

DISCLAIMER: this presentation is just my research findings and personal opinions as a researcher for academic discussions. It doesn't intend to present ABB's official roadmap or strategy in these areas.



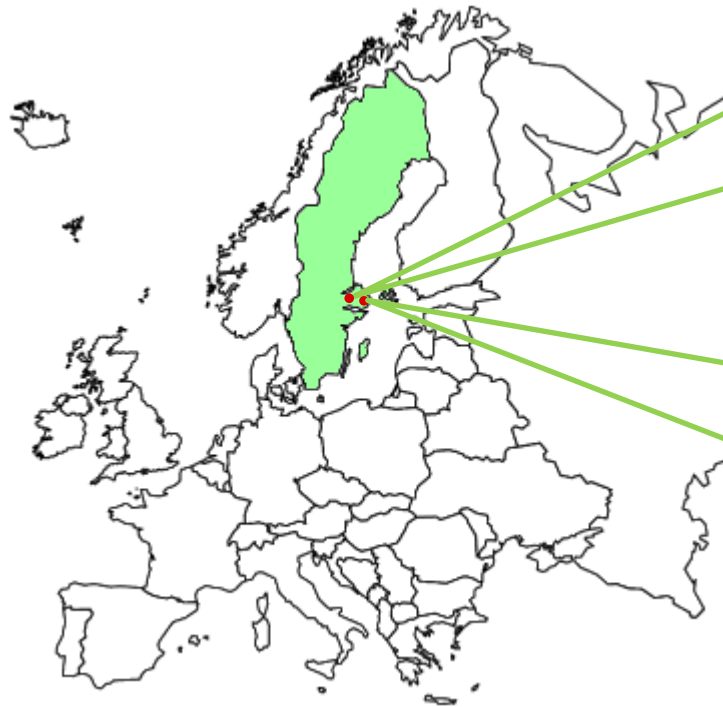
2023-11-23

# Communication-Computing-Control Co-Design for the Cloud Fog Automation

A New Paradigm of Realizing Industrial Automation Systems

Zhibo Pang, ABB Corporate Research Sweden and KTH Royal Institute of Technology, [zhibo@kth.se](mailto:zhibo@kth.se)

# About Sweden



Västerås



Stockholm

## Sweden's largest technical university

**17 000**

students

**35%**  
women

**2 300**  
international

**4 000**

staff (FTE)

