

# Challenges in the **evolving** Telco landscape

Fabian Schneider, Head of Development, Engineering and Operations of Access 4.0

OpenRheinMain 2023, September 22nd



**LIFE IS FOR SHARING.**

# Who's the guy talking to you?



“Yes, I owned a C64, played computer games on i386 with co-processor, studied **computer science**, administered SUN workstations, and even compiled a gentoo Linux once.”

⇒ Boring kid born in the late 70s, heh?



“I spend most of my professional life in **computer networking research**.”

⇒ 4 years Ph.D. Student @ TU Berlin

⇒ 2 years PostDoc @ UPMC Paris

⇒ 6 years Senior Researcher @ NEC Heidelberg



“Dipped into standardization pushing for broader **SDN** adoption.”

⇒ e.g. IETF, ONF, BBF, MEF, ... even ITU-T



“But I finally realized that I need to get my hands dirty and make my passion happen in **real-world deployments** for everyone to use.”

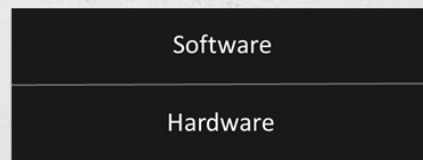
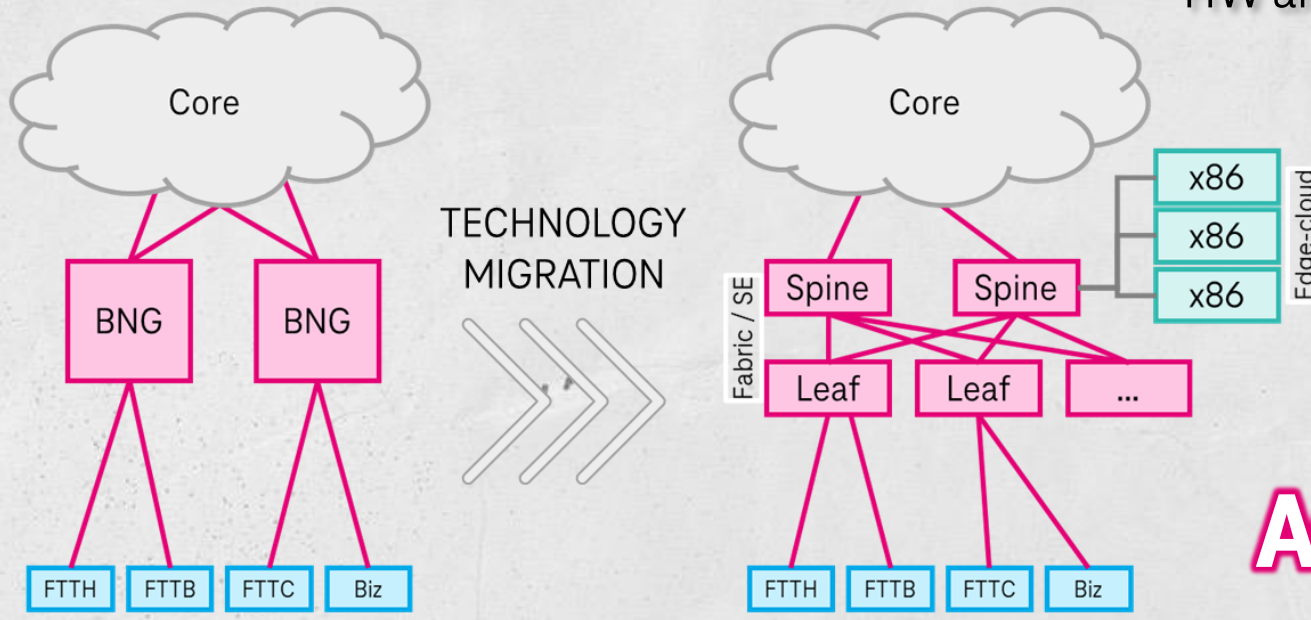
⇒ Joined Deutsche Telekom, led a SDN software dev team, now Head of Engineering and Operations of **Access 4.0**



