

# Digital Airspace: Air-Ground-Air for Mission Critical



Ericsson Market Leadership  
Ericsson France R&D center



# Digital Airspace unlocking new business opportunities In the sky

Safe and secure mission critical operations  
and new enterprise revenue streams

**25M**

Drones using cellular  
connectivity by 2030

Source: Analysis Mason

**\$16B**

Drone communication  
market by 2032

Source: Allied Market Research

**\$18B**

Global eVTOL market  
projection by 2030

Source: Businesswire

**\$20B**

Global NTN device-to-device  
market size by 2035.

Source: Statista



# Digital Airspace – Use Cases

## Public Safety

MC network add on for helicopter services

Situational Awareness

Search and Rescue

Lifeguard Assistance

Disaster Zone

Fire Fighting

## Defense

Jet fighter data exchange corridors

Reconnaissance

## Utilities + Rail

Powerline inspection

Rail track, Catenary System inspection

Risk Monitoring

## Security

Aerial Photography

Border Control

Highway Traffic Surveillance

Rogue drone detection

## Transport

Parcel Delivery

Food Delivery

Medical

## Air Taxi

Taxi Services

Public Transportation

Cargo

Aircraft Telemetry

## Airlines

ATG connectivity

Passenger connectivity

Air Traffic mgmt

## Environment

Weather Monitoring

Air Quality

Wildlife Populations

## Agriculture

Crop Health

Spray Pesticides & Fertilizers

Cattle Herding

## Infrastructure

Construction Projects

Inspect Structures

Map Terrains

## Media

Cinematography

Journalism

Entertainment

# Digital Airspace landscape



3GPP non-terrestrial networks (NTN)



>3000m

High altitude (NTN)



Defense communications



Airline passenger broadband

3GPP network for scale, robustness and economies of scale. Also on the device side

<3000m

Medium altitude

(CSP, State or Agency CSP, NTN)



Air taxi services



Reliable emergency services communication

Separate network layer, purpose designed for aerial coverage

<300m (150m rural)

Low altitude (CSP, NTN)