**339**  
professors

**2 800**  
staff within research

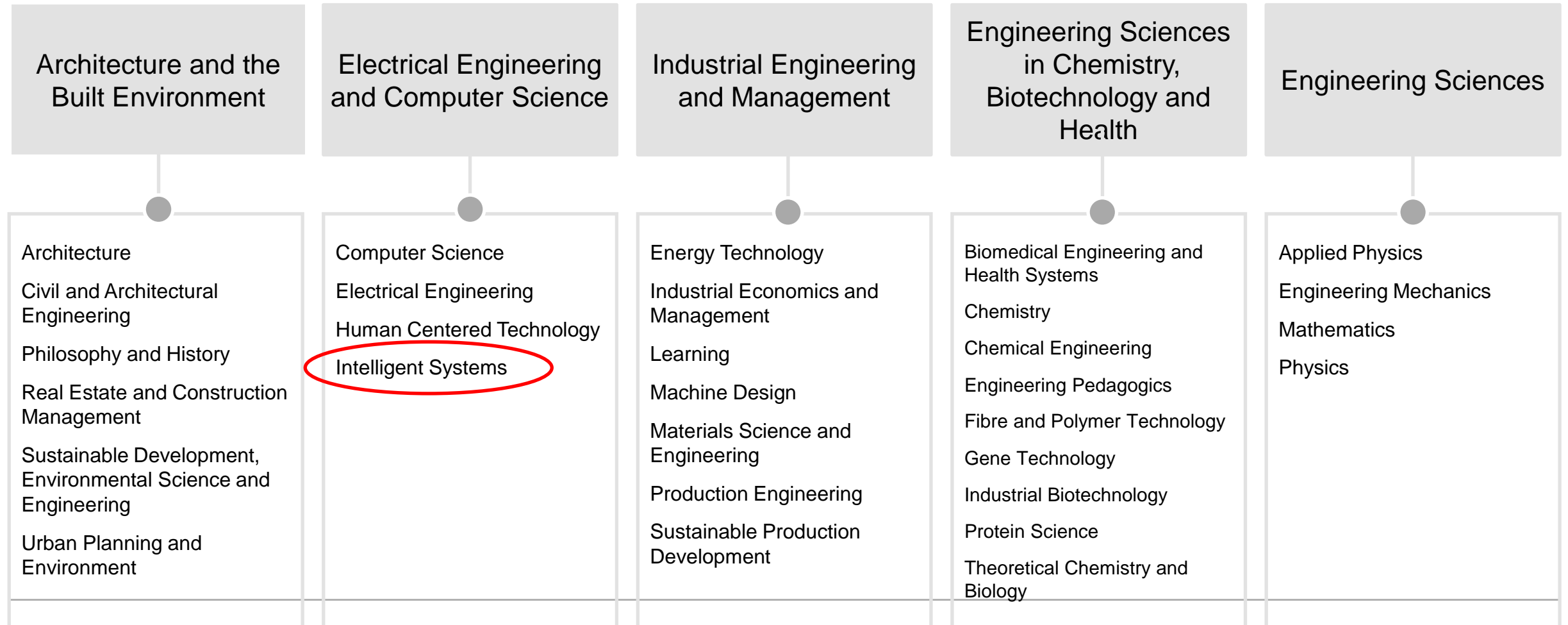
**1 700**  
doctoral students

**100 000**

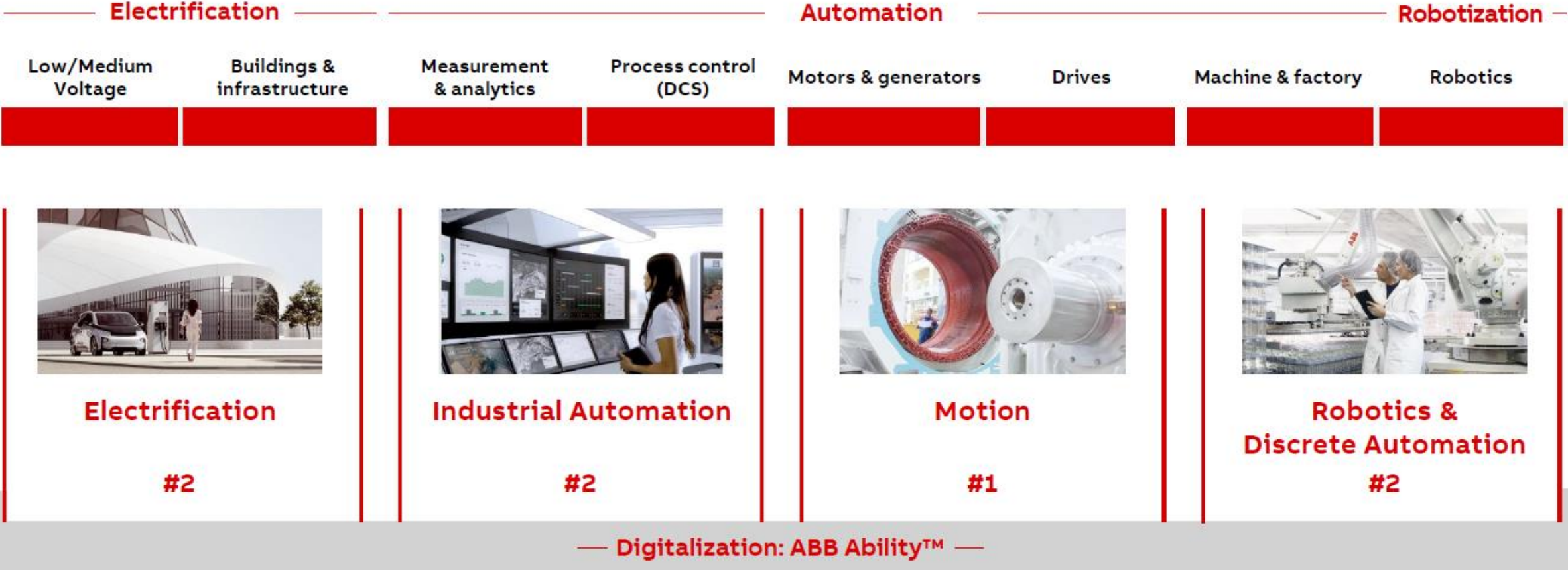
alumni in 100 countries

**20**  
international alumni associations

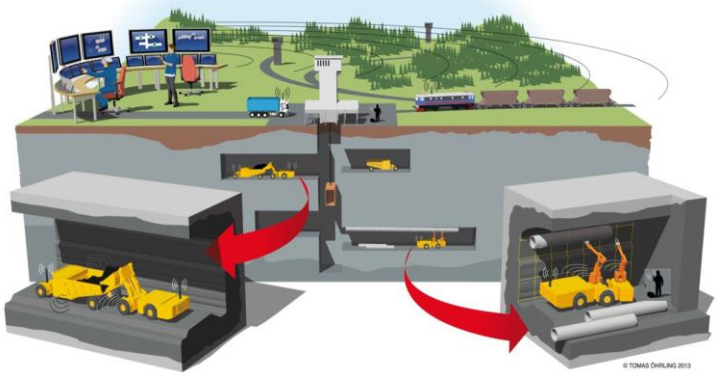
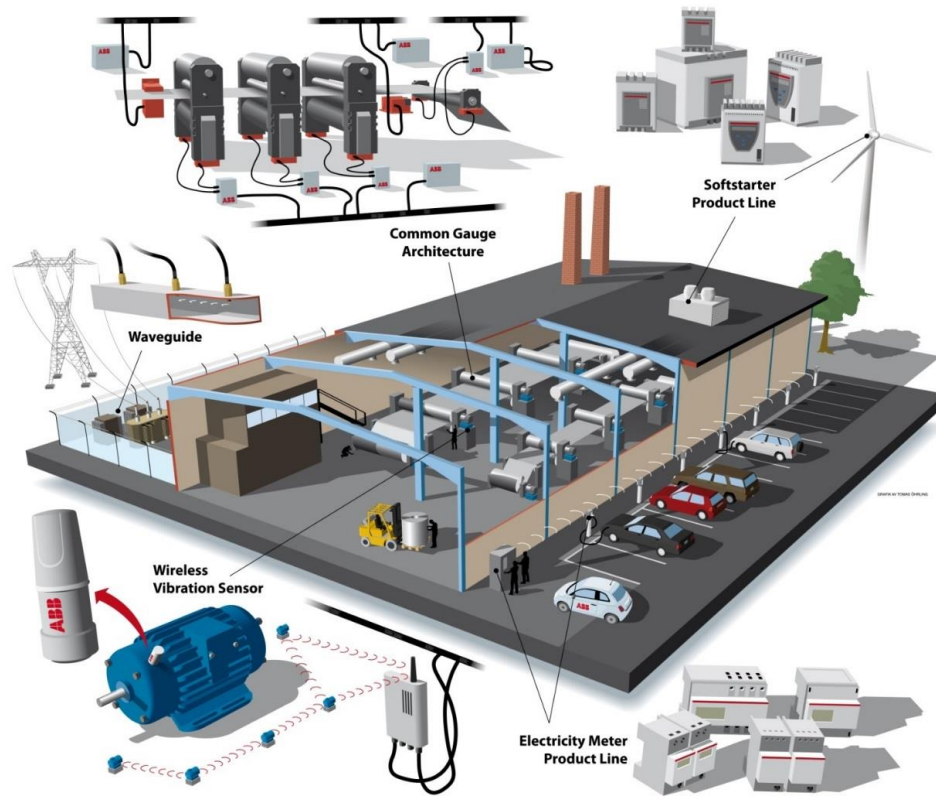
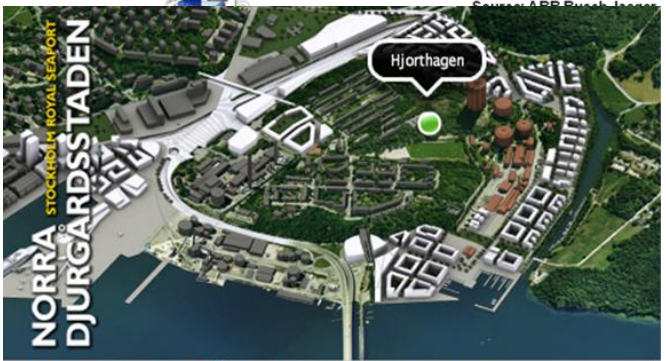
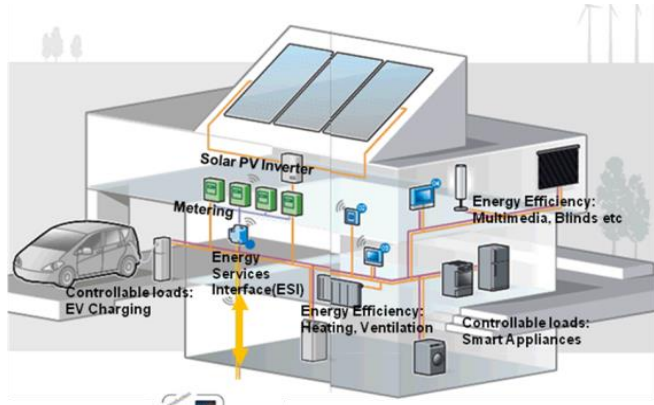
# KTH's schools and departments



# The new ABB operates through four focused, leading businesses



# Research contexts at ABB SECRC/Industrial Networks and Control Group



---

# Agenda

Vision of Cloud Fog Automation

Software defined wireless wireless for Cloud Fog Automation

5G for Cloud Fog Automation

Communication-Computing-Control Co-Design

Future perspectives

*This presentation is based on the contributions from many of my current and former colleagues, collaborators, and students, including Alf Isaksson, Ognjen Dobrijevic, Krister Landernas, Pawel Wiatr, Koushik Bhimavarapu, Honghao Lyu, Jialin Zhang, Anna Bengtsson, Sofie Nilsson, Jing Yan, Johannes Deivard, Valentin Johansson, Fangbo Shi, Maxx Wallberg, Emil Lindahl (an incomplete list).*

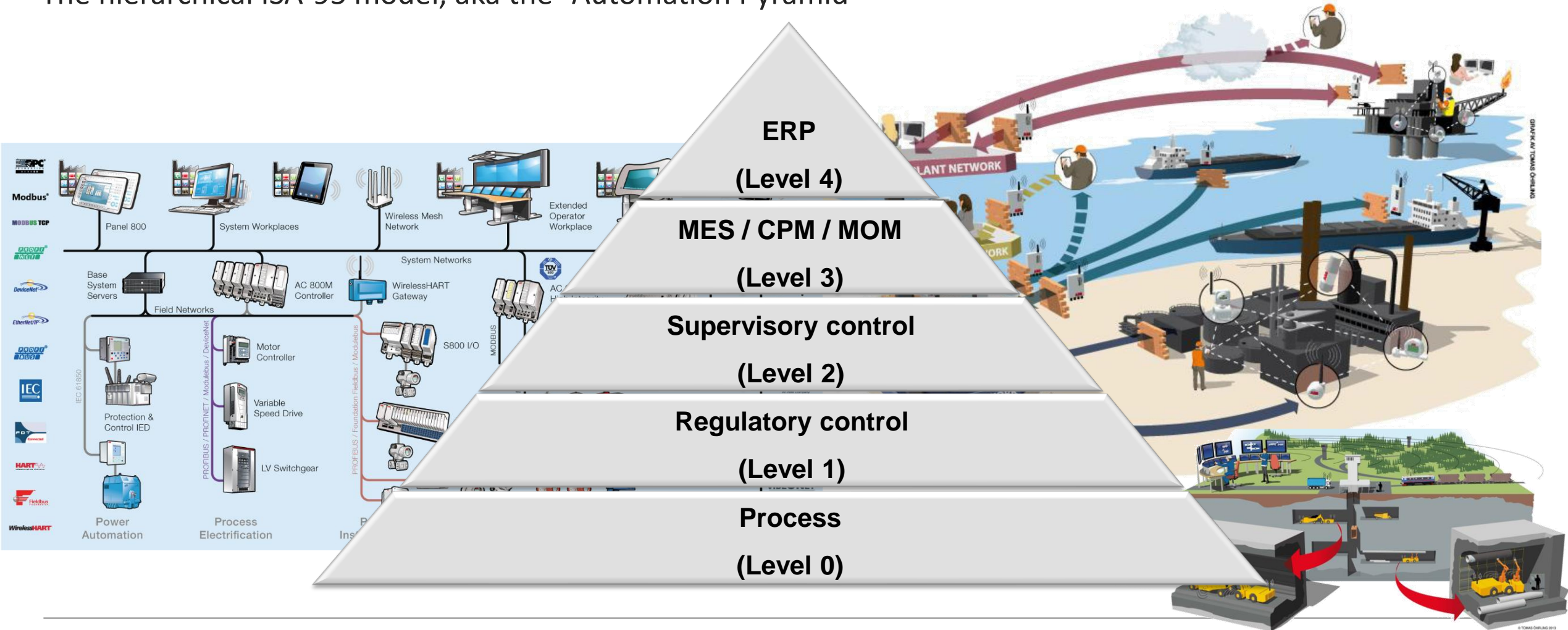


# The vision of Cloud Fog Automation



# Today's automation systems since the Industry 3.0

The hierarchical ISA-95 model, aka the "Automation Pyramid"

