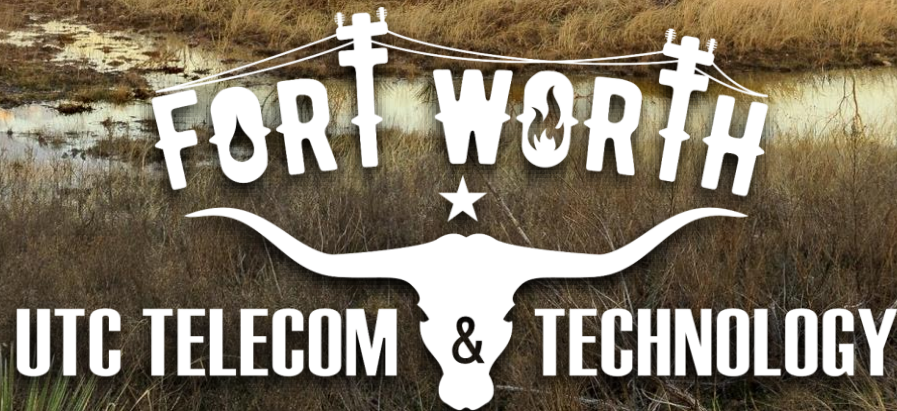


# Advances in radio based Field Area Networks

John Yaldwyn | 2:40 - 3:40 PM 20 June 2019





# FAN deployments multi-band multi-application

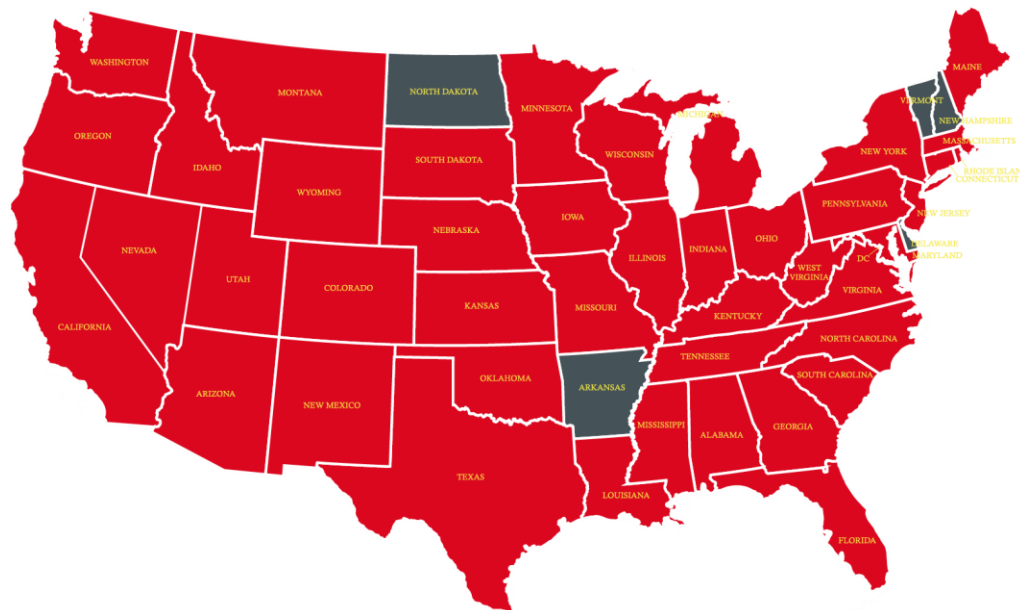
Spectrum – licensed VHF to 900 MHz and unlicensed 902-928 MHz

- Multi-band FAN

DA needs and FAN capacity – radio based FAN and LTE

- Multi-application FAN
- Antennas and lightning protection

Serial, IP and security features



# FAN technology toolbox for the smart grid and other M2M / IoT

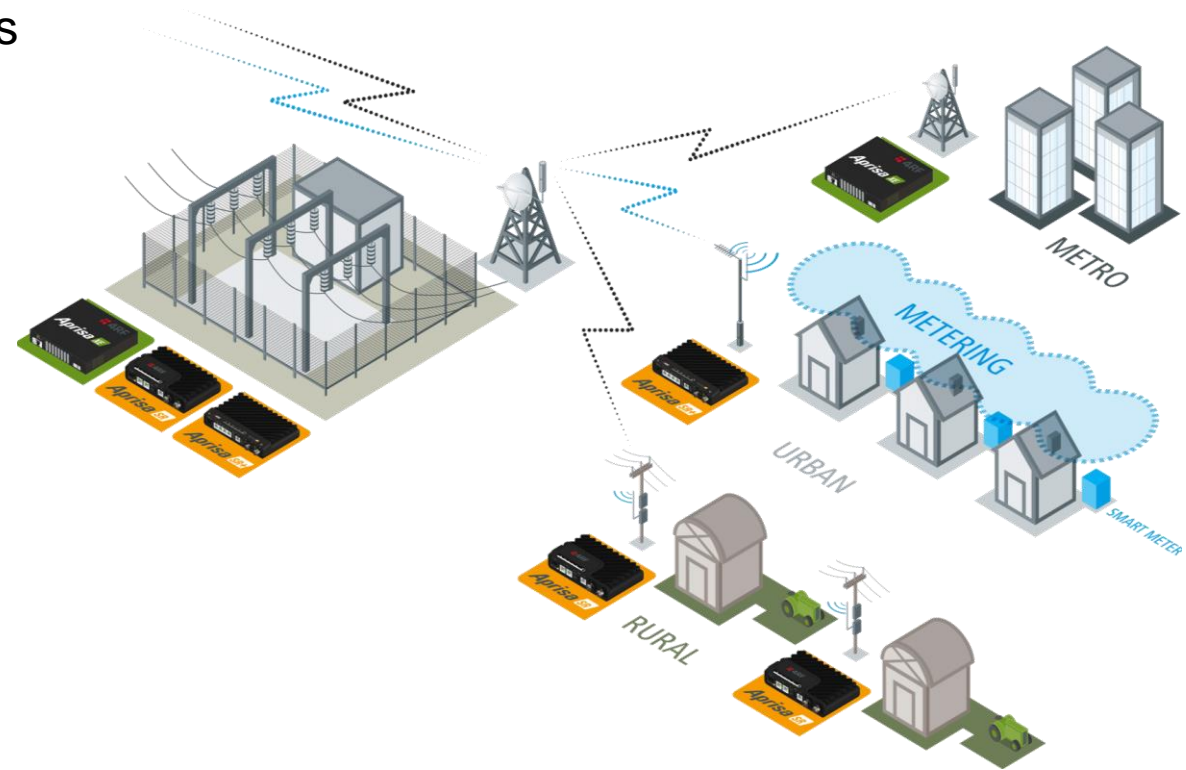
Tasks typically data gathering and remote control of machinery

Distances are typically in the range 5 to 75 miles, sometimes more

Number of remotes can vary from hundreds to thousands

Communication options

- Private radio VHF/UHF SCADA
- Unlicensed spread spectrum
- IEEE 802.16s
- CAT-M / NB-IoT
- LTE



What are the options?

What do distribution automation (DA) grid devices need?

# DA grid device categories

Tier 1 – very low latency and requiring high availability

- Feeder protection relays

Tier 2 – low latency < 2 seconds and high priority

- Recloser controllers
- Fuse savers (lateral line vacuum circuit breaker)
- Capacitor banks controllers
- Fault circuit indicators

Tier 3 – not latency critical and requiring medium to high capacity

- Metering system backhaul
- GUI remote configuration of Tier 1 and 2 grid devices
- Mobile field force productivity included in this category





# DA device remote examples



# FAN technology comparison

Metric	VHF/UHF SCADA	Unlicensed Radio	Public LTE	NB-IoT	CAT-M
Dedicated spectrum needed?	No VHF/220/UHF	No 900 MHz	Yes 1.4 – 20 MHz	Usually 200+ kHz	Yes 1.4 MHz
Speed	60 – 500 kbps	60 – 500 kbps	5 – 100+ Mbps	50 – 75 kbps	375 kbps – 1 Mbps
Latency	Low 10 – 50 ms	Variable	Variable	High 1.6 – 10 s	Low 10 – 15 ms
Priority	High	Variable	Variable	Medium	Medium
System cost	Low	Low	High	High	High
Terminal cost	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Security	Very high (vendor)	Variable	High	High	High
UE transmit power	High 37 dBm	High 30 dBm	Low 23 dBm	Low 20 / 23 dBm	Low 20 / 23 dBm
Reliability	High	Low	Variable	High	High
Deployment time	Low	Low	Variable	Variable	Variable
Recovery time	Low	Low	High	High	High
Standards	Few	None	Yes	Yes	Yes

Recommend for real time control and metering

Recommend for non-critical metering, GUI, and mobile workforce productivity

# Utility communication technology vs device categories

## Licensed

Tier 1 and Tier 2

- Low latency
- High availability
- High priority
- Medium data rates
- Long range
- Need hardening IEC and IEEE

## Unlicensed

Some Tier 2

- Variable latency
- Medium availability
- Medium data rates
- Short range
- Not reliable over long distances
- Need hardening IEC and IEEE