Utility/Rail inspection



Public safety/situational awareness



Deliveries

Enhanced Terrestrial 3GPP network

Ground infrastructure



Vertiports



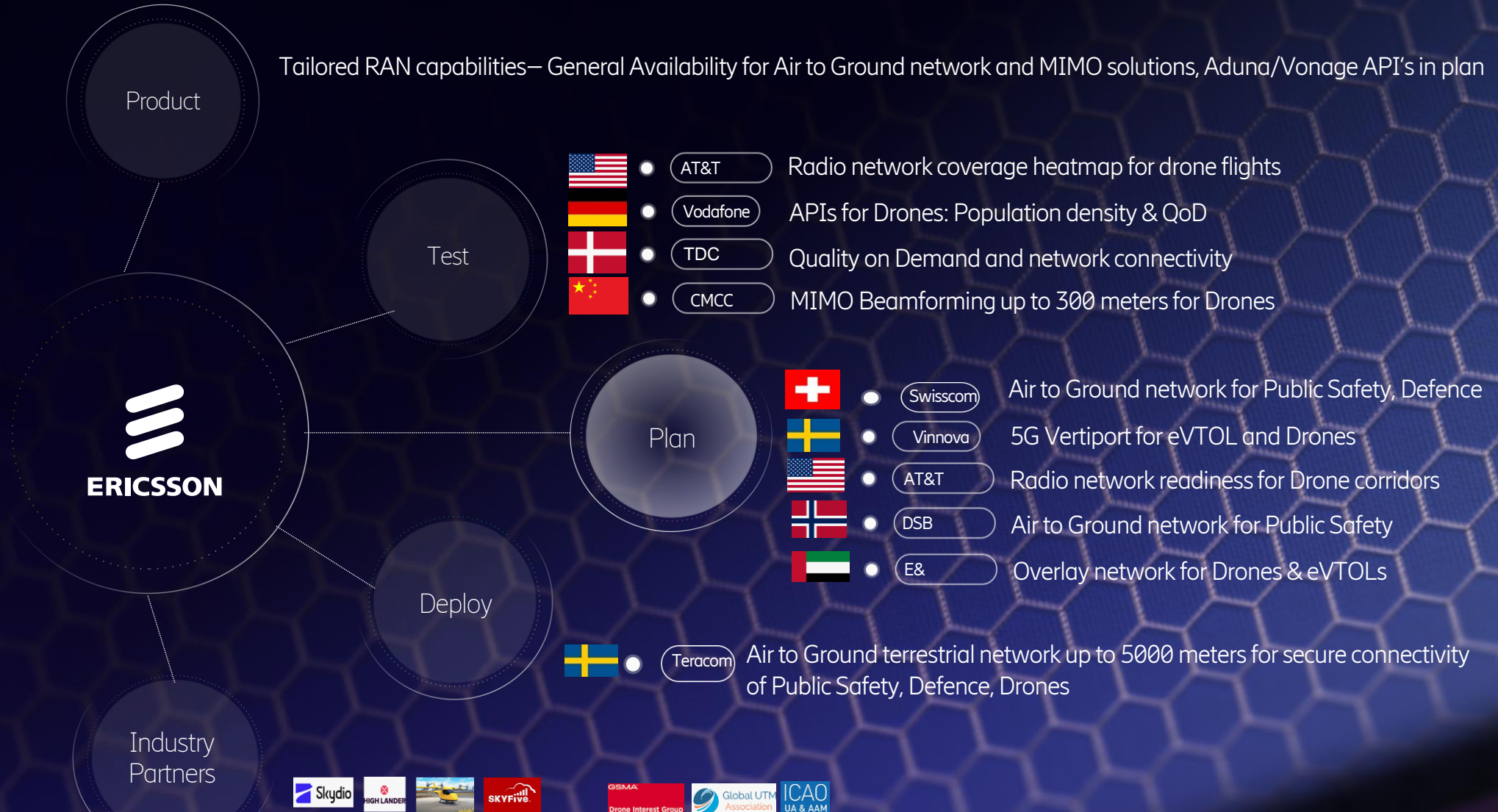
Airports



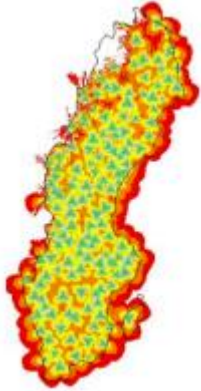
# 2025 – Unlocking Airspace digitalization



Tailored RAN capabilities— General Availability for Air to Ground network and MIMO solutions, Aduna/Vonage API's in plan



# Teracom Network in Sweden - First and only nationwide 5G-ready airspace network deployment



- LTE RAN deployment, 2300 MHz TDD
- 160 sites nationwide, 3-sector sites, 60 MHz spectrum per sector
- Antenna heights 150 m average, maximum antenna height 300 m – TV towers
- Average 40 km cell range. Maximum cell range 90 km.



- Massive MIMO beamforming in LTE RAN – AIR radios
- Zero plane antenna positioning – No mechanical tilts
- Tested data services
- High tower providing radio reach-back to deployable network in remote area

Image source: Teracom

## DL and UL data throughput performance measurements in joint trials

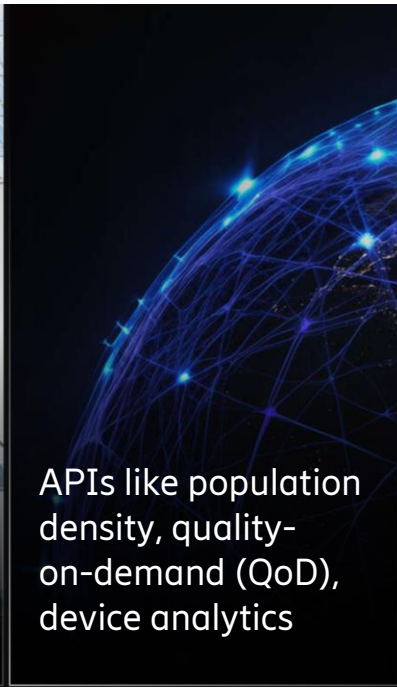
Ground Drive Test	Drone Spot Test	Fly Test Medium	Fly Test High	Fly Test Very High
In vehicles	Static Testing at different distances, up to 80 km	Speed: 200 km/h Altitude: 1500 m – 2500 m	Speed: 400 km/h Altitude: 1500 m – 2000 m	Speed: +400 km/h Altitude: 3000 – 6000 m

“The results have surpassed all expectations in the field tests.” Roland Svensson, Chief Technology Officer, Teracom

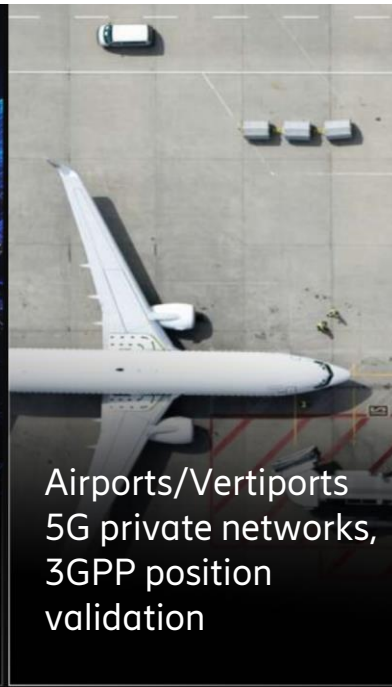
# Digitalization of airspace—how can Ericsson support ?