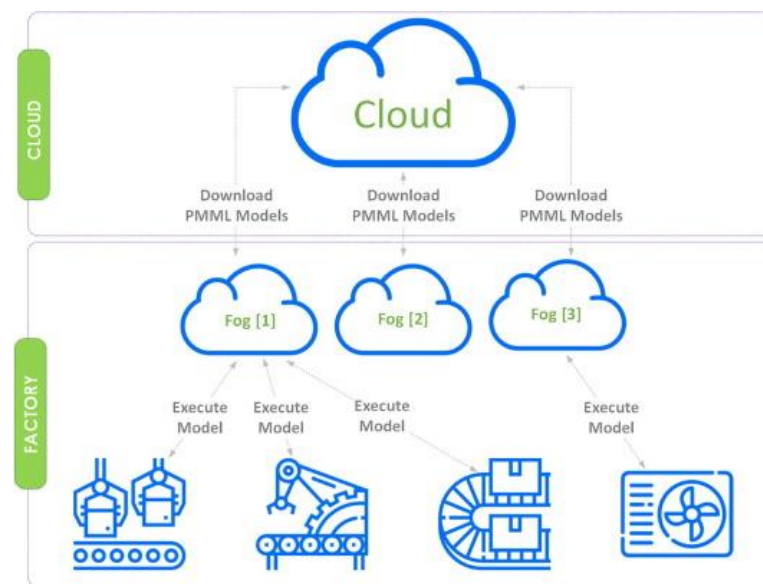


# The new game changers since the Industry 4.0

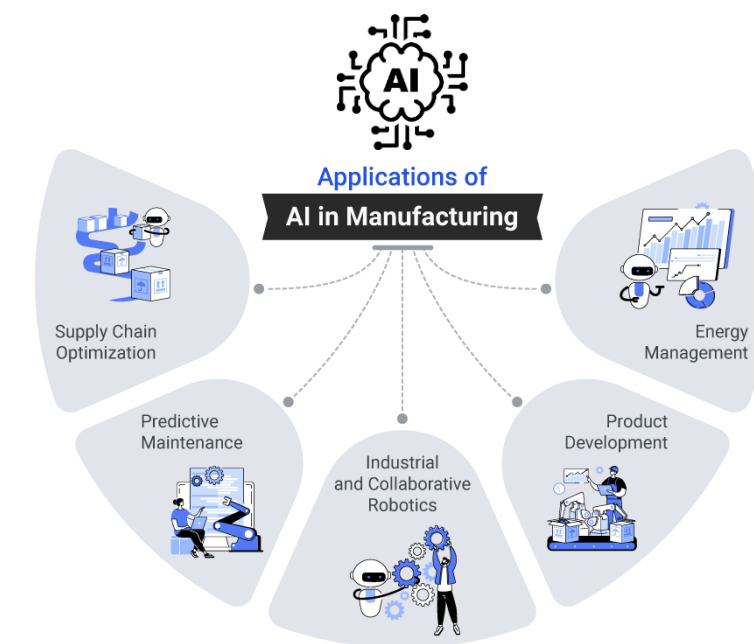
## Internet of Things



## Cloud/fog computing



## Artificial intelligence

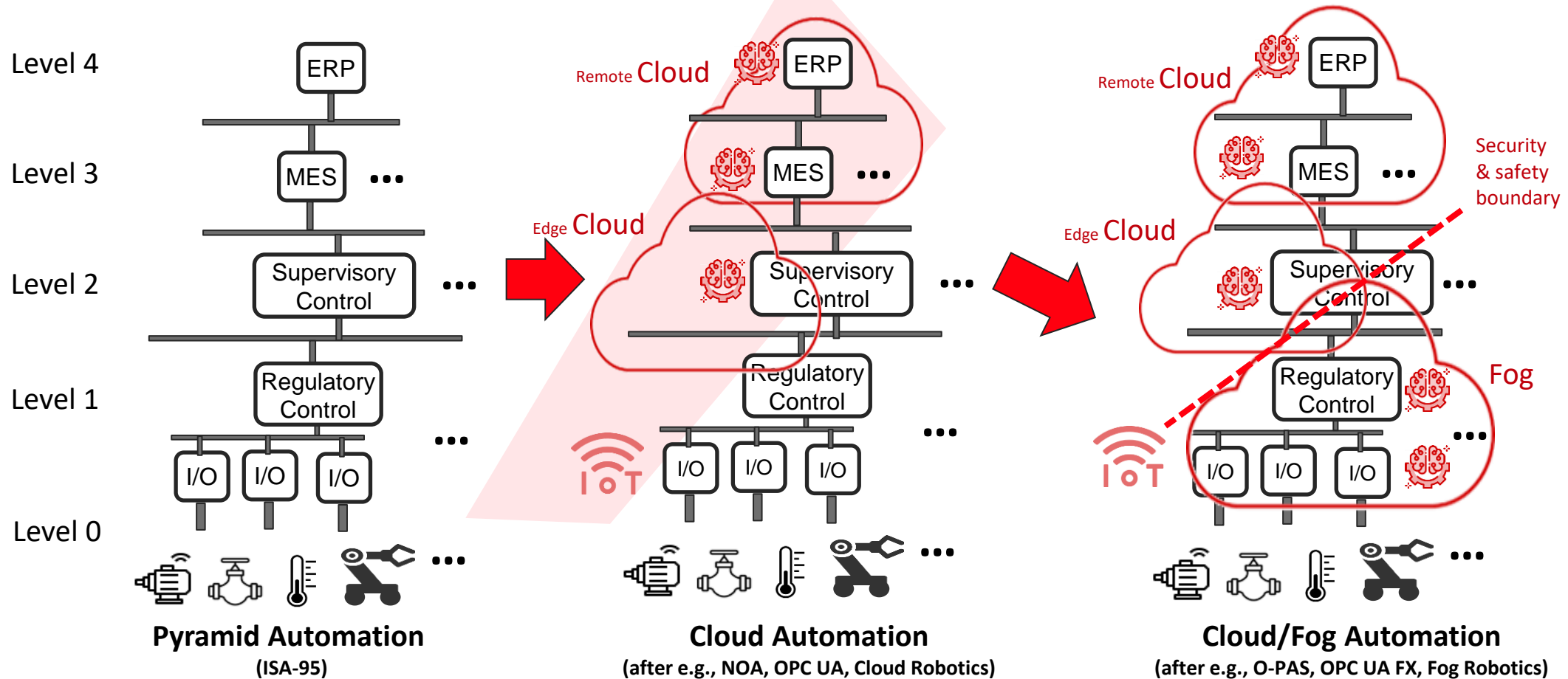


The strong aggregation of talent and capital in these areas is making them “self-fulfilling”.

# The vision of Cloud/Fog Automation



Expanding entire automation system to new generation open and virtualized communication and computing infrastructure



# Closed-loop control requires determinism of communication and computing

The “Dinosaur Curve” – an insightful view of latency and reliability

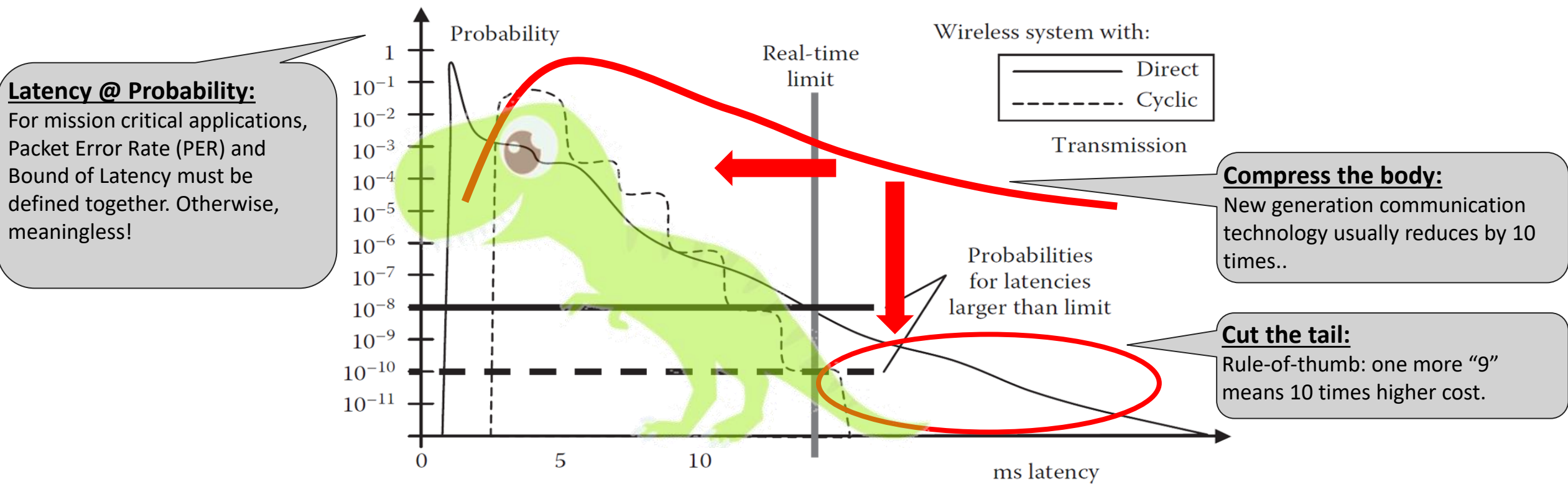


FIGURE 28.2 Typical distribution of latency measurements in wireless automation devices.

An example of the WISA technology developed by ABB in early 2000s



# Software defined wireless communication for CFA

# Needs and opportunities

Wireless enables mobility and flexibility



Large height



Rural areas



Mobile machines



Mobile operation



Moving parts



Harsh or corrosive



Access forbidden



Cabling forbidden



Temporary deployment

- ~10 times better than state-of-the-art WiFi-based solutions
- ~x1000 times better than 5G 50ms@sub-6GHz, 20ms@mmW (24-53GHz), 2022 results

## WirelessHP (v2 in 2018)

New physical layer targeted for critical control applications

Minimize the overhead by new physical layer

WirelessHP targets:

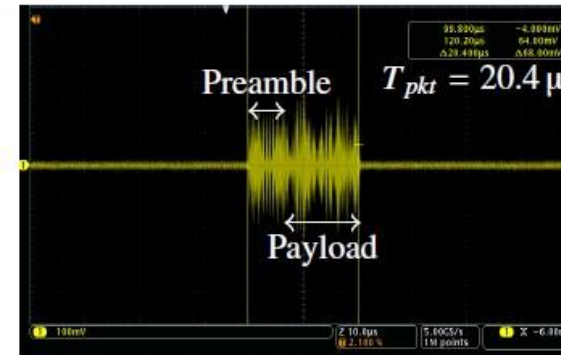
- High determinism (preferably 0 retransmissions)
- High reliability (PER  $10e-6 \sim 10^{-9}$ )
- Low latency ( $1 \sim 10 \mu\text{s}$ )

What are we sacrificing?

