



# Telecommunications in Emergency and Crisis Situations

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# Outline

Introduction

Communication services for disaster mitigation

Communication scenarios in emergency and crisis situations

Rapid Emergency Deployment Communication System

Conclusions

Future Directions

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# Introduction

- A primary challenge in responding to Emergency and Crisis Situations (ECS) is communication operation.
- In the 9/11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center some of the police warnings were not heard by firefighters resulting in several casualties.
- In ECS communication infrastructure might be inoperative or have poor Quality of Service.
- The primary technological challenge after a disaster is the adequate operation of the communication infrastructures.

# Introduction

- In ECS, different Emergency Response Authorities (ERA)s are involved (civil protection, police, rescuers e.t.c.).
- For ECS communication infrastructures there is the challenge of:
  - Serviceability (to serve the increased traffic load):
    - Restoration of failed communication infrastructures.
    - Rapid deployment of Emergency Communication Infrastructures.
  - Interoperability of ECS communication infrastructures.

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# ECS Communication Services

- Push to talk:
  - Analog Voice service in a point to multi-point architecture.
  - Half duplex communication service.
  - PTT is a widely used service to ERAs.
- Audio/Voice service:
  - Full-duplex audio communication.
  - Full duplex voice is required for public safety communication.

# ECS Communication Services

- Real Time Video transmission:
  - Transmission of real time video to an ERA control center and vice versa could be a very powerful tool for disaster mitigation.
- Real Time Text Messaging:
  - Text messaging service is an effective and quick solution for sending alerts in case of emergencies:
    - Individuals reporting suspicious actions.
    - Victim affected by a disaster.
    - Authorities warnings to the public.



# ECS Communication Services

- Broadcasting-Multicasting
  - Both functionalities can enhance public safety and rescue operations.
- Localization
  - Victim Location.
  - Rescuers Location.
- Status information.
  - Environmental parameters that can trigger ECS response.

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# Emergency communications usage scenarios

- Mobile emergency responder.
  - Access to services and applications by emergency responders.
  - Mobile or Nomadic usage.
  - Requirements:
    - Interoperability between ERAs
    - QoS Support (for example prioritization)
    - Security – Privacy (for example in case of a terrorist attack)
    - Reliability – Availability, services should be available at all locations of the disaster area.
    - Scalability. ECS responder number increases
    - Mobility. Especially in the case of a large disaster Area
    - Location report. To efficient coordinate of the mitigation plan.

# Emergency communications usage scenarios

- Fixed command/coordination center.
  - The case of an emergency response command center in the premises of a civil protection authority.
  - VoIP, multimedia content sharing, file sharing, tele-medicine services, and intergovernmental communications
- Requirements:
  - Interoperability between ERAs
  - QoS Support. Prioritization of transmission especially in the case where the network capacity is reached
  - Security - Privacy. (ERA communications, Telemedicine data etc.)
  - Reliability – Availability (Restoration of infrastructures, Backup infrastructures)

# Emergency communications usage scenarios

- Nomadic command/coordination center.
  - The case of an emergency response command center on a vehicle located close or within the disaster scene and coordinates the emergency responders locally.
  - Requirements:
    - Interoperability.
    - QoS Support. Classification to various responder teams.
    - Security – Privacy Secure Hand-offs, re-authentication.
    - Reliability – Availability, services should be available at all locations of the disaster area.
    - Scalability in order to support load and area coverage growth as ECS mitigation is carried out.

# Emergency communications usage scenarios

- Victim Communications
  - Communications between Victims and Rescuers
  - Victim communication has to rely in consumer devices (mobile phones, Wifi enabled devices).
  - Requirements
    - Ubiquitous Access. The network should be easily accessible from everybody (112)
    - Interoperability. Between ERAs and Civilians
    - QoS Support, prioritization to give priority to incidents requiring immediate response.
    - Security – Privacy. protecting victims privacy and should provide resilience to operational anomalies and security attacks
    - Location Services to assist responders.

# Emergency Response Aspects

- In the ECS, emergency response does not take place all at once.
- At the early stages, first responders operate independently.
- Later the responder teams become part of a coordinated action plan.
- Traditionally ECS responder communication is based on VHF/UHF PTT service.
- ERAs communication infrastructure lack interoperability.

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# Rapid Emergency Deployment Mobile Communication Infrastructure



## Innovative Infrastructure:

- Cognitive mesh network backbone
- Use of unused UHF frequencies
- Auto-configurable

## Nodes:

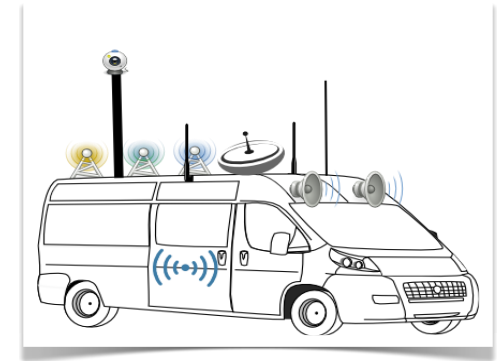
- 8 Mobile Units (trailers)
- 2 Suitcases

## Communication Equipment:

- VHF radios
- GSM Base Stations
- WiFi Access Points
- Satellite Transceivers
- Ethernet
- ISDN
- FM Radio broadcast



Action Grant under the Programme for  
“Prevention, Preparedness and  
Consequence Management of Terrorism  
and other Security-related risks”: 617k €

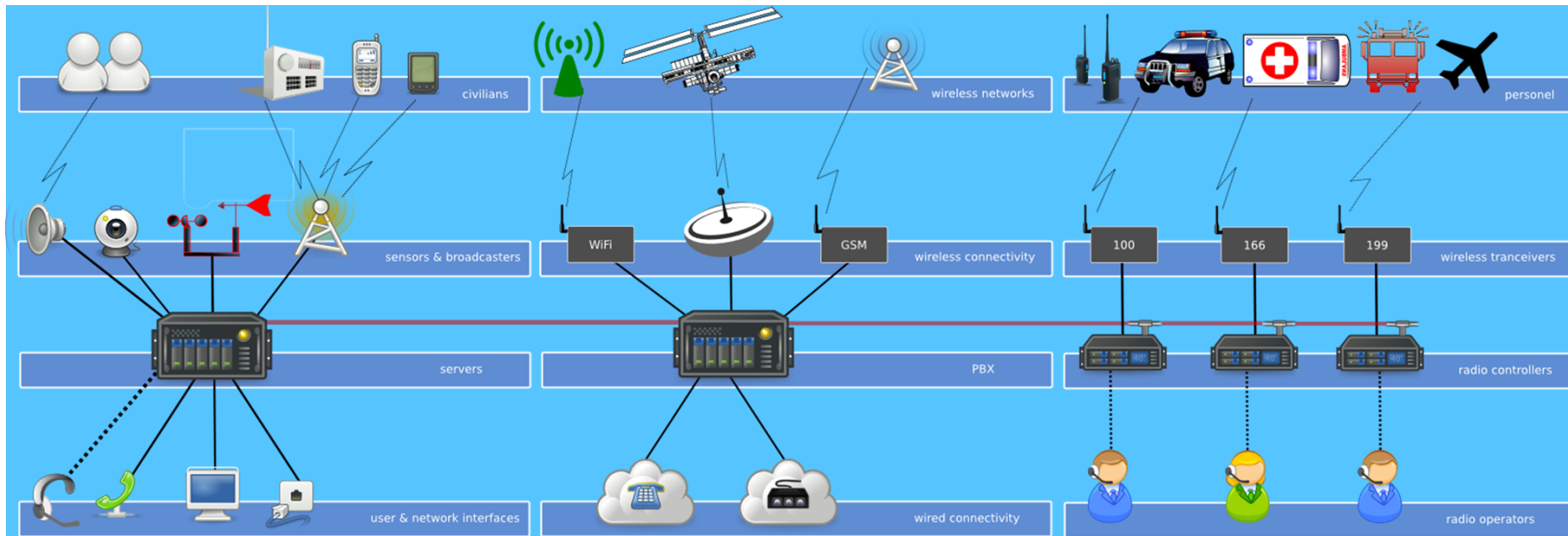


**Coordinator: FORTH-ICS**

Associate Partners:

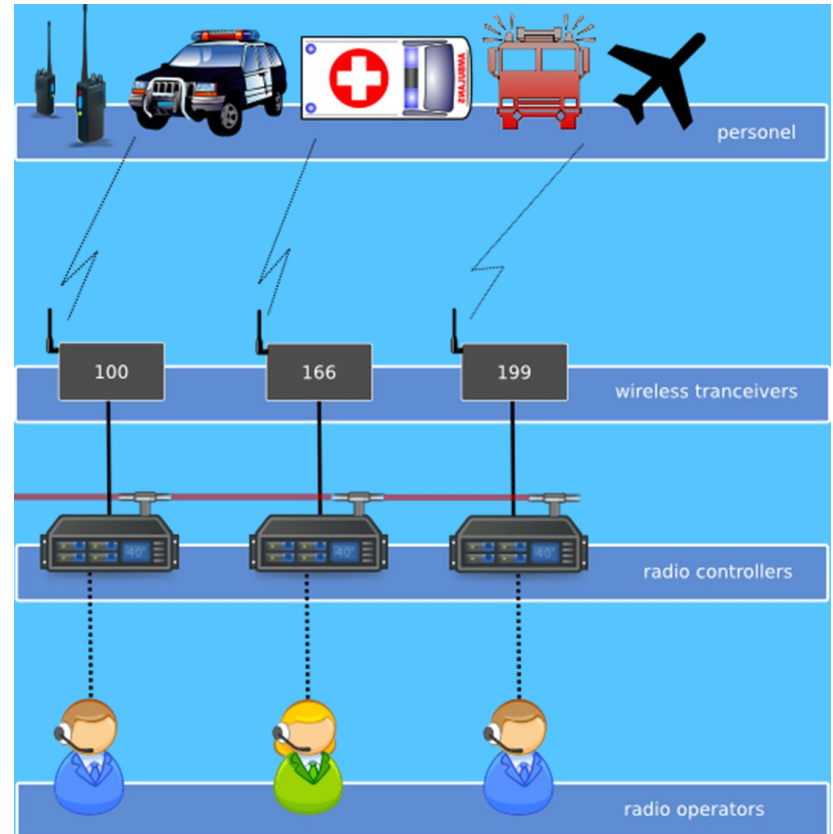
- Region of Crete
- Hellenic Republic – Hellenic Police
- Hellenic Republic Fire Service
- EKAB – National Center of Prehospital  
Emergency Medicine

# System diagram



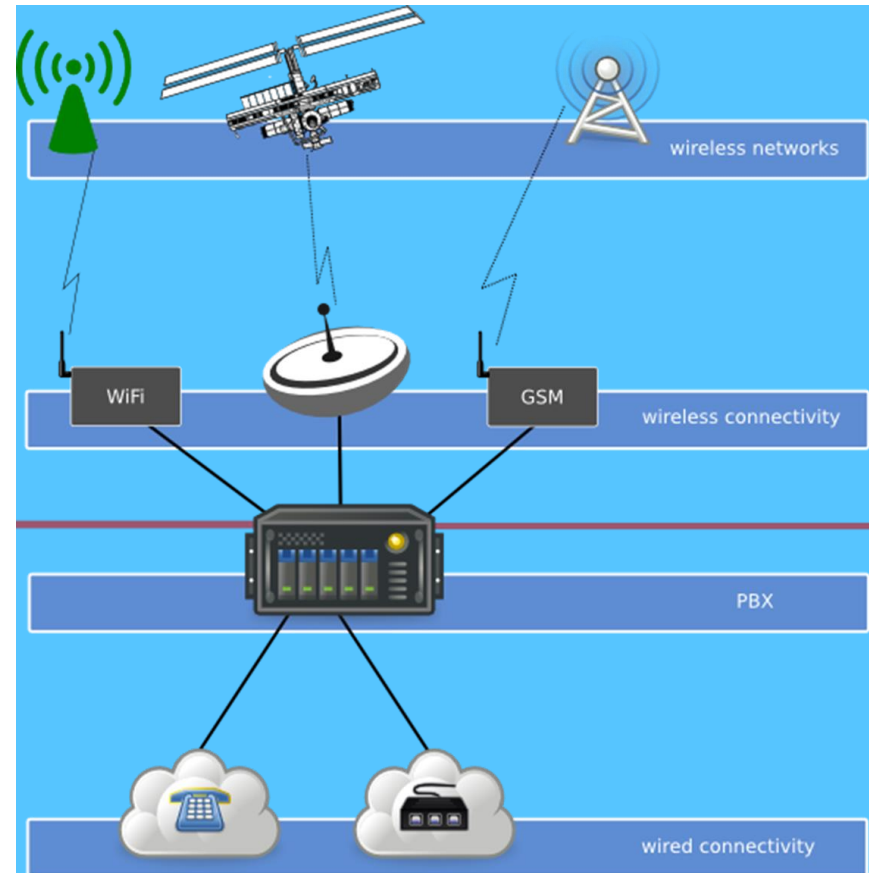
# Basic components

- Independent VHF/UHF transceivers
- Independent operators
- Capability for interconnection
- Capability for parallel operations



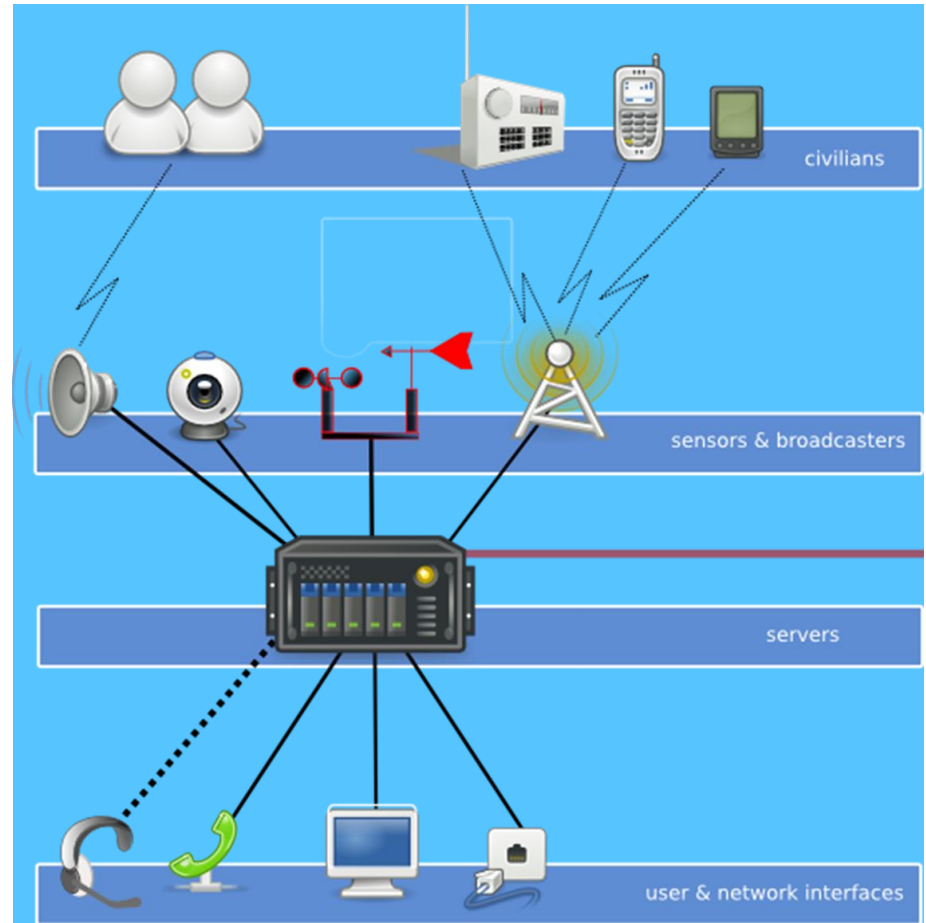
# Connectivity

- Satellite transceiver
- Mobile networks-GSM base station
- Wireless networks – 802.11n Access Points
- Backbone Network interfaces – SDR PCIe cards
- ISDN Primary Rate interface (voice and data)
- Sector antennas covering 120 degrees (9 antennas)

