



QUASAR



## Cognitive Radio for Secondary Spectrum Access

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BT Research and Technology & QUASAR, EU, FP7

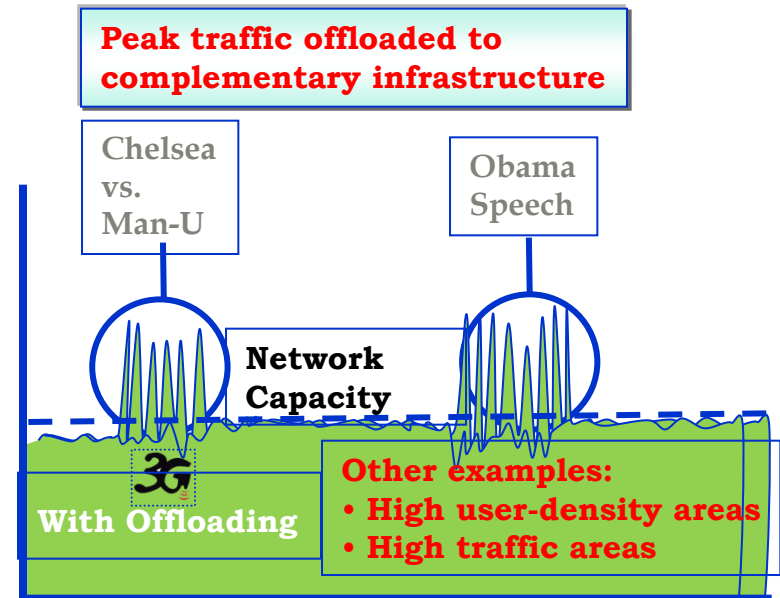
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# Content

- What we do, why we are interested in secondary access
- EU collaborative projects: QUASAR, QOSMOS
- BT's Research on cognitive access to TV White Spaces
- QUASAR's initial research results (6 months)
  - Sharing models and scenarios
  - Methodology for assessing secondary usage opportunity
  - Interference tolerance of (legacy) primary systems
- Conclusions

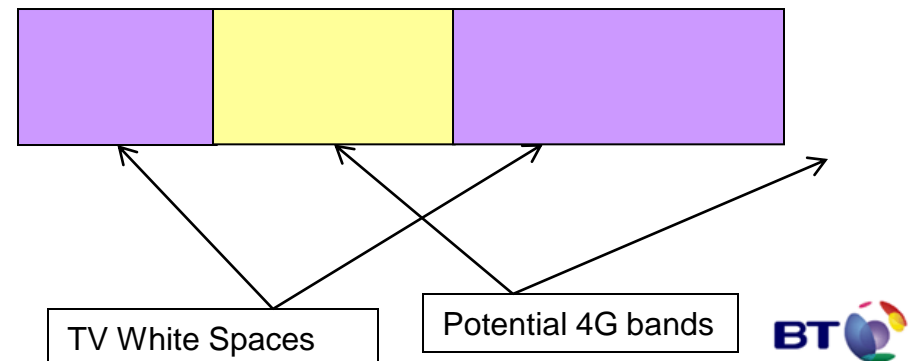
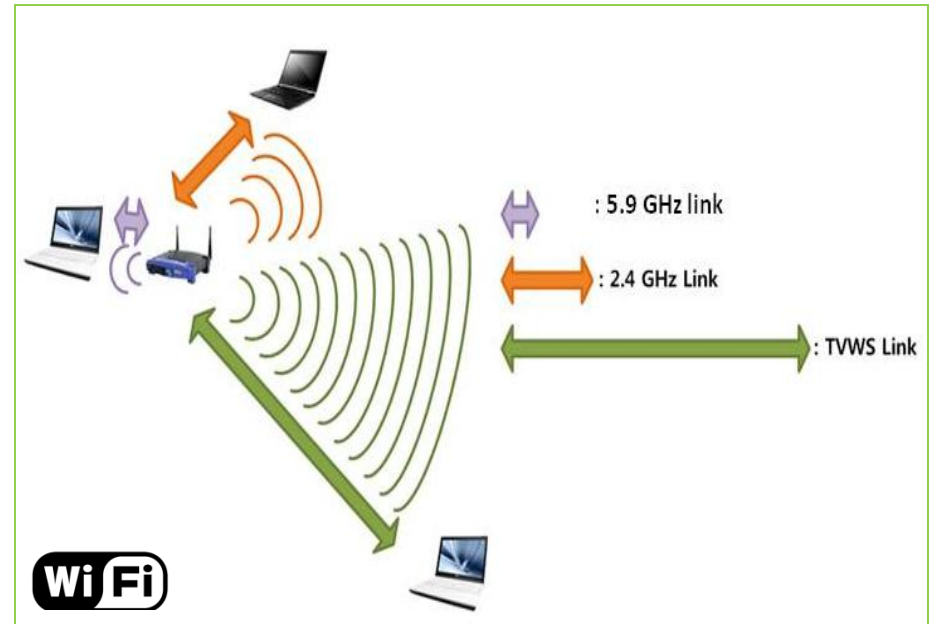
# Who we are and what we do

- ▶ One of the world's leading communication services companies, providing services in 170 countries
- ▶ Mainly a fixed-line operator. However
- ▶ Largest supplier of managed backhaul services to UK's cellular operators
- ▶ Mobile voice and data supplier to both business and consumer segments through MVNO agreements
- ▶ Largest WiFi hotspot estate in the UK (~150K) and one of the largest WiFi community networks in the world: BT FON, over 1M members
- ▶ WiFi offload for cellular operators
- ▶ Communication infrastructure for UK's smart grids (just announced)



# Why is TVWS spectrum interesting to BT?

- TVWS is licence-exempt spectrum in the very desirable UHF bands (UK, Europe)
- On average a significant ~100-150 MHz TVWS is available in the UK
- TVWS can deliver significantly longer range and better penetration through walls and buildings compared to 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz ISM bands
- It could work as **super-WiFi** or for congestion relief, but may also enable entirely new services for BT's customers
- TVWS could be attractive to some cellular operators, as a licence-exempt addition to their licensed 4G spectrum, e.g. for data offload and wireless backhaul



# Going beyond TVWS, a spectrum portfolio

The screenshot displays a software window titled "Cognitive Spectrum Access". The interface is divided into several sections:

- Network Tasks:** Includes "Refresh spectrum list" and "Setup an automated spectrum manager".
- Related Tasks:** Includes "Learn about cognitive spectrum access", "Change the order of preferred spectrum", and "Change advanced settings".
- BT Logo:** Located at the bottom left of the interface.
- Choose a spectrum band:** The main area, which contains a list of available spectrum bands. Each band is represented by a radio tower icon, a name, a cost/availability description, and a signal strength indicator.

**Choose a spectrum band**  
Click on the item below to connect to BT Network via one of the available spectrum bands

Band Name	Cost / Availability	Connection Status
TV White Spaces	free of charge (cognitive only)	Connected
Radar spectrum	free of charge (cognitive only)	Automatic
3G Spectrum Vodafone	£0.0012 per second (licensed or cognitive only)	
ISM bands	free of charge (best effort)	
2G Spectrum Orange	£0.0005 per second (licensed or cognitive only)	
3G Spectrum 3	£0.0014 per second (licensed or cognitive only)	

At the bottom right of the interface, there is a "Disconnect" button.

# European collaborations

- **QoS MOS – Integrated Project (IP)**
  - 36 months started 1/1/10.
  - 16 European partners + Japan,
  - BT is coordinating partner
  - Addressing QoS, mobility, plus spectrum portfolio management and proof-of-concept demonstrations
- **QUASAR – Specific Targeted Research Project (STREP)**
  - 30 months started 1/1/10
  - 11 European partners +Korea  
4 Regulators (UK,GR, SWE, FI)
  - BT leads WP1 (use cases, regulatory & business)
  - Addressing primary user's interference limits, multiple secondary users, primary-secondary collaboration, regulatory models and requirements, business models, use of utility functions, from spectrum holes to spectrum opportunities

- Also UK-India and UK-China collaborations on CR/4G
- Open to new ones

## At A Glance: QUASAR

*Quantitative  
Assessment of  
Secondary  
Spectrum Access*



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*Project website: [www.quasarspectrum.eu](http://www.quasarspectrum.eu)*

**Partners:** KTH (SE), Ericsson AB (SE), RWTH Aachen University (DE), TKK (FI), Yonsei University (Rep. of Korea), BT PLC (UK), BNetzA (DE), Ss Cyril & Methodius University (Macedonia), PTS (SE), Ofcom (UK), FICORA (FI)

**Duration:** *January 2010 – June 2012*

**Funding scheme:** *STREP*

**Total Cost:** *€5.049m*

**EC Contribution:** *€2.996m*

**Contract Number:** *INFSO-ICT-248303*

## BT's Research on Cognitive Access to TVWS

# Industry standards

- **IEEE 802.22**
  - PHY AND MAC for Rural broadband in TVWS. Final draft expected 2010
- **IEEE 802.18**
  - Co-existence in TVWS
- **IEEE 802.11af**
  - PHY and MAC for WiFi operation in TVWS
- **CogNeA/ECMA392\***
  - PHY and MAC , mainly for home network applications in TVWS (HDTV streaming), 1<sup>st</sup> draft published in 2009
- **WiFi Alliance\***
  - TV White Space Marketing task force formed (July 2010). Focus is on creating a certification program for enhanced WiFi services TVWS
- **ETSI RSS\***
  - European standardisation of reconfigurable radio systems based on CR and SDR technologies., support regulation