**Fabian  
Schneider**

# Access 4.0 in a nutshell

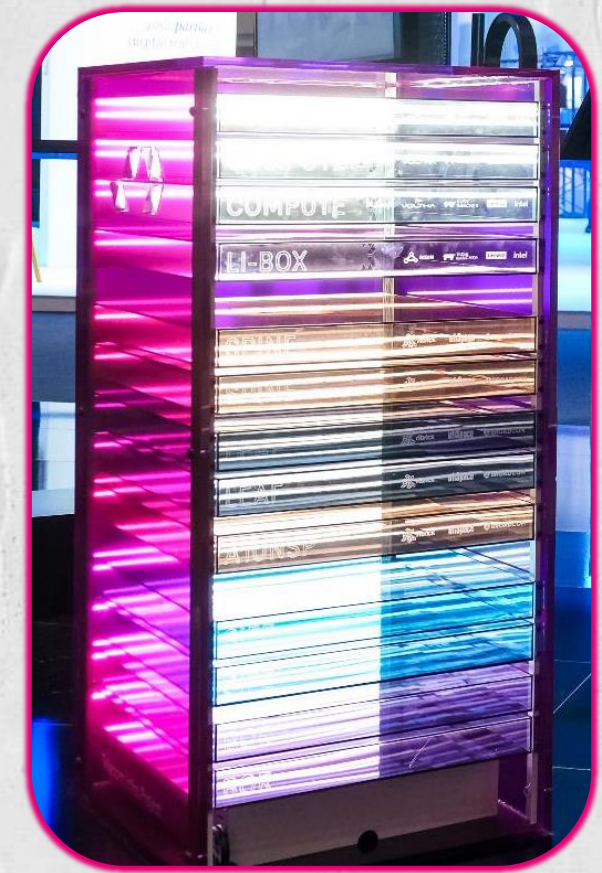
“With A4, Deutsche Telekom introduces a **disaggregated**, automated platform for access, aggregation and service edge as the next generation German **fixed network**. It comes with a **software-defined** network, detaches SW from HW and separates the control-plane from the user-plane.”



From monolithic systems ... (today)



... to modular, flexible, best-in-class open ecosystems. (tomorrow)



# What I want to **talk** about today

## #1

### ***Future ASICs force Telco product change***

ASICs are the CPUs of Switches and Routers. The chip makers focus on data centers will cause a rethinking of Telco product portfolio.

## #2

### ***It takes more than just Technology ...***

Coming from a technology focused research career, bringing innovation into production requires more than just software and network engineering.

## #3

### ***Skills Telcos need today & tomorrow***

The software-defined Telco push of course requires more SW-Engineers, but we absolutely also need network expertise.



***Visit our booth!***

***Access 4.0***

***Tech Talk***

***Working@Telekom***

***Job Opportunities***

# #1 Subscriber termination vs. data center switching

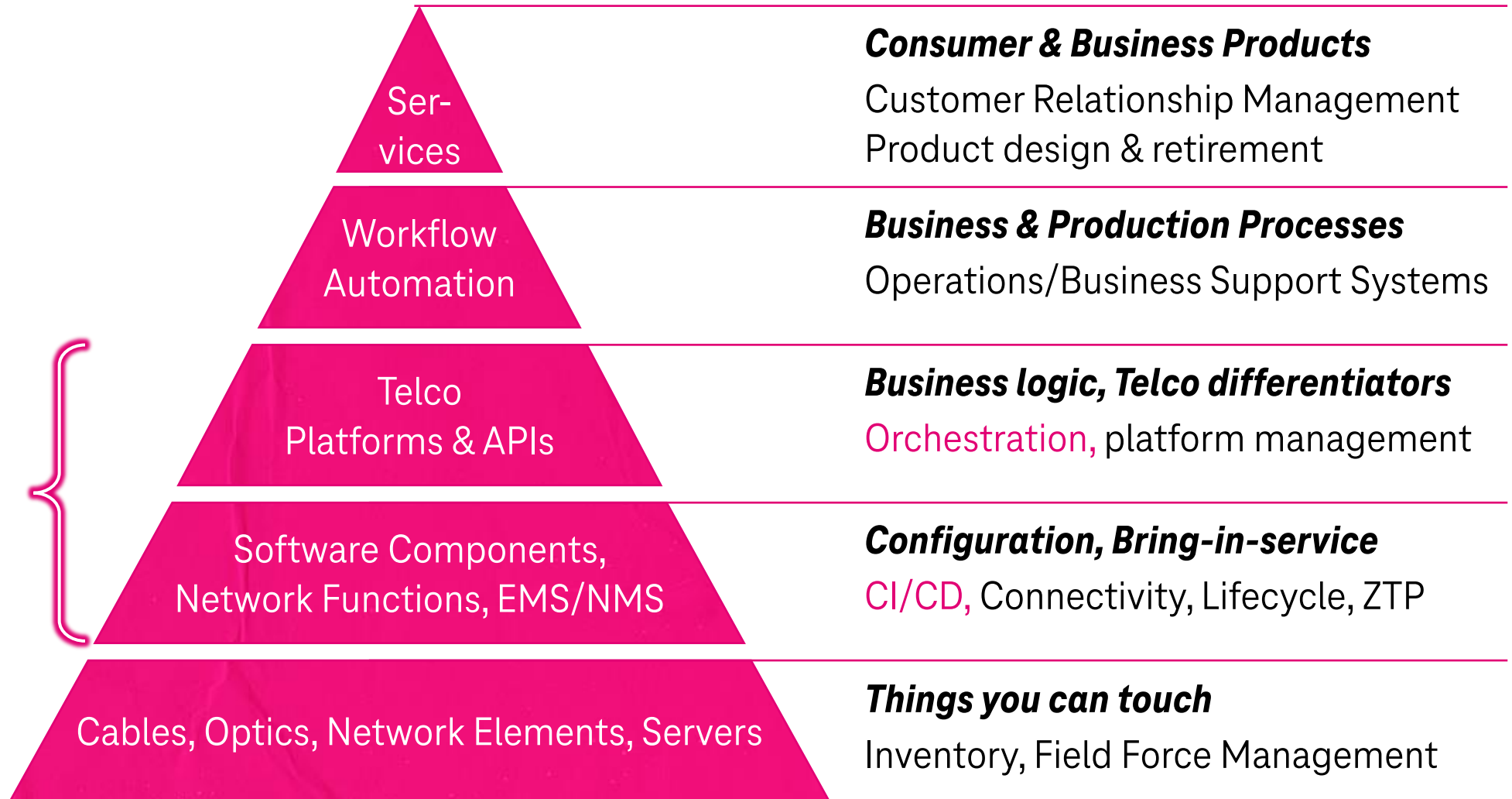
BRAS/BNG	Match?	DC Switch
>10k subscribers (incl. ACLs, priority assignment)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	>100 tenants
4-8 queues/services per subscriber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 queues per tenant
4+ counters per queue/service	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Why counters? Maybe volume per tenant
Shaping/Policing down to 256kbps	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Slow down? I want all the speed I can get!
Bandwidth range from 256kbps to 10Gbps	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	10G to 100G
Hierarchical QoS with 4-5 levels	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	It's all best effort anyway
Full priority propagation through all QoS levels	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Ok, maybe one priority class