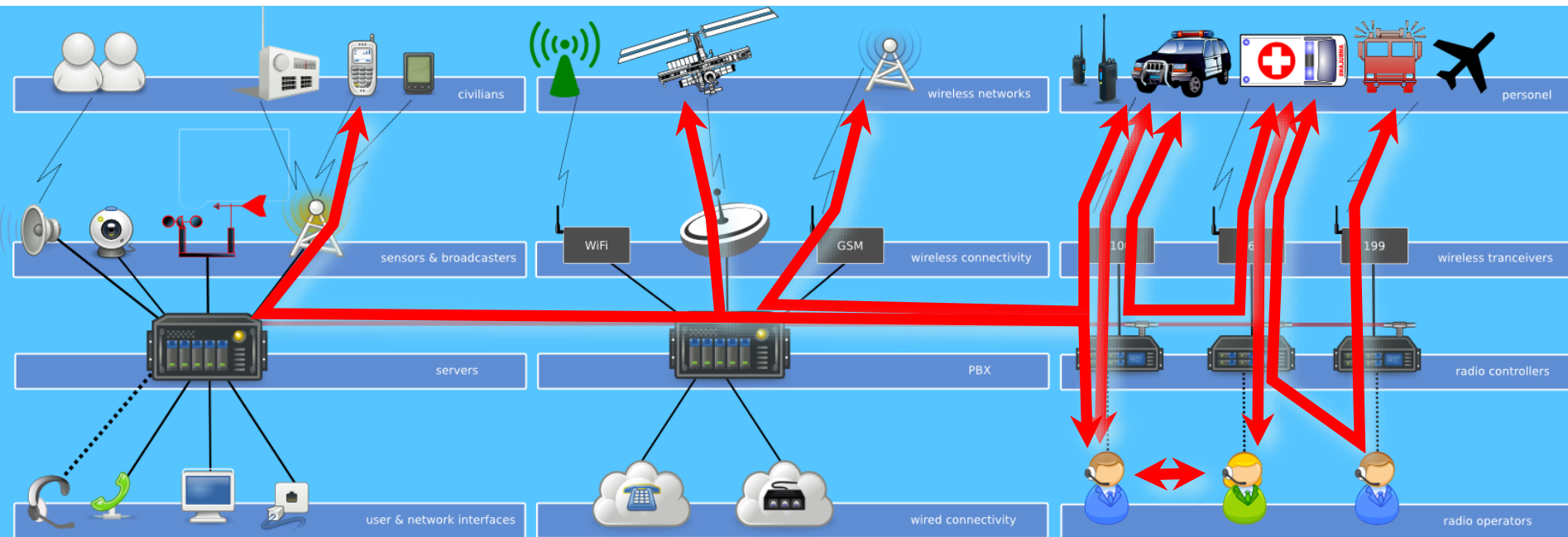


# Supportive elements

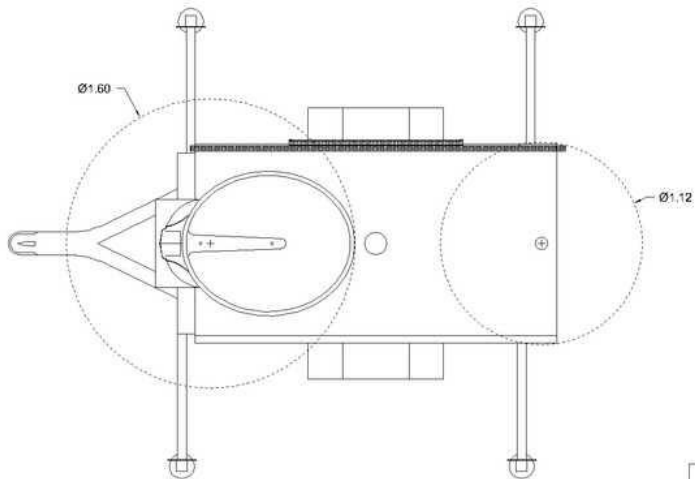
- FM Transmitter
- IP Video Camera
- Loudspeakers
- Anemometer
- Video screens
- Ethernet
- Telescopic mast
- 4 steel guy cables for mast resistance to wind



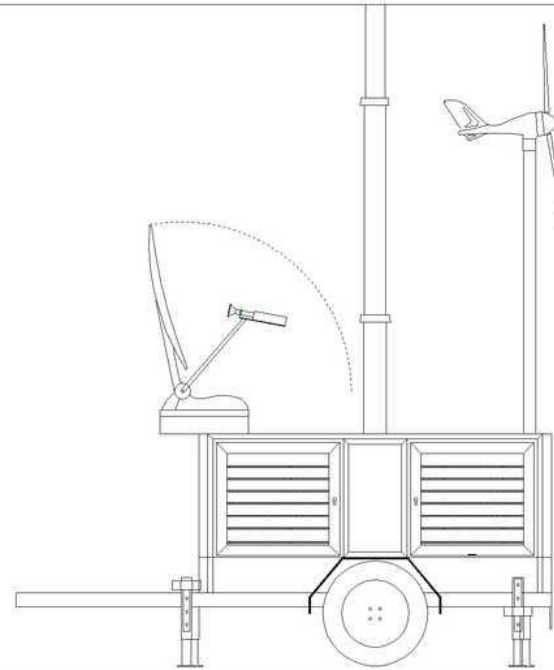
# REDComm System Diagram



# REDComm prototype development

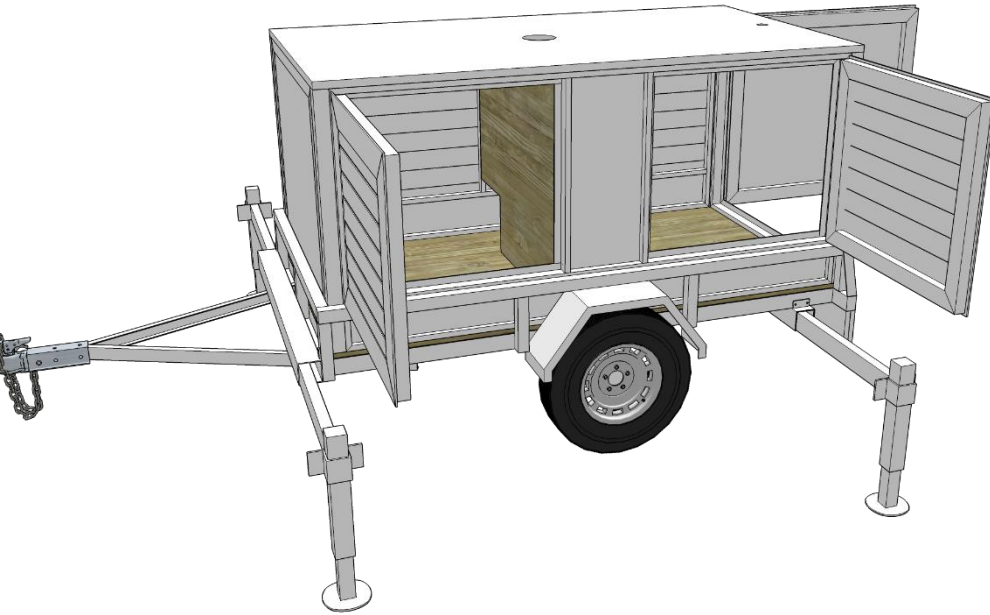


| Forth ICS TNL |          |
|---------------|----------|
| RedComm Node  |          |
| Description   | Top View |
| Scale         | 1:20     |
| #             | 1/7      |