\* BT participating

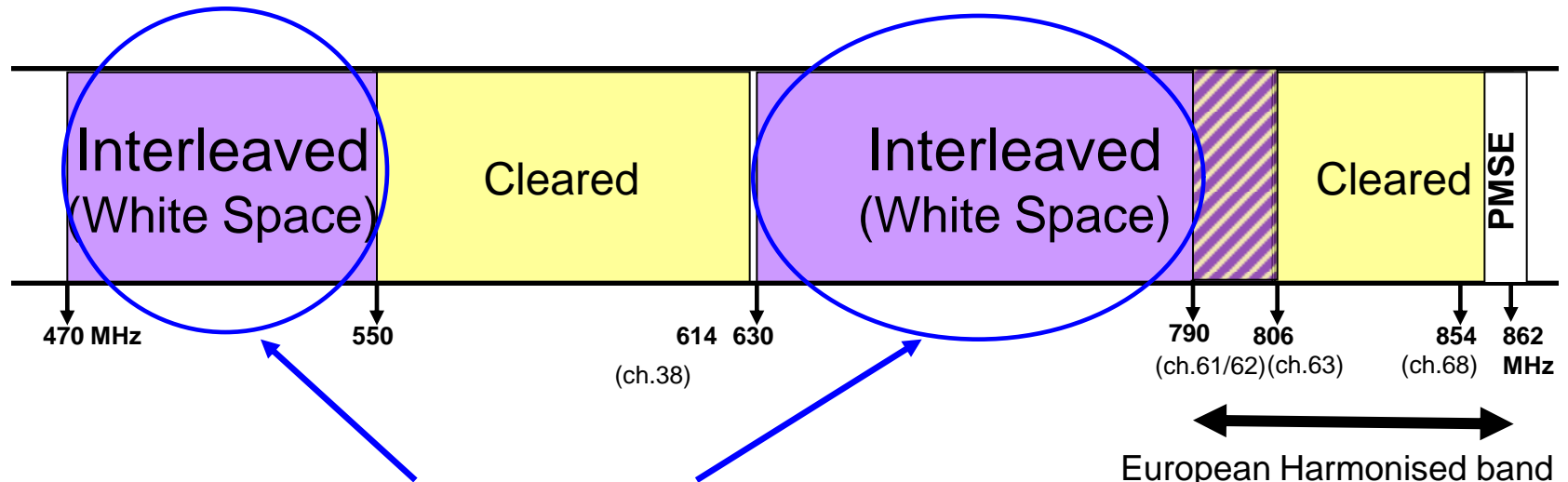




# Ecosystem/industry partners in TVWS



# How much TV White Space is there in the UK?



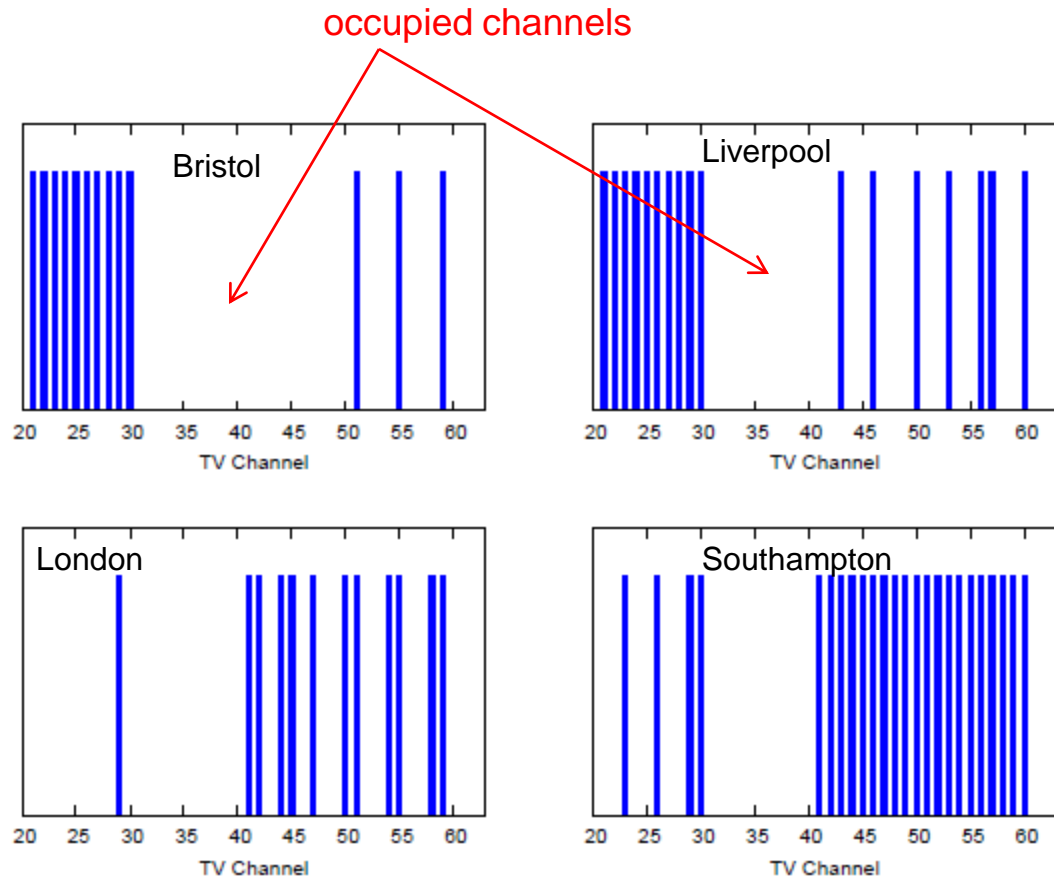
- Licensed use by broadcast applications (national/local TV); Programme Making & Special Events (PMSE); Wireless microphones.
- Licensed-exempt secondary use by devices equipped with cognitive techniques/look-up databases
- 256 MHz in total, all in the UHF bands, 8 MHz channels (unlike in the USA)
- **However, availability varies greatly with location and power !**

European Harmonised band  
(72 MHz wide) for mobile  
790 – 862 MHz (ch. 61-69)

# Example TVWS availability

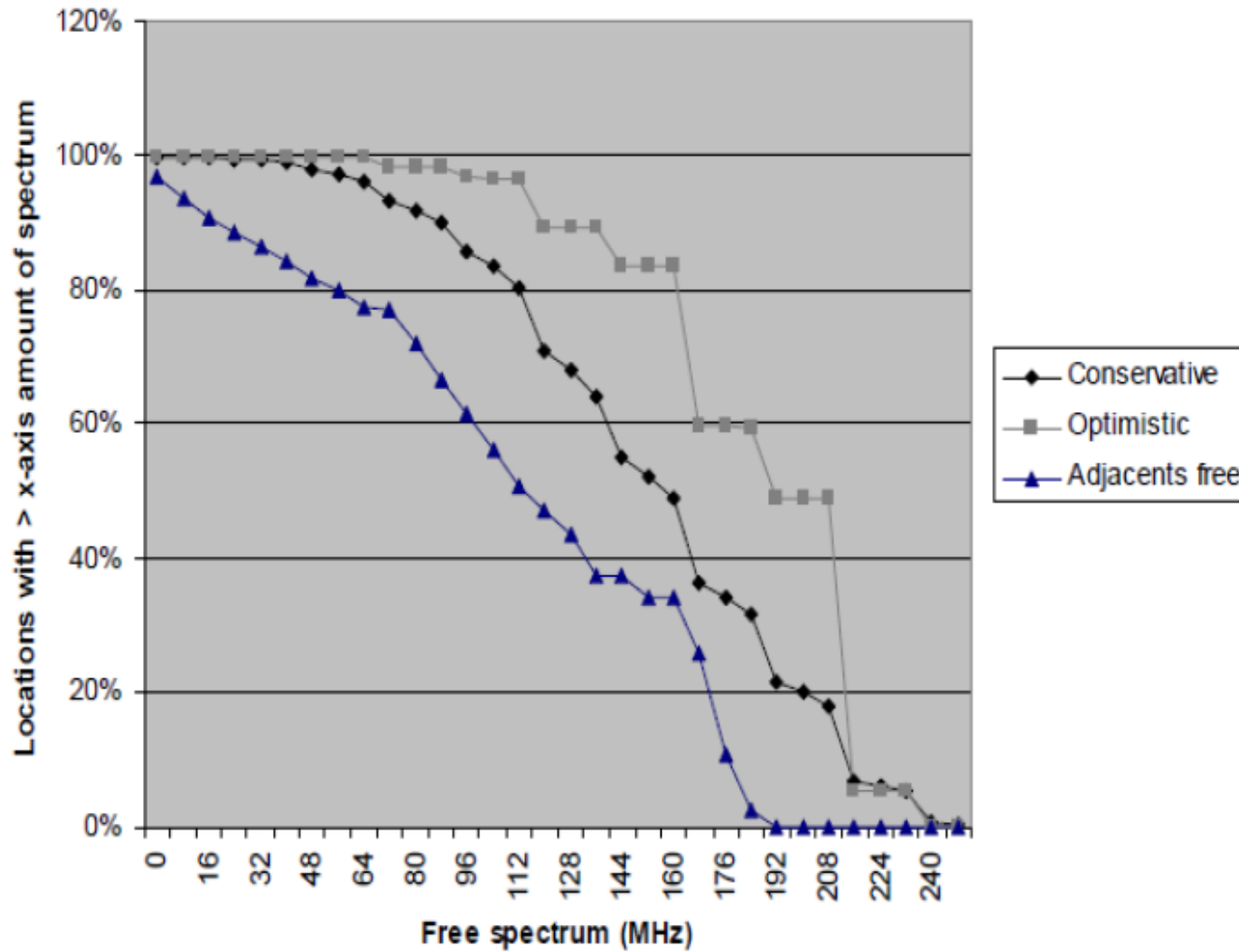
## Calculation method

- Used publicly available DTT coverage maps
- Verified with own coverage calculations for selected transmitters
- Channel  $m$  available at location  $x$  for a given CR transmit power  $P$  if  $D/U$  ratio is below threshold at the edge of coverage area
- Low transmit power approximation
- **On average ~150 MHz available at any UK locations**
- **Full-blown calculations using STRM v2 terrain elevation data + DTT propagation models in progress**