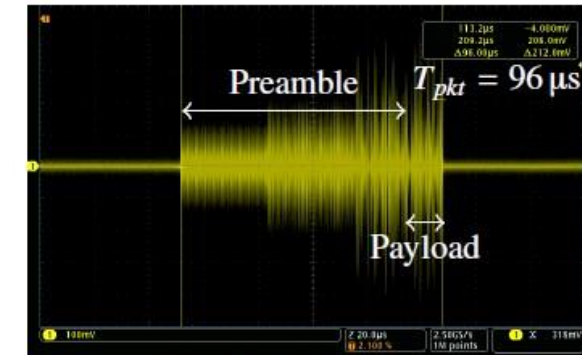
- Short packets (~10 bytes)
- Short range (~10 m)
- Static channel → low mobility

Progresses (2019)

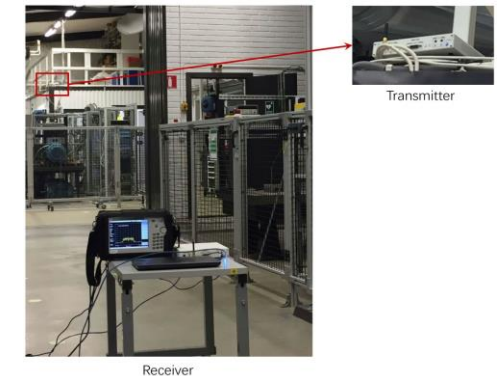
- Fully-functional WiHP PHY (TX and RX) implemented in FPGA
- $F_s = 100\text{MHz}$  and  $BW = 50\text{MHz}$ , **minimal slot =  $6.72 \mu\text{s}$**



(c) WirelessHP 8-PSK

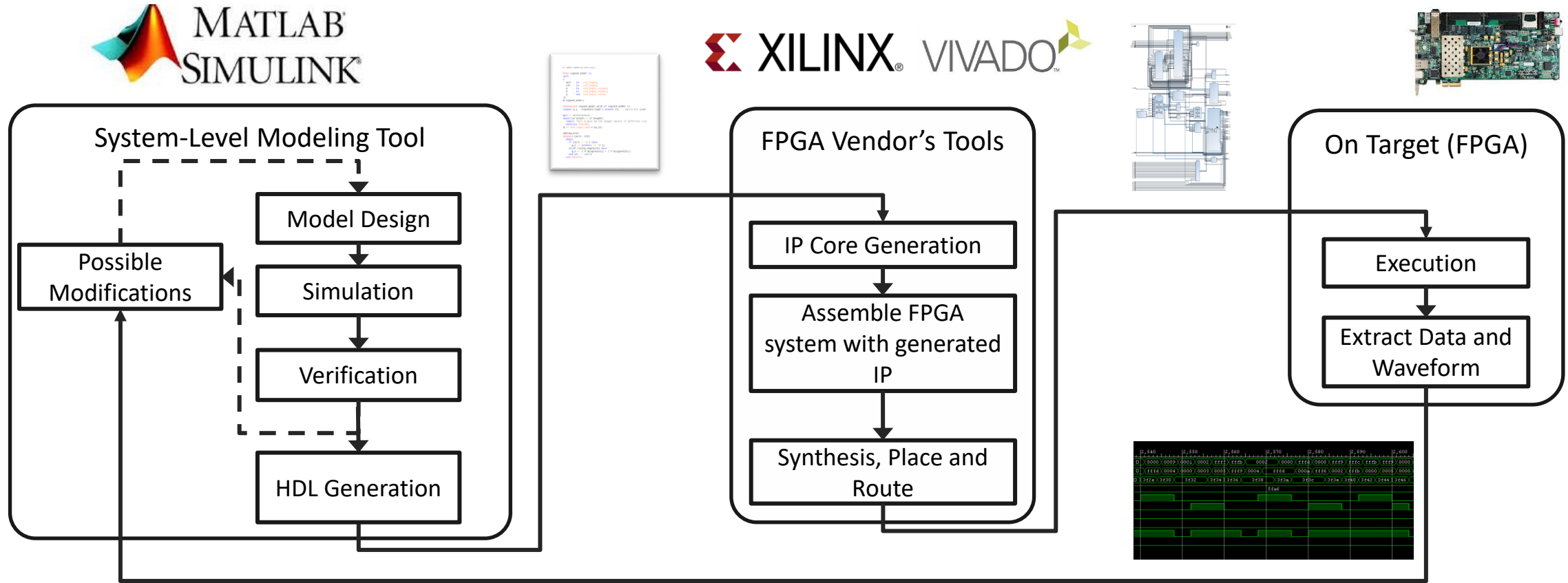


(d) WLAN 8-PSK



[1] Ming Zhan, **Zhibo Pang**, Dacfe Dzong, Michele Luisotto, Kan Yu, Ming Xiao, "Towards High-performance Wireless Control:  $10e^{-7}$  Packet Error Rate in Real Factory Environments", *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics*, 2019.  
 [2] Michele Luisotto, **Zhibo Pang**, Dacfe Dzong, "High-Performance Wireless Networks for Industrial Control Applications: New Targets and Feasibility", *Proceedings of the IEEE*, Vol 107, Iss 6, Page(s): 1074-1093, 2019

# WirelessHP methodology -- model-based development of FPGA-based SDR



- Reduced engineering efforts: from x 10 man-years → x 10 man-months
- Enabling the shift of exploration: from communication company → automation company

[1] Henrik Hellström, Michele Luvisotto; Roger N. Jansson, **Zhibo Pang**; “Software-Defined Wireless Communication for Industrial Control: A Realistic Approach”, *IEEE Industrial Electronics Magazine*, 2019

[2] Michele Luvisotto; Zhibo Pang; Roger N. Jansson, “Fast prototyping of industrial wireless communications”, *ABB Review*, Issue 2, 2020



# WirelessHP physical layer – error correction coding

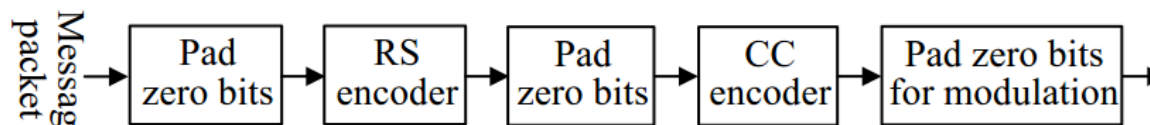
Stressing the limits of PER in realistic environments **before retransmissions** are applied in higher layers

## Design principles:

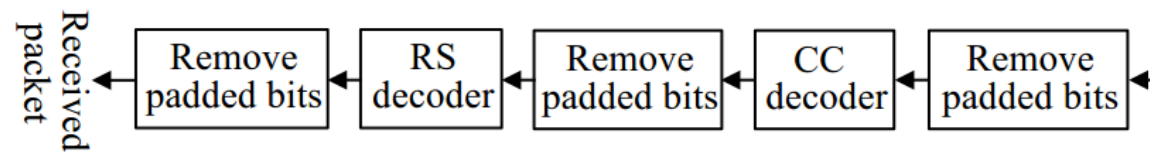
- The modern iterative decoding-based codes are suboptimal for short packets and low latency
- The classic block codes look more promising
- Retransmissions e.g. HARQ in higher layers can be applied, at the expense of latency

## Implementation:

- Coding: Reed Solomon (RS) combined with convolutional codes (CC) codes
- Decoding: Viterbi and Berlekamp-Massey (BM) algorithms
- Various coding parameters are compared



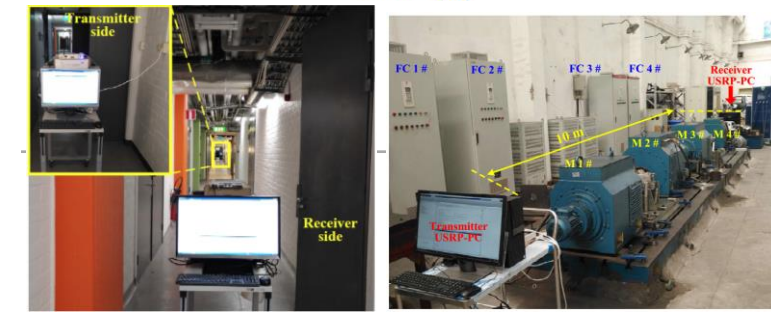
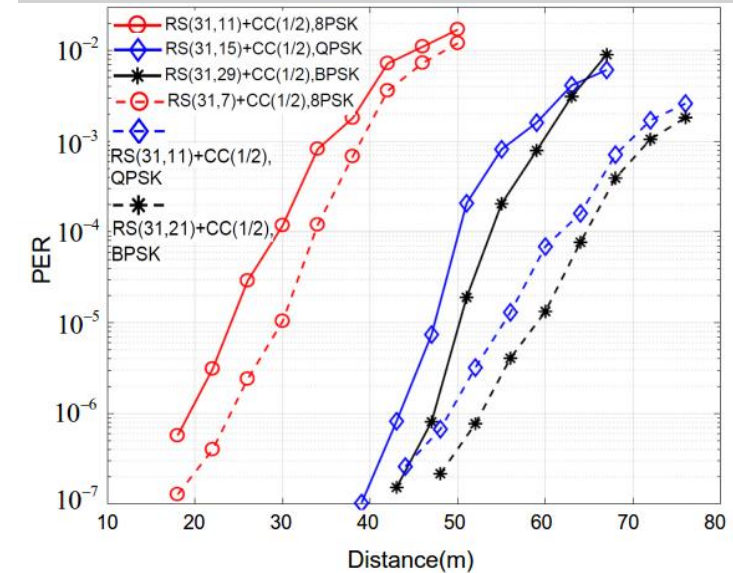
(a) Encoding at the transmitter side



(b) Decoding at the receiver side

## Results:

- **PER < 10e-7 in realistic industrial environments (BW 5MHz, 100bits)**



[1] Ming Zhan, **Zhibo Pang**, Dacfeiy Dzung, Ming Xiao, “Channel Coding for High Performance Wireless Control in Critical Applications: Survey and Analysis”, *IEEE Access*, Vol. 6, 2018

