



Mobile & Wireless Roundup No. 118 (see original on [LinkedIn!](#))

By Zahid Ghadialy

Welcome to the 118th edition of this newsletter! This week, I want to share a thought-provoking conversation I recently had. Someone with a tangential connection to our industry made an intriguing remark: *4G/LTE was a successful technology, but 5G hasn't been.*

As I prepare to deliver two training courses for the [CW Academy](#) in the new year, this comment really struck a chord. Naturally, I asked them, “Why do you think that?”

Their perspective was fascinating: *“4G enabled touch screens and form factors that allowed people to fully embrace mobile technology. Before that, small screens made it difficult to access the internet, click links, or navigate pages.”*

I agreed—touchscreen innovation, spearheaded by Apple’s iPhone, transformed mobile experiences. However, it’s worth noting that the first iPhone operated on 2G, with 3G making its debut in the iPhone 3G, and 4G/LTE only arriving with the iPhone 5.

What made 4G truly revolutionary wasn’t just speed; it was how it enabled broader hardware advancements. LTE didn’t just make phones faster—it made them more power-efficient, which in turn extended battery life and made these devices more practical for everyday use. Coupled with advances in batteries, displays, and cameras, these innovations laid the foundation for the smartphones we know and love today.

In comparison, for consumer devices, 5G feels more like a refinement of 4G. Beyond speed tests, most users don’t see a transformative difference. When I asked what 5G should do that 4G couldn’t, the responses often highlighted hardware or application limitations, not connectivity itself.

As we start to look toward what 6G could bring, it’s clear that each generation of technology builds on the successes—and the lessons—of the last. The journey of innovation is as much about curiosity as it is about breakthroughs, and I’m excited to see where it takes us next!

For those of you who don't know me, I am a technologist with over 25 years' experience in mobile wireless technology, currently working as an independent advisor, analyst, consultant and a trainer. This newsletter is a summary of my posts and other news that caught my attention since the last newsletter.



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- Free 6G Training: Visible Light Communication: Principles and Progress Toward 6G Networks ([link](#))
- Light Reading: Nokia kicks off 6G test in 7GHz at Dallas HQ ([link](#))
- Dean Bubley on LinkedIn: "One of the questions explored at the recent #6G for the Real World workshop was "what is 6G's core purpose?"..." ([link](#))
- Free 6G Training: Exploring the Future of 6G with 6GTandem ([link](#))

6GTandem dense deployment & dual-frequency concepts

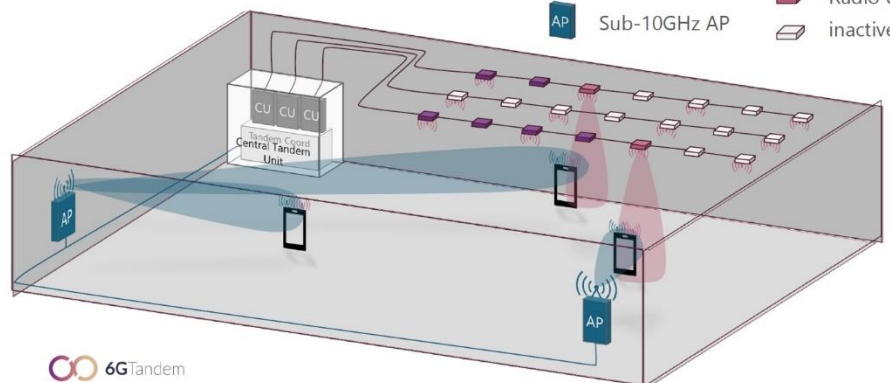
CU Sub-THz CU


AP Sub-10GHz AP


Booster Unit

Radio Unit

inactive




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#Free6Gtraining 

5G

- Video of GSMA APAC M360 Healthcare Summit: How 5G advancing Holomedicine and Healthcare services ([link](#))
- Tutorial: The Digital Railway supported by FRMCS ([link](#))
- Light Reading: Verizon shifts 5G buildout from coverage to satisfaction, revenue ([link](#))
- Verizon redefines clear connections on-the-go with the launch of Enhanced Video Calling using network slicing ([PR](#))
- Dean Bubley on LinkedIn: "Yesterday I took part in Domos' virtual event called Understanding Latency, where I did a short presentation, focusing on network realities. I've attached my slides below..." ([link](#))