Source: Nekovee, ICC 2009

# Ofcom's published estimates of TVWS



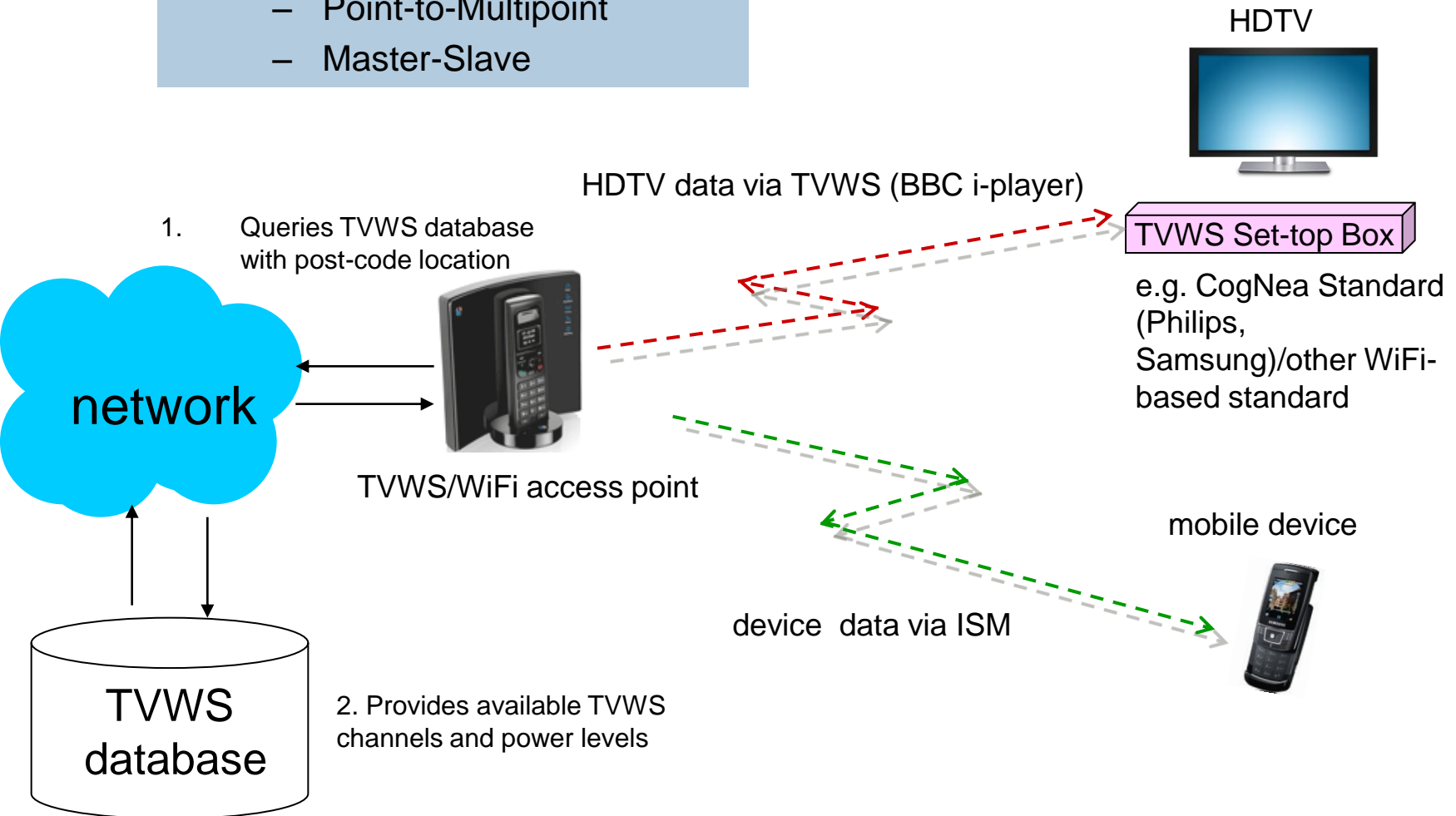
Source Arqiva study, commissioned by Ofcom, July 2009

# Use case 1: Multimedia distribution in homes

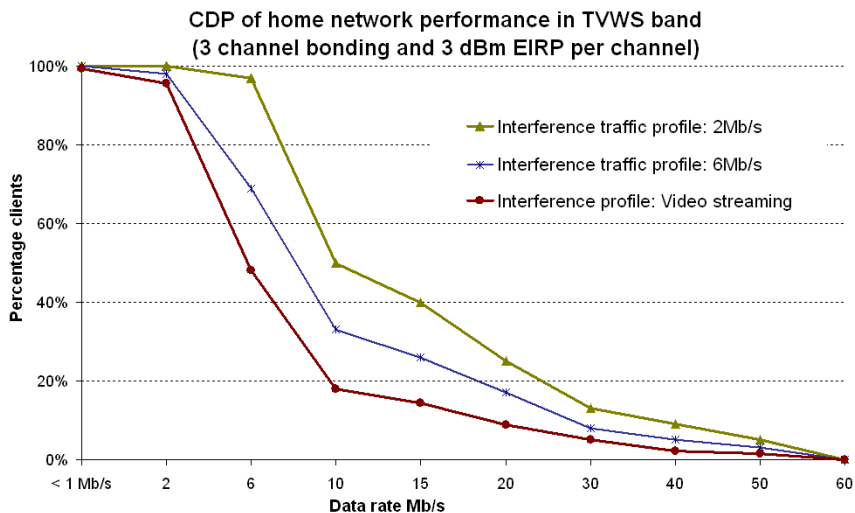
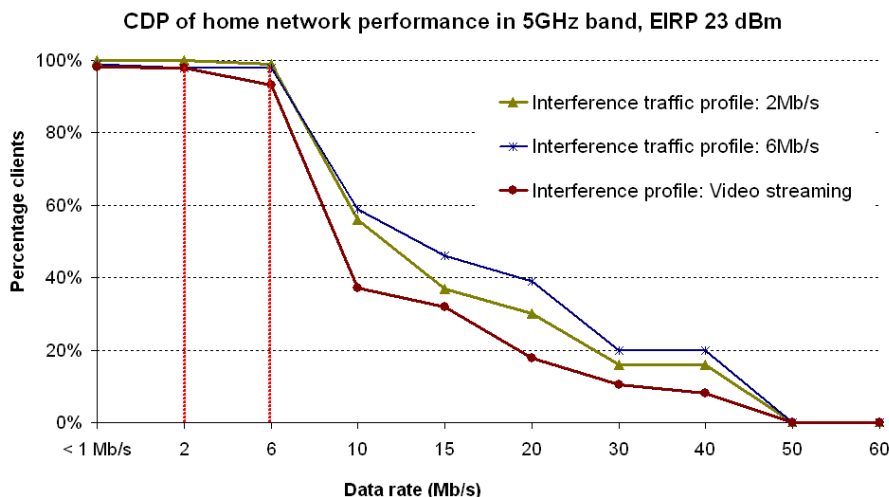
- There is a growing demand for wireless distribution of multimedia content around the home:
  - (HD)TV and “catch-up” (HD)TV
  - Video On Demand
  - BT Vision
- Future scenarios may involve multiple streams of content being distributed simultaneously around the home
- Current license-exempt options are the 2.4 GHz and the 5 GHz bands.
- In dense urban areas the 2.4 GHz band suffers from congestion (due to a combination of interference and WiFi’s inefficiencies)
- The 5 GHz band is not congested but signals do not penetrate well through walls and have a shorter range.
- The TVWS spectrum offers both additional capacity and extended range.

# Use case 1: Architecture

- Architecture
  - Point-to-Multipoint
  - Master-Slave



# Use case 1: System performance with interference



- 3 interference traffic levels  
2 Mbps, 6 Mbps, Video
- Service area – 1sq km in London, household density 5K
- access point density – 40%,
- 12 m service area
- TVWS: 3x 8 MHz channels bonded
- transmit power 3 dBm (per channel),
- No MIMO (2x2 for WiFi)

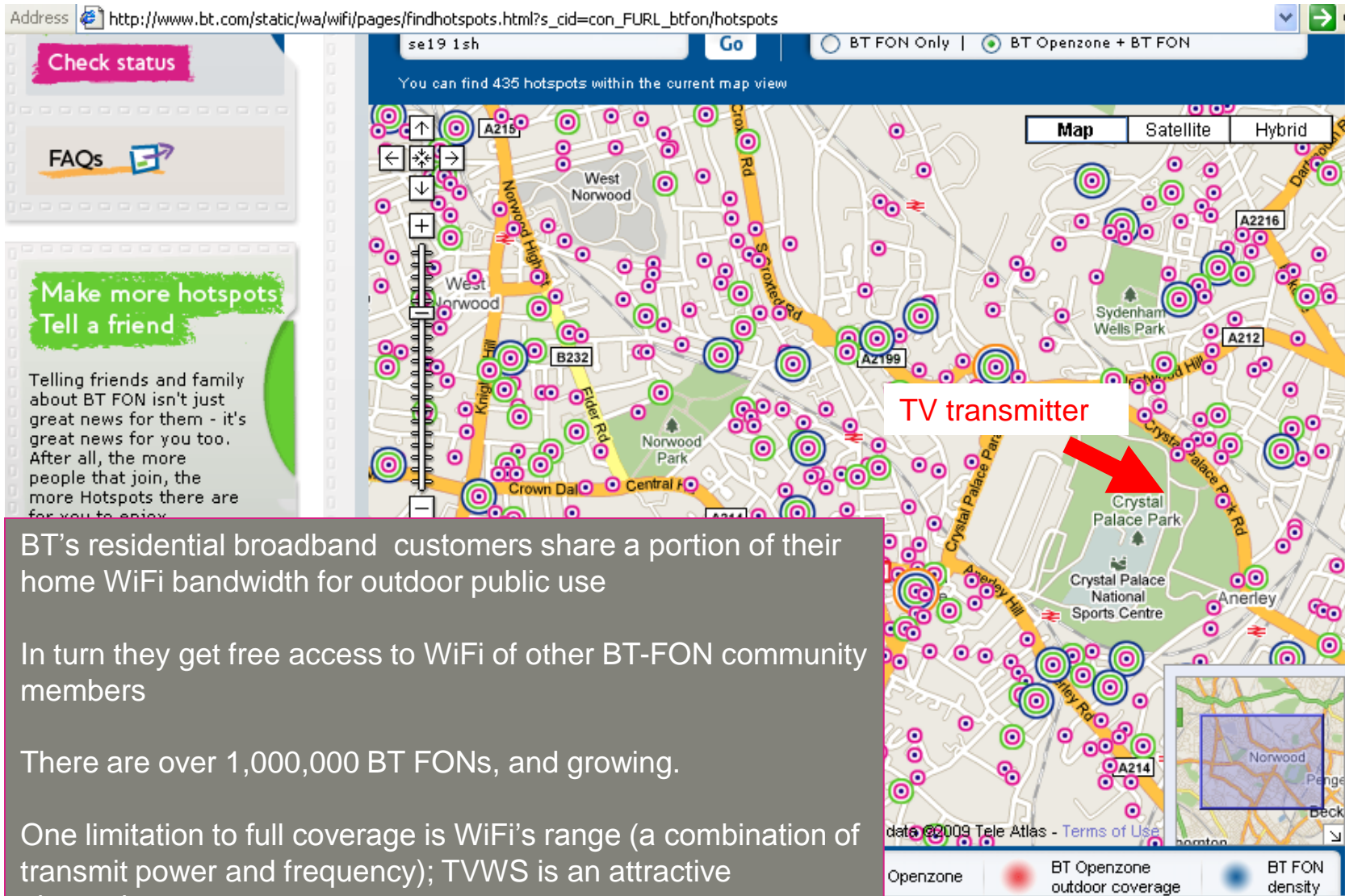
- TVWS for home networks is interference limited if used alone!
- Non-contiguous channel bonding is very challenging (NC-OFDM, filter banks, ..)