[2] Ming Zhan, **Zhibo Pang**, Ming Xiao, Michele Luvisotto, Dacfeiy Dzung, “Wireless High Performance Communications: Improving Effectiveness and Creating Ultrahigh Reliability with Channel Coding”, *IEEE Industrial Electronics Magazine*, Vol 12, Iss 3, 2018

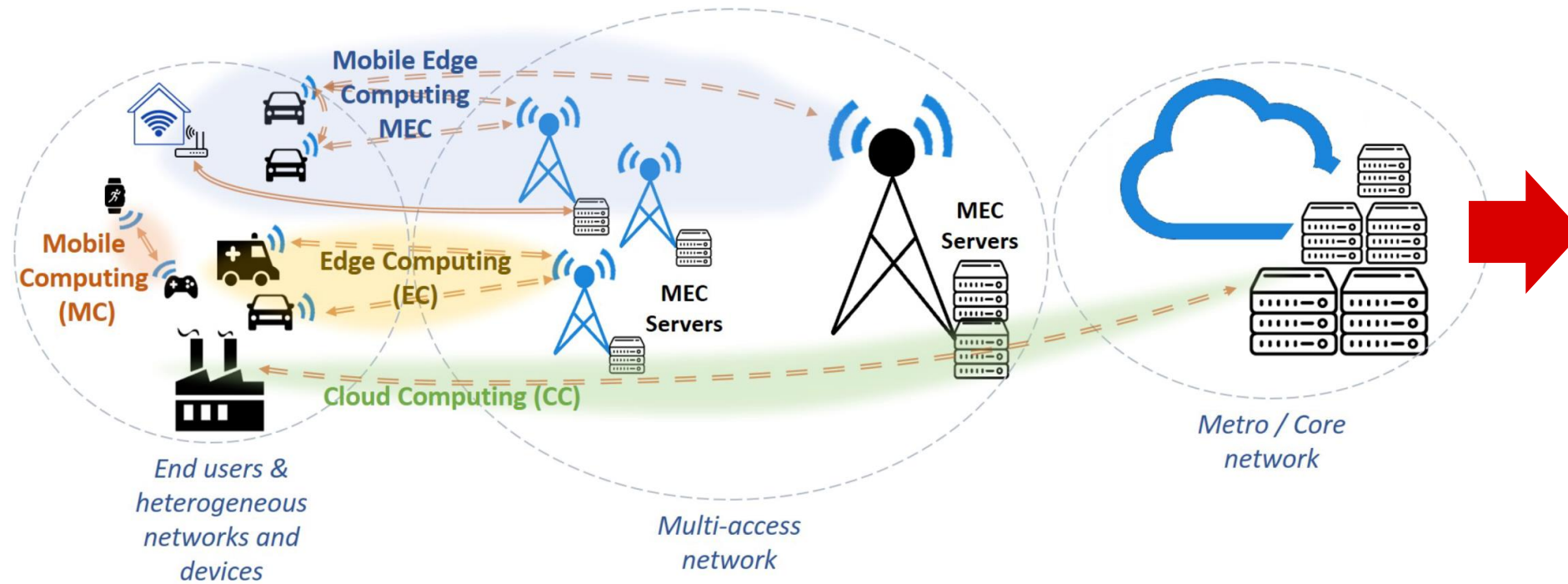
[3] Ming Zhan, **Zhibo Pang**, Dacfeiy Dzung, Michele Luvisotto, Kan Yu, Ming Xiao, “Towards High-performance Wireless Control: 10e<sup>-7</sup> Packet Error Rate in Real Factory Environments”, *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics*, 2019



# 5G for Cloud/Fog Automation

# Needs and opportunities

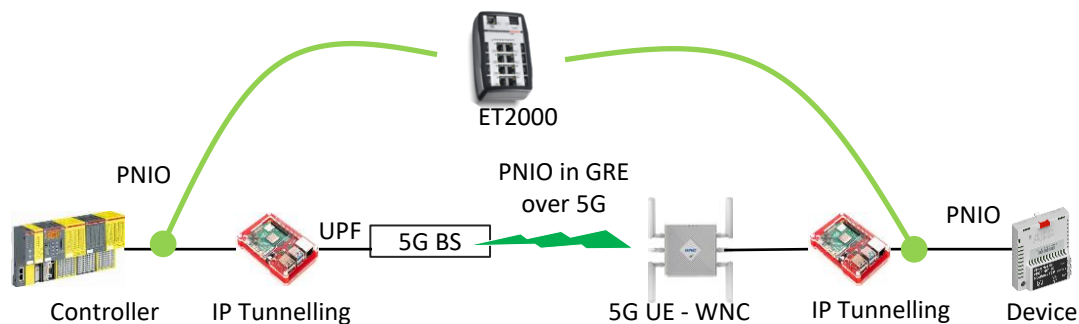
5G brings computation to mobile edge



- Data ownership
- Security and privacy
- New BM, e.g., XaaS

# Experimental test of COTS 5G in Level-1 control loop

Mid-band, eMBB, NSA, line-of-sight, lab condition (tested in Feb 2022)



**Unobtrusive** to control loop

**Insertion delay:** <1 $\mu$ s

**Latency error:** < 40ns

**Verified reliability:** < 10e-8

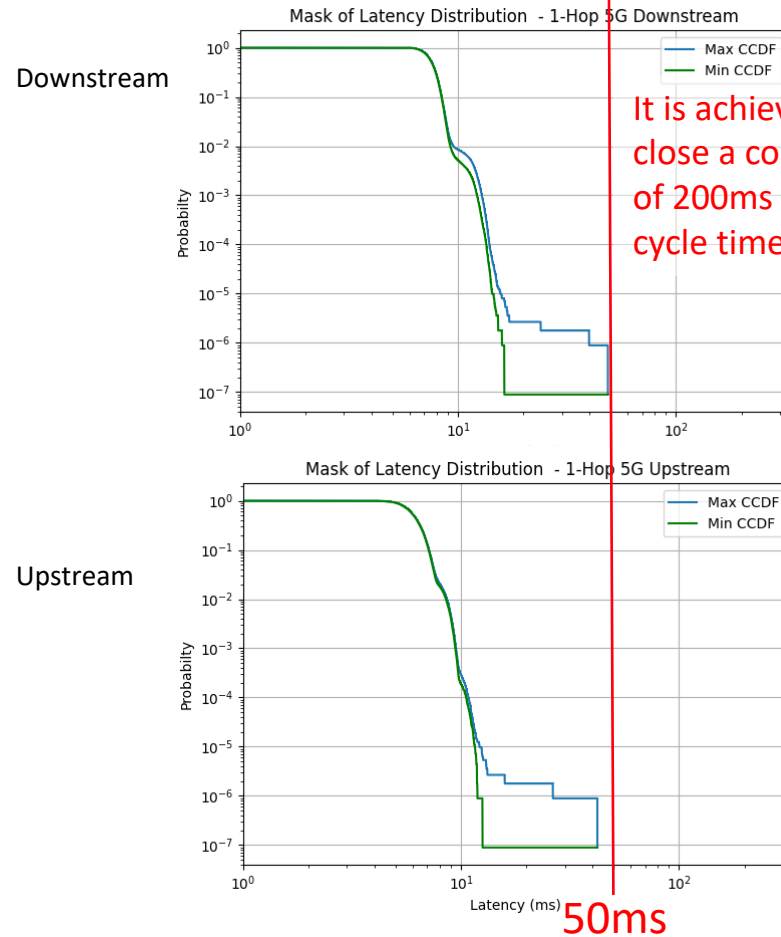
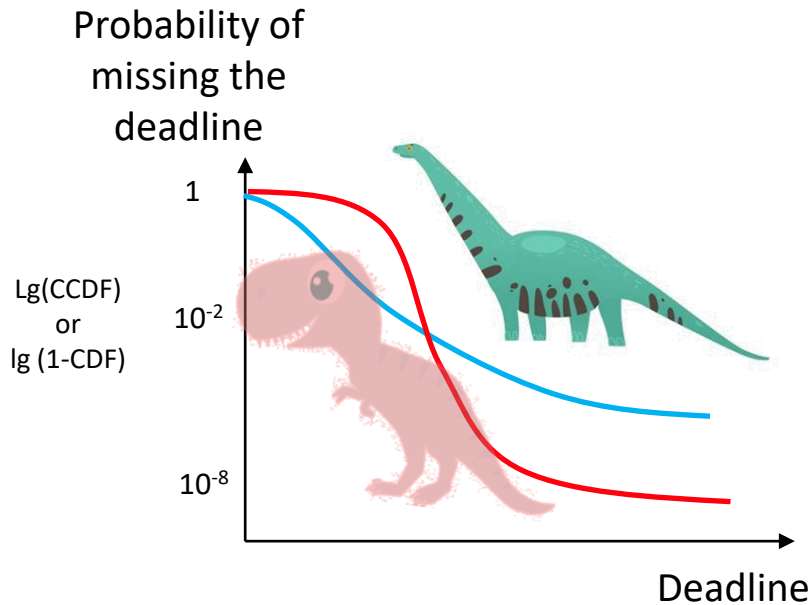
**Verified protocols:** PROFINET, PROFIsafe, Modbus TCP, EtherNet/IP, TCP, UDP, DDS, OPC UA