## LTE

Limited Tier 2 and Tier 3

- Public and private networks
- Variable latency
- Coverage limited
- High data rates
- High remotes volumes
- Need hardening IEC and IEEE

# Utility communication technology trade-offs

## Licensed

- Few credible vendors
- Requires detailed planning
- Capacity constrained by available frequencies
- Coverage easily engineered to suit application

## Unlicensed

- Few credible vendors
- Frequencies shared with consumer devices
- Capacity constrained
- Coverage usually easily engineered to suit application
- Interference limited

## LTE

- Public networks are shared
- Private networks are expensive
- Public network latency highly variable and not under control of utility
- Public network coverage poor in rural area
- Limited hardened LTE device offerings



# The radio-based FAN – familiar but now improved

The re-invention in 2012 of sub 1 GHz high efficiency narrow channel radio via the introduction of QAM modulation to deliver much needed FAN capacity is a classic example of **competition driving innovation**

Commonly accepted wisdom that **standardized** solutions are always ‘best’

- Standardization of interconnection interfaces are crucial but this requirement does not extend to the air interface unless lowest common dominator performance is acceptable

Critics say narrow channel radios do not have capacity and that **more complex radios systems** are required to address FAN needs

- Faster than 802.16s, much faster than NB-IoT
- More bps per hertz than multicarrier technologies TDD/FDD single frequency and two frequency
- Point to multipoint needs sophisticated access control built into air interface
- Narrow RF channels now deliver near broadband speeds

# FAN – speed vs throughput

Datasheet values vs real world, think testing

Net throughput or ‘goodput’ shown, 2x this with compression

Need to factor protocols to be used in throughput evaluation

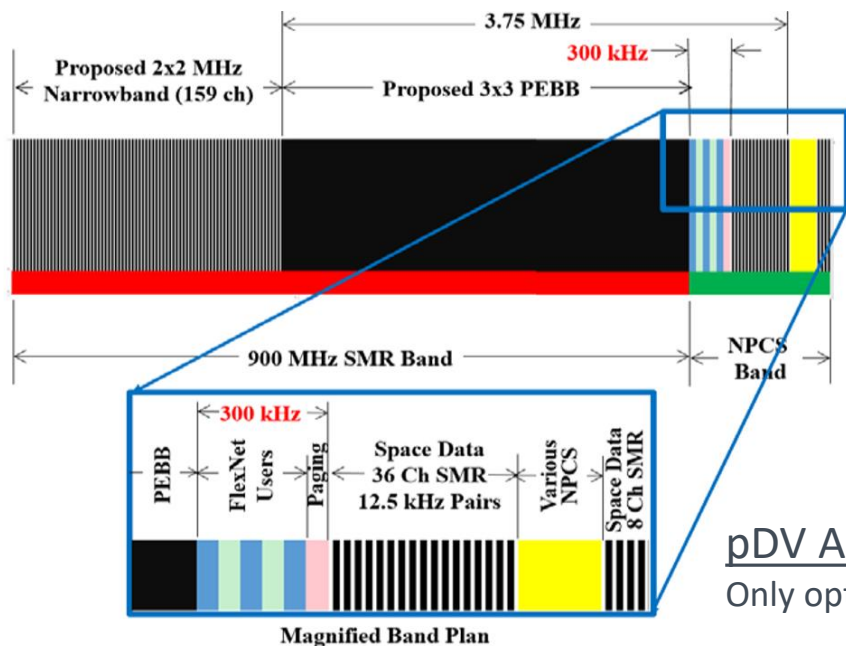
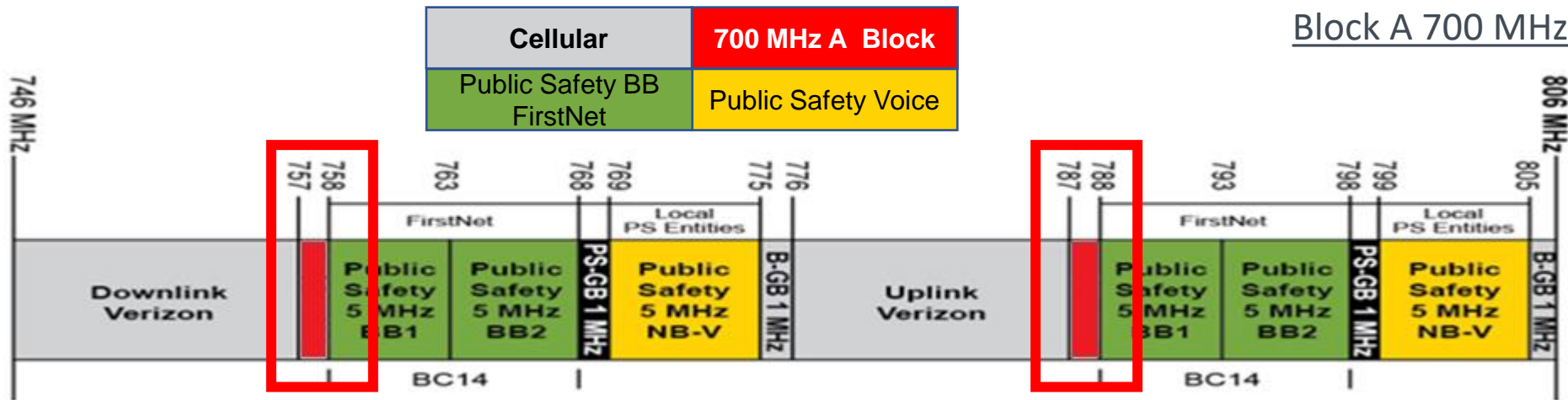
More carriers = more capacity but needs better re-use

ATPC and ACM = increases re-use



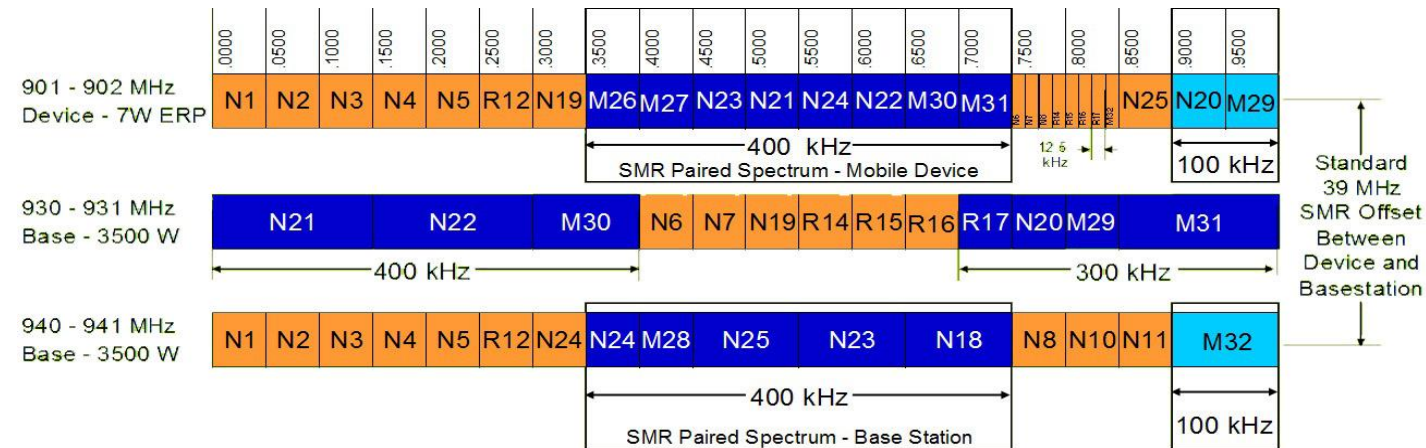
Metric @ 64 QAM	100 kHz	50 kHz	25 kHz	12.5 kHz
Raw speed	400 kbps	240 kbps	120 kbps	60 kbps
Throughput	UL 163 kbps	UL 98 kbps	UL 41 kbps	UL 27 kbps
	DL 233 kbps	DL 140 kbps	DL 57 kbps	DL 37 kbps

# Available private spectrum – 700 and 900 MHz options



**pDV Anterix**  
Only option for <1 GHz private LTE

## Space Data 900 MHz



**Legend**

- Space Data Spectrum Holding LLC
- Space Data Radio LLC

**Legend**

AXX = License Geographic Type A / Channel Number XX

- N = Nationwide License
- R = Regional Licenses
- M = MTA Licenses



# Radio based FAN spectrum summary

700 MHz **Upper Block A** spectrum arranged as 2 by 1 MHz bands

- 757–758 MHz downlink
- 787–788 MHz uplink

901–902 / 930–931 / 940–941 MHz **Space Data** 3 by 1 MHz (with some existing use)

896–901 / 935–940 MHz (Band 8) **pDV Wireless now Anterix** and will be sought after for LTE