Source: Kawade and Nekovee, IEEE DySPAN 2010

© British Telecommunications plc



# Use case 2: Broadband “from the inside-out”



**Check status**

**FAQs**

**Make more hotspots  
Tell a friend**

Telling friends and family about BT FON isn't just great news for them - it's great news for you too. After all, the more people that join, the more Hotspots there are for you to enjoy.

BT's residential broadband customers share a portion of their home WiFi bandwidth for outdoor public use

In turn they get free access to WiFi of other BT-FON community members

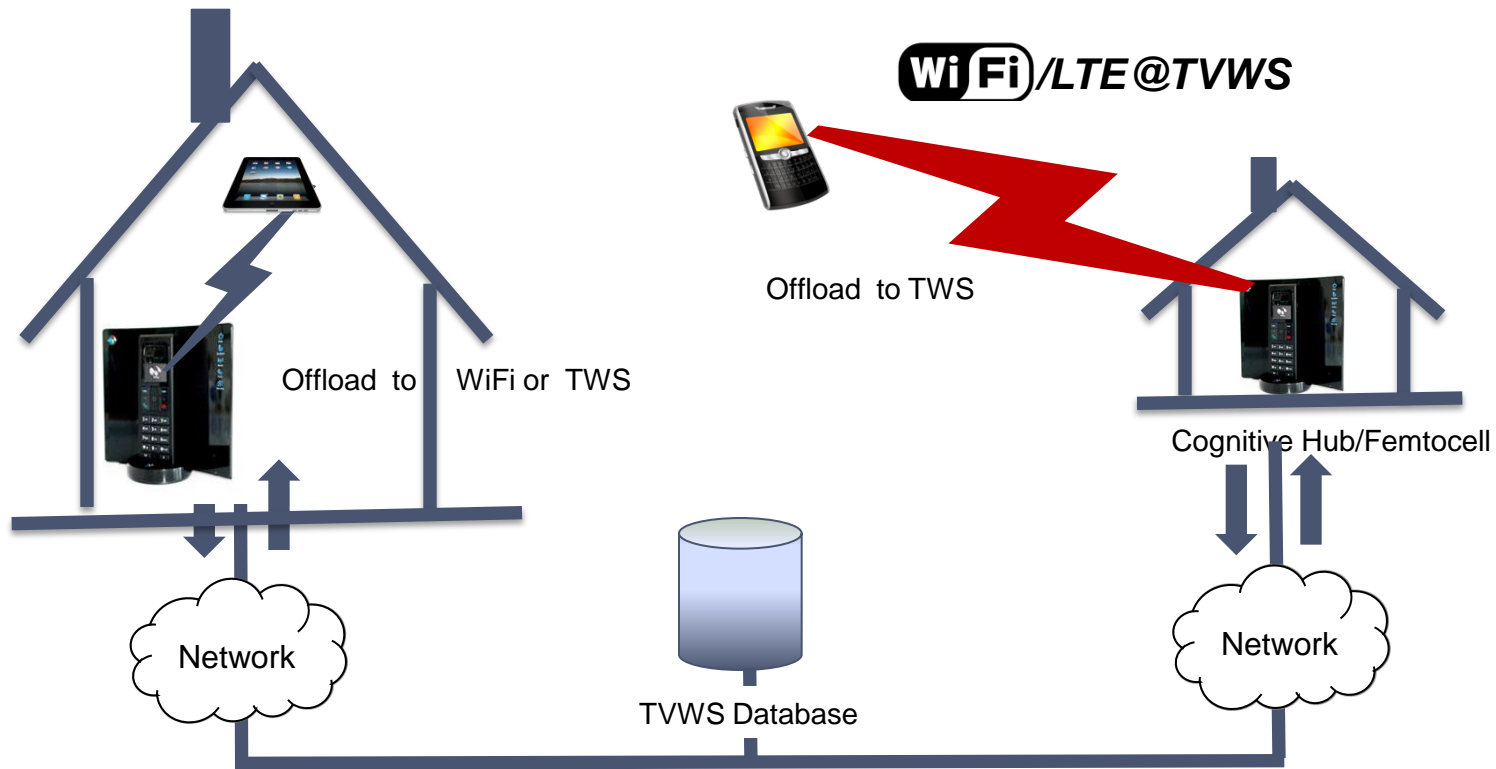
There are over 1,000,000 BT FONs, and growing.

One limitation to full coverage is WiFi's range (a combination of transmit power and frequency); TVWS is an attractive alternative.





# Use case 2: architecture



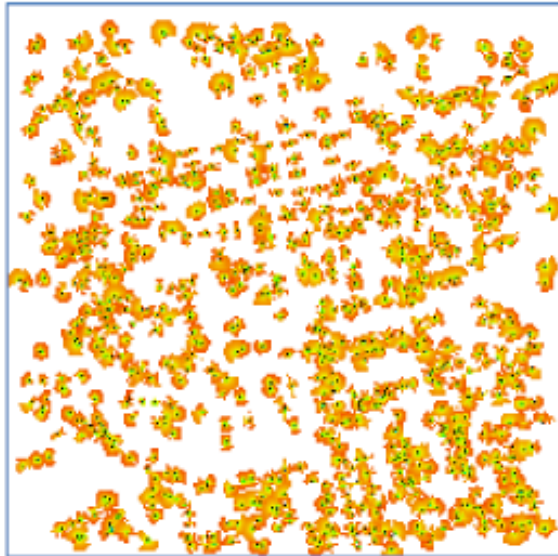
- A spectrum database is used to avoid harmful interference to incumbents and assign TVWS channels (and power levels) to access points
- Master-slave topology, most functionalities in hubs/femtocells,

# Use case 2: coverage study

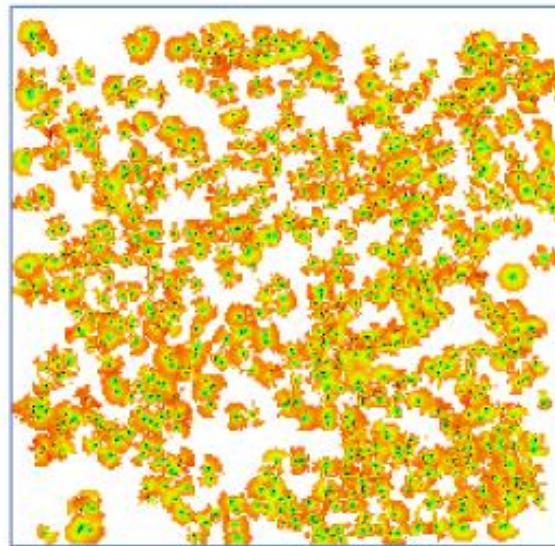
Area – 1sq km in London (Bayswater), household density 5K

Access point density – 0.5%, 2%, 5%, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%

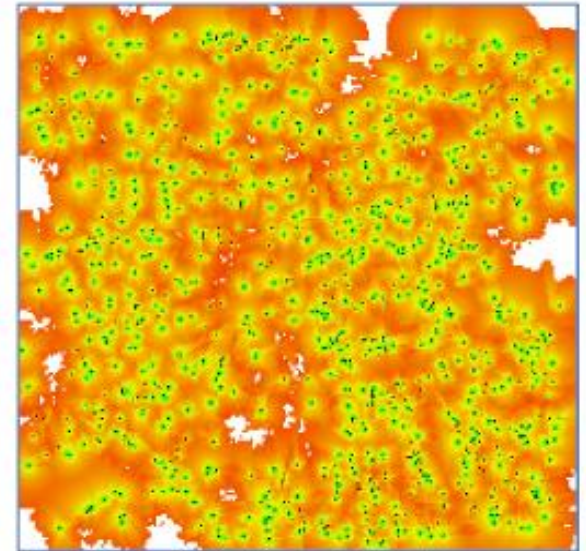
Spectral bands considered: TVWS, 2.4GHz and 5GHz