**Limitation:** Distance between probes: <100m (a)

Parameter	5G
Generation of standard	3GPP Release 15 (R15), eMBB profile
TC-IoT Controller	AC500 PLC
TC-IoT Device	ACS880 Drive
Deployment mode	Non-standalone (NSA)
TDD slot pattern	DDSU
User Equipment/ Access point	WNC SKM-5xE
Frequency band(s)	LTE: 1875-1880 MHz 5G: 3720-3800 MHz
Industrial Ethernet protocol	PROFINET RT
Distance of the wireless link	$\leq$ 10m
QoS at network and user equipment levels	No
Network type	Private network in office building
Application cycle time	16ms
Packet rate	62.5 packets/sec in each direction (from Controller to Drive and vice versa)
Packet length	76 bytes
Timeout limit of packet matching	300ms
Experiment duration	112 hours
Other parameters	Line of sight (LoS) between UE and BS, radio resource pre-allocation enabled

# Latency and reliability of COTS 5G

The “Dinosaur Curve” (tested in Feb 2022, settings in previous pages)



- 5G has achieved a lot
- URLLC not there yet
- Lab results are encouraging, but field tests are necessary:
  - Field survivability
  - Scalability

## Known functional gaps of COTS 5G

to integrate 5G in Level 1 control network (tested in Feb 2022, settings in previous pages)

It lacks support to layer2 Ethernet PDU



Cannot fully support layer2 industrial ethernet e.g., PROFINET

It lacks time synchronization signaling for user devices



Difficult or infeasible to realize time-critical application

It lacks support to IP/UDP multicast



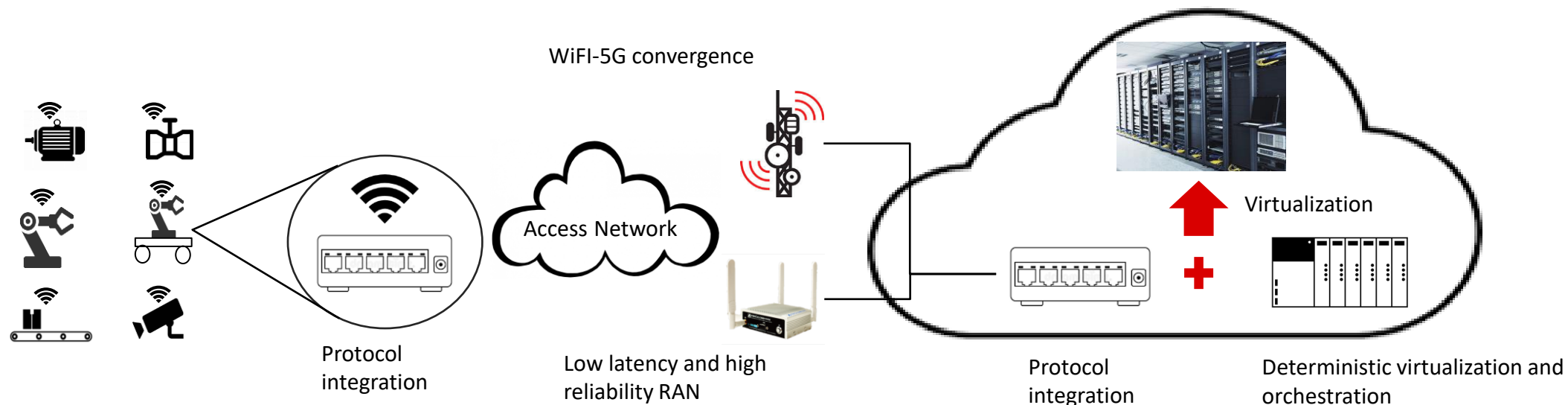
Difficult or infeasible to realize time-critical PubSub e.g., DDS, OPC UA PubSub

A short red horizontal line.

# Communication-Computing-Control Co-Design

# The CFA requires end-to-end determinism, not only the network itself

Protocol conversion, wired-wireless integration, virtualization, security, safety

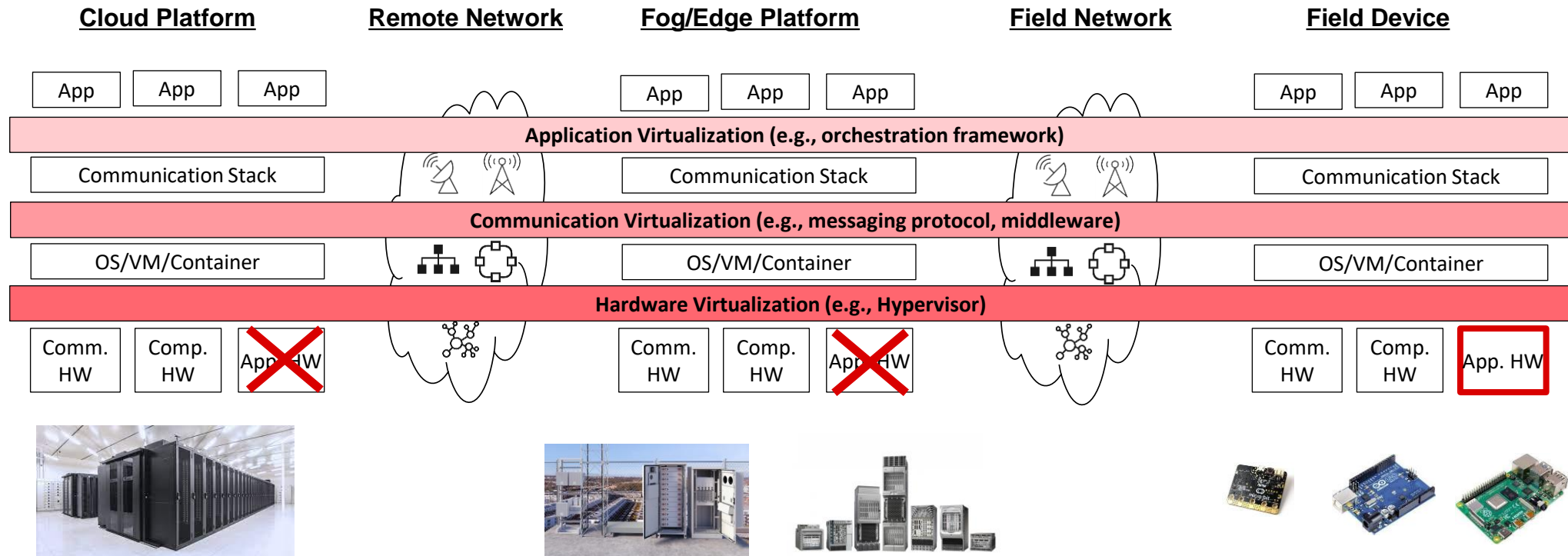


End-to-end latency <math>< 1 \sim 100\text{ms}</math>, availability > 99.999%, depending on the equipment under control.  
 OT cybersecurity (e.g., IEC 62443), and functional safety (e.g., IEC61508, ISO 13849)



# The CFA requires deterministic virtualization, the full-stack!

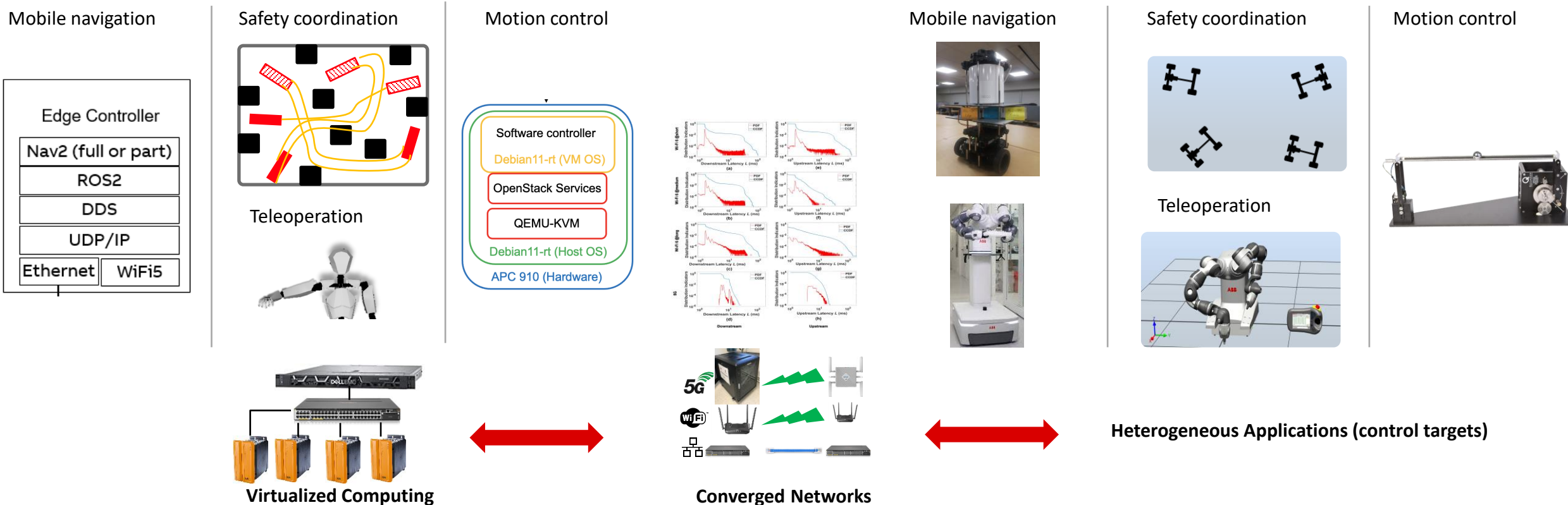
What is new? 3 virtualization layers are inserted for executing control logics



The inserted virtualization layers enables the “Lower-Layer Independence”, protects the business interests of vendors, but also brings in some “black holes” of overheads.

