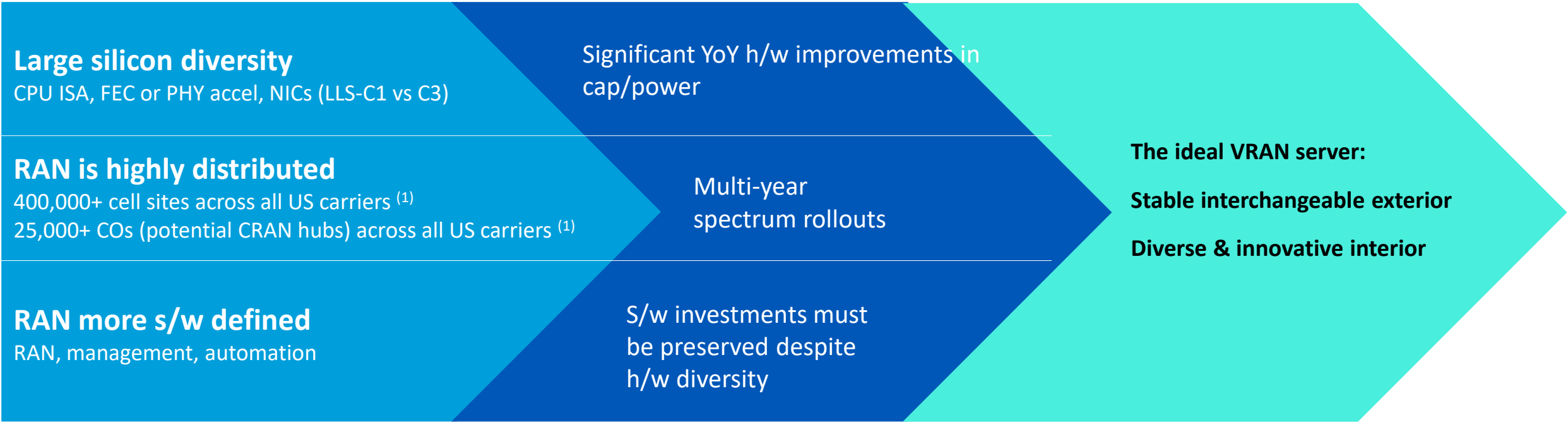
## The deployment perspective

### Life's great ...

- H/w supply chain - more choices, different power/perf tradeoffs
- Rapid h/w improvement
- More deployment flexibility
- Automation
- Open interfaces