(a) 5GHz



(b) 2.4GHz

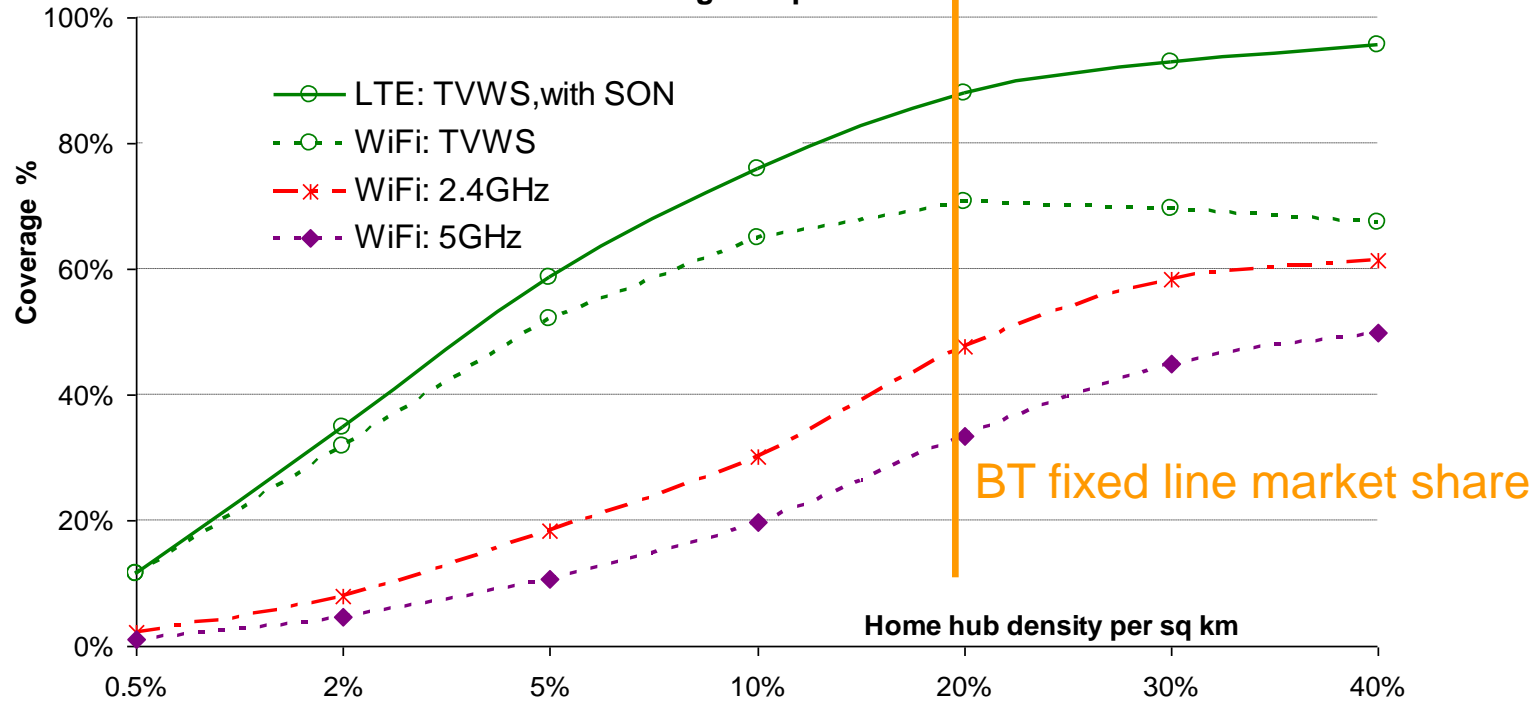


(c) TVWS

TVWS band provides coverage similar to a mobile broadband network – with a 20% deployment density

# Use case 2: Network coverage with increasing deployment density

Network coverage with an increasing deployment density for various technological/spectral choices



TVWS: 90% coverage possible with a 20% density, LTE-SON features help  
 WiFi in 2.4GHz: coverage limited to 60% due to interference effects  
 WiFi in 5GHz: coverage limited to 50% due to higher attenuation losses

Source: Kawade and Nekovee, Radioelectronica, 2010



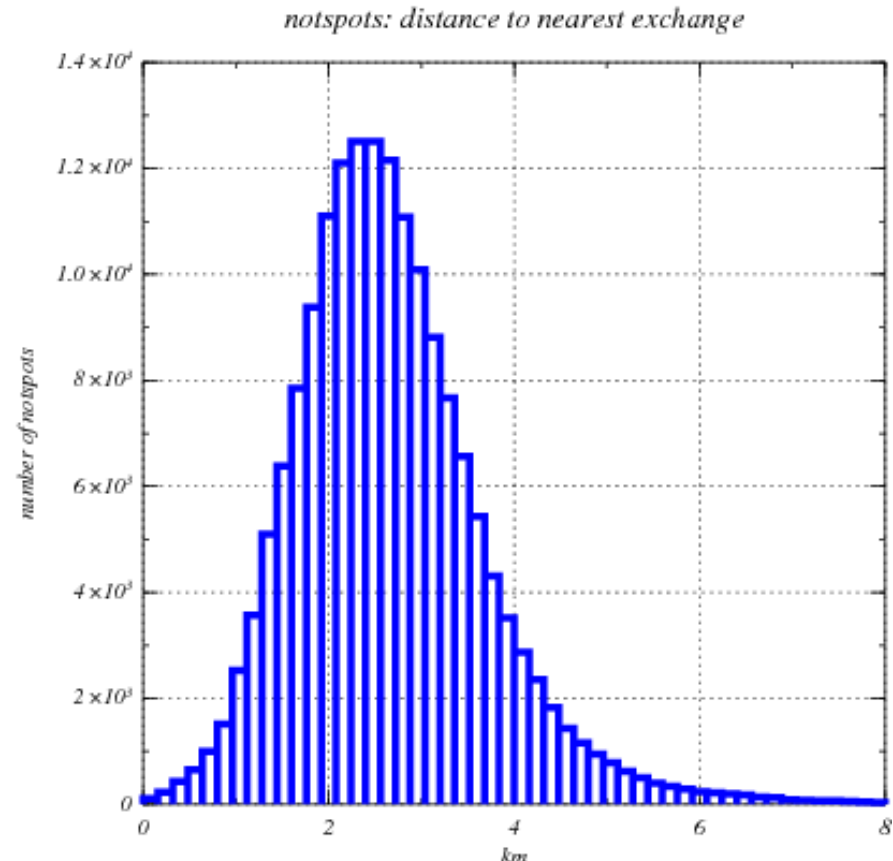
# Use case 3: Rural broadband

- 2 million UK households (mainly in rural areas) have inadequate access to broadband (<2Mb/s)
- Fixed-line broadband provision to these communities is economically not viable for telecom operators .
- One options is wireless broadband provision using a combination of WiFi@5GHz (point-to-point) and WiFi@2.4GHz bands (point-to-multipoint)
- The build-out cost of a WiFi-based network is high due to unfavourable propagation characteristics in the ISM bands, and UK's regulatory limits on WiFi transmit power (100 mW)
- The study looks at providing BWA in TVWS from BT's exchanges
- The aim of the study is to identify UK locations where the TVWS solution is feasible, i.e., there is both sufficient density of households in the not-spot area and sufficient TVWS bandwidth to support 2 Mbps



# Use case 3: modeling study

- **Not-spots:**  
UK postcodes that get less than 2Mbps fixed broadband.
- Internal BT data of ~3.5 million not-spots post codes and 5500 BT exchanges was used for the analysis
- Distance from each not-spot to closest exchange is calculated
- The average distance between the not-spots and nearest BT exchange is about 3km. The maximum distance is less than 6 km.
- The average TVWS bandwidth per not-spot is ~100 MHz

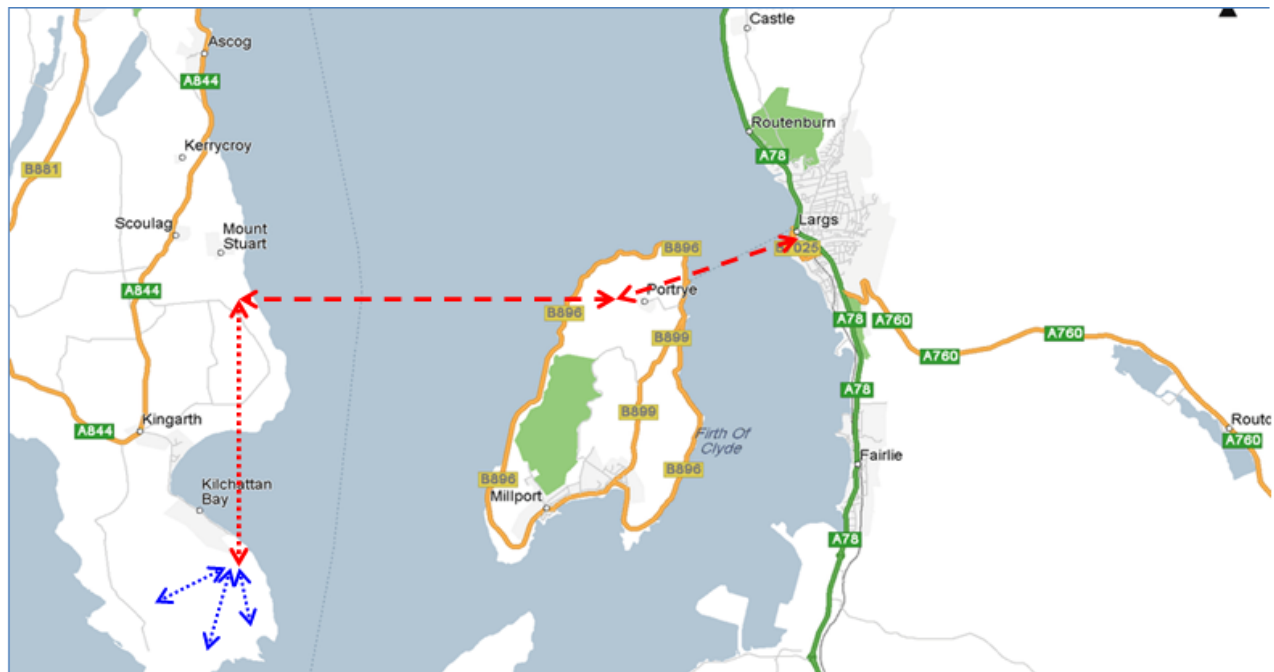


Histogram of distances between not-spots and the closets BT exchange



# Use case 3: Trials

- Aim of the trial is to demonstrate/test the feasibility of wireless broadband to UK rural communities in TV White Spaces
- Trial location is the Isle of Bute in Scotland
- Partners are BT, BBC, University of Strathclyde, Steepest Ascent and Brew Your Own



