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ETSI Conference on Non-Terrestrial Networks, a Native Component of 6G.

3-4 April 2024

Summary of Sessions (1 to 7) Source: Session Moderators.

#etsiNTNevent

ETSI - Conference on "Non-Terrestrial Networks, a Native Component of 6G"







(14) Posters in reception area, visit and ask questions



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Live art summary of all sessions



Remember to post your thoughts on social media <u>#etsiNTNevent</u>

> Quick surveys during each session, Overall event survey at end of day 2





ETS

Session#01: Moderated by David Boswarthick, Director NET, ETSI SETTING THE SCENE & DESCRIBING THE OPPORTUNITIES



Main Messages from the Session:

- Space enables global seamless connectivity for industry and society
- ESA provides significant funding for TN/NTN B5G and 6G projects
- 6G In-Orbit-Laboratory satellite (ESA funded) will be launched in two years.
- ESA 5G/6G Hub is available for 5G/6G TN/NTN testing
- Europe is investing significantly in B5G and 6G R&D with the SNS-JU programme that lasts almost a decade
- There are several technology challenges (currently in R&D) which will enable the full NTN integration in 6G (unified architecture)
- NTN needs to be considered early in 6G development with research in the areas of protocols and architecture
- NTN is already included in 5G and there a plans / roadmaps for further development of NTN integration in 6G
- 5G-NTN in 3GPP includes NR (New Radio) and also NTN-IoT. 6G-NTN should be an evolution of 5G-NTN enabling new uses cases not well supported by 5G-NTN. Native component refers to unified waveform fromReI-21 onwards

Main Findings from the Session:

- NTN has been recognized as a 'pivotal' element of 6G
- Extensive collaboration is essential between terrestrial, satellite and space communities
- Successful NTN integration requires:-
 - flexible regulatory frameworks
 - access to globally harmonized spectrum
 - transparent / rational licensing schemes
 - open global standards

- Important to create strong links between NTN research projects and (pre)-standardization activities in ETSI / 3GPP / others
- Consider further enablers / agreements to ensure good <u>cooperation</u> between the NTN and TN communities

Session#01: (Graphical Summary) SETTING THE SCENE & DESCRIBING THE OPPORTUNITIES





Session#02: *Moderated by Javier Albares Bueno, SNS-JU Office* **FUTURE NTN ENABLED USE CASES**

Main Messages from the Session:

- [EBU] THE M.A.R.S. STRATEGY (Multilayer, Anywhere, Resilient and Sustainable)
- [EBU] Broadcast is key for media and can also be a solution for emergency alerts on a global basis
- [Siemens] Satellite will not only transform safety and security but also railway operations and transport experience.
- [Airbus] 6G NTN is the standard of the future for the aviation industry but a global standard is needed.
- [Airbus] QoS is key, however different approach to cockpit operations, air traffic management and passenger experience.
- [Airbus] Likely impact of high sat capacity buildup will be lower price/Mb and a sharp increase in demand.
- [TCCA] PPDR is transitioning from 2G directly to 5G and beyond. Greater added value of 3GPP defined NTN solutions vs proprietary alternatives.
- [ESA] 10 cm positioning should be the objective of 6G-NTN. Important to find alternative to GNSS.

Main Findings from the Session:

- Only Satellite can provide truly global and ubiquitous coverage, but SatNets will still require terrestrial networks in the future
- Important role of AI technologies and Flexible satellite performance
- Next evolution will be about moving compute to space
- Broadband direct to mobile VSAT enabled by GEO/LEO constellations as an opportunity
- Main challenge is interoperability due to proprietary solutions and complex/fragmented ecosystem (both are related)
- 6G NTN adoption by the global telecom industry will pave the way towards universal modem based on a standard chipset
- Emergencies represent 0.1% of demand but 99.9% of relevance when there is a situation.
- Many future use cases are probably unknown today, lots of opportunities ahead.
- Automotive/Aviation/High Speed trains, Public safety and Agriculture voted as most promising by audience.