### Could be better ...

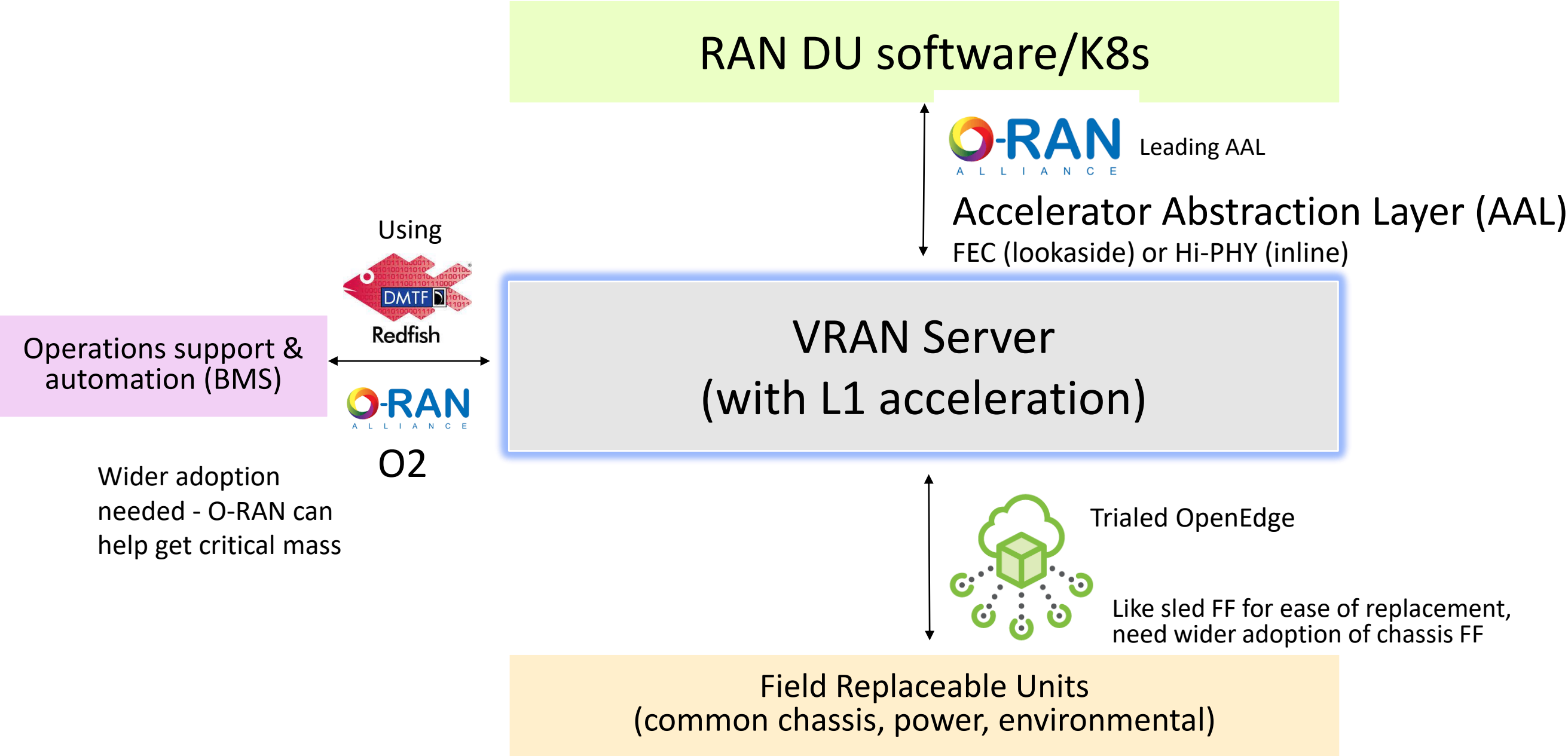
- VRAN s/w feature parity
- Brownfield interop - complex classic/VRAN interactions - DSS, CA, CU-DU vs integrated
- Manage 3 lifecycles instead of 2 – ZTP critical
- RAN/cloud cross-layer observability
- Integration/certification
- H/w diversity – avoid stranding



