

# *Low Latency Global Point-to-Point Connectivity Realised with Optical Intersatellite Links*

## *A System Overview*

Thomas Laurent, Matthias Binder, Konrad Nieradka, Sebastian Ströhl | Rivada Space Networks

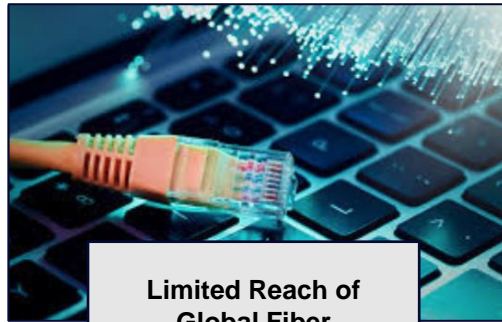


**EPIC Meeting on Photonics at the Final Frontier at ESA**

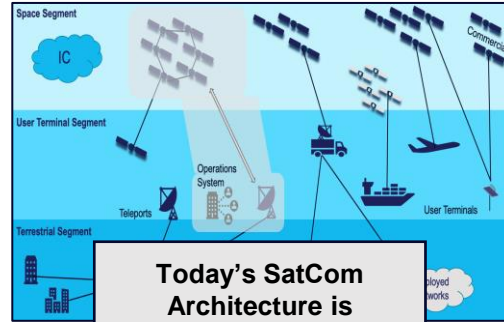


# These are today's Data Communication Challenges

Well beyond Connecting the Unconnected, well beyond Satellite



Limited Reach of Global Fiber



Today's SatCom Architecture is Complex



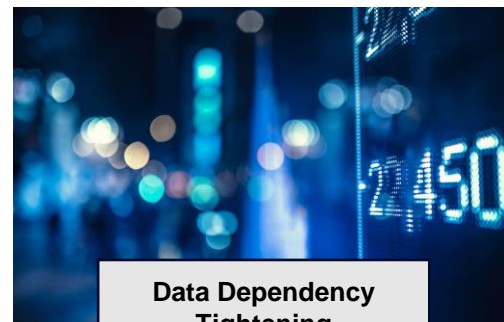
Polar Coverage of Geopolitical Importance



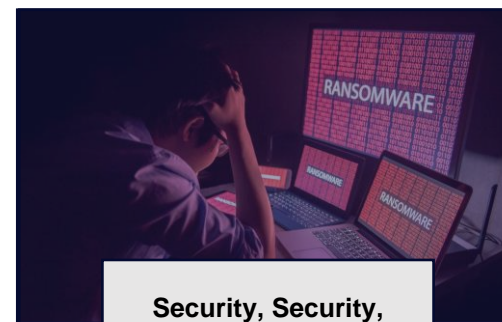
Growing Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Requirements



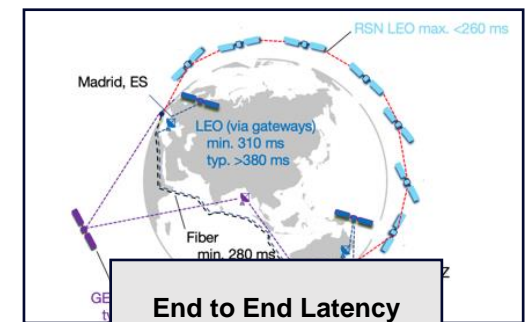
Fragmentation of Global Infrastructure



Data Dependency Tightening Implementation Times



Security, Security, Security



End to End Latency Critically Important

The world is looking for solutions - Rivada Space Networks is building it.

# Our Constellation - Overview

## Low Earth Orbit Satellite Constellation



2 x 300 = 600 satellites interconnected via laser links (ISL)



Ka-Band frequencies (Liechtenstein spectrum)