# #1 Future ASICs force Telco product change

BRAS/BNG	Match?	DC Switch
>10k subscribers		10k tenants
High numbers still needed, e.g. 25 million in Germany → Reduce needed flows, e.g. ACLs/subscriber		
4-8 queues/s		10k tenant
Less differentiation, Hyperscalers succeed with BE only → Reduce queues per subscriber, e.g. L4S		
4+ counters per		10k tenant
Embrace flat-rate in fixed access networks → Stop per service/queue accounting		
Shaping/Policing down to 256kbps	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Slow down? I want all the speed I can get!
Kbps shaping needed mainly for DSL → Build fibre & switch subscribers to FTTH/B		
Bandwidth range from 256kbps to 10Gbps	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	10G to 100G
Hierarchical QoS with 4-5 levels	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	It's all best effort anyway
Required primarily to avoid network overload → Determine easier ways to ensure customer SLAs		
Full priority propagation through all QoS levels	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Ok, maybe one priority class

# #2 It takes more than just Technology ...

Focus of research and innovation, easy to change in software. What you learn in university.



# #3 Software becomes crucial for Telcos success,

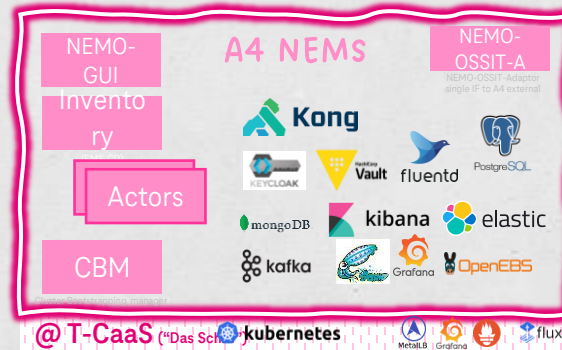
in company strategy ...

Software-defined



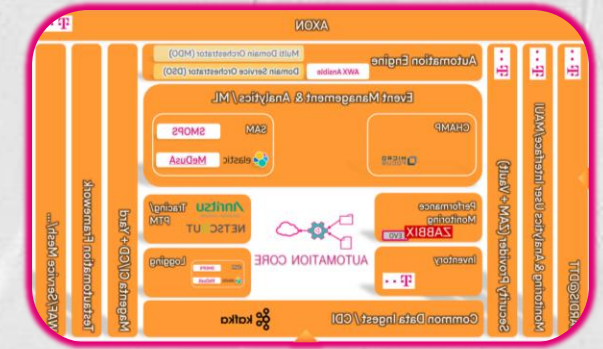
... and engineering ...