**P2P 5GHz (Largs to Cumbrae to Kerrytonia)**



**Ubiquiti Rocket M5, Wi-Fi radios**

**P2MP 5GHz (Kerrytonia to Kilchattan Bay)**



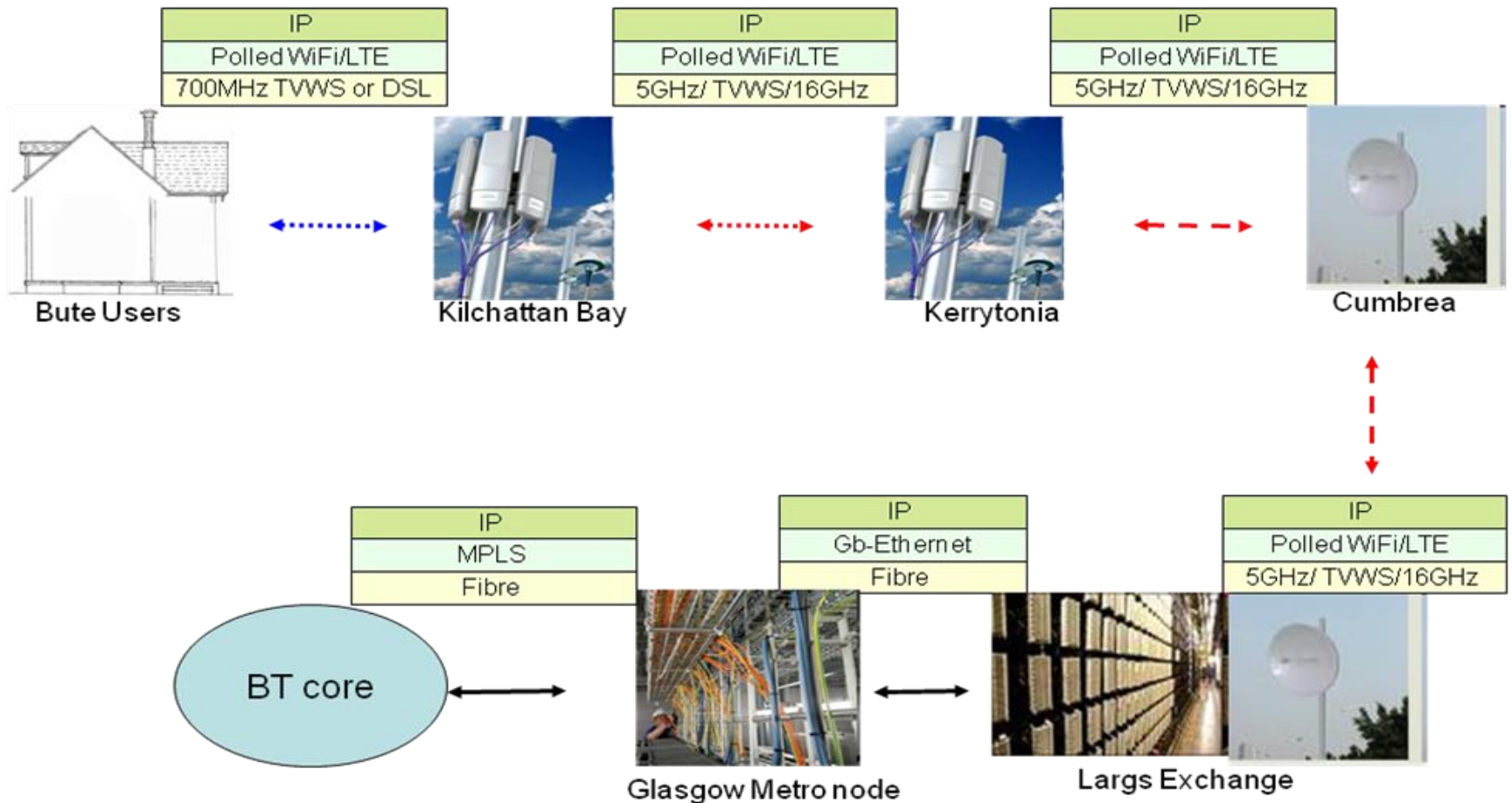
**Ubiquiti Nano Station 5 system**

**TVWS 700MHz (access)**



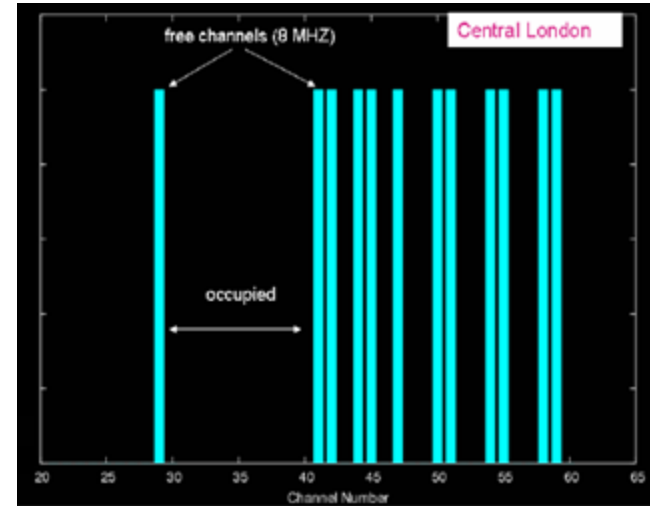
**Ubiquiti Router Station Pro and XR7 radios**

# Physical layer network layout



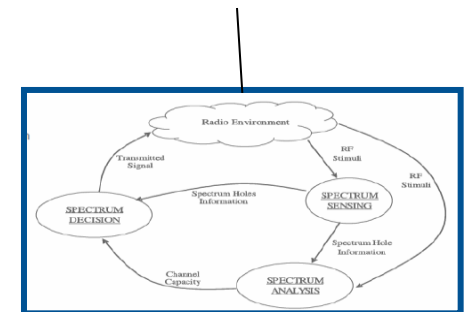
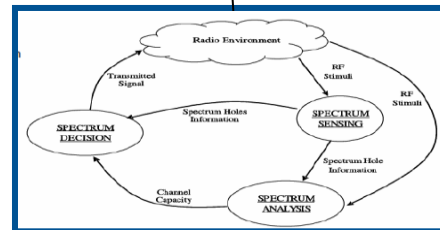
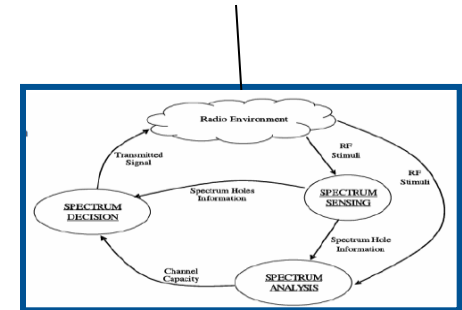
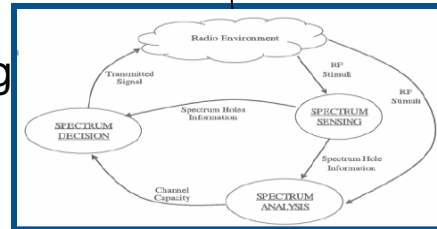
# Challenges of TVWS/CR Networks

- Real-life deployment scenarios involve collections of cognitive radios (user devices, base stations) competing for spectrum access
- Most research has focused on single devices



## Implications for MAC and network layers

- New spectrum access rules (etiquettes) are required for fair and efficient sharing of secondary spectrum (micro-economics?)
- Aggregate interference to primary systems need to be estimated and controlled (distributed vs. centralised)
- Sensing under secondary emissions



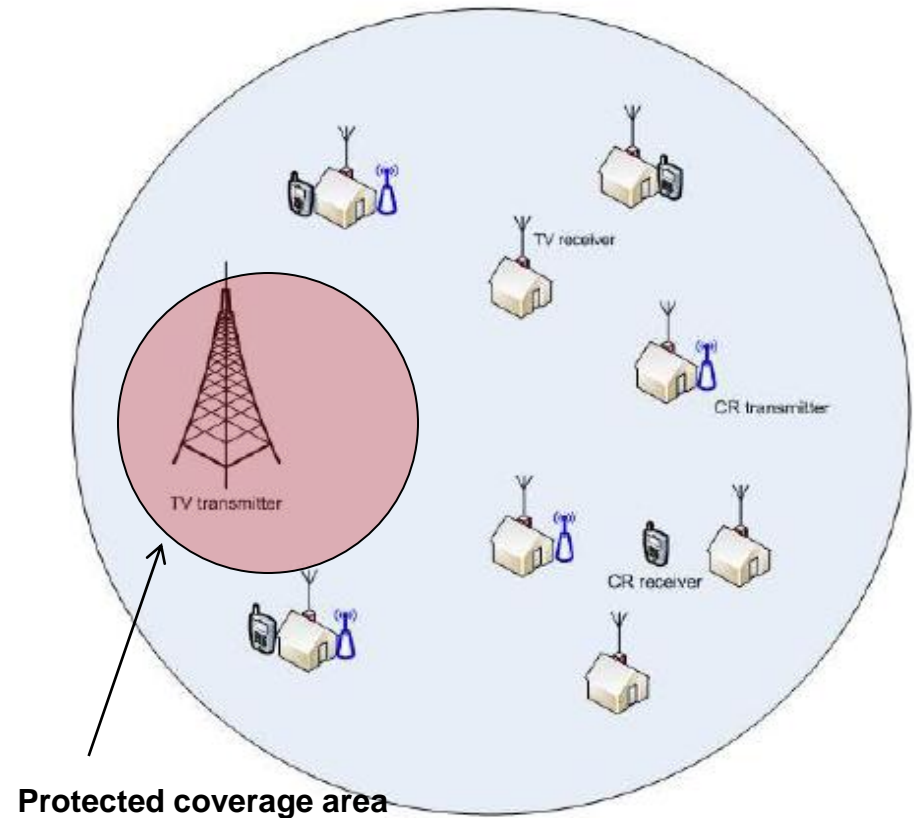


# Aggregate interference control

While transmission from a single cognitive device may not cause any harmful interference to primary systems, the aggregate interference maybe harmful and need to be controlled