### Opportunity for open source & standards



# Opportunities for open source & standards – h/w interoperability points

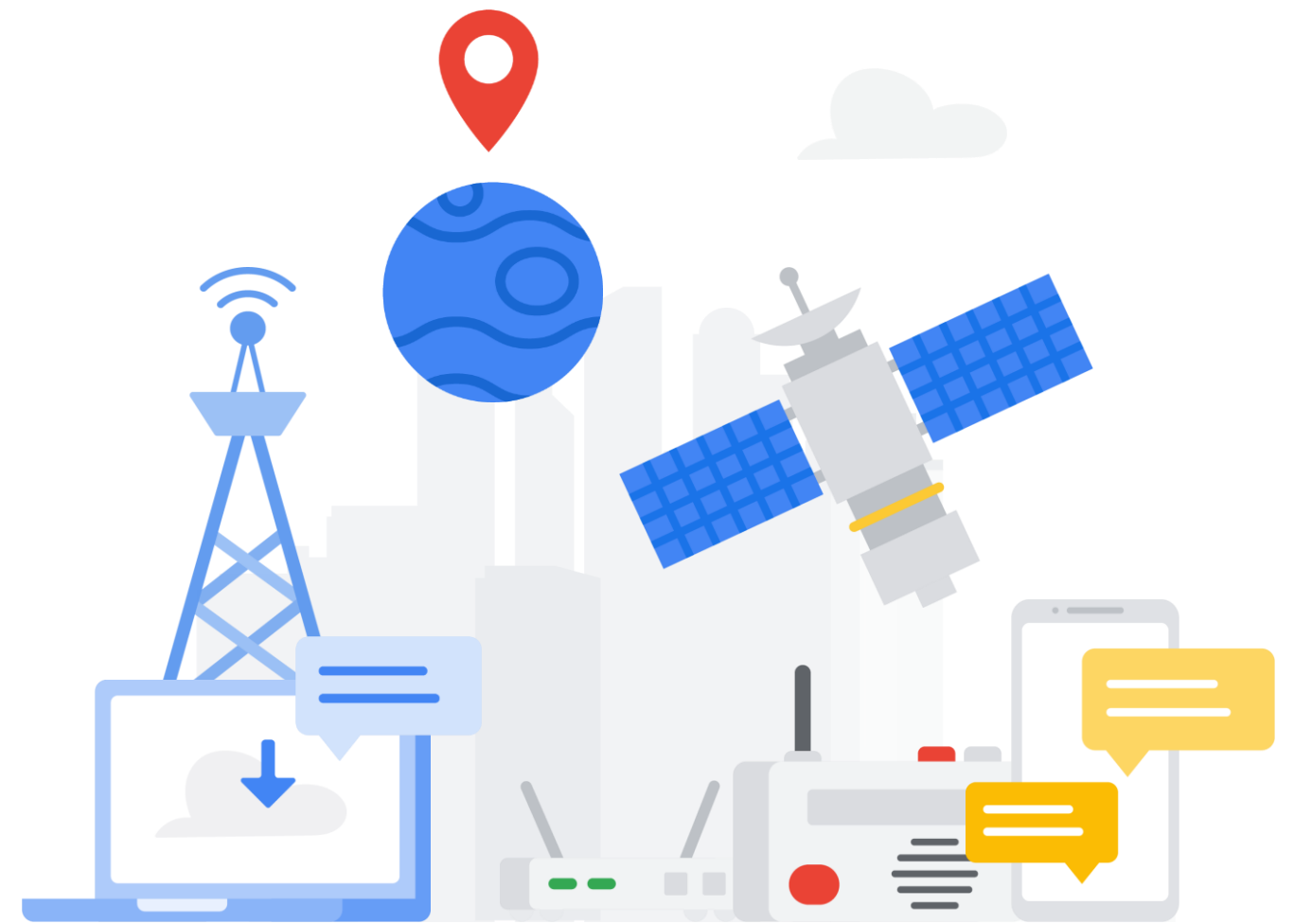




# State of Cloud Native Network Modernization



**Don Tirsell**  
**Head of Telco Industry Partnerships**  
November 5th, 2021



INSIDE GOOGLE CLOUD

# Google Cloud unveils strategy for telecommunications industry

Thomas Kurian  
CEO, Google Cloud

March 5, 2020

Contact Sales

We know that telecommunications companies continue to face pressures to digitally transform. Not only are rapid technology advancements disrupting the industry—the rise of 5G and network-centric business models, for example—but also new connected devices and applications have dramatically raised consumer expectations. Many of these disruptors also offer significant possibilities for business transformation, so I'd like to share how Google Cloud is partnering with telecommunications companies to tap into these opportunities.

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## Nokia and Google Cloud partner to develop new, cloud-based 5G radio solutions

Press Release

Nokia and Google Cloud partner to develop new, cloud-based 5G radio solutions

- The two companies will develop 5G solutions combining Nokia's Radio Access Network Cloud RAN, with Google's edge computing platform
- Building on recent partnership announced in February, new collaboration between deliver additional 5G monetization opportunities for CSPs