Suggested Actions / Way-forward from the Session:

- Incentivise maturity on Electronically Steerable Antennas and other key complementors of NTN connectivity
- Include new items (i.e. positioning) early in standardisation discussions
- Include regulators as an important stakeholder in standardisation discussions

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Session#02: (Graphical Summary) FUTURE NTN ENABLED USE CASES





Session#03: Moderated by Michael Short, SA Catapult TELCO & VENDOR VIEWS OF NTN-6G

Main Messages from the Session:

• TN/ NTN Convergence brings 2 sectors together that don`t know each other well or their respective strengths. This event shows high levels of enthusiasm for change and a more unified approach.

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- The market growth to 2030 is not purely about Volume (of Subscriptions) but also about Value (Use Cases and some Sectors in particular) and Variety (Coverage, Data speeds, IoT, Transport and Emergency services)
- We need to make the most of Cellular + satellite strengths, as we did with separate Cellular and Wi-Fi modes in earlier years
- 6G needs PNT independence from GPS

Main Findings from the Session:

- All IP networks & addressing need to be revisited by ETSI / IETF together but aiming for a single architecture. Full integration needs work
- Multisat and Multilink planning is needed, even if LEO may be an early priority
- Plan for the beginning of NTN and don't get distracted by `nice to haves` (boiling the ocean)
- Build on operator strengths in systems design and integration to meet user needs
- Recipe for change must include flexible spectrum policies and WRC 27 (`the dessert to complete the main meal`)
- ETSI is the place to do this TN/ NTN work
- Volume / spectrum consistency is vital for economies of scale. For user equipment at current volumes of 1Billion plus per annumstandards are vital

- Annual event and ETSI processes which are globally inclusive are both needed to show real progress
- Spectrum and Standards need strong linkage not just as an afterthought
- Plugfests and regular ETSI communications needed for TN / NTN convergence
- Ongoing ESA / SNS / Horizon Europe will be needed to 2030 in Europe for convergent standards work
- Global planning forum needed to help continents harmonise NTN requirements 6G can no longer run off solo without this

Session#03: (Graphical Summary) TELCO & VENDOR VIEWS OF NTN-6G





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Session#04: Moderated by Maria Guta, ESA SATELLITE OPERATORS & VENDORS VIEWS

Main Messages from the Session:

 [Viasat/Inmarsat] Power/energy efficient –more scalability/flexibility/lean design – TN/NTN complementary network co-design, security/resiliency, better forward/backward compatibility, leverage AI, optimisation of IP/MQUiC stack

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- [SES] Support different SNO/MNO cooperation schemes/Seamless reliable roaming between SNO and MNO operations, Integrated unified 3D TN/NTN network with multi-orbit and multi-frequency connectivity management/6G Multi-link and multi-band access scheme with integrated RIC and Sat Resource management/rebalance NGSO/GSO in 3D-NTN design, benefit of unified 5GMBS solutions for cost/QoS support /terminal development
- [EUTELSAT] Group]Enabling technologies OBP/OISL/Flexible resources management/beam-shaping/hopping antennas, optimisation of air interface/terminals development/GNSS free operations
- [ECHOSTAR] Seamless integration TN/NTN/Cost driven TN/NTN co-design/ NTN 6G design to maximise 6G Benefits/dynamic instantly adjustment to traffic & operations conditions/optimise multi-orbit QoS support/maximise energy & spectral efficiency in 6G air interface /Fully seamless NTN/TN to enhance values for end-users
- [THALES] Proposed KPIs. Vertical terminals classes/proposed radio interface/RAN features (e.g. GNSS free operations, Low SNR operation/AI driven interference mitigation/), as well as SA features (e.g. /secure architectures/smooth migration/scalable system design/ SW regenerative payloads/smart orchestration -service chaining-routing/green design for space and e2e TN/NTN system/JSAC support/
- [AIRBUS] Graceful integration of 3GPP features in NTN design/prioritised RAN features/Satellite friendly design & implementation (reduced On-board complexity)/FR2FR2 VSAT support is primary/secure architectures/scalable system design/GNSS free operations/AI driven interference mitigation/Regenerative re-purposable multi-mission payloads/support of JSAC&JPAS missions/multi-tenant NTN/TN network topology management and resources orchestration incl. frequency spectrum management