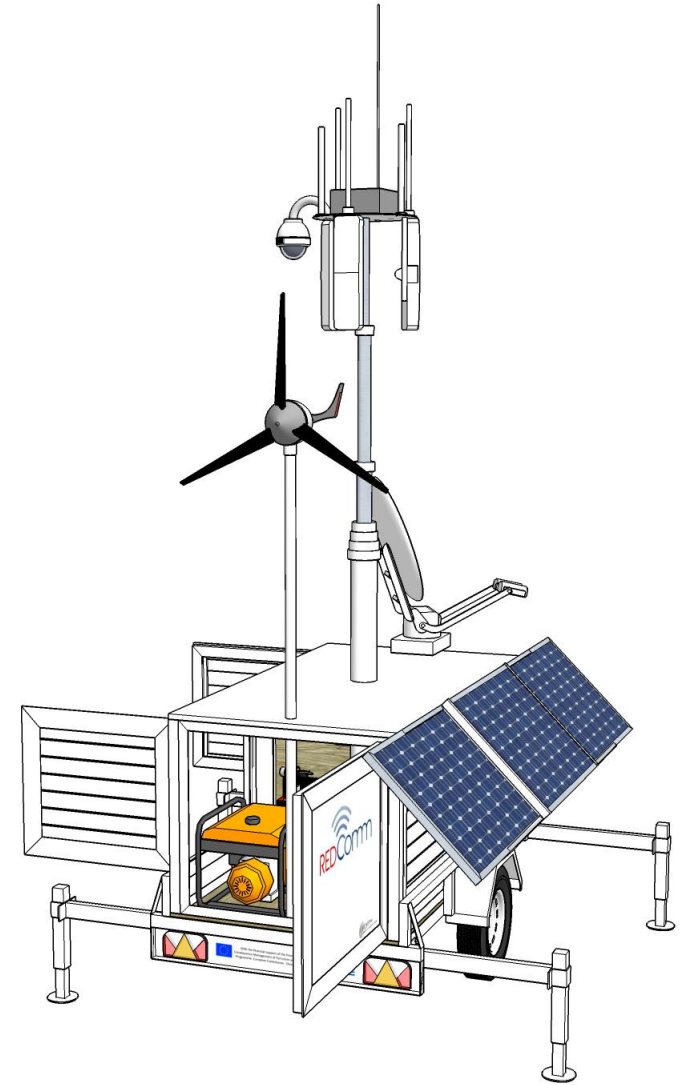
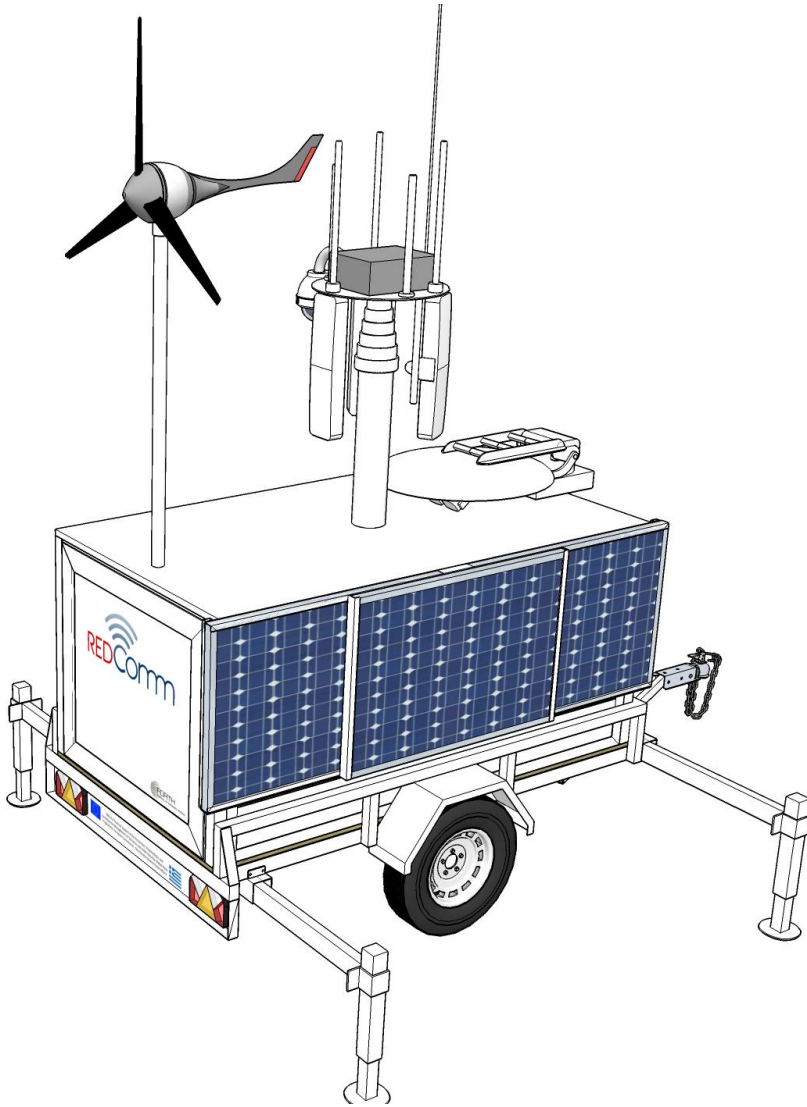
| Forth ICS TNL |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| RedComm Node  |           |
| Description   | Left Side |
| Scale         | 1:20      |
| Plan #        | 2/7       |

# REDComm prototype development





# REDComm prototype development



# REDComm prototype development



# REDComm prototype development



# REDComm prototype development



# REDComm prototype development



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# REDComm prototype development