Access 4.0 Control & Management Plane



... as well as operations.

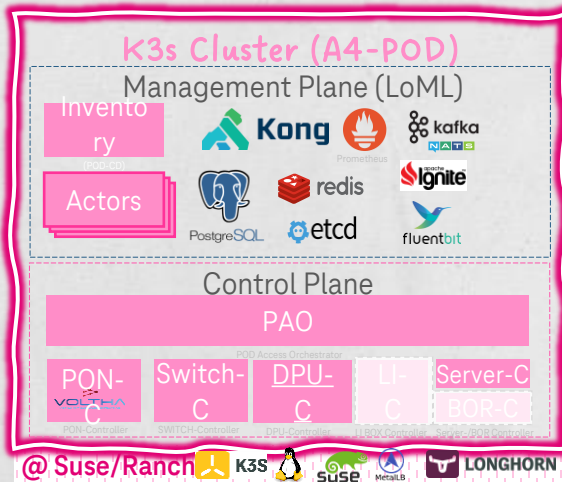
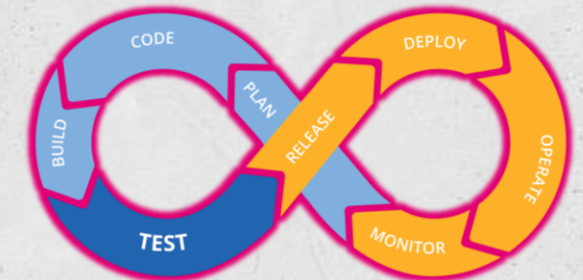
Automation Core