15 March 2021



NEWS RELEASE

### Casa Systems Extends 5G Standalone Core Availability to Google Cloud's Anthos

- First demonstrable integration of Casa Systems' cloud-native 5G standalone core platform with a hyperscale public cloud
- Showcases 5G Core control and user plane separation performance across hundreds of miles for improved user experience and application performance
- Delivers ultra-low latency with reduced end-to-end delivery costs and creates a path to 5G network deployment with centralized control and edge-based delivery intelligence

**ANDOVER, Mass.** – June 9, 2021 – Casa Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq: CASA), a leading provider of cloud-native infrastructure technology solutions for mobile, cable and fixed networks, today announced a new partnership with Google Cloud and the delivery of its [cloud-native 5G Standalone \(SA\) Core](#) on Google Cloud's Anthos for single pane-of-glass management. Working closely with engineers in Google Cloud's ISV/SaaS Centre of Excellence, the field-tested solution successfully demonstrated the power of control and user plane separation of Casa Systems' cloud-based 5G SA Core across hundreds of miles, driving down application latency to 10 milliseconds and reducing the end-to-end delivery cost up to 25% using local application hosting.

## Google Cloud and Ericsson Partner to Deliver 5G and Edge Cloud Solutions for Telecommunications Companies and Enterprises

Available in English [日本語](#) [繁體中文](#)

- Google Cloud and Ericsson come together to help communications service providers deliver capabilities to the edge, unlocking new possibilities for enterprises and consumers
- Partnership brings together Google Cloud's compute platform with Ericsson's market-leading 5G portfolio
- Ericsson, Google Cloud and TIM are currently piloting 5G cloud solutions in Italy for telco edge enterprise use cases in automotive, transportation and other sectors

PRESS RELEASE | JUN 29, 2021 13:00 (GMT +00:00)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## Google joins the O-RAN ALLIANCE to advance telecommunication networks



**Anil Phadke**  
Managing Director, Telecom Industry Solutions at Google Cloud

**Ankur Jain**  
Distinguished Engineer, Google Cloud

June 28, 2021

At Google, we believe that co-innovation with customers, partners, and technology vendors as part of a broader ecosystem is critical to accelerating industry digital transformation. From our contribution to open standards, to our commitment to open source and our continued focus and expansion of Google's vibrant partner network, we are committed to drive transformative change in telecommunications.

Since announcing our comprehensive [strategy for the telecommunications industry](#) in 2020, we've been working closely with customers, partners, and industry bodies globally to help transform the industry together. Today, we're excited to take another step forward and are proud to announce that we are joining the [O-RAN ALLIANCE](#), which is a world-



Sunnyvale, Calif. and Dallas, July 06, 2021

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### AT&T and Google Cloud Expand 5G and Edge Collaboration to Deliver Next-Generation Business Outcomes

*Codeveloped innovative, end-to-end solutions will enable new customer experiences and business services across industries with on-premise or network-based deployment*

Today, AT&T and Google Cloud are announcing new solutions across AT&T's 5G and Google Cloud's edge computing portfolio, including AT&T's on-premises Multi-access Edge Compute (MEC) solution, as well as AT&T Network Edge capabilities through LTE, 5G, and wireline.