FCC **Part 90** LMR and **Part 101** MAS bands

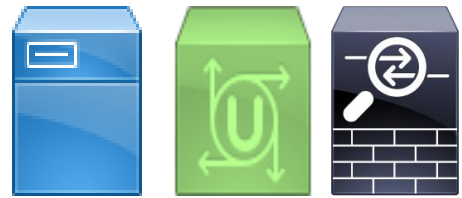
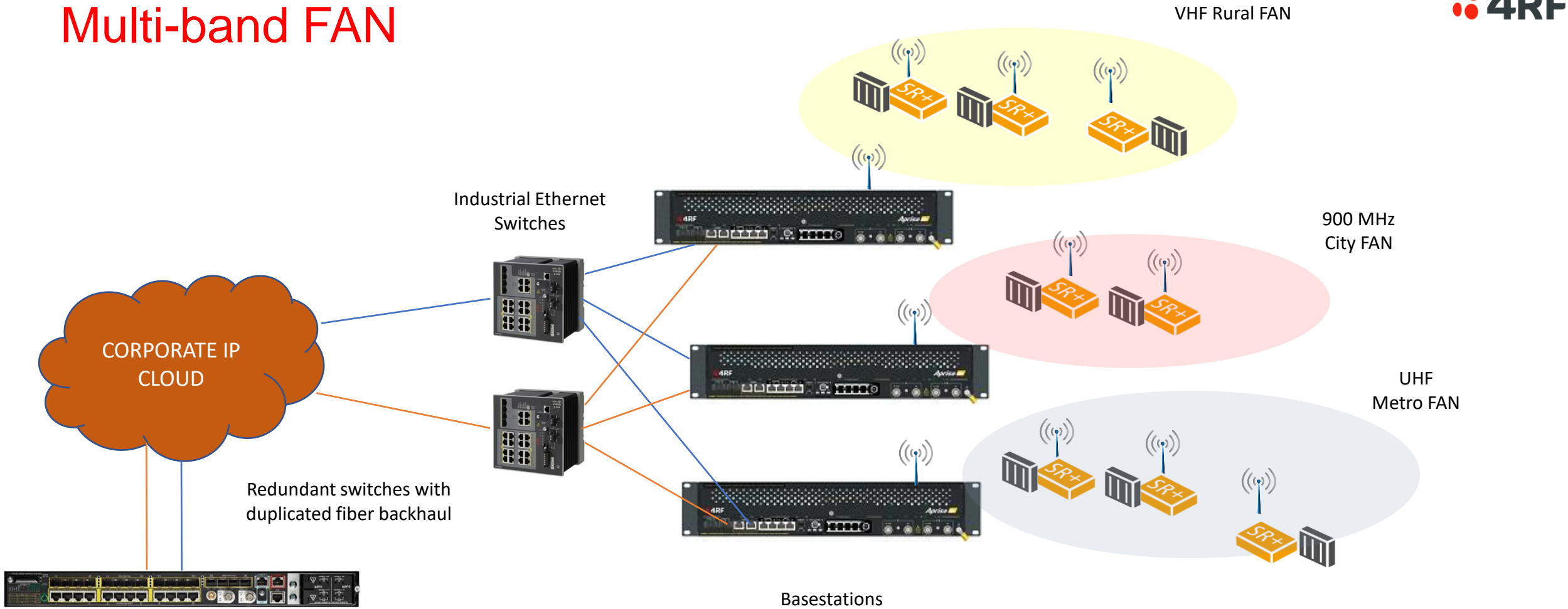
- VHF, 220, 450, 900 MHz

**Part 22** re-purposed paging allocations at 220 and 900 MHz

**Part 80** re-purposed marine VHF (inland only)

Many utilities utilize multiple bands to harness advantages of range (low frequencies like VHF and 220 MHz) and capacity (higher frequencies like 700 and 900 MHz) – the **multi-band FAN**

# Multi-band FAN



# Example of new high density networks at 700 MHz

FAN not 'cellular' but cell based

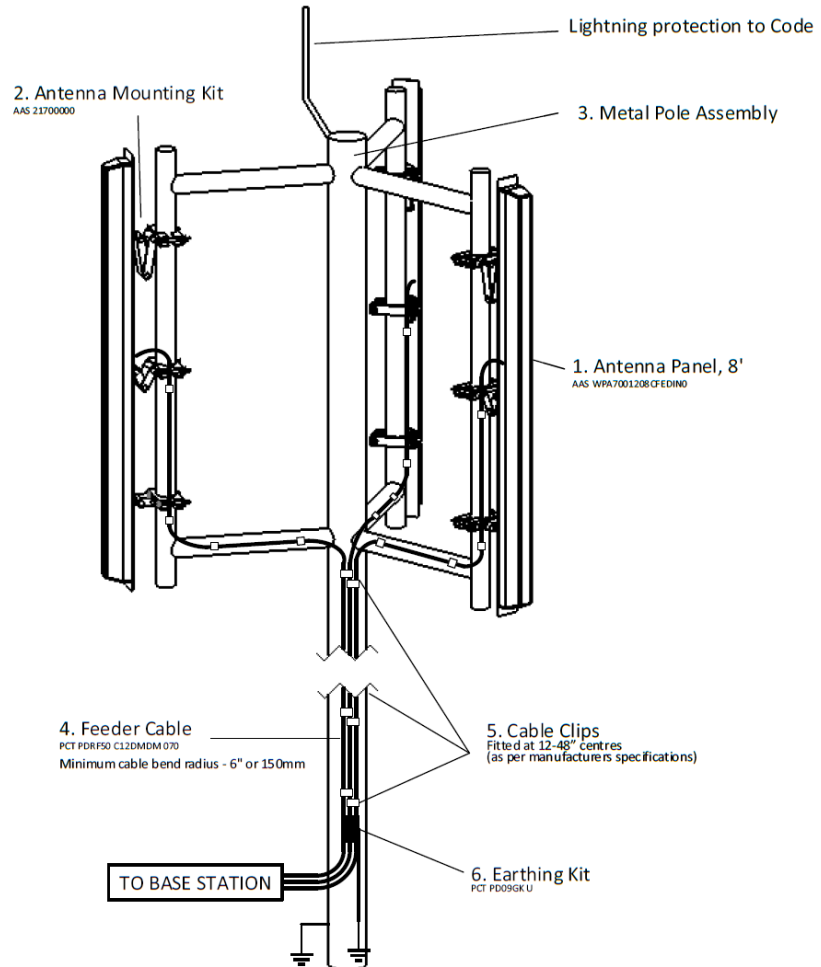




# Sectored installation – gain and speed for 700 and 900 MHz



# Master vs remote – antenna cost balance

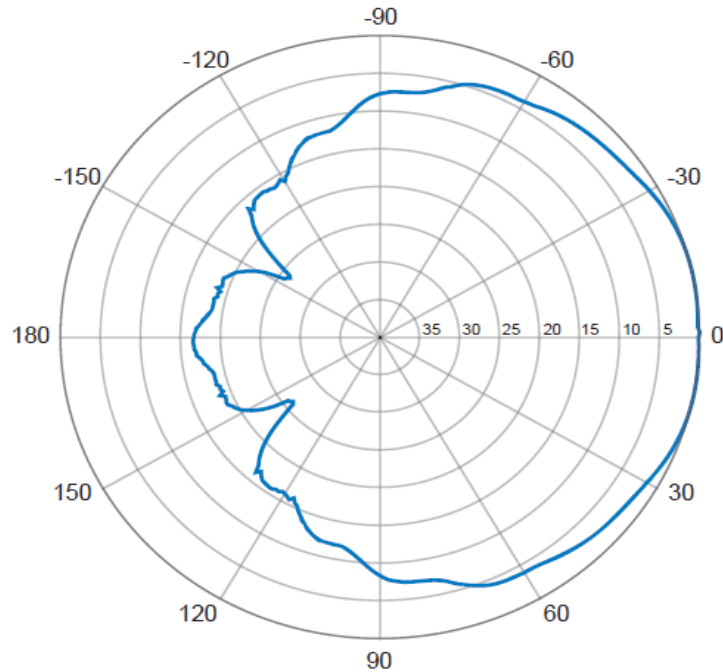


# Typical panel antenna pattern covering 700 and 900 MHz

Typical three sector or high density four sector arrangements, downtilt option

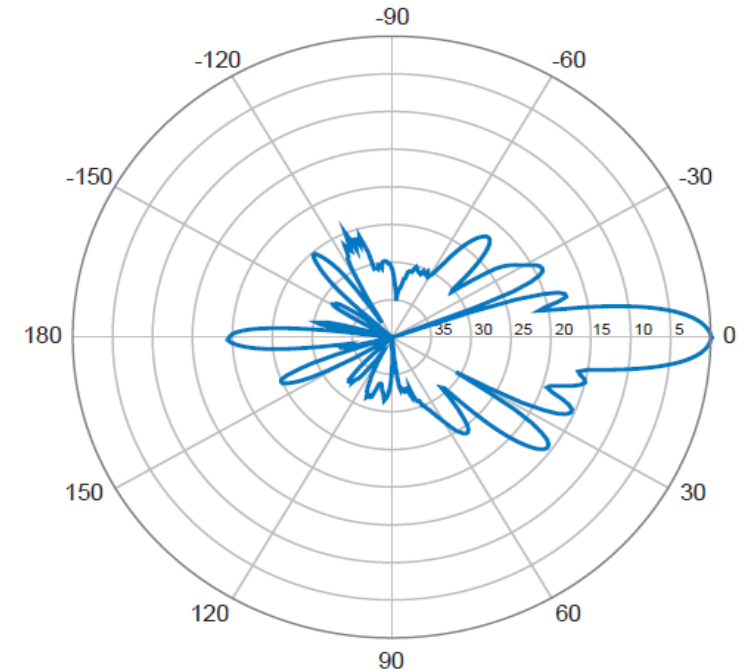
Beam =  $102^\circ$  @ -3 dB, 95", wideband 16.1 dBi @ 700 MHz Block A, 16.6 dBi @ 900 MHz MAS