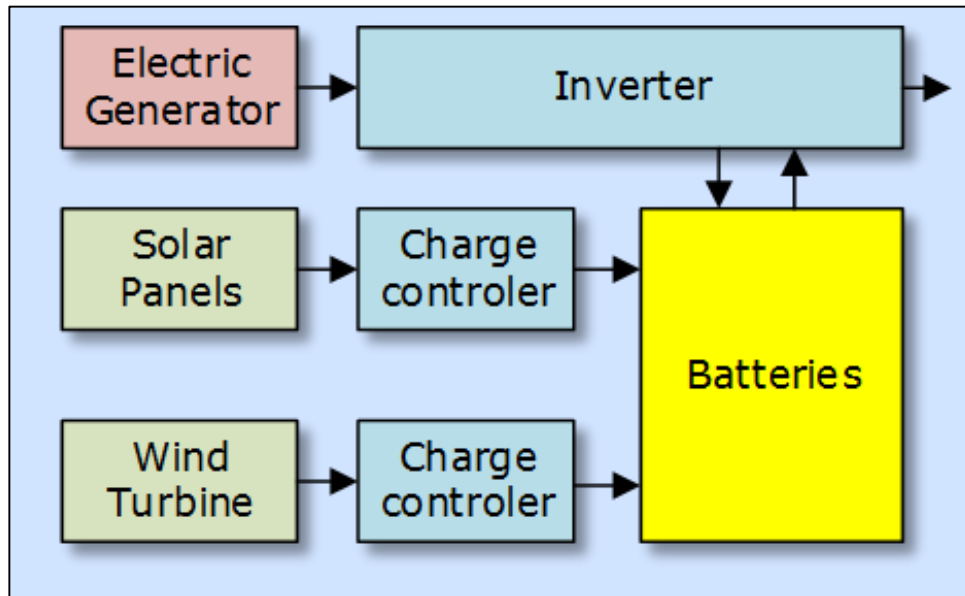


# REDComm suitcases





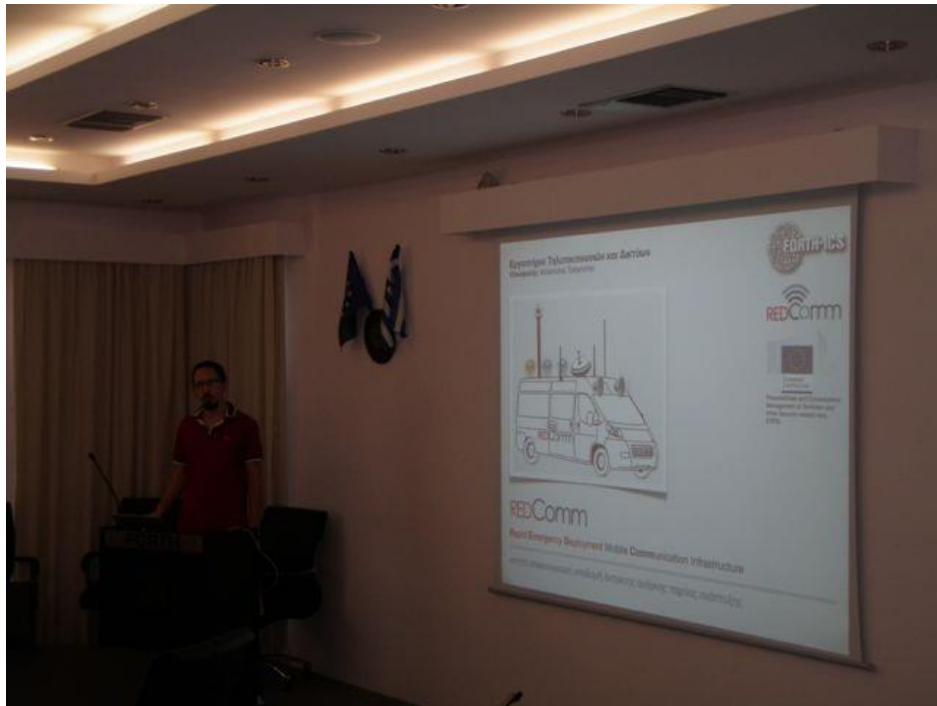
# REDComm energy aspects



I. Askoxylakis, FORTH-ICS



# Engagement of the authorities



# Demonstrations



Hellenic Parliament, December 2014



Researcher's Night, 2014, 2015, 2016



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# Conclusion from the EC



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E: Migration and Security Funds  
Unit E.3: Internal Security Fund

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

**TRL 8 – system complete and qualified**

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment

**Subject: Final calculation of Grant Agreement HOME/2011/CIPS/AG/40000002107**

Dear Mr Askoxylakis,

Further to the submission of the final reports for the above-mentioned grant agreement, I am pleased to inform you that our services have completed the evaluation of your project and have rated it as **GOOD** with the following remarks:

## CONCLUSION:

REDComm has produced a working system that is assessed as being of **TRL 8**, the project outputs are therefore in a position to be exploited by emergency services operators and/or serve as the basis for further development. REDComm can thus potentially make an important contribution to improving the response to emergency situations in the EU.

Brussels, *Ares (2015) 3872740*  
HOME-E3/ds D(2015) 18 SEP. 2015

**Foundation For Research&Technology**  
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**REGISTERED MAIL WITH  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT**



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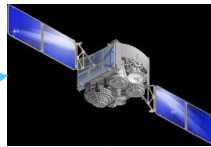
Rapid Emergency Deployment Communication System

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# Secure, Interoperable, UAV-assisted, Rapid Emergency Deployment Communication and sensing Infrastructure - SIREN

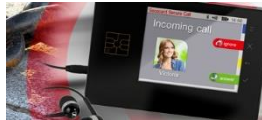
## Future directions



UAVs carrying cameras and sensors:



Secure device

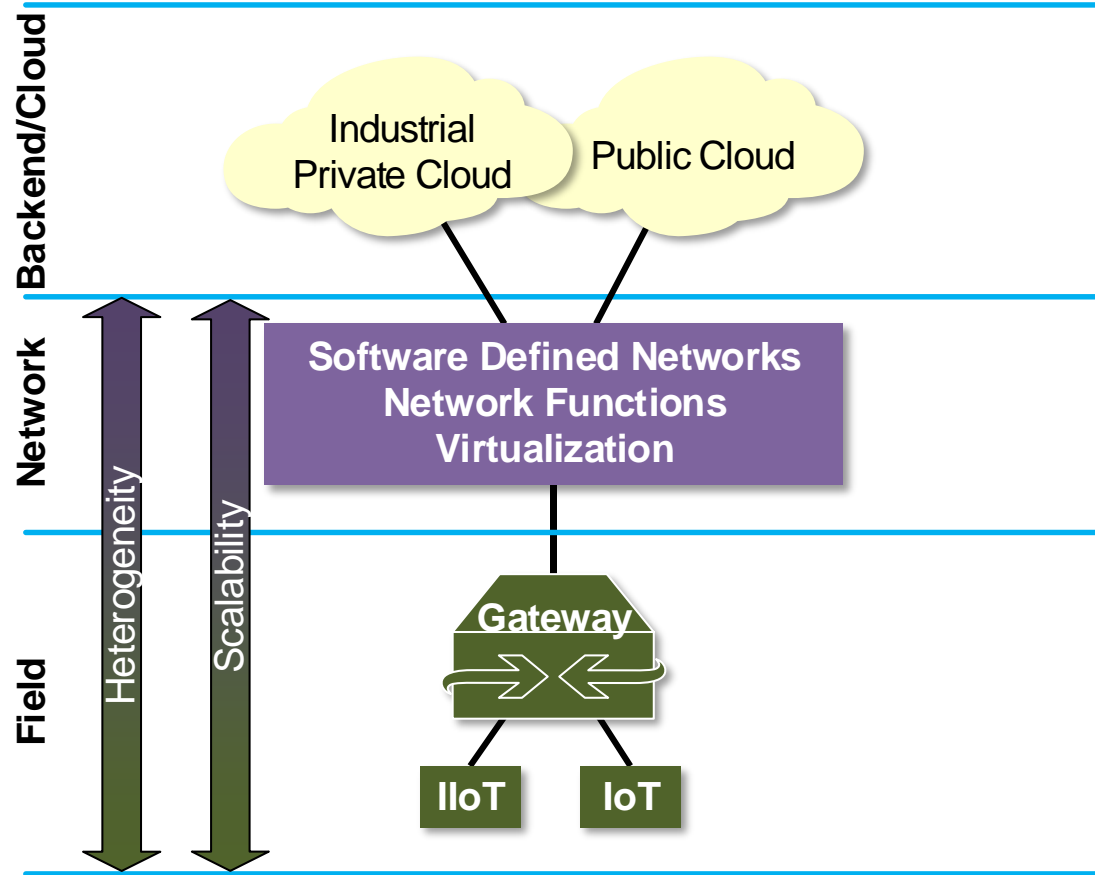


REDComm Platform





# Internet of Things





# Intelligence-Driven Urban Internet-of-Things Ecosystems for Circular, SAfe and InCLusive Smart CITIES

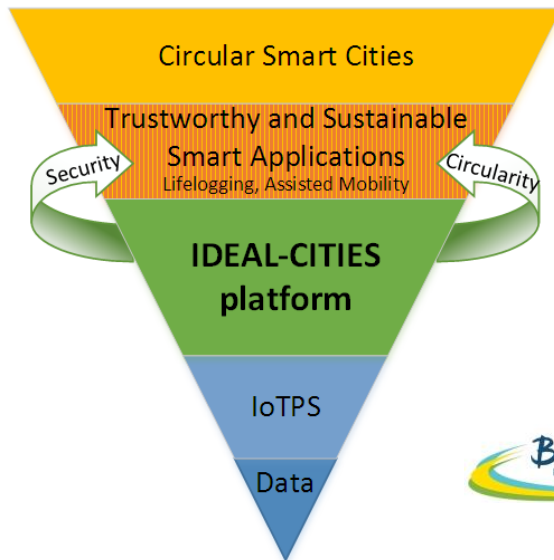
Call: H2020-MSCA-RISE-2017

GA number: 778229

Budget: 1,611,000€

Duration: 4 years

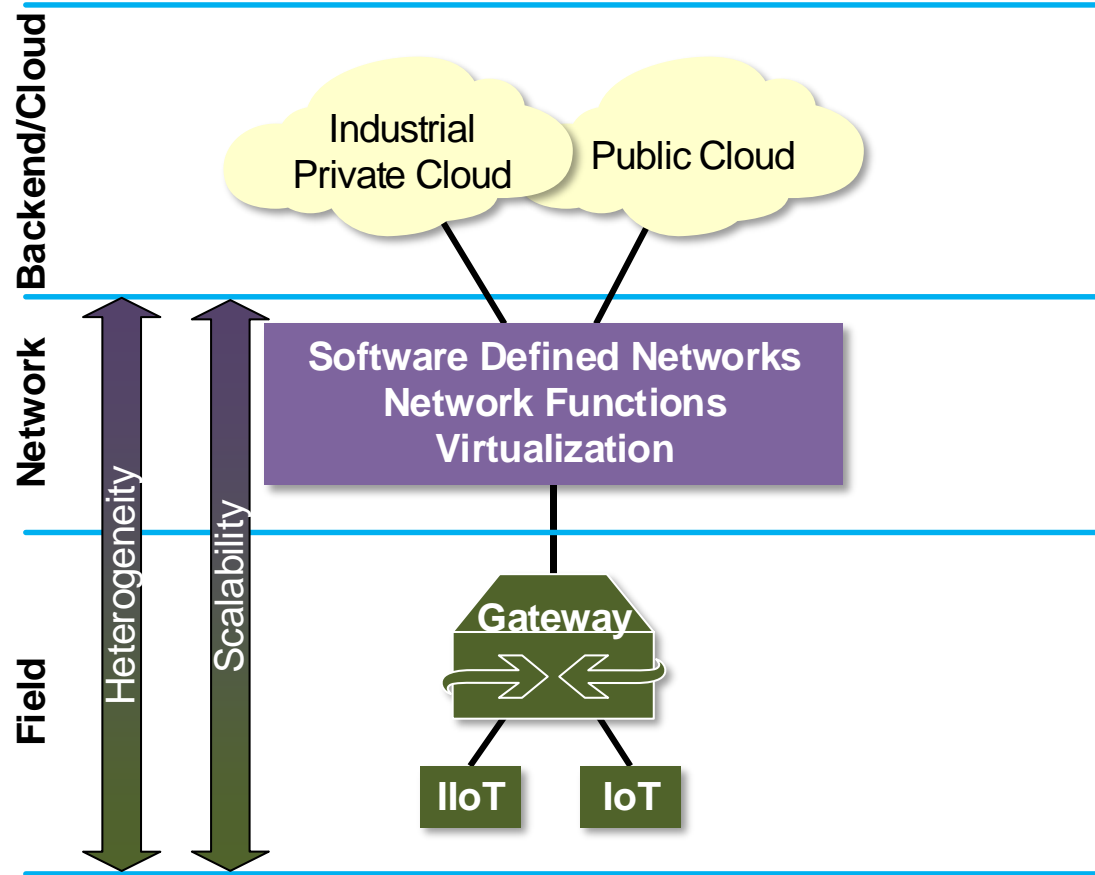
## Partners



## Supported By



# Internet of Things





A Framework for Pairing **Circular Economy** and **IoT**:  
IoT as an enabler of the Circular Economy &  
circularity-by-design as an enabler for IoT