Session#04: Moderated by Maria Guta, ESA SATELLITE OPERATORS & VENDORS VIEWS

Main Findings from the Session:

- NTN constraints in design, operations & services provision drive smooth migration of 3GPP 5G adv. to 6G technology in evolutionary steps
- Holistic e2e TN/NTN complementary networks co-design for infrastructure cost design, reduced carbon footprint, support of QoS, multipath/broadcast
- Multi-orbit multi-tenant TN/NTN networks topology and services orchestration and resources management/seamless TN/NTN roaming, mutli orbit terminals/multi frequency operations and spectrum management/3GPP NTN specific and auxiliary technology co-design
- Optimised placement of RAN and Core/Edge functionalities in TN/NTN (regenerative) co-designed networks trading off complexity/performance/cost/operations ease
- Space Community needs to response to elevated expectations with innovative, cost effective, sustainable solutions that permit ecosystem enforcement, open multi-tenant deployments for viable TN/NTN
- Importance of WRC 27 for NTN items

- Optimise of 3GPP process –use of automation where and as appropriate
- Consolidate vertical terminal classes and KPIs for 6G NTN use cases
- Voice coordinated approach to 6G NTN standardisation
- Reinforce public and private support & industry co-investment to development of TN/NTN solutions
- Support European technology autonomy and propose competitive NTN solutions
- Reinforce collaborative co-creation, co-design early co-experimentation (also in orbit) & co-operation of TN/NTN & introduce agility & reduce time to market
- Propose plausible service exploitation models & business interfaces between TN/NTN & verticals for multi-tenant network service provision
- Time to pass from intentions to actions Bring solutions to market

Session#04: (Graphical Summary) SATELLITE OPERATOR & VENDOR VIEWS OF NTN-6G





Session#05: Moderated by Bernard Barani, 6G-IA (1 of 2) EC FUNDED / CELTIC / SNS / OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS



Main Messages from the Session:

- Multiple R&I projects, SNS, cluster 4 are working in the technologies that will shape 6G Standards
- Alignment with multi-layer satcom systems at architectural level is the way forward, part of 6G native (no add on)
- Challenging use cases (e.g. Direct com to HH device) to drive requirements. Coverage, rural as common factor.
- Reference architecture for both TN-NTN needed
- Overall network and service management to be designed E2E across multiple domains, MANO solution.
- Communication and computing continuum to be considered for TN-NTN integration with support of distributed processing, edge clouds and AI/ML
- R&D in time to contribute to standardisation work opening under Release 20. 3G PP RAN and ITU key but not necessarily the only ones.
- Complexity drives needs for PoC's, Demonstrators, and experimental facilities.
- The Open approach is useful.

Session#05: Moderated by Bernard Barani, 6G-IA (2 of 2) EC FUNDED / CELTIC / SNS / OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS



Main Findings from the Session:

- Multiple architectural models for integration being considered, each with pro and cons:
- Significant on-going work at RAN level: waveforms, multi bands/connectivity; seamless HO; spectrum management and sharing, GNSS free positioning, adapted protocols (RACH..), impact of direct device connectivity
- Also, significant work at resource management level. Computing and storage resources adapted to account for NTN dynamicity requirements.
- Innovative technologies like AI/ML targeted for TN also part of 6G framework but end to end integration requires significant efforts (already in the TN case)
- Demonstrator/experimental environments are being put in place, will require further expansion for full E2E validation/demo capabilities.
- Work at chipset level may need further expansion
- Most of the contemplated technologies have a potential towards standardisation
- Sustainability issues