WPA-700102-8CF-EDIN-X



Horizontal | 750 MHz

WPA-700102-8CF-EDIN-0



0° | Vertical | 750 MHz

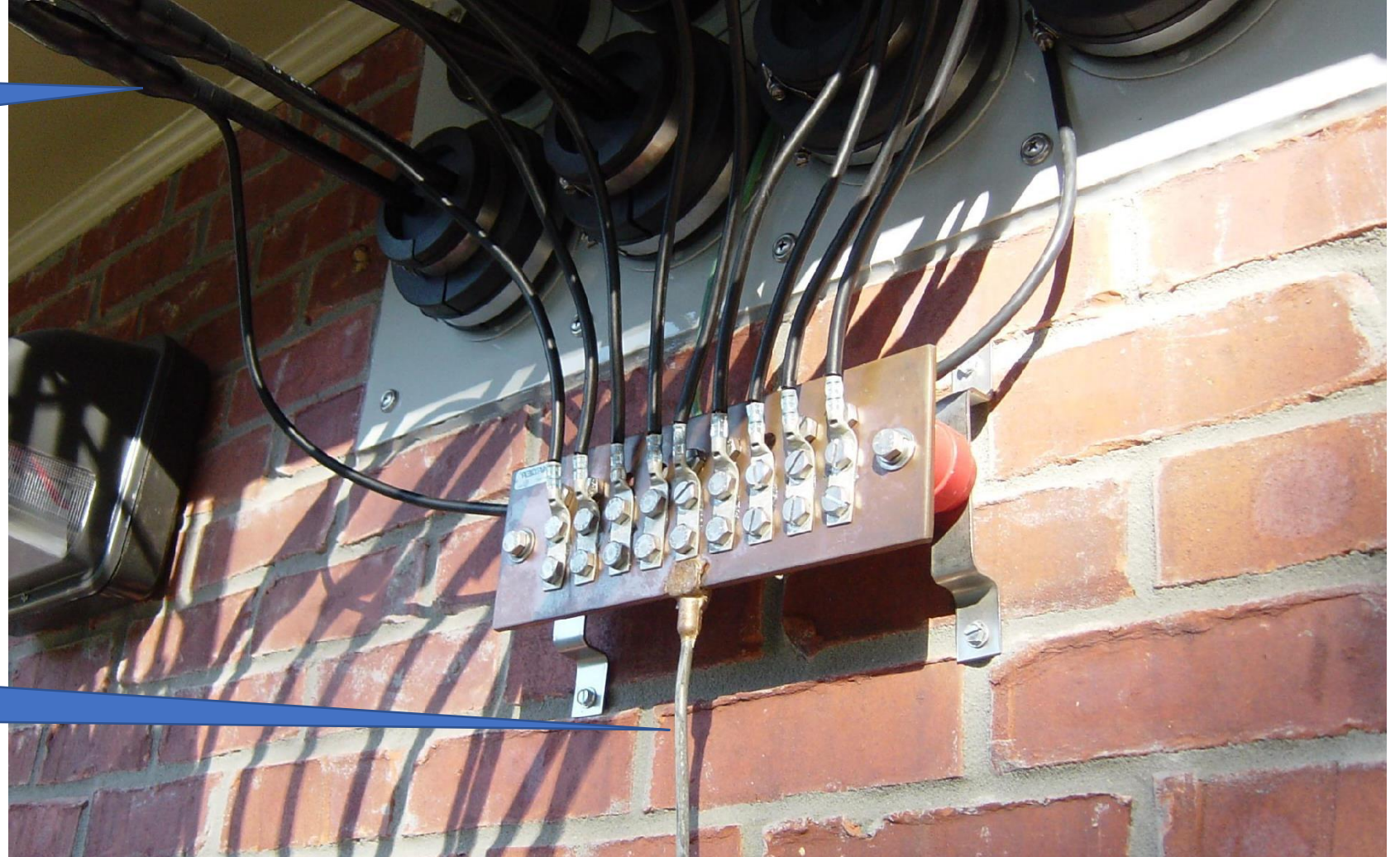


# Earthing at building entry – minimum

Earth kit applied to cable with waterproof protection applied

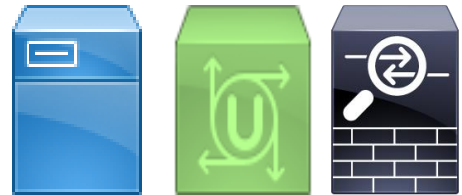
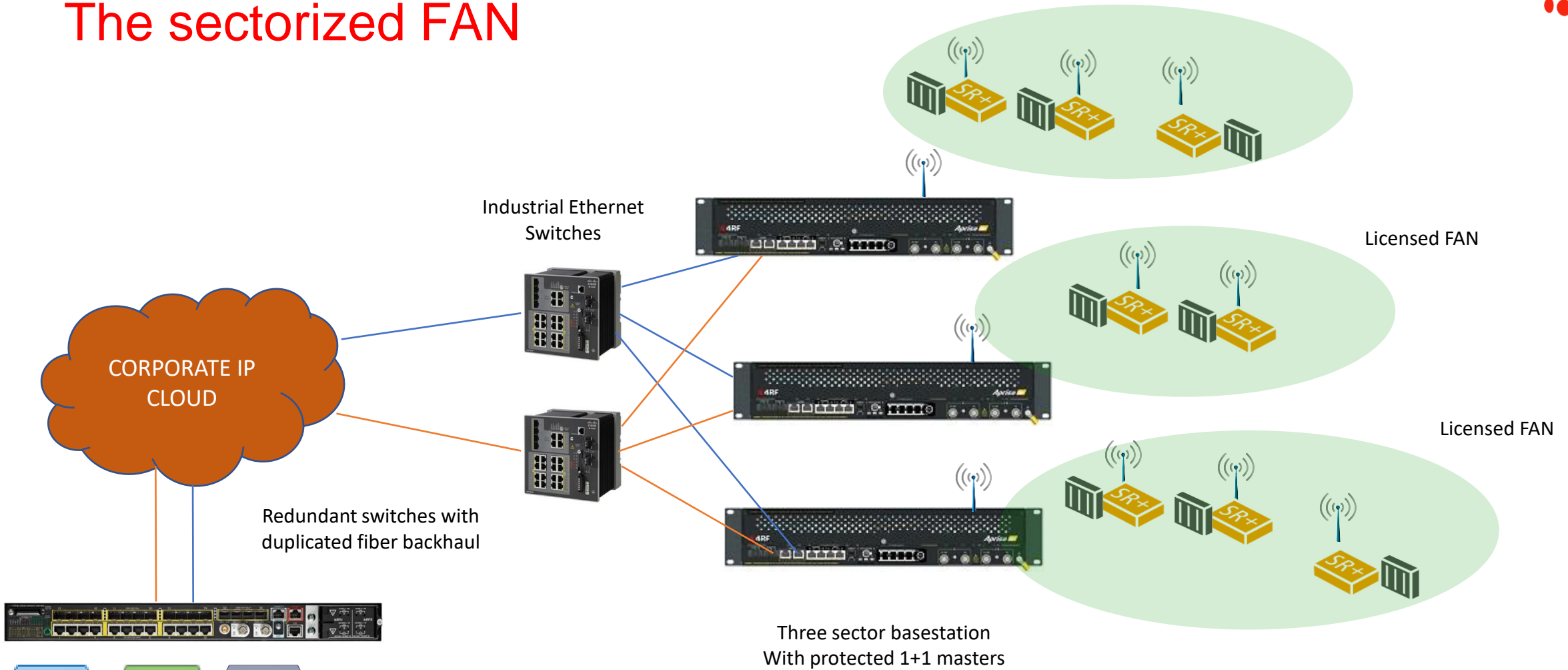
Critical to waterproof all antenna and feeder connections for long life

