# The Role of Satellite in 5G



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## Introduction

### SES & O3b Who we are



## SES & O3b Combined Fleet Map





## What is 5G (IMT-2020)?

▲ GSMA, "5G Spectrum: Public Policy Position" (Nov. 2016):

5G is expected to address three key usage scenarios:

- 1. Enhanced mobile broadband: Including multi-gigabit per second (Gbps) data rates for applications like virtual reality and the ability to support extensive data traffic growth.
- Ultra-reliable communications: Including very low latency (sub-1ms) and very high availability, reliability and security to support services such as autonomous vehicles and mobile healthcare.
- **3. Massive machine-type communications:** Including the ability to support a massive number of low cost IoT connections with very long battery life and wide coverage including inside buildings.

## What is 5G/IMT-2020? Diverse Usage Scenarios

▲ GSMA Intelligence, "Understanding 5G" (Dec. 2014)





## Satellite's Role in the 5G Ecosystem

## Satellites Can Support the Key Usage Scenarios for 5G

- Satellites can support multi-gigabit per second data rates for enhanced mobile broadband
  - Satellites routinely carry high bandwidth HD and UHD content
  - Satellites already support 2G/3G mobile backhaul in many parts of the world, and high-throughput satellites (HTS) in GEO, MEO and LEO will support 4G and 5G mobile networks

#### ▲ Satellites can support ultra-reliable communications

- Our customers international broadcasters, MNOs, governments depend on us every day to ensure ultra-reliable communications
- GEO latency of 250ms (500ms round-trip) is acceptable for many 5G applications, and new MEO and LEO networks will be able to support even more latency-sensitive applications
- Satellites can even play a role in helping 5G networks meet their sub-1ms latency requirements by delivering commonly accessed content to mobile base stations

#### ▲ Satellites can support **massive machine-to-machine communications**

- Satellites already support SCADA and other global asset tracking applications today, and can scale to support future machine-to-machine (Internet-of-Things) communications
- Investments in new ground segment technologies, such as smaller, lower cost, electronically steerable, and/or phased-array satellite tranceivers are making ubiquitous deployment for IoT feasible

## Four Satellite "Sweet Spots" in the 5G Ecosystem



- Four main use cases can be identified for the integration of satellite-based solutions into 5G (IMT-2020):
  - 1. Trunking and Head-end Feed
  - 2. Backhauling and Tower Feed
  - 3. Communications on the Move
  - 4. Hybrid Multiplay
- These four "sweet spots" leverage the advantages of satellites high bandwidth and ubiquitous coverage to enable and extend terrestrial 5G networks

# Four Satellite "Sweet Spots" in the 5G Ecosystem

Trunking and Head-end Feed



- ▲ A very high speed satellite link (up to 1 Gbps or more) from geostationary and/or nongeostationary satellites will complement existing terrestrial connectivity to enable:
  - High speed trunking of video, IoT and other data to a central site, with further terrestrial distribution to local cell sites (3G/4G/5G cellular), for instance neighboring villages.

## Four Satellite "Sweet Spots" in the 5G Ecosystem Backhauling and Tower Feed



- ▲ A very high speed satellite link (up to 1 Gbps or more), direct to base stations, from geostationary and/or non-geostationary satellites would complement existing terrestrial connectivity and enable:
  - Backhaul connectivity to individual cells with the ability to multicast the same content (e.g. video, HD/UHD TV, as well as non-video data) across a large coverage area
  - Efficient backhauling of aggregated IoT traffic from multiple sites

# Four Satellite "Sweet Spots" in the 5G Ecosystem

Communications on the Move



- Very high speed, multi-cast enabled, satellite link (up to 1 Gbps or more) direct to plane, train, car or vessel, from geostationary and/or non-geostationary satellites would enable:
  - Backhaul connectivity and multicasting of (video, HD/UHD TV and non-video data) where it
    may not be otherwise possible
  - Direct connectivity and/or efficient backhauling of aggregated IoT traffic

## Four Satellite "Sweet Spots" in the 5G Ecosystem Hybrid Multiplay





GEO / MEO

- Very high speed (up to 1 Gbps or more) satellite connectivity to individual homes and offices, with the ability to multicast the same content (video HD/UHD TV, and non-video data) across a large coverage area (e.g. for local storage or consumption)
  - The same capability allows for efficient broadband connectivity for aggregated IoT data
  - Further in-home or in-office distribution via Wifi or very small 3G/4G/5G nano-cells

## Satellites Can Even Help Achieve Sub-1ms Latency

- ▲ Sub-1ms latency is very difficult to achieve, even for 5G mobile networks
- ▲ According to GSMA Intelligence, "Understanding 5G" (December 2014):
  - "Achieving the sub-1ms latency rate ... will likely prove to be a significant undertaking in terms of technological development and investment in infrastructure." (at p.12)
  - "[S]ervices requiring a delay time of less than 1 millisecond must have all of their content served from a physical position very close to the user's device. ... possibly at the base of every cell, including the many small cells that are predicted to be fundamental to meeting densification requirements." (at p.12)
  - Illustrated by Figure 3 (at p.13):



Thus, satellites can help 5G networks achieve sub-1ms latency by multi-casting content to caches located at individual cells, even in places without fiber.

#### This is one of the satellite "sweet spots"!



## Conclusions

### **Conclusions** What does all this mean?

- Regulatory and technical decisions should enable and not preclude satellites from playing a role in the 5G ecosystem
  - Satellites will play a particularly important role in extending 5G networks to hard-to-serve, underserved and unserved areas of the world
- ▲ For example:
  - Spectrum decisions relating to 5G should not be mutually exclusive of current and next-generation High Throughput Satellite (HTS) and Very High Throughput Satellite (VHTS) designs
  - Multicasting support will be necessary in 5G specifications to optimize network bandwidth use, and especially important in order to take full advantage of satellite capabilities
  - Intelligent routing, dynamic cache management and adaptive streaming and quality-of-service features will have to incorporated into 5G network designs and concepts to optimize use of different transmission technologies in the network for different types of content (e.g. latency sensitive vs. latency insensitive, high bandwidth vs. low bandwidth)
  - Satellite network elements will need to be implemented and managed based on the same Network Virtualization and Software Defined Networks philosophy as the rest of the network
- SES and others in the satellite industry are actively engaged in technical standards bodies (e.g. 3GPP) and international forums (e.g. ITU, CEPT, 5G PPP) in order help make 5G a truly inclusive reality