- Engage! Only though collaboration EU can become relevant in the 6G definition
- Consider standardisation as a systematic output, beyond project life-time;
- Actively prepare for upcoming milestones: 3G PP SAI use case workshop in May 2024, 3GPP kick off workshop for Release 20 in 2025, Starting NTN Framework under ITU-D
- Standardisation bodies beyond ITU / 3GPP to be considered

Session#05: (Graphical Summary) EC FUNDED / CELTIC / SNS / OTHER RESEARCH PROJECTS





Session#06: Moderated by Stefano Cioni, ESA ESA ENABLED RESEARCH PROJECTS



Main Messages from the Session:

- SSIG have had a great impact on 3GPP NTN contributions. Collaboration is paramount
- 6G NTN shall be an evolution (not a revolution), since many proof of concepts are now available
- 5G NTN technical evidence is achieved, it is time to meet the market expectations

Main Findings from the Session:

- OpenAirInterface™ upgraded for supporting GEO/LEO transparent architectures
- 5G architectural split Option-7 is very promising for NTN systems
- NTN key features (e.g., SIB-19, triggers for conditional HO) successful demonstration > O-RAN A1/E2 interfaces

- Promote Option-7 split in 3GPP NTN (e.g., Release 19 / Release 20)
- Propose a reference multi-layer satellite network for 6G-NTN
- Inclusion of 3GPP NTN features in the O-RAN framework
- Improve the information exchange among O-RAN and 3GPP SA5

Session#06: (Graphical Summary) ESA ENABLED RESEARCH PROJECTS





Session#07: Moderated by Alessandro Vanelli-Coralli, 6G-NTN Project Lead NATIONAL & GLOBAL INITIATIVES FOR NTN-6G



Main Messages from the Session (Integration/synergies/etc):

- [AB] 6G extends mobile networks to airspace and non-terrestrial networks.
- [UB] Alignment of spectrum bands and regulatory aspects (at least across Europe) is needed
- [VTT] Direct satellite-to-handheld connections will be a game changer for many use cases such as public safety
- [TNO/UniFi] Synergies between Free Space Optical (FSO) and radio (RF) communications a promising concept to meet 6G KPIs.
- [DT] TN/NTN differ wrt. service, capacity/performance, system architecture, component technologies, ecosystem integration is beneficial
- [UniS/UniFi] Open networking approach and network orchestration techniques is being performed in 3D ML architecture
- [AB/UniFi] Early technology demonstrations essential to support standardization process. Test should be open and shared no duplication.

Main Findings from the Session (Research):

- [AB] Research needs to address the complexities especially in term of the non-terrestrial network element.
- [UB] Research needs to address gNb functionality handover, network service continuity across countries, functional split options, security
- [UniFi/UB] AI/ML management based on SDN/NFV to be tested evaluated; AI not necessarily a game-changer
- [VTT] Advanced machine-type connectivity and energy-efficient services require research on RedCap over satellite
- [TNO] Further development of FSO and RF, and relevant network architecture, to meet 6G
- [DT] TN/NTN (airborne as well) unification needed without losing unique advantages of each systems

Suggested Actions / Way-forward from the Session (Standardization)

- [UB]/ UniFi] Input of NTN specific uses cases to SA1 now.
- [UniS/ UniFi/TNO] Spectrum sharing and interference mitigation needs more emphasis
- [UniS] Evolutionary approach from 5G advanced.
- [TNO] Standardization (ETSI) of FSO communications to meet the X-hauling requirements identified by 3GPP.
- [VTT] RedCap over satellite in Rel. 19+ (link level protocols and mobility management)
- [DT] Solutions needed for seamless service continuity on the air interface and IP routing in the sky on the feeder link

Session#07: (Graphical Summary) NATIONAL & GLOBAL INITIATIVES FOR NTN-6G





Thanks to All