Earth plate to ground ring via heavy copper



# The sectorized FAN

Licensed FAN

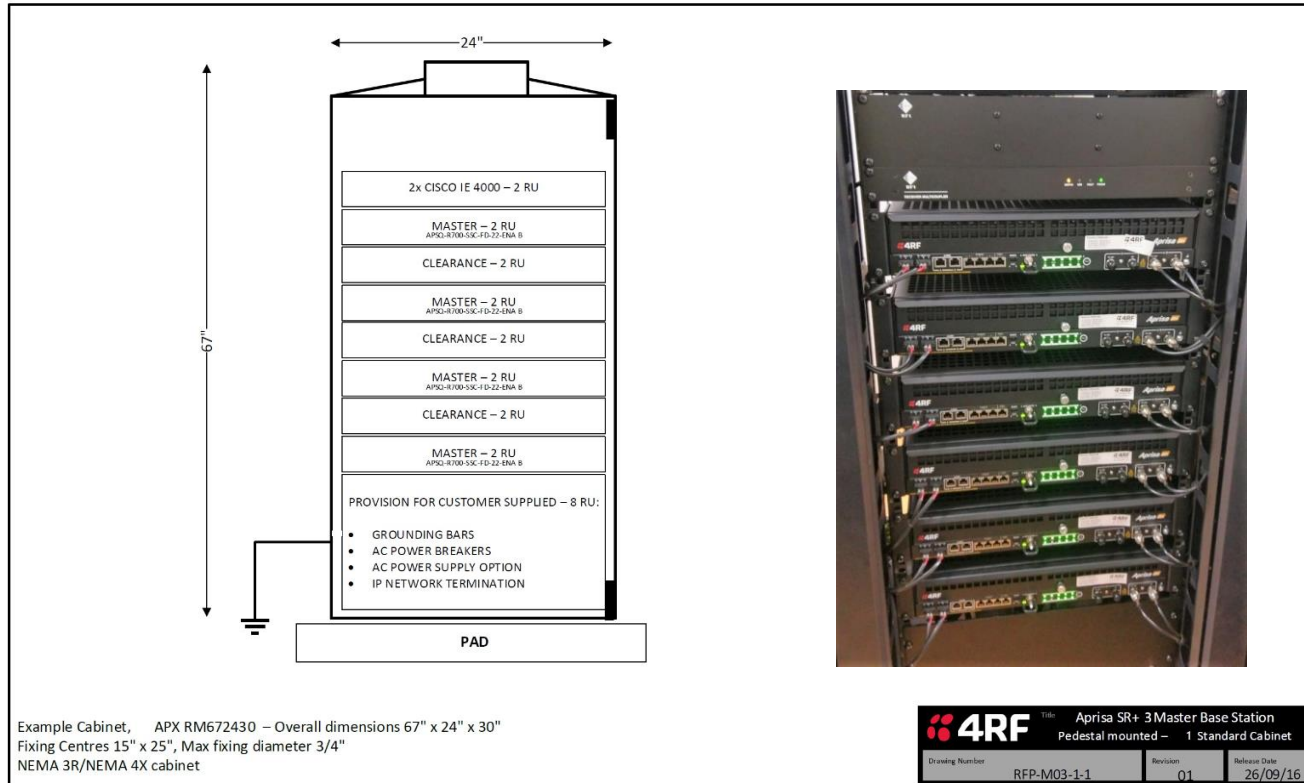




# Installation three sector and three sectors with two carriers

Base station and master radios

- Three sector site and six master sites shown

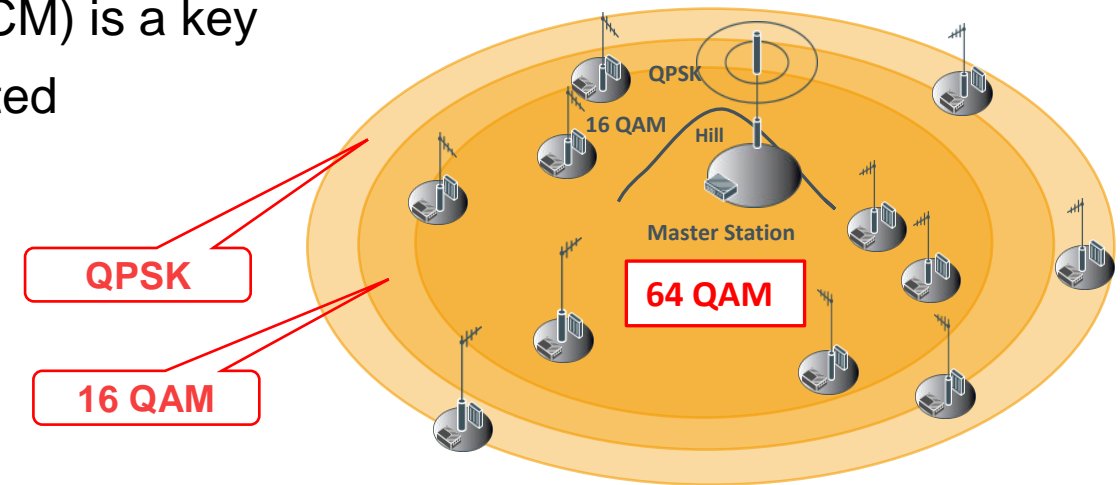




# ACM making best use of the channel

The ability to provide adaptive coding and modulation (ACM) is a key feature, both uplink and downlink ACM should be supported

- Enables maximum use of channel
- Highest speed for near remotes
- Robust connectivity for far remotes

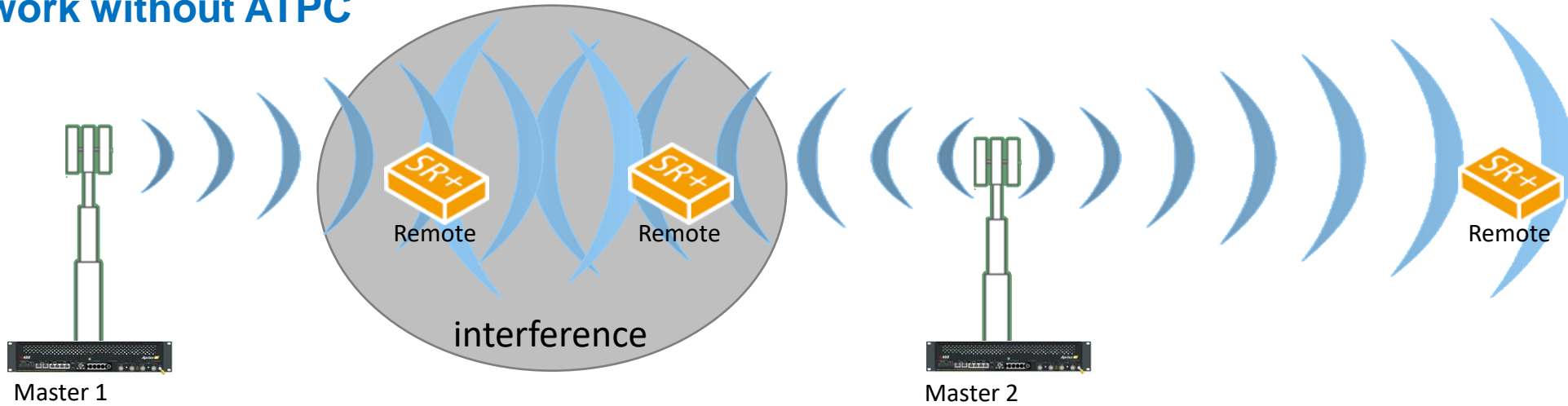


Allows reduced operational fade margins – plan with standard fade margin for robust QPSK but enjoy operational time at high capacity 64 QAM

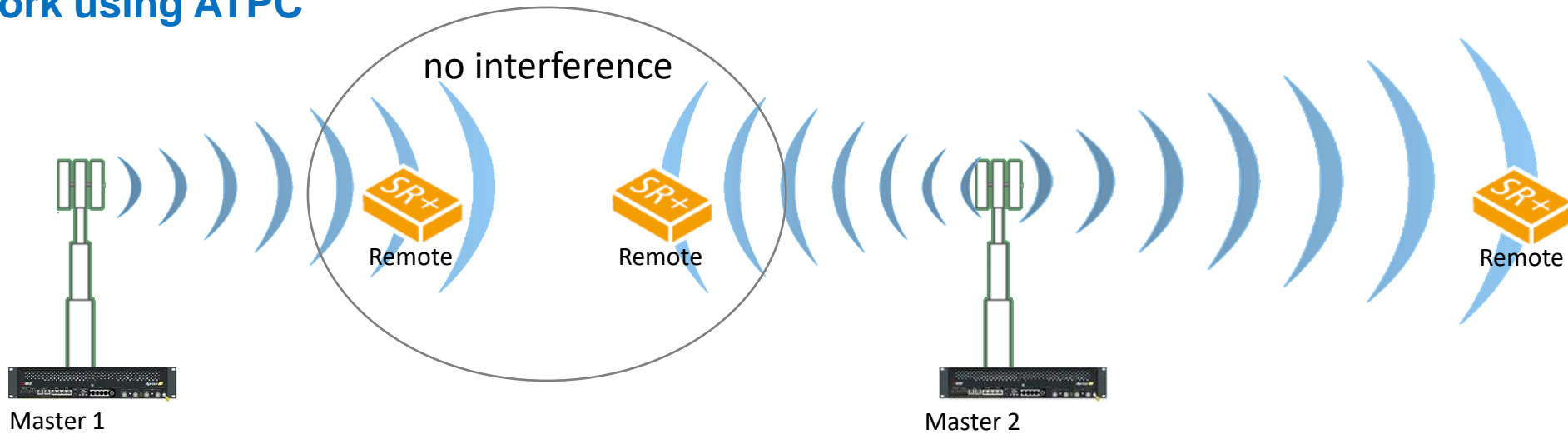
- Maintains link operation during fading, multipath, and interference scenarios
- ACM based on SNR performance and errored packets