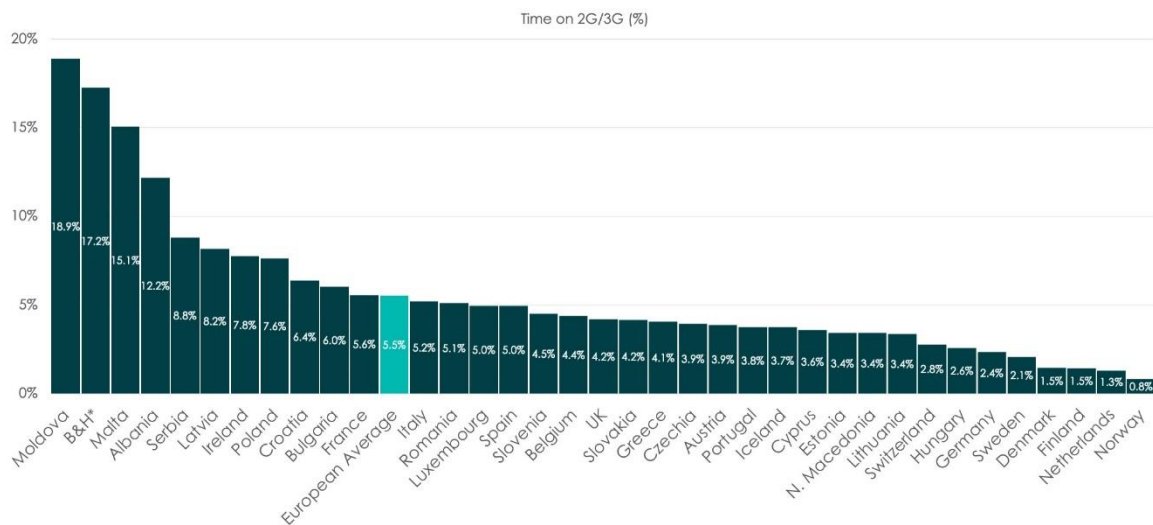
4G/LTE

- Nick Jones on LinkedIn: "If you've ever wondered how we got into the #VoLTE mess, why the voice, the most basic of #telecom services, is still a pain point in 4G and 5G (but worked fine in 2G/3G), I've got written an explainer as to how we ended up here..." ([link](#))

2G/3G

- Fierce Network: Ancient wireless blamed for UK rail disruptions ([link](#))
- OpenSignal - Europe's legacy networks: 3G and 2G still matter in the age of 5G ([link](#))

On average, European smartphone users spend 5.5% of their time on 2G or 3G



Data collection period: 1 August – 29 October 2024. * B&H is an abbreviation for Bosnia and Herzegovina | © Opensignal

Open & Disaggregated Networks (including Open RAN, vRAN, etc.)

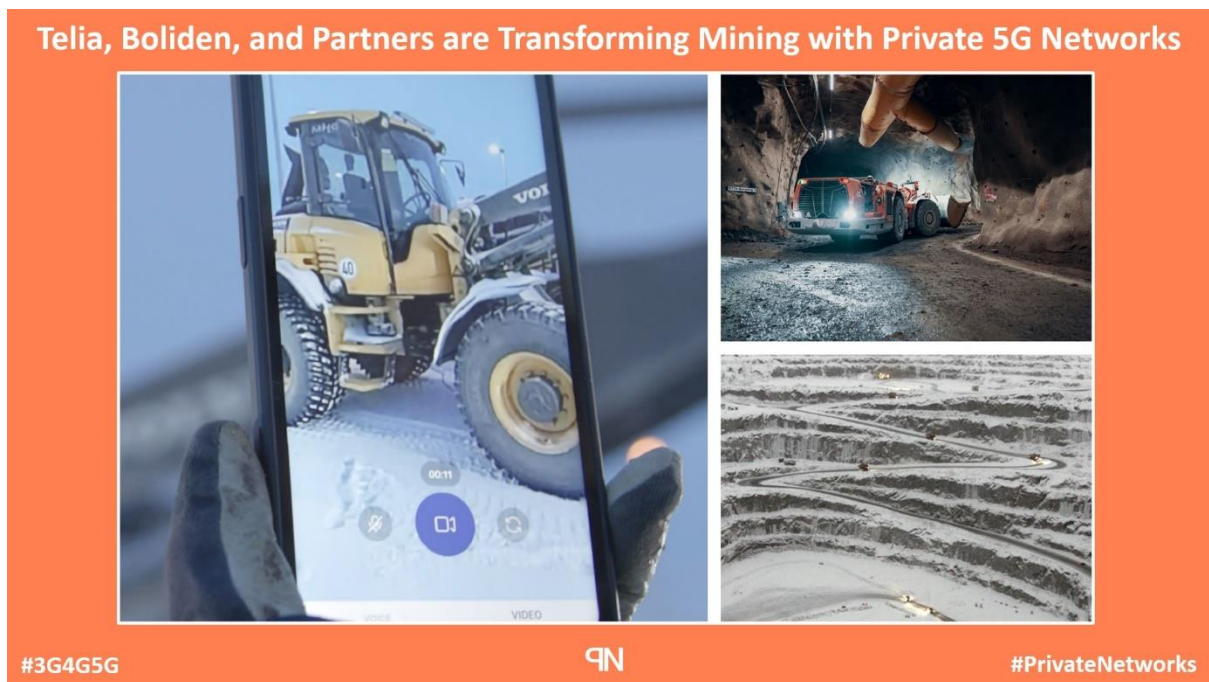
- Dell'Oro Group Blog: Open RAN Tanks in 2024 ([link](#))
- Light Reading: Samsung looks to \$20B war chest to beat open RAN rivals ([link](#))
- RedHat Blog: Deutsche Telekom, Red Hat and IBM collaborate on successful O-Cloud trial for open RAN ([link](#))
- SdxCentral: How significant is AT&T's bolstered open RAN program? ([link](#))
- Mohamed Abbas on LinkedIn: Why do we need Accelerator Cards in Open RAN Solutions? ([link](#))