Call: H2020-MSCA-RISE-2017  
GA number: 777855

Budget: 1,692,000€  
Duration: 4 years

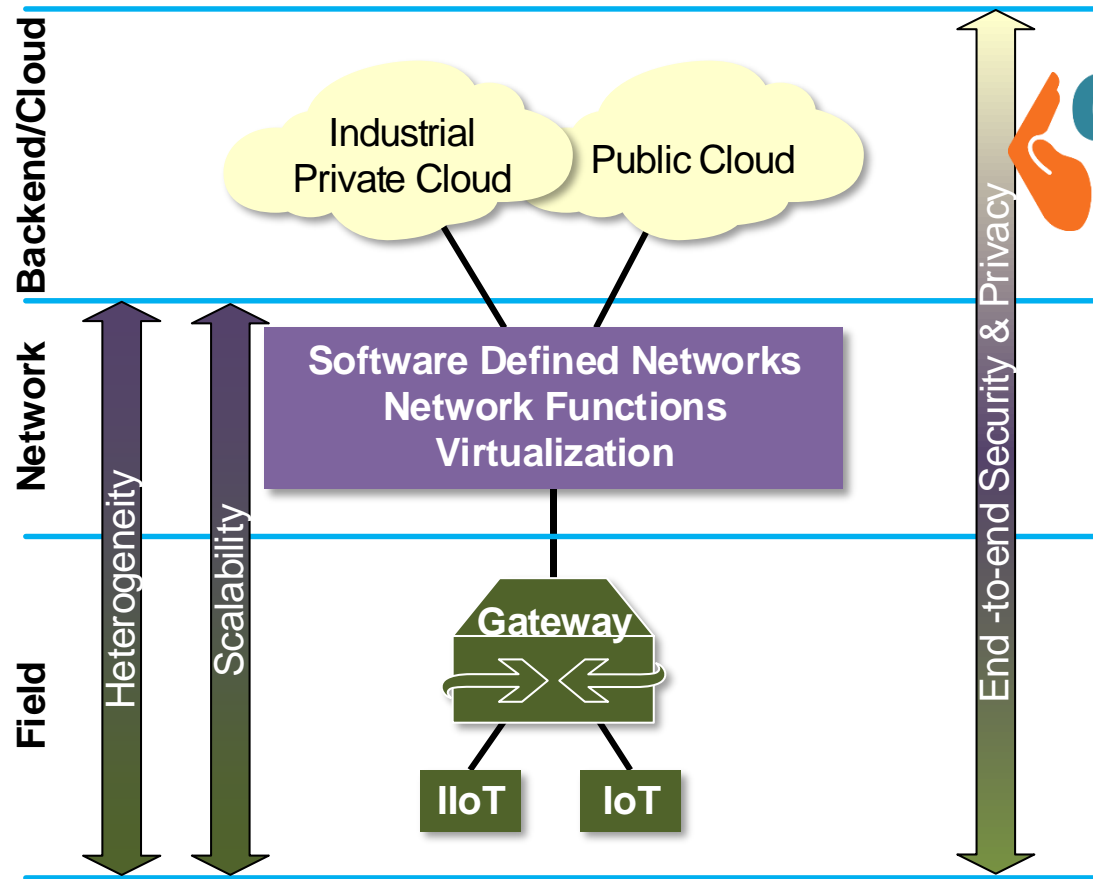
## Partners



## Supported by



# Internet of Things





# CYBER Security InSURance — A Framework for Liability Based Trust

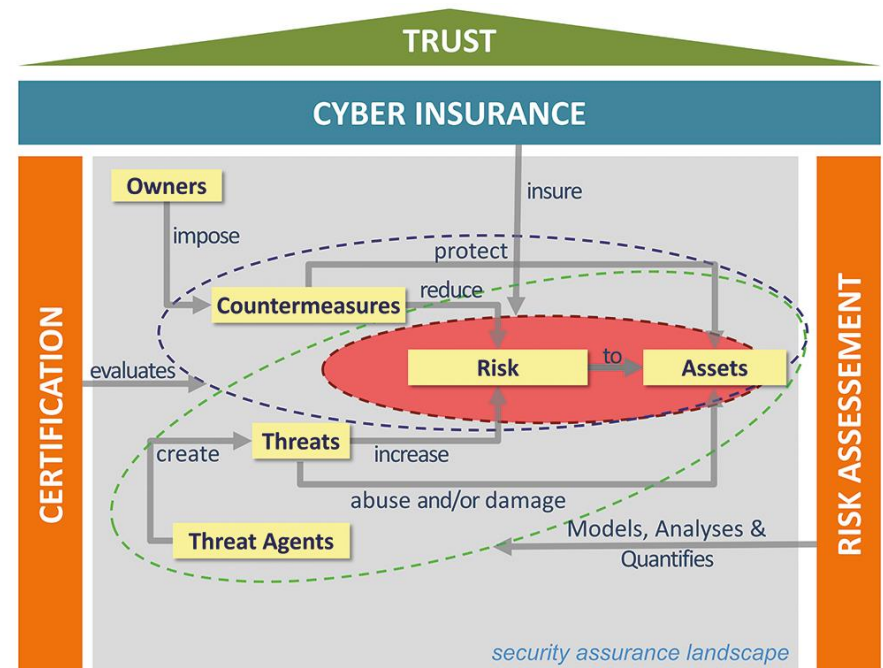
<http://www.cybersure.eu>

Call: H2020-MSCA-RISE-2016

GA number: 734815

Budget: 1,647,000€

Duration: 4 years



CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

cablenet

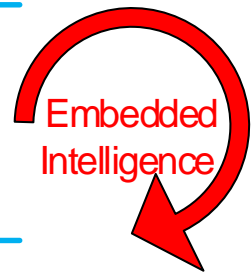
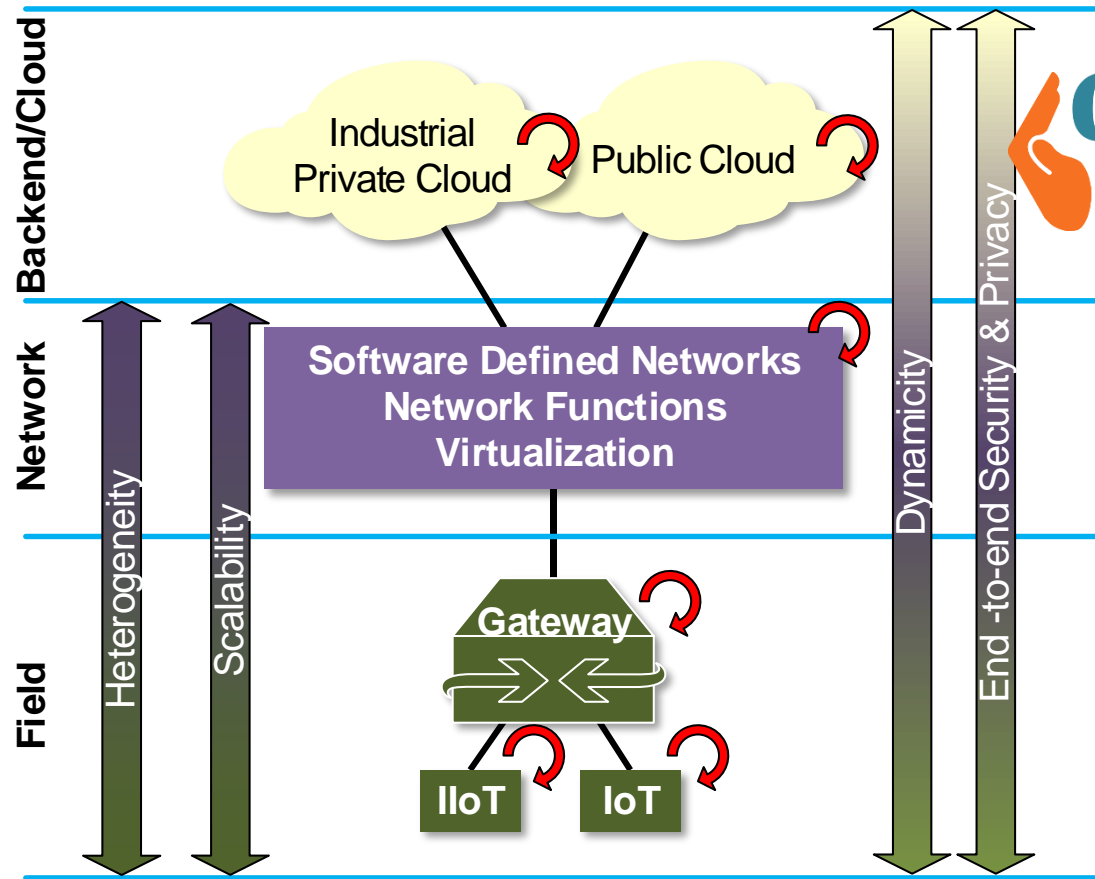


HELLAS DIRECT  
RETHINK INSURANCE

NIS network integration solutions

# Internet of Things

# SEMANTICS





# SEM̃TICS

## Smart **E**nd-to-end **M**assive **IoT** Interoperability, Connectivity and **S**ecurity.

- TYPE OF FUNDING SCHEME: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACTION (RIA)
- WORK PROGRAMME TOPIC ADDRESSED: H2020-IOT-03-2017 - R&I ON IOT INTEGRATION AND PLATFORMS
- BUDGET: 4,995,915€
- CONSORTIUM: 9 PARTNERS
- DURATION: 36 MONTHS
- TOTAL SCORE: 14/15
- PROJECT NUMBER: 780315