# ATPC reduces noise and interference, increasing re-use

## Network without ATPC

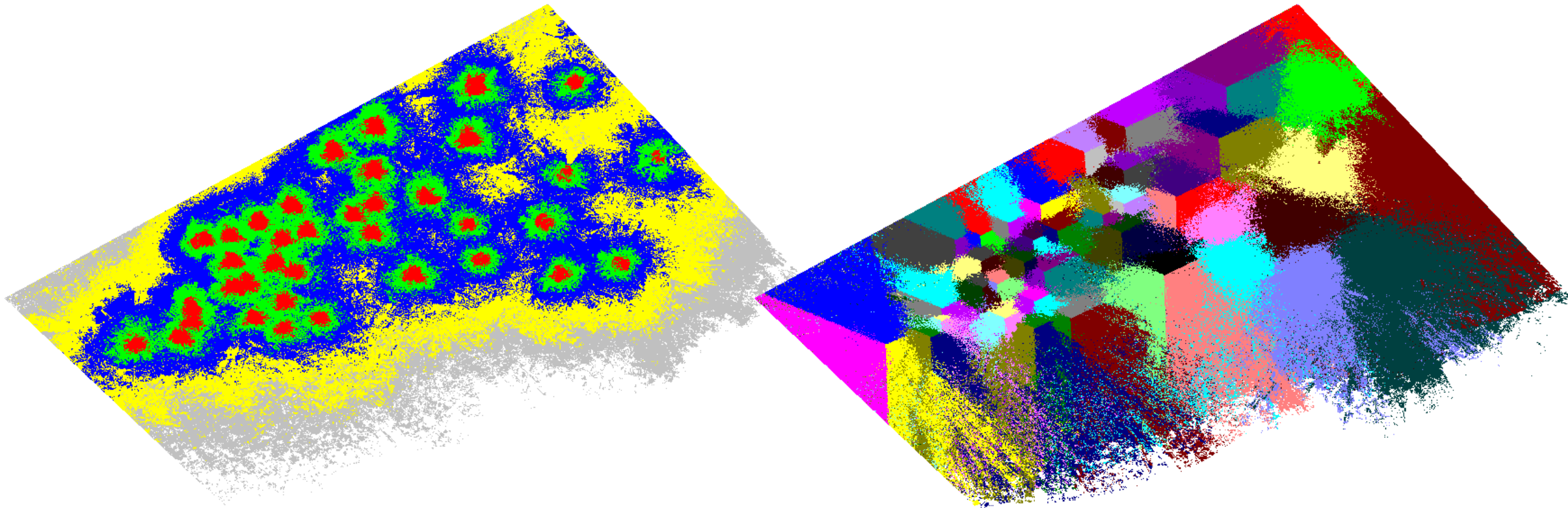


## Network using ATPC



# Omni vs sector – 38 remotes at ground level and masters at 60'

Frequency re-use critical



Best server plot – color = frequency and sector coverage



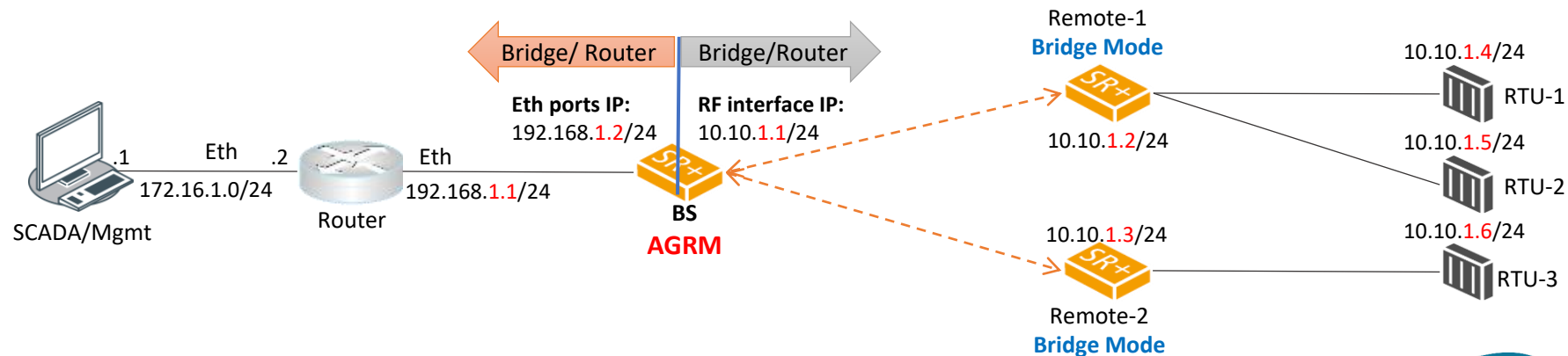
# Advanced IP router mode features in FAN

Combined IP Layer 2 and Layer 3 features for IP fan deployments

- Simplified RTU IP configuration
- All remote RTU devices remain in same L2 bridge subnet
- Base station backhaul is in a different subnet

Makes FAN backhaul connection to SCADA master via corporate IP network easier

Isolation of Ethernet broadcast domains – corporate LAN/router (backhaul) and FAN Radio LAN domains



# Platform multi-service support

Single platform – multiple services

- Port per application
- VLAN for virtual separation
- QoS for optimization
- Throughput requirements easily met

Radio platform is ready for immediate or future multi-service implementation – typical used immediately or as a future proof option for utilities