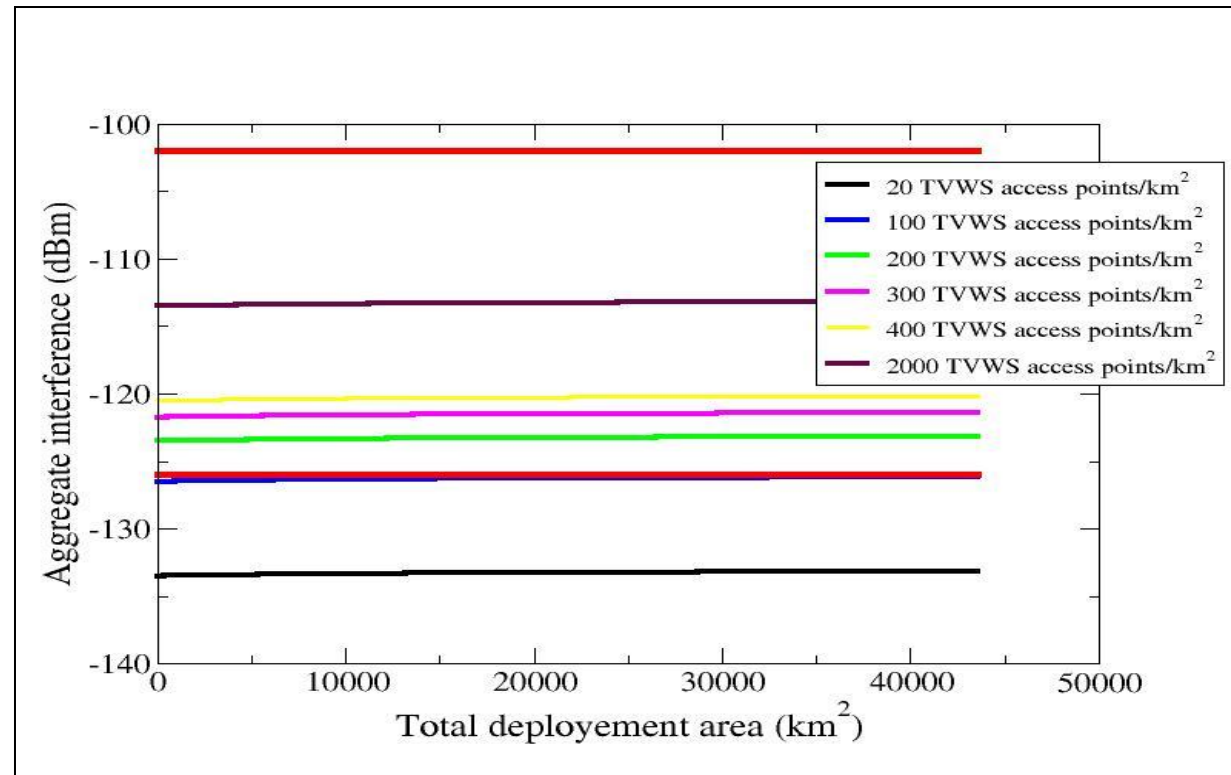
## Implications

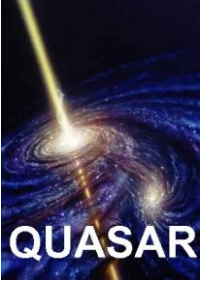
- Aggregate interference is a function of density and transmit power of cognitive devices (handsets, base stations). These may belong to different service providers and users.
- Mechanism for centralised and distributed aggregate interference estimation
- New centralised and distributed power control algorithms



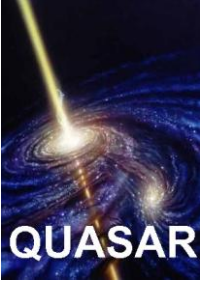
# Example: TVWS base station deployment

- TVWS Frequency band: 700 MHz
- DTT Transmit power: 2KW
- DTT Antenna pattern: isotropic
- Number of available TVWS channels: 12 (96 MHz)
- Channel bandwidth 8MHz
- Transmit power of cognitive radios: 100 mW
- Propagation model: Pathloss ( $\alpha = 2.5$ ).
- Sensitivity threshold of DTT receivers: -72 dBm
- Protection ratio of DTT receivers (the ratio between desired to undesired signal): 30, 54 dB





## QUASAR's Initial Research Results

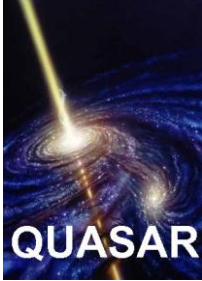


# QUASAR Objectives

Accessing the Real-world benefits of Cognitive Radio

[www.quasarspectrum.eu](http://www.quasarspectrum.eu)

1. Investigating the impact of opportunistic spectrum access on **primary system performance**
2. From “detecting spectrum holes” to the regime of “**discovering ‘real’ spectrum opportunities**” -beyond signal processing into a data fusion problem.
3. Assess impact of **multiple secondary users**.
4. Multi-Parameter and **Utility based assessment of Spectrum value**
5. **Business impact of Secondary spectrum sharing.**
6. Providing specific and reasoned proposals to go **beyond the current regulatory framework** for the whole value-chain

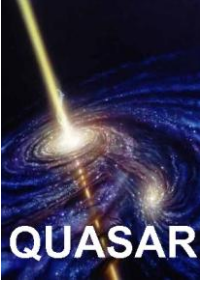


# The partners

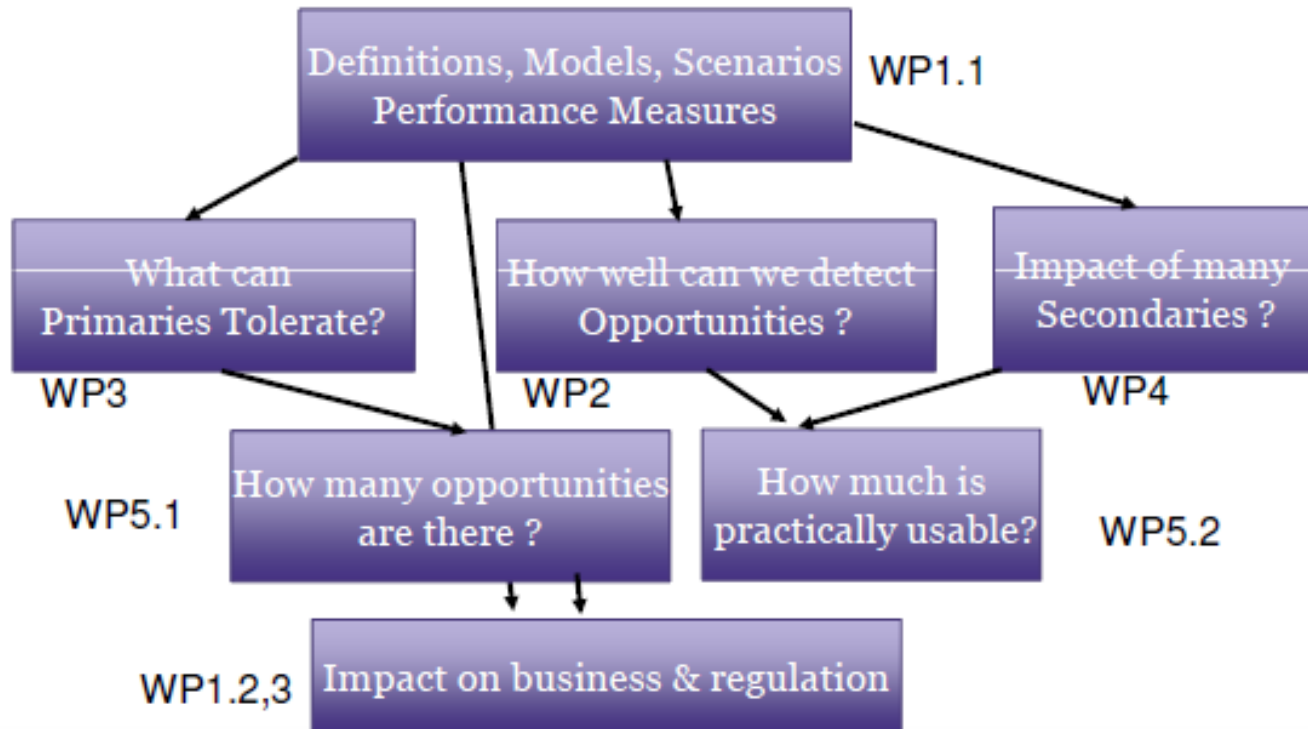


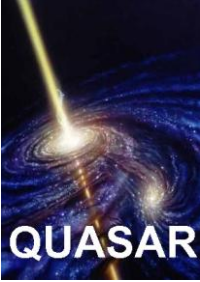
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje





# QUASAR: Progrss so far (6 months)





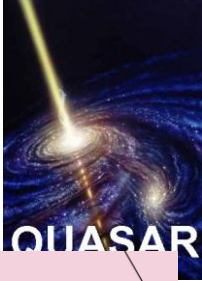
# Scenario classification

- **Scenario classification model**

Developed to find relevant scenarios for secondary spectrum access, based on four main aspects of secondary spectrum access:

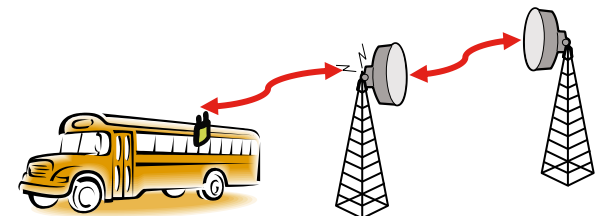
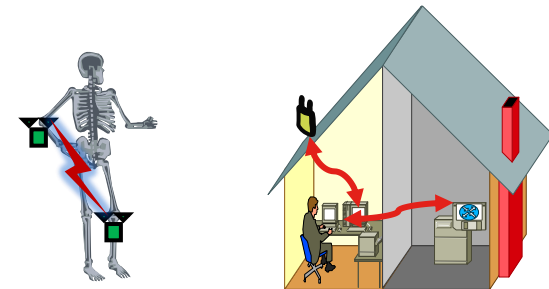
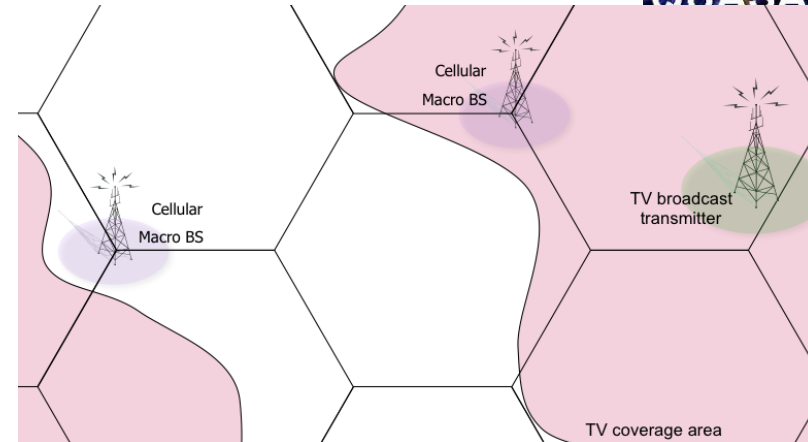
- Secondary spectrum usage type
- Spectrum sharing type (vertical and horizontal)
- Primary and secondary license type
- Level of cooperation