# Converged Control Platform by the Cloud/Fog Automation

Heterogeneous control applications over unified infrastructure by virtualized computing and converged networks



Value for end customers are flexibility, scalability, cost reduction, autonomy, open ecosystem, “digital life cycle”, ...

# Experimental evaluation of computing latencies

The essence of computing latencies are the same as the communication latencies

## Real-Time hypervisor is mature for 10ms level applications:

- 100us level OS delay by free Linux QEMU-KVM with RT patch (free equivalent of OpenShift)

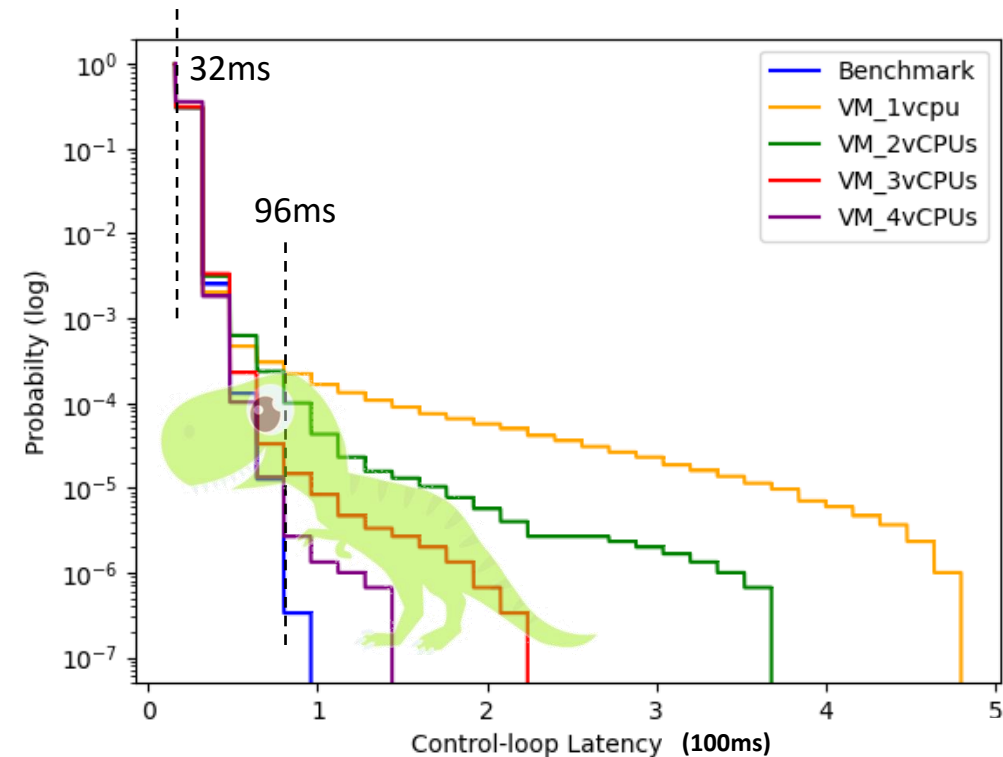
## Computing and communication orchestration is key:

- Network interface allocation
- CPU allocation
- Task and data routing

## Implementation of protocol stacks is crucial when using virtualization which is less deterministic :

- If a task misses the deadline, end-to-end latency increases 1 cycle time, e.g., 1us more processing time causes 16ms more control latency.

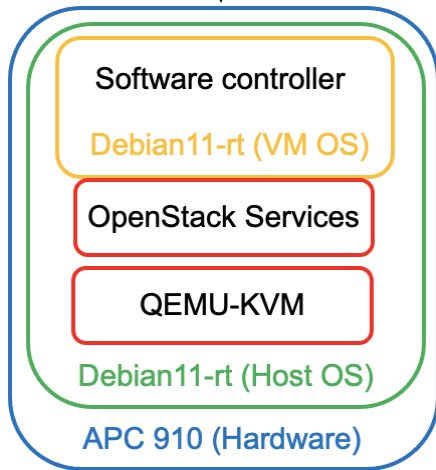
Performance Comparison with WiFi and 16 ms Cycle Time



Settings: WiFi 6, controller in OpenStack. no Latency-aware control

# Latency-aware control

Verified on SoftPLC + UDP + OpenStack

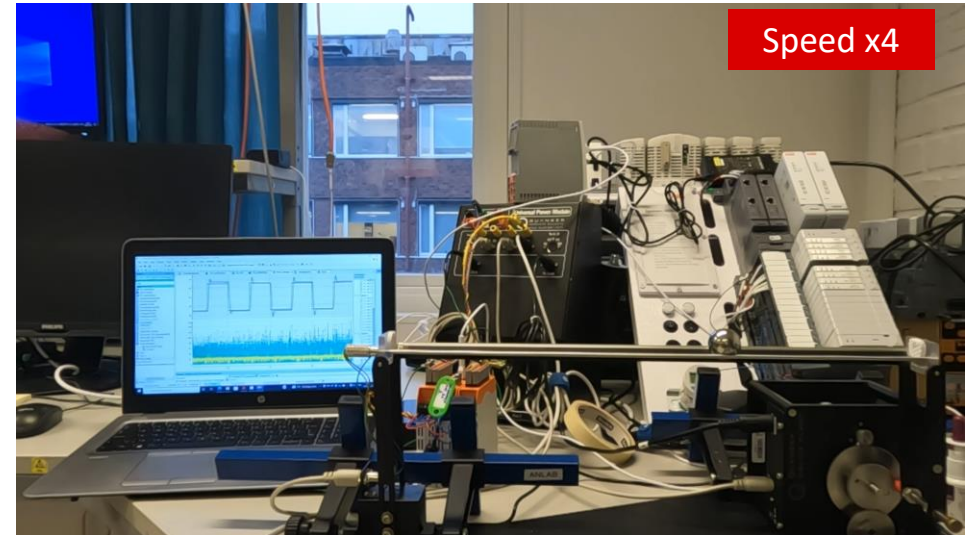


Inner Loop (P Controller):

$$\begin{cases} G_{sm}(s) = \frac{K_{sm}e^{-sL}}{s(rs + 1)} \\ F_{inner}(s) = \frac{1}{\lambda s + 1} \end{cases} \Rightarrow C_{inner}(s) = \frac{1}{K_{sm}(\lambda + L)}$$

Outer Loop (PID Controller):

$$\begin{cases} G_{bb}(s) = \frac{K_{bb}e^{-sL}}{s^2} \\ \dots \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} C_{outer}(s) = \frac{f_2 s^2 + f_1 s + 1}{K_{bb} t_0 s} \cdot \frac{1}{\beta s + 1} \\ F_{outer}(s) = \frac{1}{\beta s + 1} \end{cases}$$



The Latency-Aware Control can tolerate more communication and computing latencies. After this, Ball&Beam control accuracy looks same when Ethernet, 5G, or WiFi6 combined with OpenStack or not.