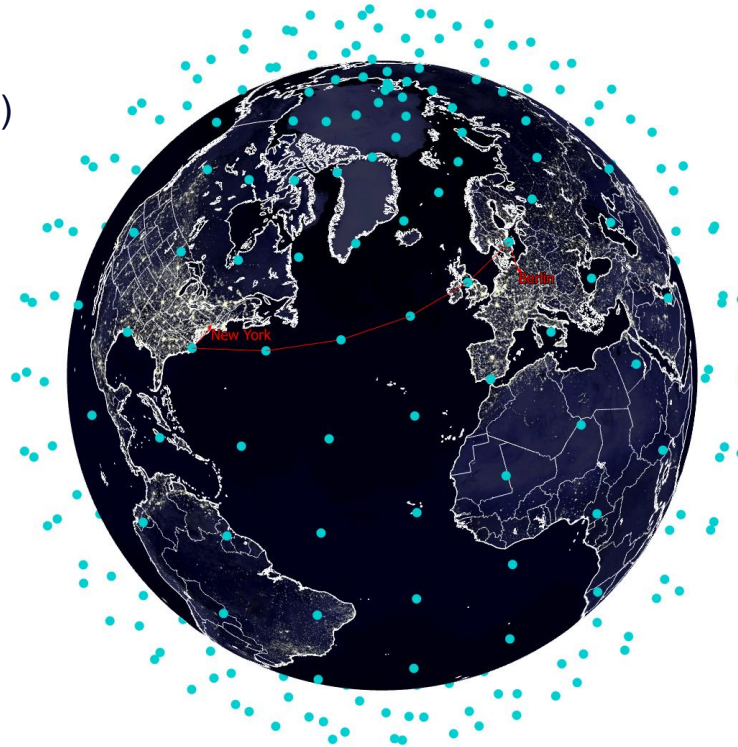
B2B and B2G connectivity services



First satellite launch in 2025



Service start in 2026



## Value Proposition



High data throughput



Global point-to-point connectivity



Ultra-low latency



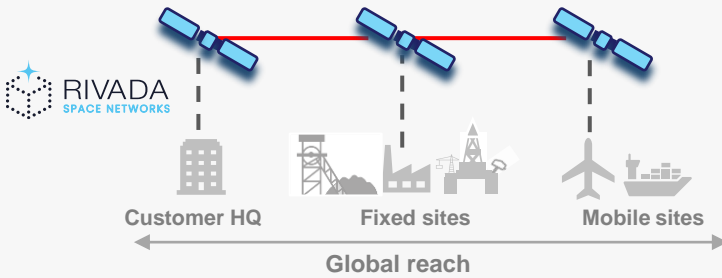
High security, data sovereignty



Network transparency (MPLS)

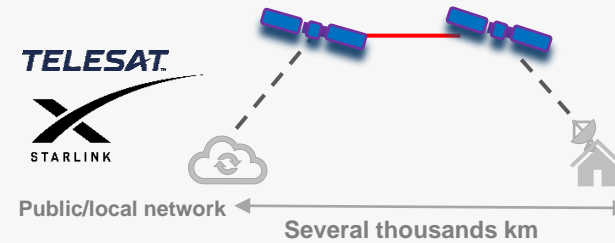
# Yet another Earth Orbit Constellation?

## LEO Global End-to-end connectivity



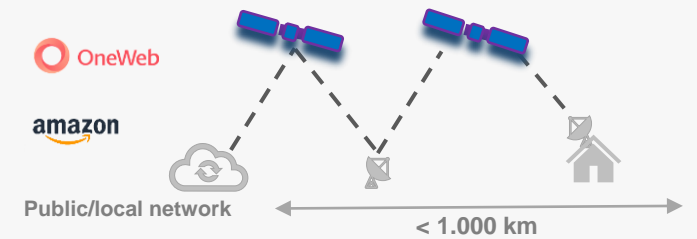
- Optimized for **Enterprise and Government applications**
- Point-to-point connectivity oriented
- Uses ISL for global premise-to-premise connectivity
- Full duplex symmetrical up- and downlink
- High data rates (from 100 Mbps to 10 Gbps per link)
- True global coverage (pole to pole, all oceans)

## LEO Last-mile to gateway with laser extension



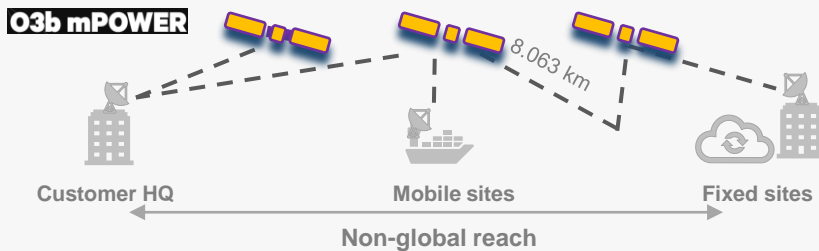
- Optimized for **consumer applications**
- Internet access oriented
- Uses ISL to extend reach of gateways
- Asymmetrical up- and downlink (download focused)
- Last mile connectivity to nearest Internet gateway
- No polar coverage, blind spots in the sea

## LEO Last-mile to gateway



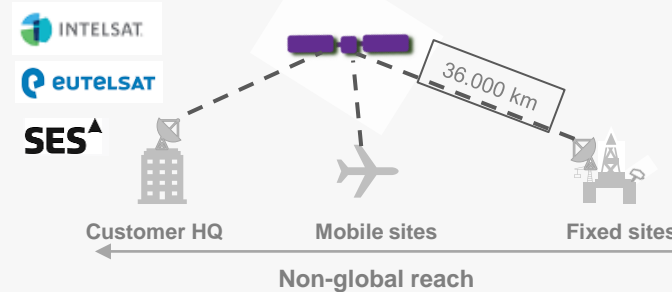
- Optimized for **consumer applications**
- Internet access oriented
- Gateway-hopping, no ISL
- Asymmetrical up- and downlink data rate
- Last mile connectivity to gateway
- No global coverage, no connection to most ocean areas