Port 2 – AMI



Port 1 – Smart Grid



# FAN packet processing

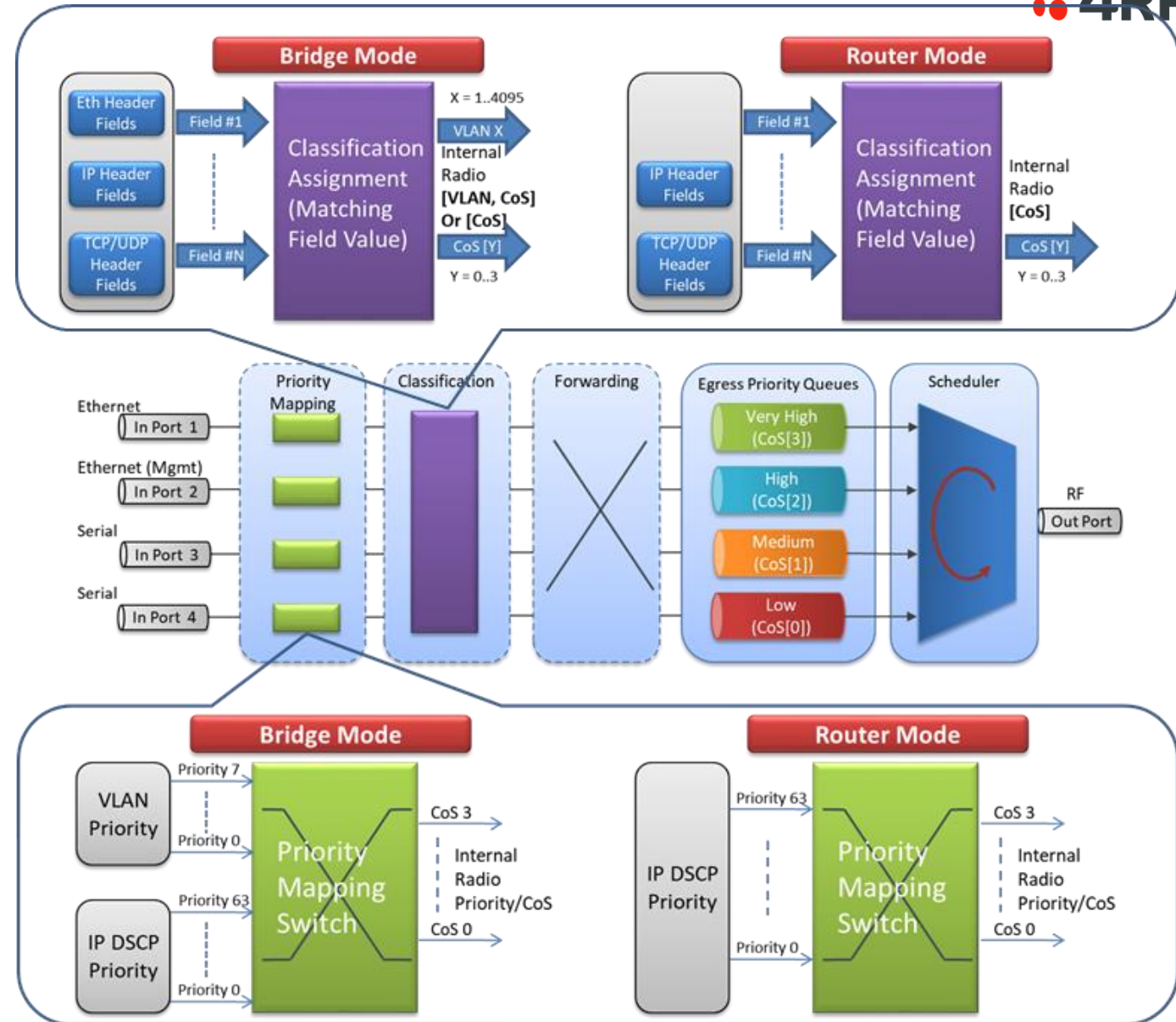
Multiple priority queues

Flexible port mapping or QoS driven

ARP cache and IP header compression

IP from edge to core, with serial TS

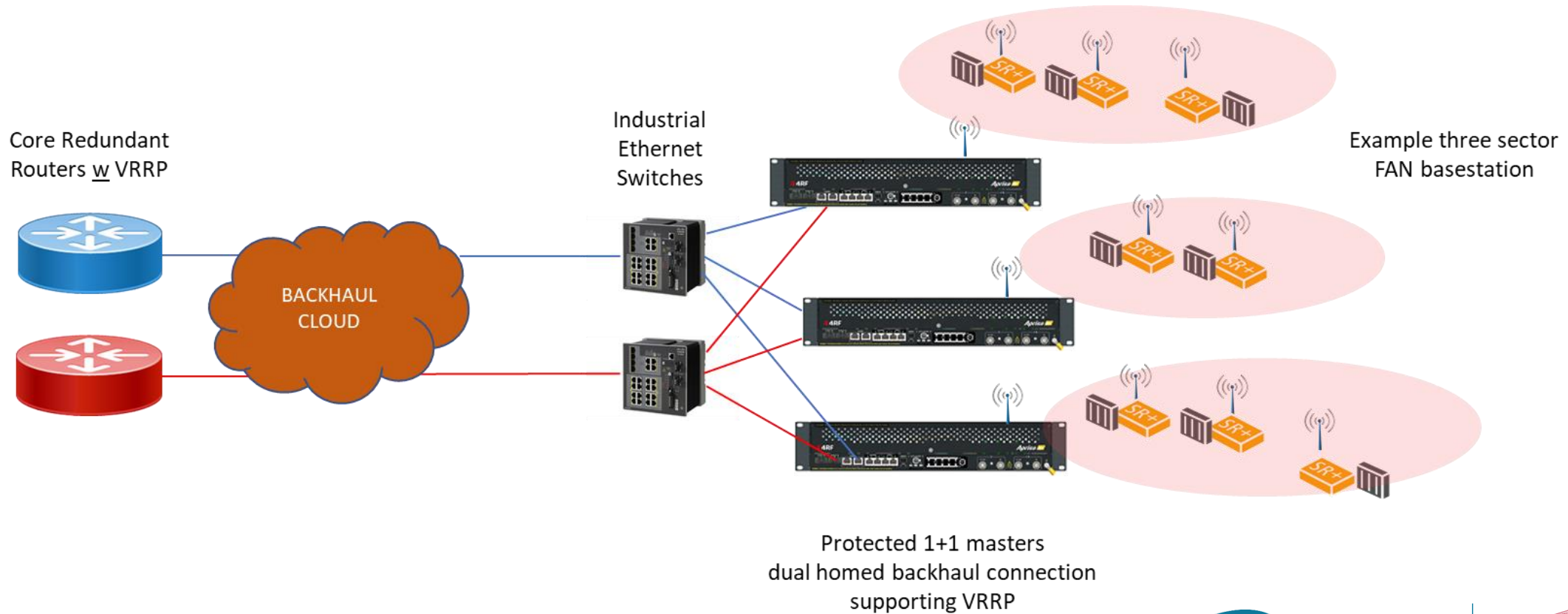
- Serial RTU and IED support
- Simplicity, flexibility, and depth
- Security with AES, CCM, and OTAR
- SNMP, CLI, and web management
- Essential tools, filter unwanted traffic
- Layer 2 VLAN aware, tagging and Q-in-Q





# Dual homing backhaul protection with VRRP

Allows backhaul route failover



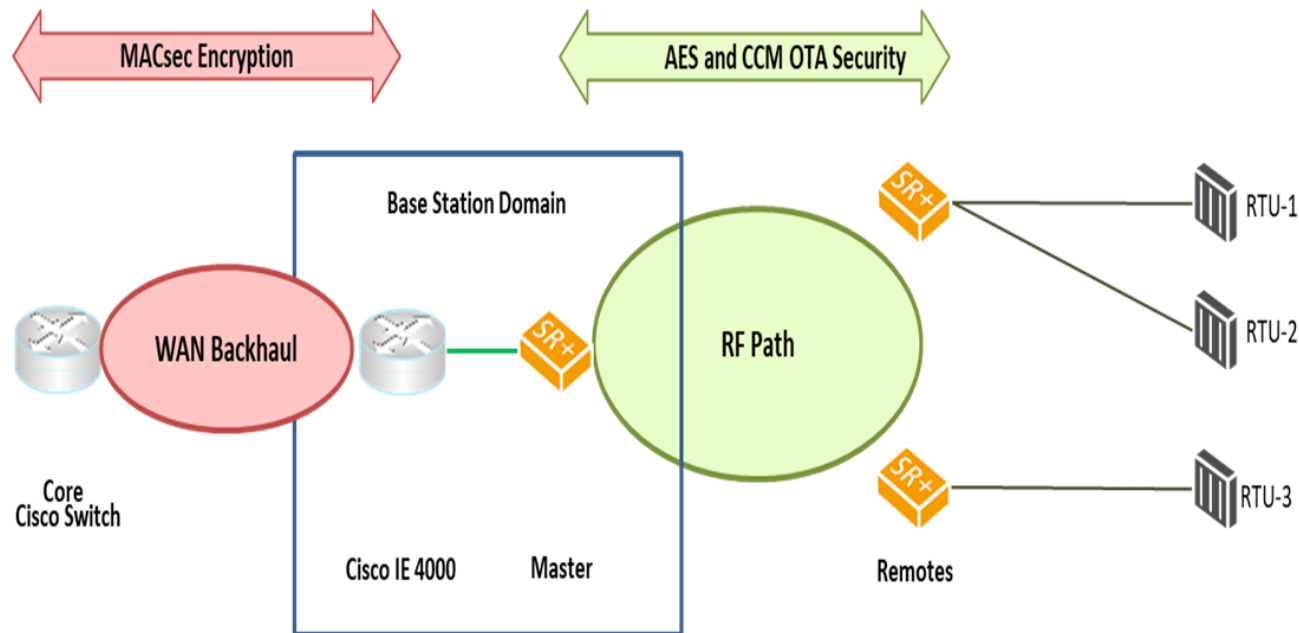
# Security domains

Over-the-air encryption provides low-overhead on radio access network

Security profile established at setup and distributed OTA to all remotes

Logging of security related events, 360 degree event consideration

L3 IPSEC or L2 MACsec WAN backhaul security



**360° Security**



# Over-the-air Symmetric Encryption

Encryption is used to reduce information leakage

**Robust cryptographic algorithm important**, today this is AES

Key is symmetric, same key used to decrypt and encrypt

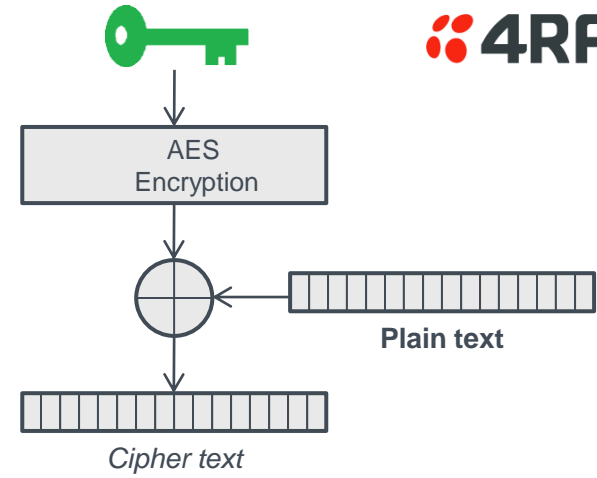
AES 128 bit block with 128, 192, or 256 bit keys

Security based on algorithm and shared secret key

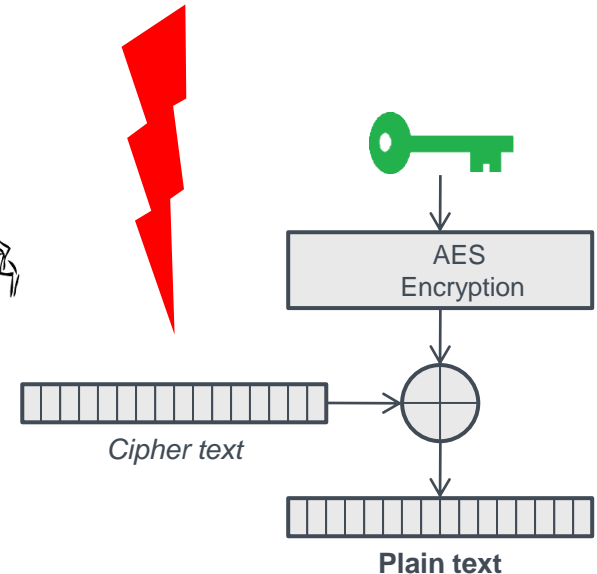
**Algorithm is public so key must be secret**

Why change the key?