Modular services, data & open APIs

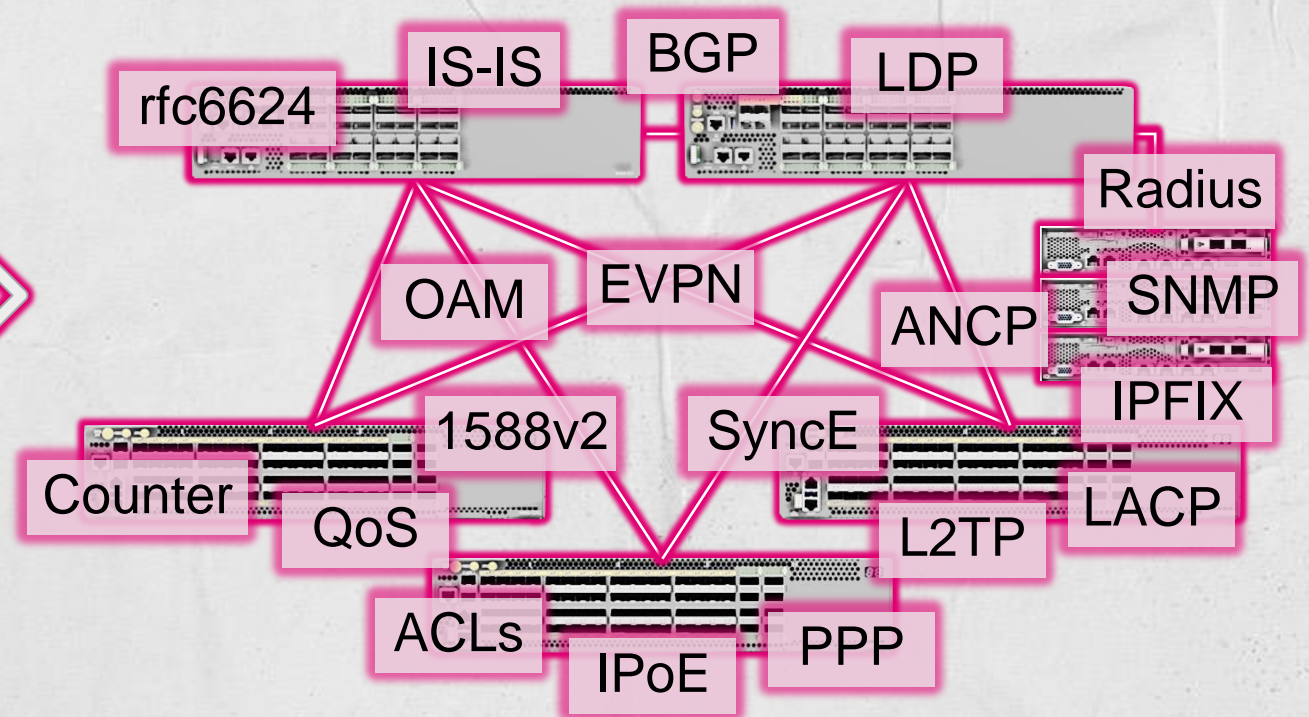
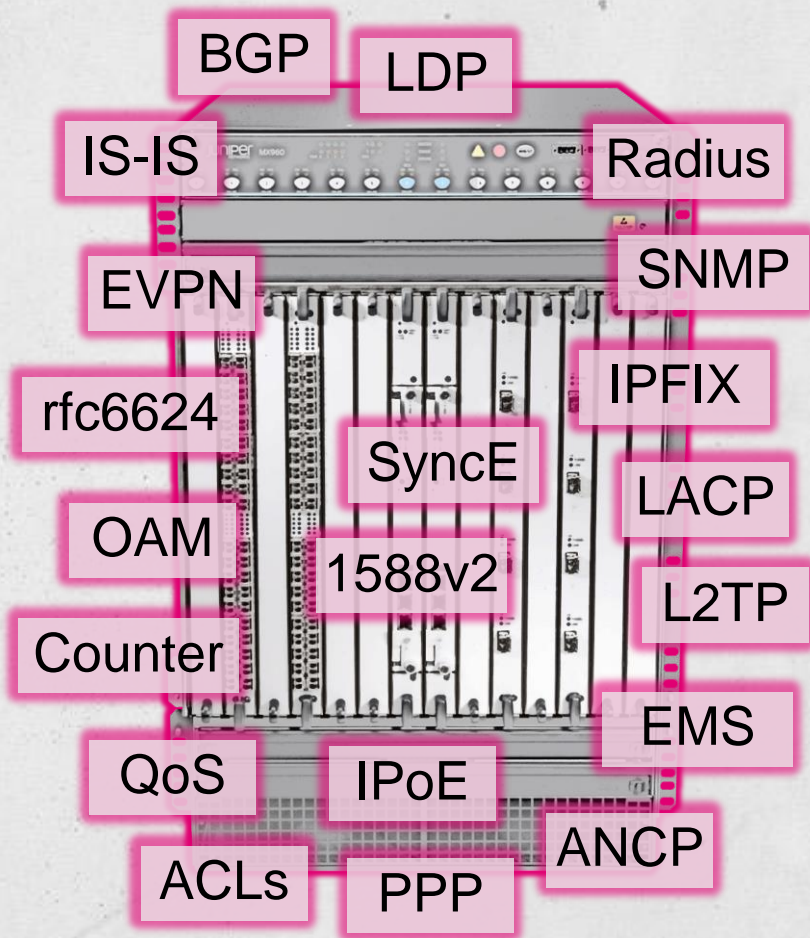


CI/CD

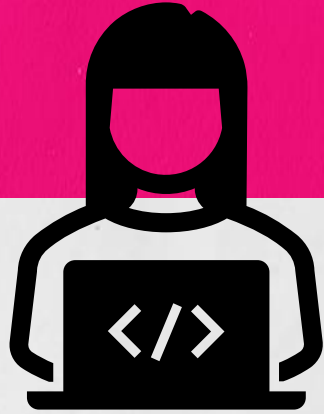




# #3 Disaggregation means network expertise insourcing

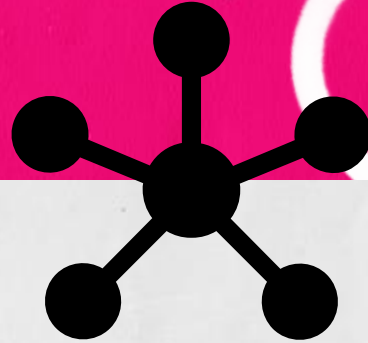


# #3 Skills Telcos need today & tomorrow



## **Software Engineers, BUT:**

- Willingness to embrace and understand domain specific problems is mandatory
- Job is not complete after writing code: Unit tests, Documentation, ...



## **Network Engineers, BUT:**

- Don't forget cables! 😊  
Air is not the only medium
- Disaggregation requires more understanding of packet processing pipelines
- Need more graduates!



## **Integration & Validation**

- Telcos cannot develop everything on their own
- 100s of systems need to interwork for service delivery
- Test setup & planning, error pinpointing, root causes



**THANK YOU**





**JOIN OUR TEAM  
TO REVOLUTIONIZE  
THE TELCO INDUSTRY !**

**Openings for:  
NETWORK ENGINEERS  
SDN SW DEVELOPERS  
TESTING EXPERTS**