## MEO satellite systems



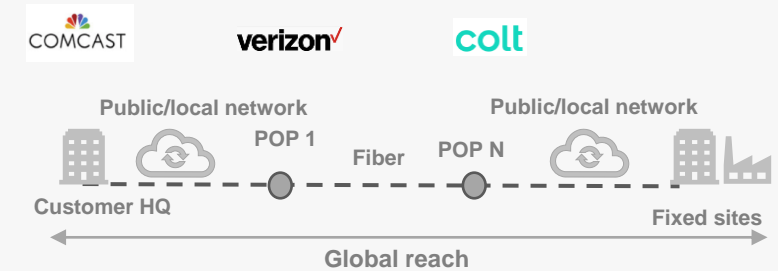
- Constraint **business applications**
- Asymmetrical up- and downlink data rate (~100 Mbps)
- Higher latency, lower service level, lower security
- No polar coverage

## GEO satellite systems



- Optimized for **consumer applications**
- Last mile connectivity to nearest Internet gateway
- Beam hopping
- Asynchronous Up- and downlink data rate (>100 Mbps)
- No polar coverage

## Terrestrial solutions (fiber, dark fiber)

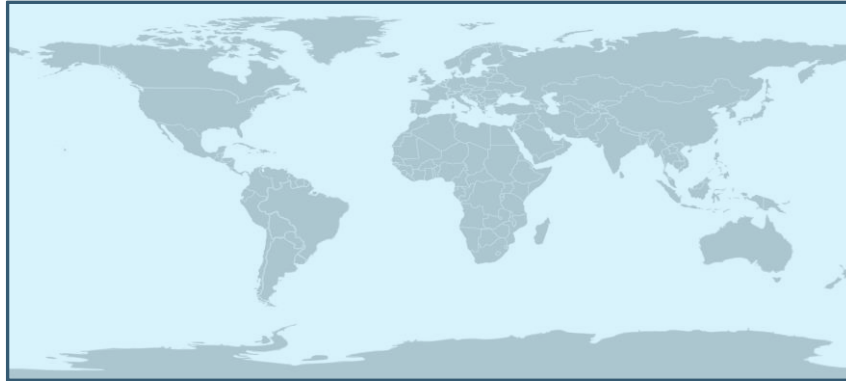


- Optimized for **business applications**
- Last mile connectivity to nearest Internet gateway
- Patchwork infrastructure
- Higher latency, lower service level, lower security

# Our Value Proposition

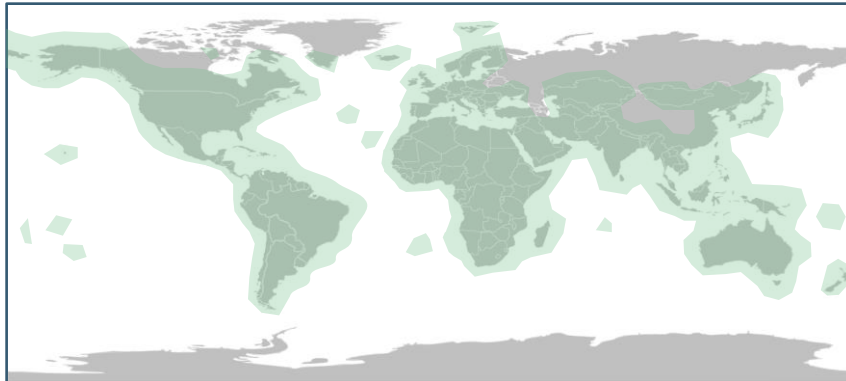
## A Different Satellite Network – Truly Global