- Repetitive traffic increases 'depth' weakens protection
- **Regularly changing key** guards against compromise
- So we need a means to distribute new keys



Hacker





# Message Authentication – CCM CBC MAC

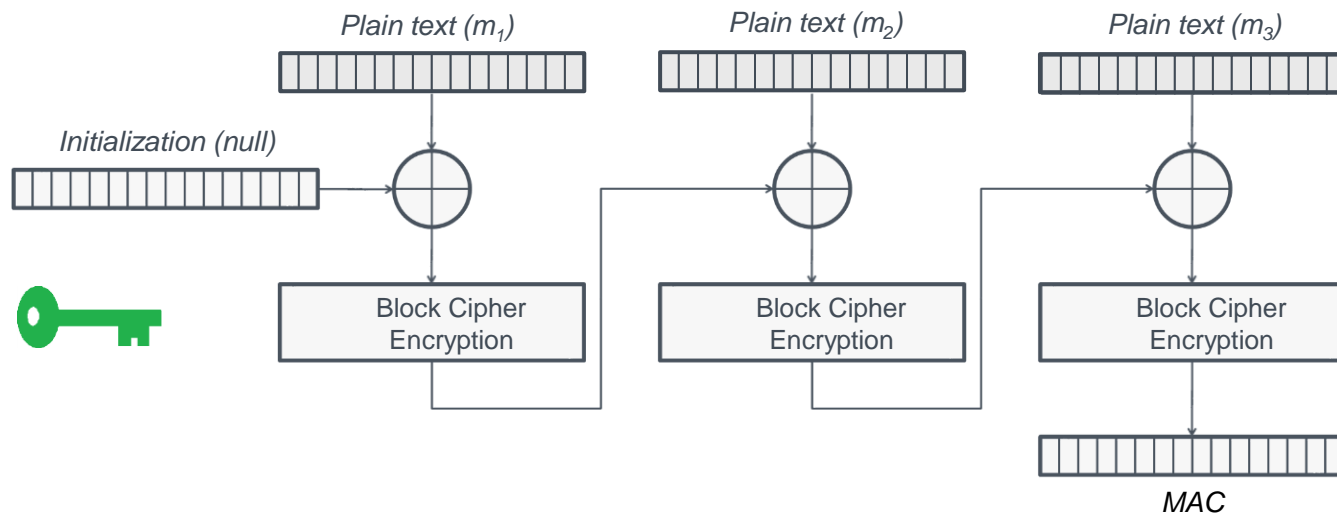
Counter mode encryption with cypher block chaining message authentication

CCM CBC MAC method with AES block cipher = AES (NIST SP 800-38C / RFC3610)

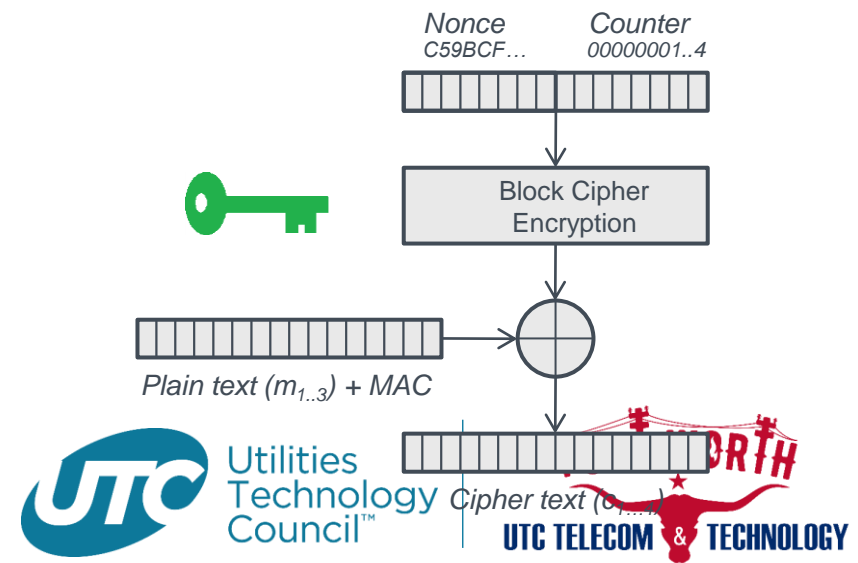
Message authentication code (MAC) then optionally encrypt

Send unique MAC with message for checking by receiver

- Creates unique message ‘fingerprint’



Note: diagram simplified as process is repeated once for each message plus MAC



# Certificates and Post-quantum Cryptography

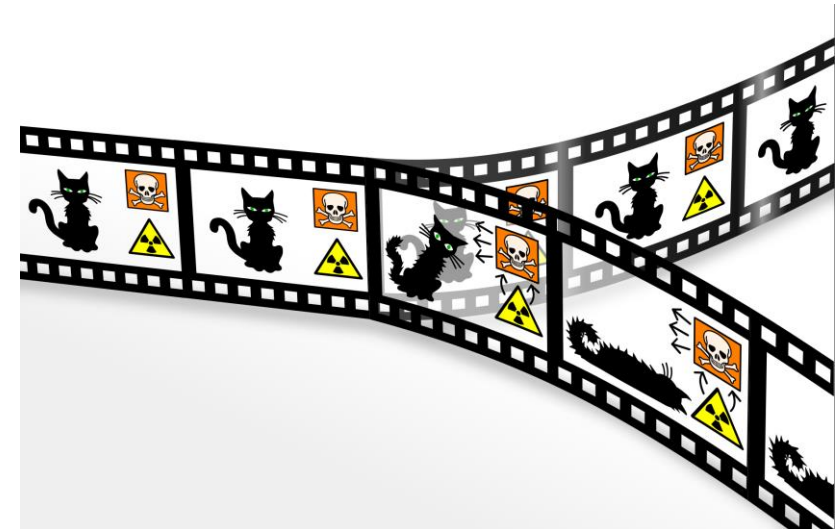
Quantum computing will eventually threaten many methods used to provide public/private key methods used to establish trust and exchange symmetric algorithm keying material

- Examples are RSA and ECC (elliptic-curve cryptography)

NIST Post-Quantum Cryptography Standardization Process underway, 26 candidate methods

- About 1/3 based on ring theory lattice modules, 1/3 linear code based, 1/3 on other methods

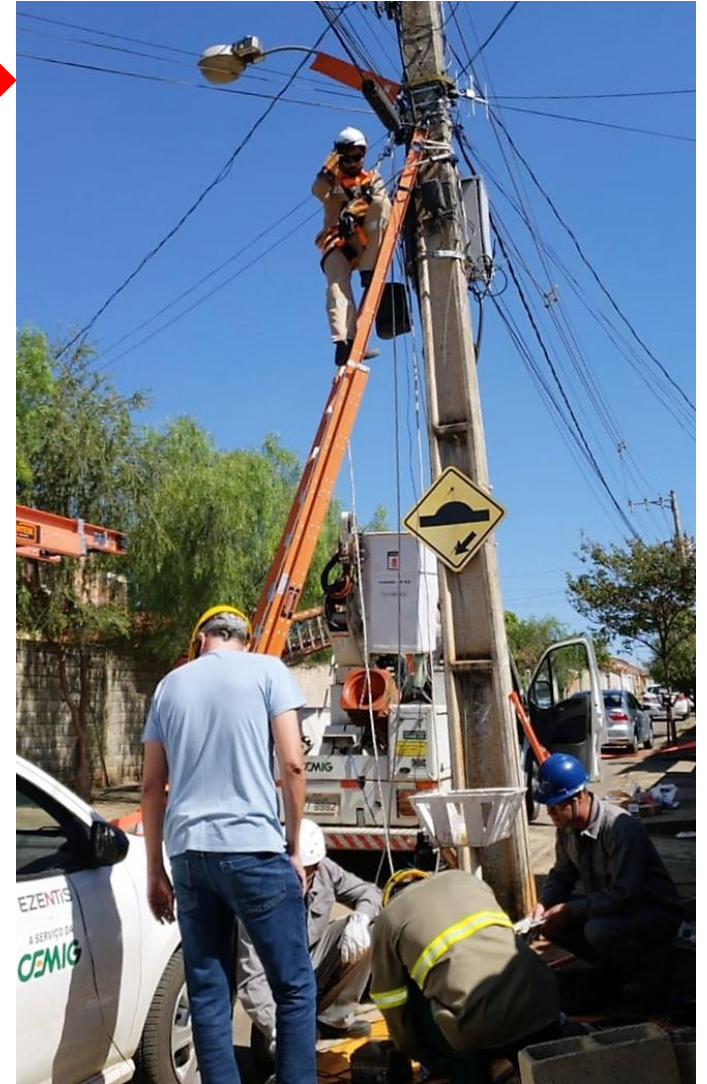
Watch this space



# Utility deployments

Lab testing ...

Installation





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