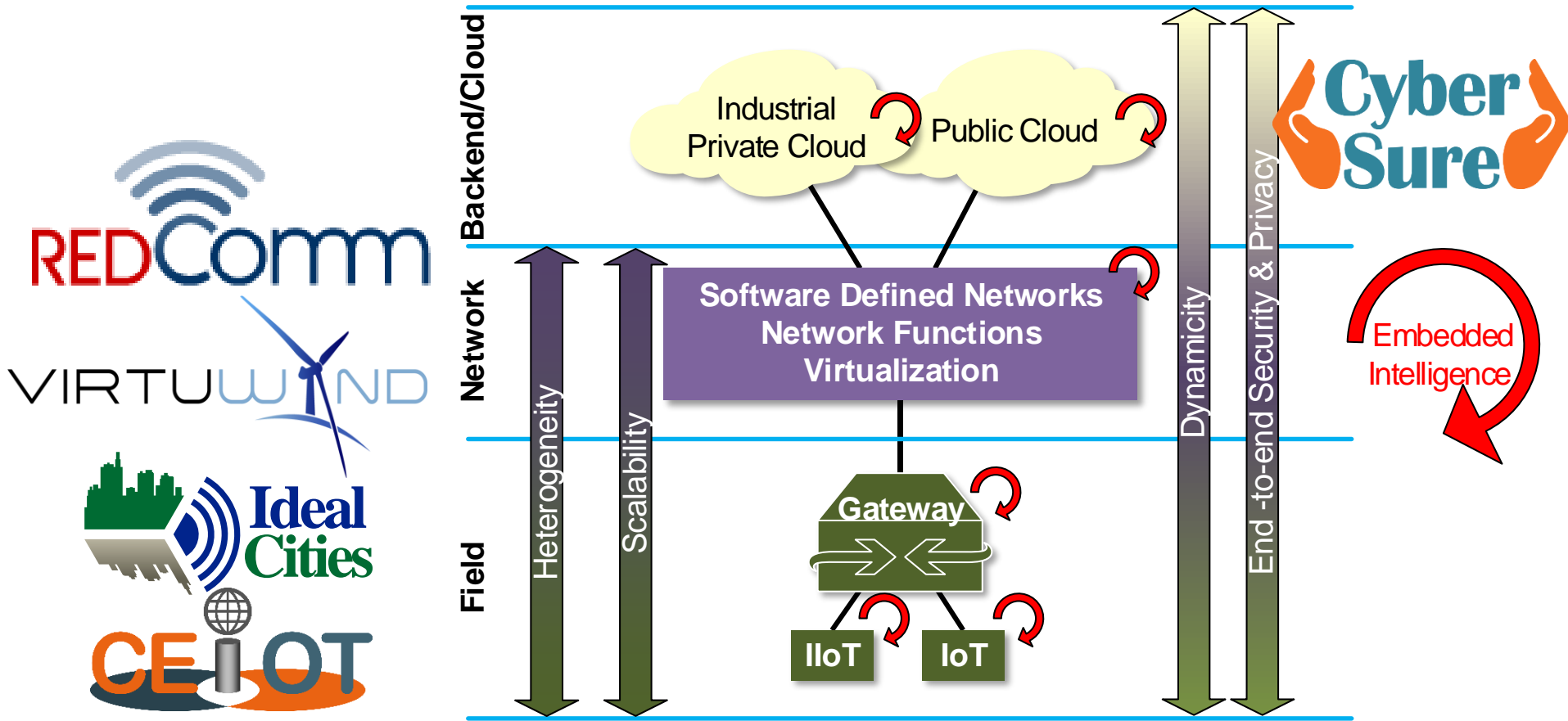
**SIEMENS**





# Internet of Things

# SEMANTICS



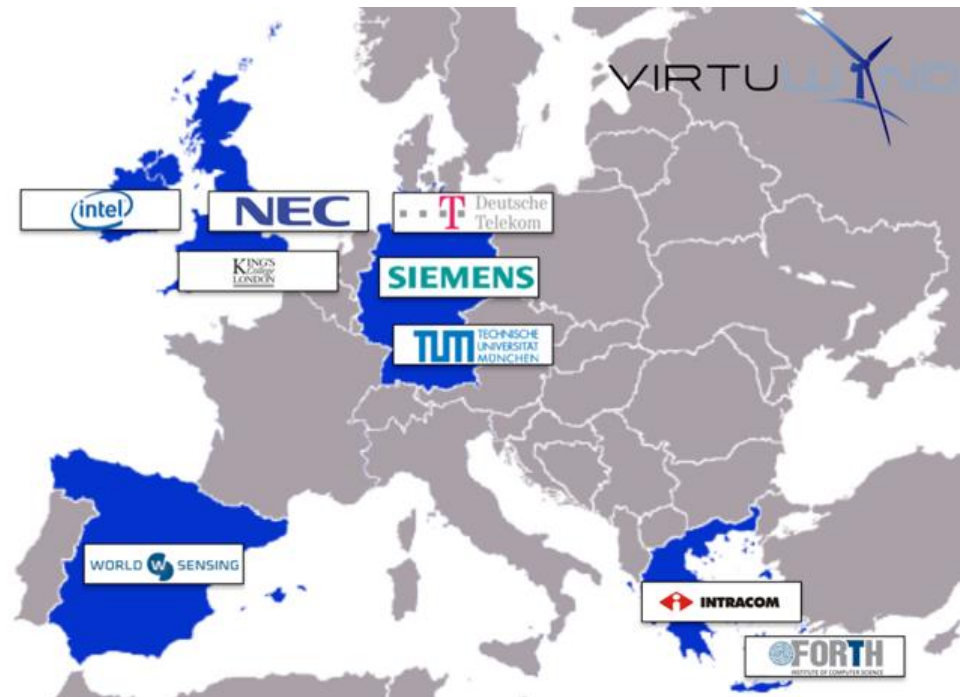


# VIRTUWIND

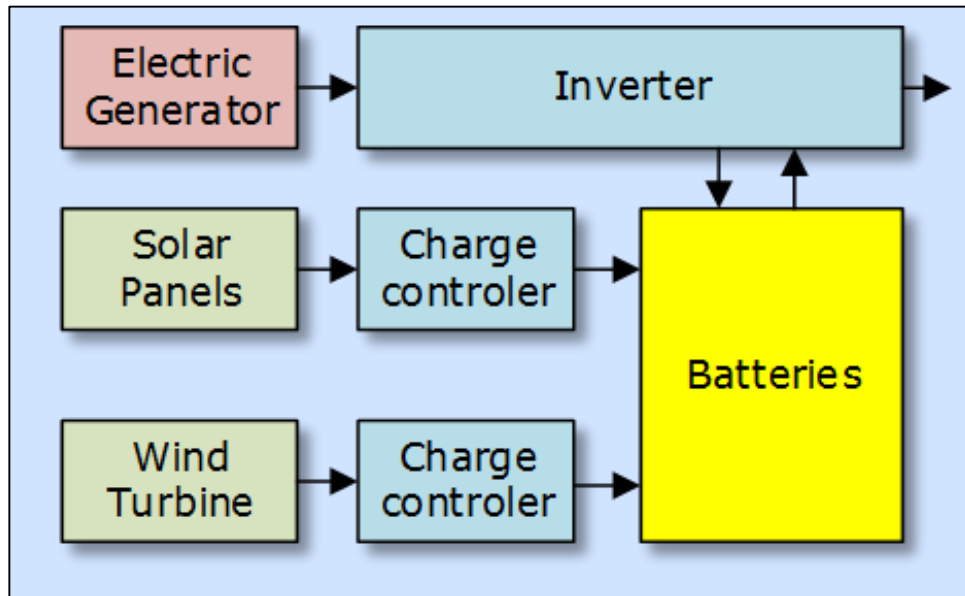


## Project

- Call: H2020-ICT-2014-2
- Topic: ICT-14-2014
- Type of action: IA
- Proposal number: 671648
- Consortium
  - 9 members from 5 countries
  - 5 large industry partners
  - 3 research institutions
  - 1 SME
- Budget
  - 4,874,902€
- Duration
  - 3 years
  - Project Kicked off on July 2015



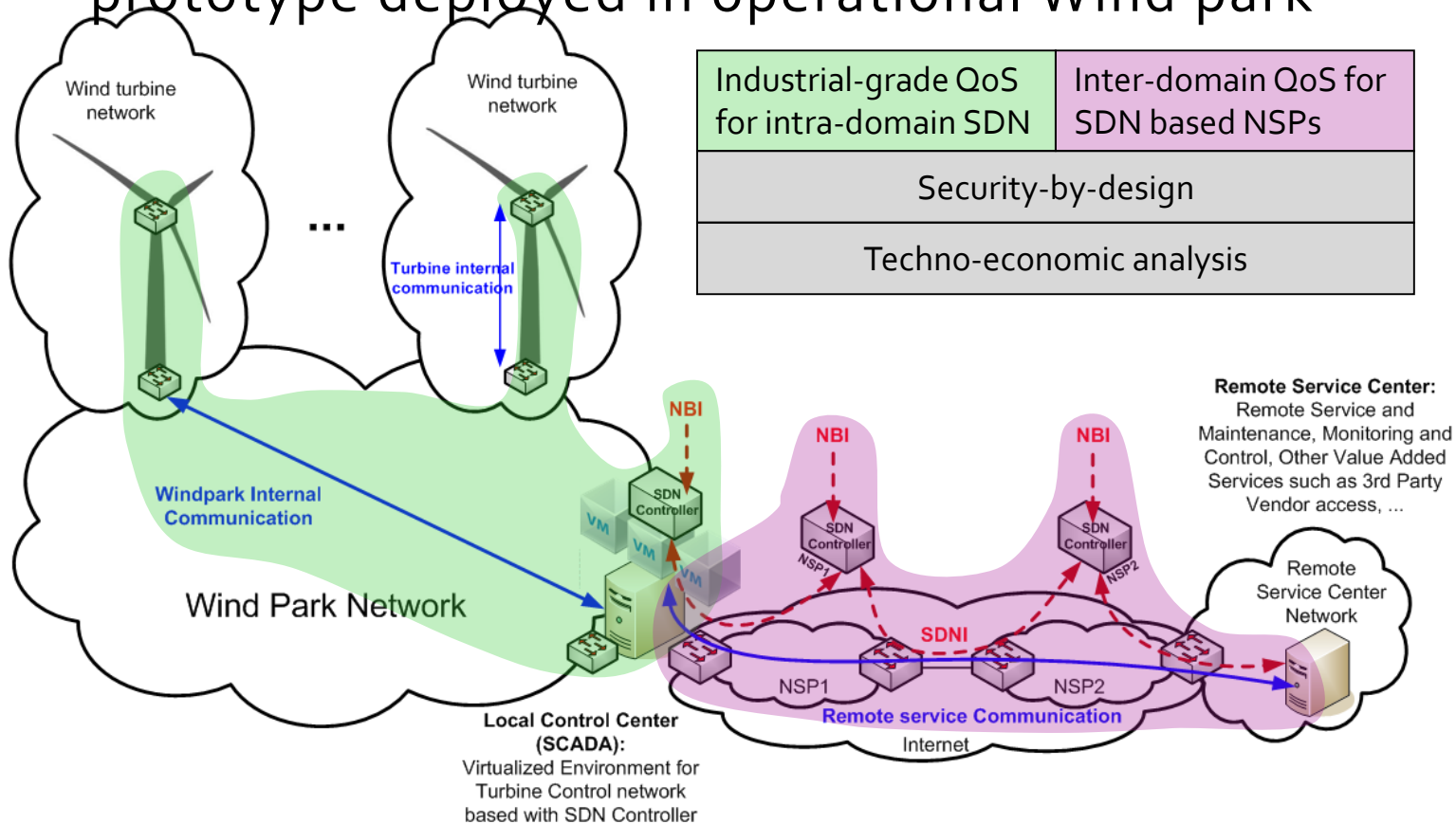
# REDComm energy aspects



I. Askoxylakis, FORTH-ICS



# Virtual and programmable industrial network prototype deployed in operational Wind park



**Project type:** IA

**Start Date:** 1st July 2015

**Duration:** 36 months

**Total budget:** € 6,300,000.00

**EU funding:** € 4,900,000.00

**Consortium:** 9 partners from 5 countries

# VIRTUWIND





Thank you!