📡 Spectrum

- Fierce Network: AT&T is proposing that the FCC move the CBRS band from 3.5 GHz to the 3.1-3.3 GHz portion of the 3 GHz band ([link](#))
- Steve Song on LinkedIn: "OFCOM have released an online mapping tool (in beta) for shared spectrum in 3.8-4.2GHz. This allows rural operators and potential rural operators to see spectrum (both total and maximum contiguous) availability in their region..." ([link](#))

📡 Private Networks

- Private Networks Technology Blog: How Telia, Boliden, and Partners are Transforming Mining with Private 5G Networks ([link](#))



- RCR Wireless: A 'significant shift' in the private 5G landscape – Siemens on 2025 ([link](#))

📡 Telecoms Infrastructure, Small Cells, Antennas & others

- Paul Rhodes on LinkedIn - Tuesday Thoughts: 5G Wi-Fi! ([link](#))
- Peter Clarke on LinkedIn: "Big 5G performance from BT Group's EE small cells in Croydon, South London, featuring 40MHz n78 and 15MHz paired Band 3 FDD..." ([link](#))

📡 IoT / M2M / Smart Homes

- Fierce Network Op-Ed: Please stop writing new C-IoT standards ([link](#))
- Transforma Insights announces IoT Transition Topics for 2025 ([PR](#))

📡 Security & Privacy

- Mike Holcomb on LinkedIn: A FREE 25-hour course on getting started in industrial (ICS/OT) cyber security? ([link](#))

📡 Connected And Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs)

- BlackHat Europe 2024: Over the Air Compromise of Modern Volkswagen Group Vehicles ([Slides](#), [Video](#))

🕒 AI, ML & Automation

- Operator Watch Blog - Harnessing AI in Telcos: Data, Opportunities, and the Future ([link](#))
- RCR Wireless: Four ways AI/ML is used in Wi-Fi systems ([link](#))
- AI-RAN Alliance: Vision and Mission White Paper ([link](#))
- 5G Technology World: Wireless engineers need AI to build networks ([link](#))
- Jinsung Choi on LinkedIn: Revolutionizing Telecom: Intent-Driven Network Automation with AI Agents ([link](#))

🕒 Satellites, HAPS, Drones, UAVs & Space

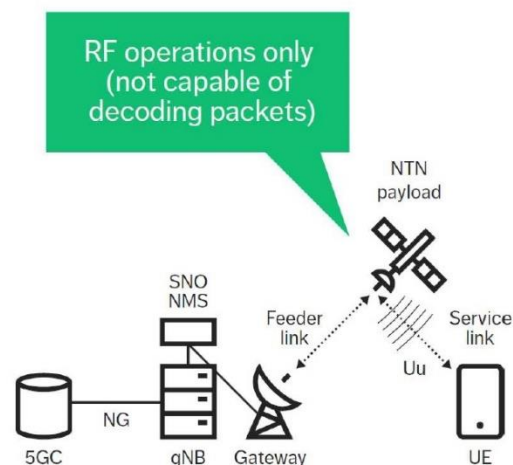
- The 3G4G Blog: Tutorial Session on Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs) and 3GPP Standards from 5G to 6G ([link](#))

Satellite access architecture in 3GPP Rel-17/18



Transparent payload (Rel-17/18)

- Base station (gNB) on the ground
- Transparent ("bent pipe") satellite payload: Radio interface terminated on the ground
- All network interfaces terminate on the ground



🕒 Wi-Fi

- BBF: OB-5WWC takes stock from successful live demo involvement ([link](#))
- Light Reading: A lightweight convergence architecture for the always-connected generations ([link](#)) – LinkedIn post by Ruth Brown [here](#).

🕒 Other News and Technology Stuff

- MWL: ABI Research downbeat on prospects of key techs ([link](#)) – the whitepaper can be downloaded from [here](#).
- Rudolf van der Berg on LinkedIn: "BEREC published the final version of its report on IP Interconnection..." ([link](#))
- Ookla: Performance Benchmarking of Mobile Operators in Small to Mid-Sized Markets ([link](#))

🕒 **Picture of the week:** [Tokyo Skytree](#) photographed from Kuramae Bridge by [CyberRex on X](#). It is a broadcasting and observation tower, located in Sumida, Tokyo, Japan. Tallest tower in Japan (634 m or 2,080 ft) since opening in 2012, and the third tallest structure in the world behind Merdeka 118 (678.9 m or 2,227 ft) and Burj Khalifa (829.8 m or 2,722 ft). The long and slender uppermost section is the antenna tower for digital-terrestrial broadcasts, with many antennas for TV stations set

around it. You can learn more about the construction project [here](#) and about the transmission equipment inside the Sky Tree [here](#).



Happy to hear your thoughts. Feel free let me know what worked, what didn't, how I can make this better, etc. Get in touch over LinkedIn!

PDF version of this and previous newsletters are available [here](#).