- **Six use case scenarios identified as promising**  
from technical, business and feasibility point of view



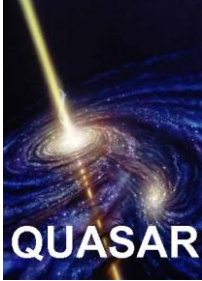
# Main scenario themes

- **Wide area wireless secondary usage**  
Extension of cellular services to secondary spectrum, providing WiFi coverage from indoor to outdoor, M2M communication
- **Low power indoor secondary usage**  
M2M communication and indoor wireless broadband connectivity
- **Wireless backhauling and relaying using spectrum opportunities**  
Includes relaying to mobile relays





# Focus spectrum bands



- **TV broadcasting band (470-790 MHz)**

Quantitative assessments of the amount of useful spectrum opportunities and business feasibility still lacking (at least in Europe)

- **Aeronautical band for DME (960-1215 MHz)**

Primary system may allow for a significant amount of spectrum opportunities

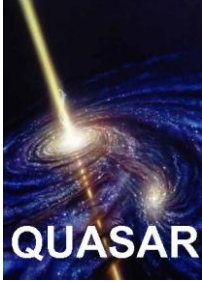
- **Radar band (2700-3100 MHz, 5250-5850 MHz)**

Predictable sweep patterns and fixed radar locations will likely allow a lot of useful spectrum opportunities



Ch 21 occupancy (blue) and availability (the rest) in Sweden

# Secondary sharing methods



Cooperation Level (PU-SU) \ Sharing Method	None	Low	High
Interweaved	Sensing-based TVWS Sensing-based radar	Geolocation-based TVWS Geolocation-based radar	
Overlay			Interference leasing /Interference compensation
Underlay	UWB		

- N. Devroye, P. Mitran, V. Tarokh, Fundamental limits of cognitive radio networks , IEEE Trans. Information Theory, 2006
- J. Sachs, I. Maric, A. Goldsmith, Cognitive cellular systems in TV spectrum , Proc IEEE DySPAN 2010
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# QUASAR

**QU**antitative **AS**essment of **SE**cond**AR**y spectrum access

**Preliminary methodology for  
assessing secondary spectrum  
usage opportunities**

# Definition of the spectrum opportunity

- Definition of the metrics for measuring the spectrum opportunity
  - Specifying what the spectrum opportunity means
  - Specifying how to compute the spectrum opportunity
- Ideal spectrum opportunity computation
- Spectrum opportunity computation by using different approaches for spectrum allocation
  - Different amount of available information
  - Ideal spectrum allocation
  - Database based spectrum allocation
  - Sensing based spectrum allocation

# QUASAR

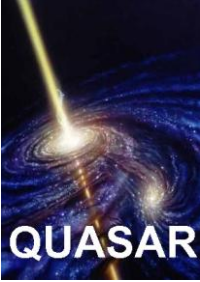
QUantitative Assessment of SecondARy spectrum access

**Initial report on the tolerance of legacy systems to transmissions of secondary users based on legacy specifications**

## Three primary systems



- Three licensed primary systems are studied, namely digital video broadcasting, radar and aeronautical systems.
- The impact of interference is evaluated as a function of Desired to Undesired Power level (D/U) ratio for DVB systems, the pulse detection error for Aeronautical systems and the maximum interference-to-noise ratio (INR) for Radar systems.



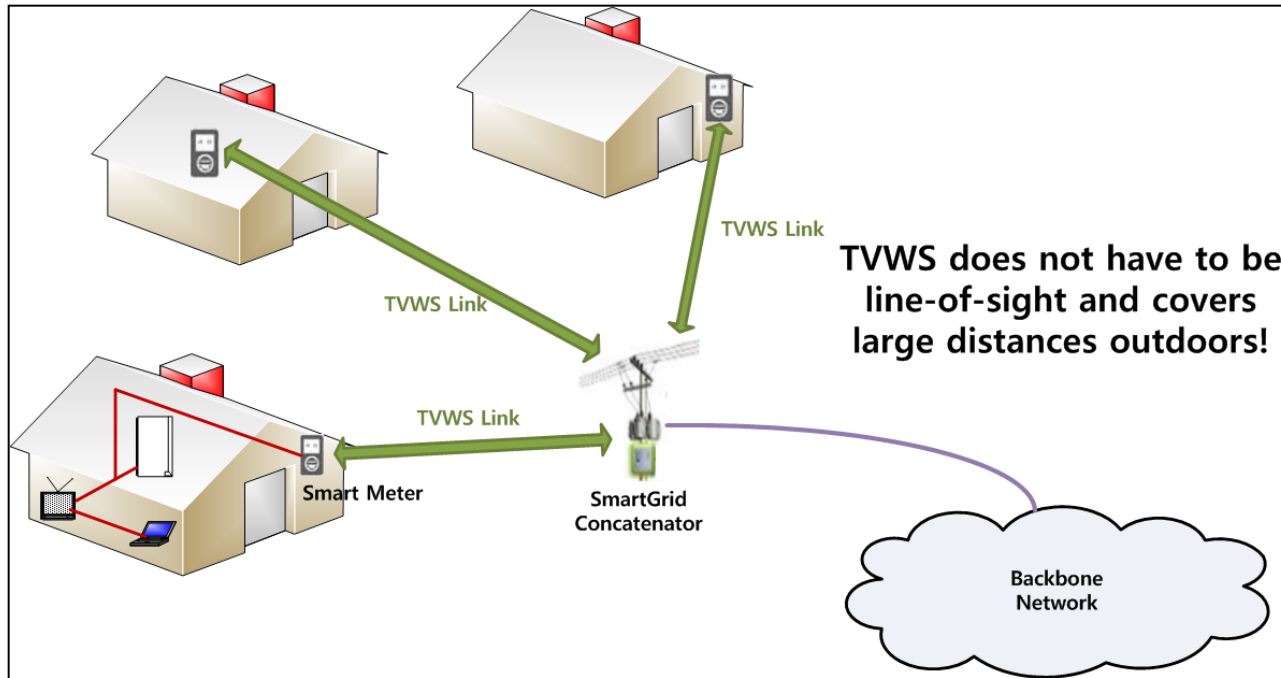
# Initial conclusions

- Co-channel and adjacent channel interference need to be taken into account.
- Same tolerance limits can be used for non-continuous bursty-type users as for continuous data traffic users.
- The total amount of interference caused by multiple interferers should be kept below the desired signal level.
- For aeronautical systems, spatial separation and transmit power of the secondary system determine the feasibility of secondary usage.
- For other radar systems also the INR value and the IF separation effects determine the possibilities for secondary users.
- Watch this space! [www.quasarspectrum.eu](http://www.quasarspectrum.eu)

Backup Slides



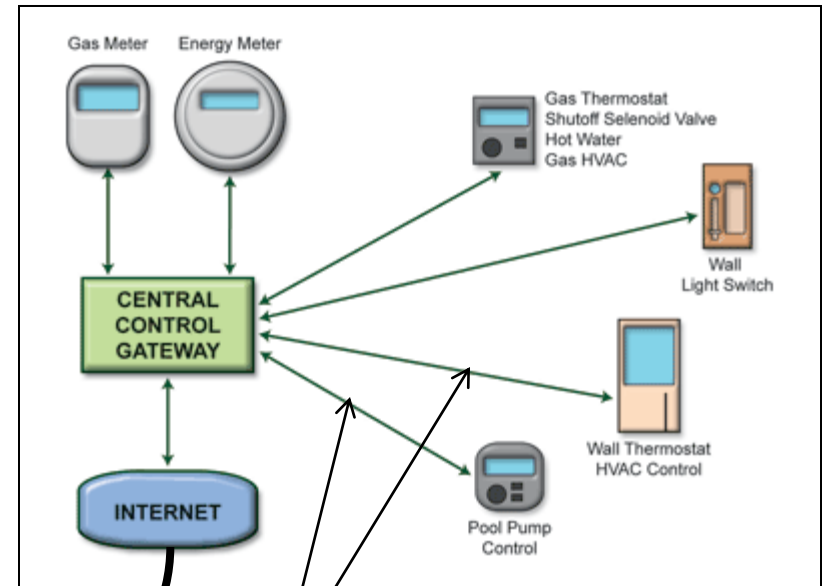
# Use case 4: smart metering and smart grids



- A two-tier architecture using Zigbee for HAN and TVWS
- Cellular solutions not designed for this application
- TVWS offers good penetration and scope for high number of low bandwidth links

# Use case 4: Smart metering and grids

- UK government's smart grid project aims to cover 28 million homes and businesses by 2012.
- Two levels (tiers) of communication for smart grids are envisaged
  - Communication between smart meters and devices in the home via a Home Area Network (HAN)
  - Communication delivered from/to home via a Wide Area Network (WAN).
- Zigbee for HAN combined with ADSL+/Fibre-to-home for WAN is the most likely fixed-line solution. The shortcomings are:
  - No support for mobility (e.g. for utility companies' engineers)
  - Doesn't work in areas where broadband is not available.
  - Whole-home indoor using Zigbee operating in 2.4 GHz could be problematic.



Zigbee links

ADSL+/Fibre or PCL

# DTT coverage maps

Channel 21

Channel 22

Channel 23

Channel 25



# Wi-Fi signal at 760 MHz generated using Ubiquiti Router Station Pro board and XR7 Radios