Mission critical  
3GPP infrastructure



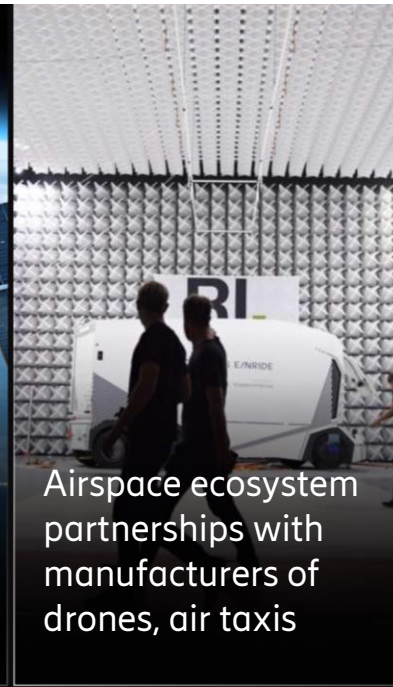
APIs like population  
density, quality-  
on-demand (QoD),  
device analytics



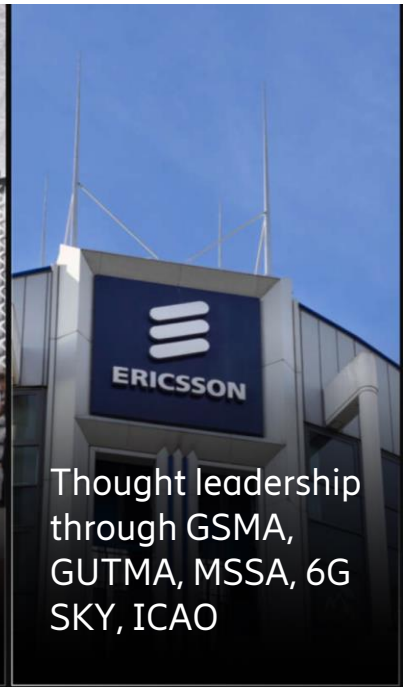
Airports/Vertiports  
5G private networks,  
3GPP position  
validation



3GPP non-  
terrestrial networks  
(NTN)



Airspace ecosystem  
partnerships with  
manufacturers of  
drones, air taxis



Thought leadership  
through GSMA,  
GUTMA, MSSA, 6G  
SKY, ICAO

Ericsson's industry leadership in aerial mobility solutions, products, and a vast ecosystem reach and partners

# Industry stakeholders

## Rule makers & Authorities



Addressing critical pain points for connectivity, and situational awareness

Getting onboard with benefits of 3GPP like 5G to Aviation.

3GPP standards Rel 17 onwards addressing aviation needs.

## Aviation & Satellite Industry



Need for Digitalization and automation of Airspace infrastructure

Coverage and economies of scale.

Mergers & acquisition gaining momentum.

## Advanced Air Mobility



Enterprise drones and challenger innovators emerging on eVTOL

Cellular connectivity is preferred. 5G will be used where available

3GPP NTN capability shall bring wider coverage

**Aviation safety requires high standards of resilience, data integrity, coverage, security and location**  
**Mobile Networks technology is a good match**

# Accelerating industry collaboration to align “vertical” requirements with “horizontal” capabilities

• Drone and Aviation Industry Players

• Industry Requirements



• Aggregator/CPaaS  
Hyperscale Cloud Provider  
Developer Platform



• Network API Specification



• Mobile Operators /  
Public Safety Operators

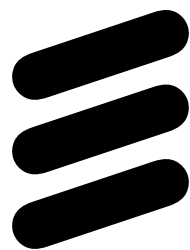


# Industry Drivers – Ericsson View



- Aviation is undergoing a massive change
  - Drones and electric propulsion are major contributors of innovation and disruption
  - General digitalization plays a role as well, but its important to note the rigidness of the established means and standards.
  - Journey started around 2010 - will continue to 2040+
    - (ICAO's new Strategic Plan spans to 2050)
- **Low altitude drone** connectivity needs are creating a demand for mobile network aerial service
  - Lots of activity and actors outside established aerospace industries.
- **Mid altitude connectivity** needs are driven by eVTOL air taxis and mission critical users alike.
  - Fundamentally new types of aircrafts and operational models.
- **High altitude** and global coverage services are necessary for the established commercial aviation.

Connectivity needs are growing in all of the above and that is well recognized in aerospace ecosystem.



**ERICSSON**