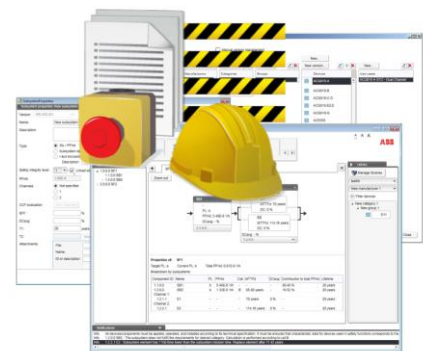
## Future perspectives

# Functional safety is a MUST in automation systems

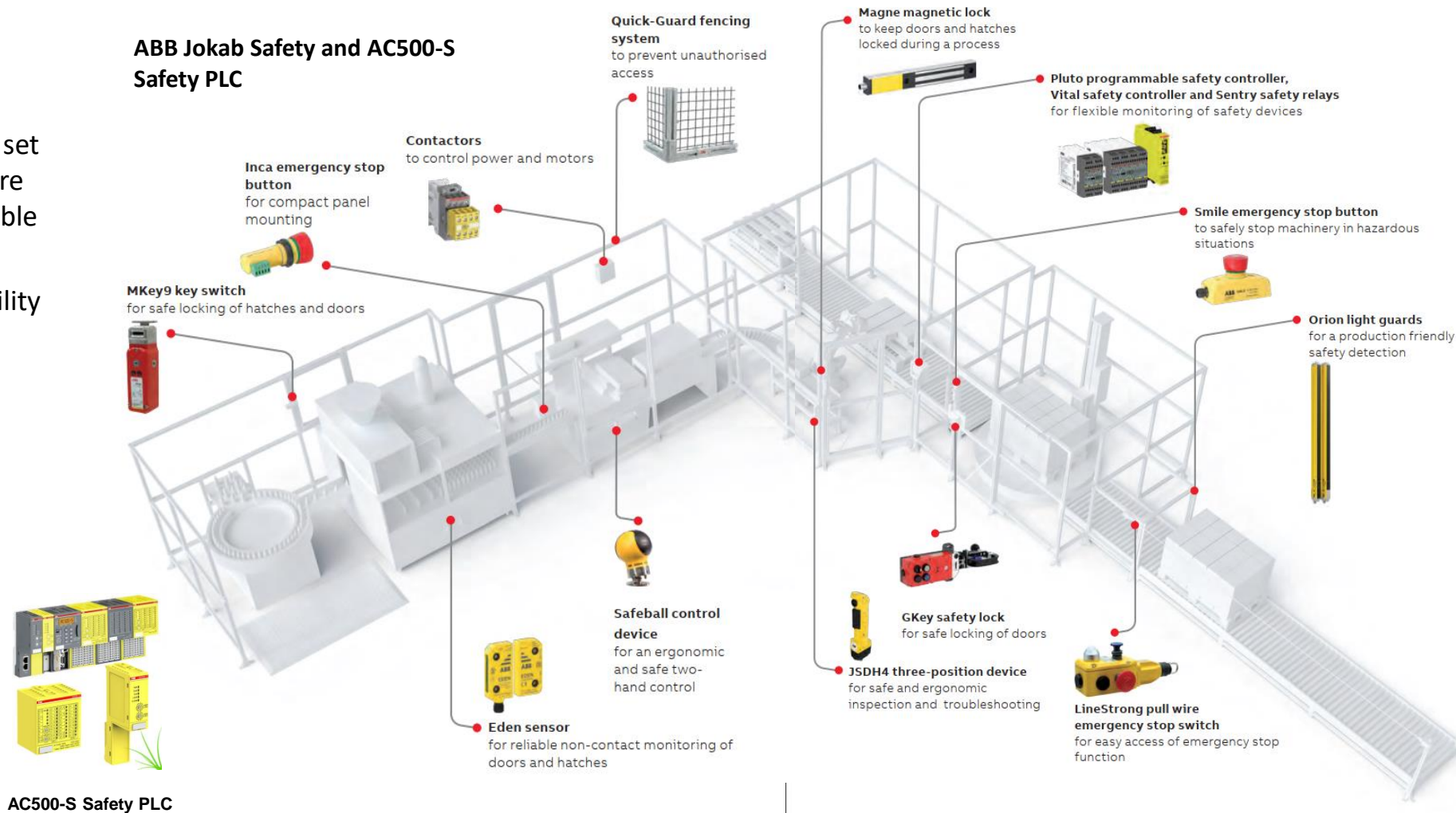
## Complete coverage

Functional safety system is a large set of hardware and software which are tightly integrated as an indispensable part of any production systems.

It covers the entire production facility and process.



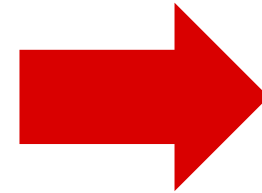
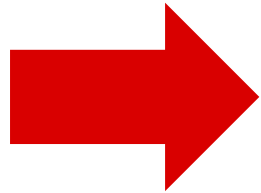
Functional Safety Design Tool



AC500-S Safety PLC

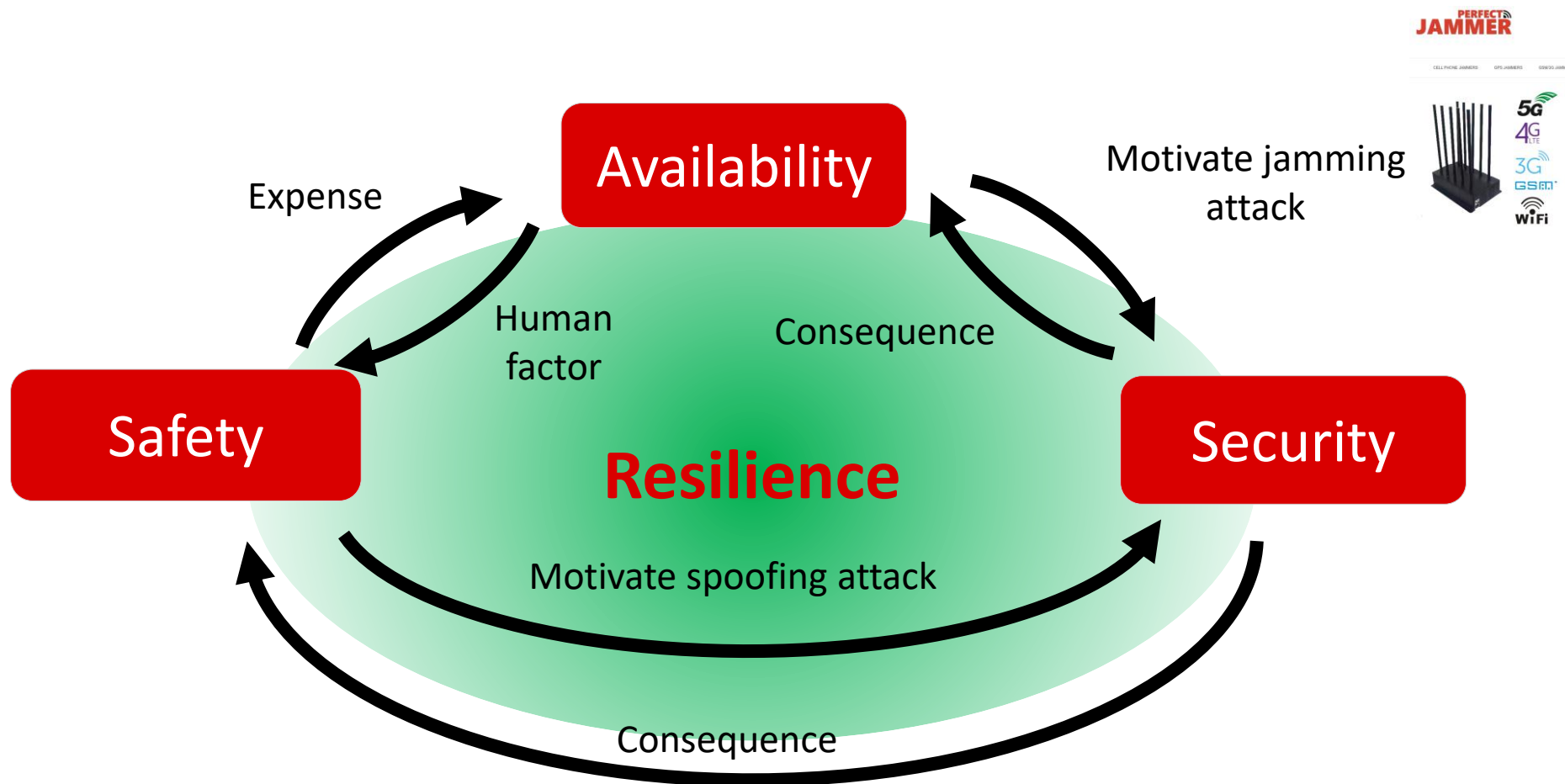
# Grand challenge: safety over open infrastructures in open environments

Safety is a must for mobile robots, and in general, CFA for industrial cyber physical systems



# Extra complexity and challenges

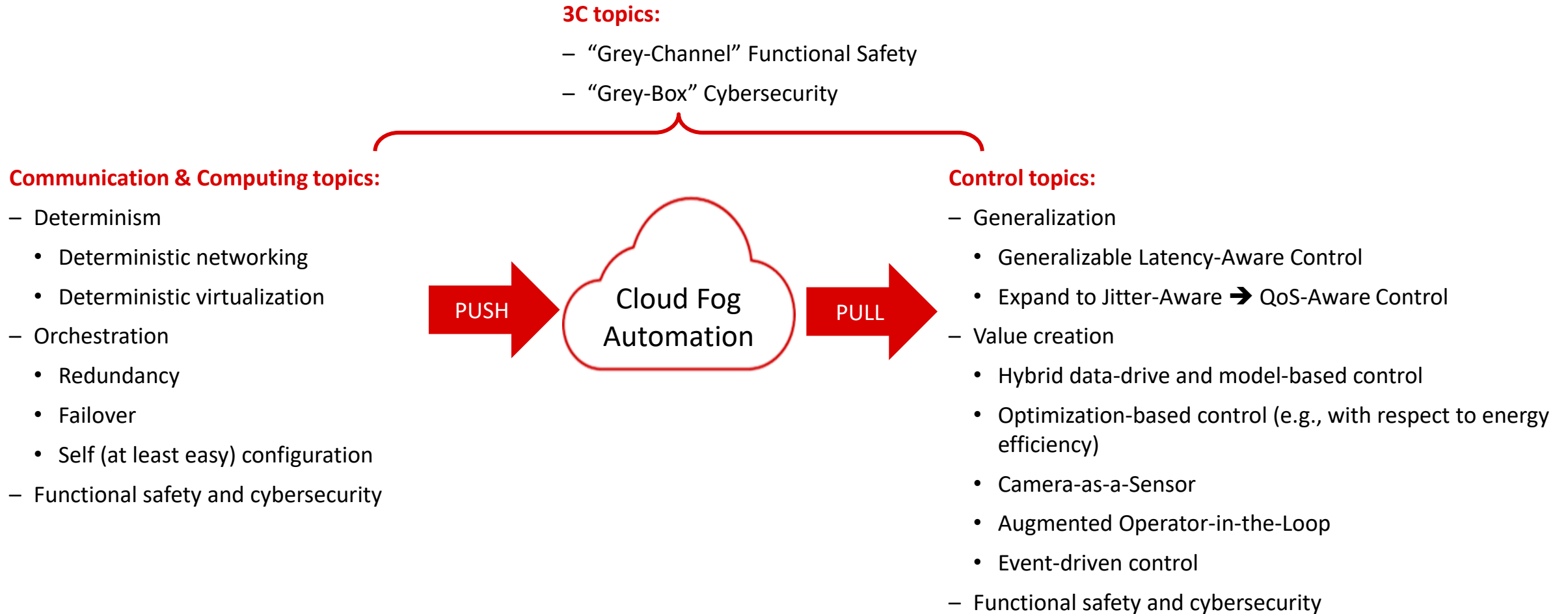
Relations between the 3 major concerns





# Future perspectives

Synergy of the “3C” is the key for success



# Swedish Wireless Innovation Network (SweWIN)

A competence center where sustainability and energy efficiency in both wireless communication and in the use of sustainable materials are in focus. (Advanced digitalization)



- Hosted KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- Funded by Vinnova, companies, and academia
- Total budget: 90MSEK (~8,2MUSD)
- 5 years: 2024-2028 (+ 5 years possible)

## Research institutes



## Large enterprises



## Start-ups



