



A 5G Innovation Lab for the Tacoma Tideflats

Community & Economic Development
City Council Economic Development Committee

June 8, 2021

ITEM #



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OVERVIEW



- Background & update on Maritime Blue & Tacoma
- What is 5 G & edge computing
- Purpose of a network and lab in the tideflats
- Q & A



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Washington Maritime Blue



A Strategic Alliance for Maritime Innovation and Sustainability

Economic Growth, Marine/Ocean
Health, Equitable & Resilient
Communities

Knowledge Sharing,
Communications & Marketing

Joint Innovation Projects for
Demonstration and
Commercialization

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Conduit for Funding and
Investment

21st Century Workforce
Development



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Maritime Blue Update



- City joins Coalition in 2019
- 2020 – EDA/DOE grant to stand up Tacoma Incubator
- Launch incubator in 2021
- 5 companies now working in incubator
- Three new Tacoma companies from Seattle Accelerator
- Pilot projects in clean energy with Tacoma Public Utilities
- Joshua Berger made fulltime Executive 2021

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BACKGROUND

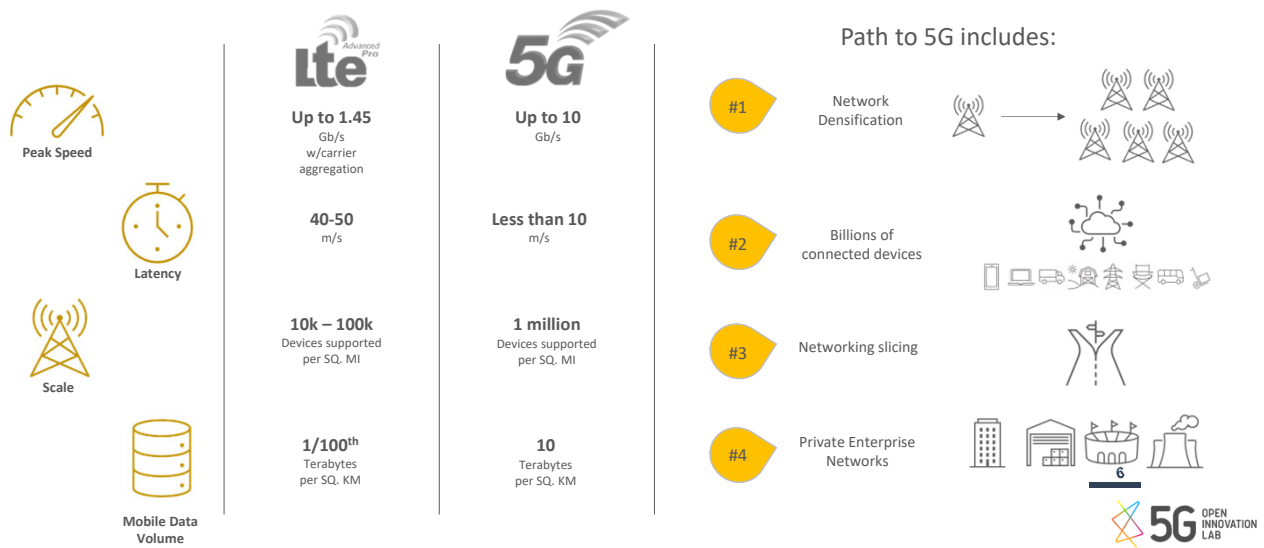


- 5 G Open Innovation Labs introduction
- What is 5G
- What is edge computing



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5G Overview



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5G Open Innovation Lab



Open Innovation Program

- The fusion of connectivity (5G) and edge computing is developing a new platform for software defined innovation.
- Our program brings together innovative startups to collaborate with platform partners on solving the toughest industry challenges




Partner Driven

- It takes a village to build thriving technology ecosystems.
- Our program is supported by leading platform partnerships.
- Partners actively support the program through mentorship, technology access, and joint market activities.



Industry Focused

- Our program focuses on aligning industry challenges with relevant technology.
- We continually attract industry focused companies into our program.



Multi-Stage

- Our program supports startups of all stages from Seed to Series C.
- This approach balances exposure to emerging technology with fast adopting matured innovation.

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Innovation opportunities



Enabling Platform

A Port of Tacoma network will become an important enabler for applications tracking containers, worker safety, remote monitoring, streamlined logistics, and other use cases. These applications and services will improve overall efficiency, worker safety, and profitability.



Competitive Advantage

Data gathering, machine learning, and predictive insights are critical to enabling a competitive advantage for the Port of Tacoma. Creating efficiencies at scale isn't possible without data.



Innovation Hub

Long term we share a common goal to establish Tacoma, and the Port, as an innovation hub attracting PNW based technology and from around the world.

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Why the Tideflats?



- Safety
- Security
- Efficiency
- Innovation



5 G Port at Barcelona, Spain

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Why a 5G Innovation Lab here?



- Improve the efficiency, security and safety of Tacoma's Port – resulting in better air quality
- Be the first US Port fully enabled with 5G-edge capability
- Share these advances with other US Ports
- Leverage implementation in the Port to expand networks and capabilities throughout Pierce County
- Test innovation and commercialize/recruit new companies for living wage job creation

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NEXT STEPS



- Continue seeking stakeholder input and support
- Complete feasibility study
- Seek funding (grants, private funding)
- Build a supercomputer with help from partners
- Work with companies to place small radio transmitters strategically across the tideflats to provide full coverage
- Recruit startups & larger companies to use our network and grow in Tacoma



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