HYBRID & MULTICLOUD

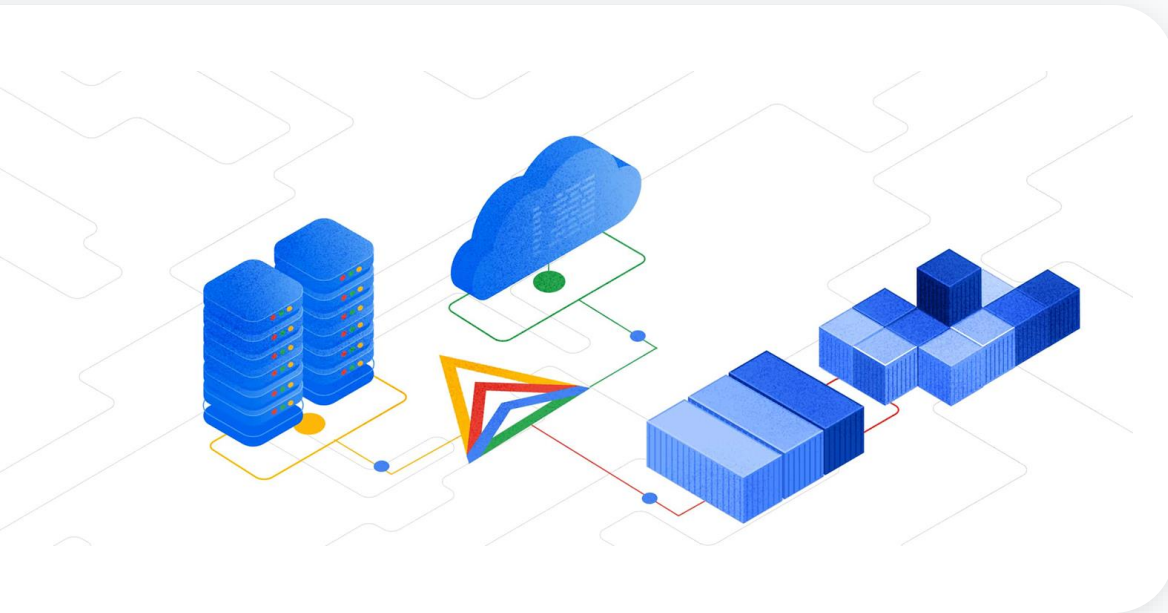
## Introducing Google Distributed Cloud—in your data center, at the edge, and in the cloud



**Sachin Gupta**  
GM and VP of Product for IaaS  
October 12, 2021

Now more than ever, organizations are looking to accelerate their cloud adoption. They want easier development, faster innovation, and efficient scale, all while simultaneously reducing their technology risk. However, some of their workloads cannot move to the public cloud entirely or right away due to factors such as industry or region-specific

# Google Cloud - Network Modernization



Modernize your network, reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) and improve network performance



## Accelerate the journey to cloud-native networks

Anthos provides an open, multi-vendor platform for hosting cloud-native network functions - increasing velocity and flexibility. Transform your network by leveraging Google's leadership and best-practices in Kubernetes, orchestration, security, service mesh and CI/CD.



## Reduce TCO of software-based networks

Anthos helps simplify network functions hosting, onboarding and orchestration - reducing infrastructure and engineering spend. Seamlessly leverage public cloud capacity for bursting, unexpected growth or to rapidly trial new capabilities.

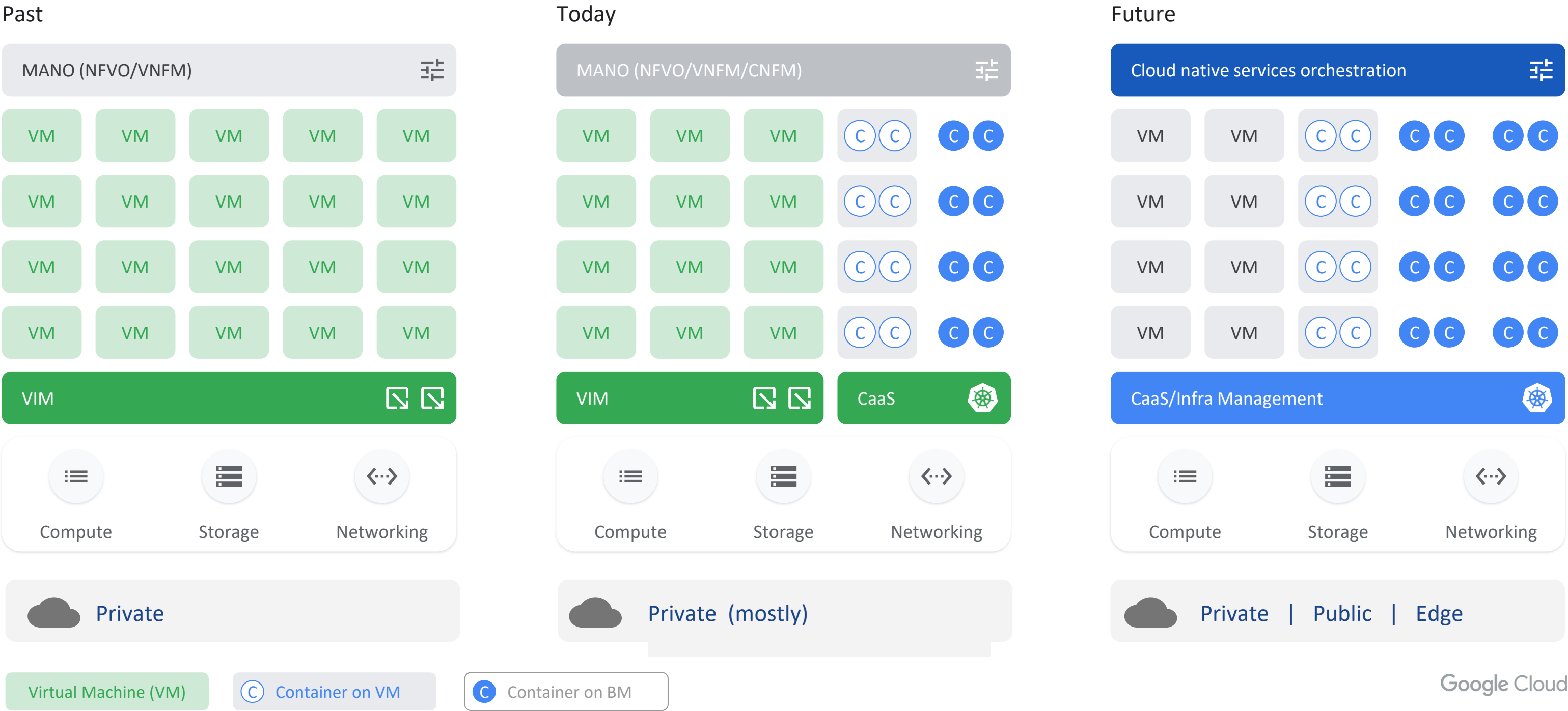


## Unlock speed, low latency and scalability with Network Functions on the Edge

Increase your performance of network functions with Anthos. Distribute your network to the Far Edge with low-footprint, efficient hosting - enabling reduced latency and unlocking new architectures (e.g. RAN disaggregation).

# The journey from VNF to CNF

There is a significant change in how CSP Network Functions are designed, deployed and operated as we evolve from legacy Virtualized Network Functions (VNFs) to modern Cloud-Native Functions (CNFs).





# Open RAN Challenges & Opportunities



Everyone wants to “Monetize”, few know how, need guidance



Legacy RAN replacement is taking considerable CSP bandwidth



5G ‘Cloud Native’ buildout is just starting but accelerating



Cloud RAN/VRAN Pilots are now feasible on Cloud Native



Google is active in ORAN, Kubernetes, Service Mesh, KRM standards



2022 Goal - Launch several Cloud RAN market trials

# Q&A

- Can you talk about your experience deploying 5G Cloud RAN and vRAN, what were the key benefits and where is there room for improvement?
- What does the industry need to do to accelerate adoption?
- What comments do you have regarding scalability nationwide and globally?

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# Call to Action

## How to get involved in the Project/Sub-Project Community

- Telco Edge team meets at 10 am Pacific, 1 pm Eastern time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month
- Call Calendar – [www.opencompute.org/projects/telco](http://www.opencompute.org/projects/telco)

## Where to find additional information (URL links)

- Project Wiki with latest specification – [www.opencompute.org/projects/openedge-sub-project](http://www.opencompute.org/projects/openedge-sub-project)
- Mailing list – [ocp-all.groups.io/g/OCP-Open-Edge](http://ocp-all.groups.io/g/OCP-Open-Edge)

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# Thank you!



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NOVEMBER 9-10, 2021

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”  
– Lao Tzu



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