Rivada  
Space  
Networks  
**LEO**  
Global



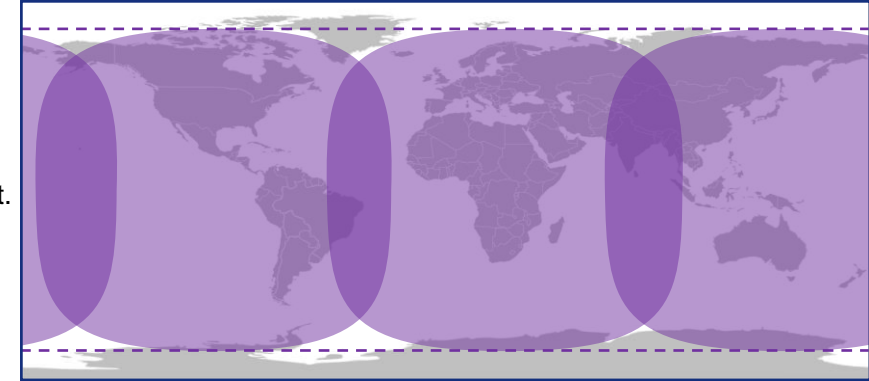
- Truly global coverage
- Pole-to-pole
- Open oceans
- Independent of terrestrial infrastructure

**Other LEO**  
Gateway-limited



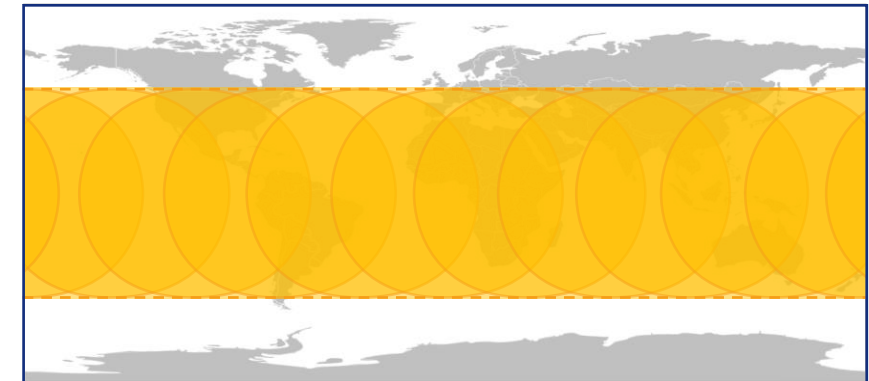
- Coverage only with a gateway in sight
- Most of oceans unreachable
- Reliance on land-based infrastructure (gateways and optical fiber)

**GEO**  
Up to 60-70° lat.



- Only up to 60-70° latitude
- Low elevation angles in high latitudes
- Obstruction issues

**MEO**  
Up to 50° lat.



- Only up to 50° latitude
- Low elevation angles in mid to high latitudes
- Obstruction issues



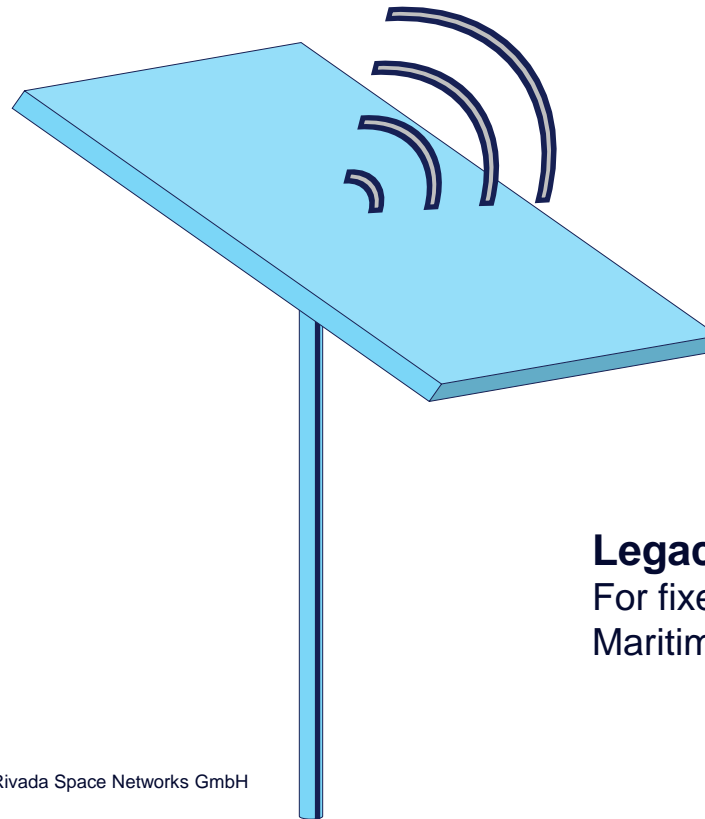
## Antenna Solutions: Purpose Fit for any Enterprise Applications

### Smart User Terminals

- Modular design to provide various user classes (size, power and platform)
- Autonomous and smooth switching between beams or satellites, without loss of connection
- High-security using encryption on all space-to-ground links and support for additional user-level security protocols
- Variable QoS settings to support customers SLAs for priority, performance, capacity, data rates, and other service standards
- Potential integration with terrestrial systems (4G, 5G)

### Active phased array antennas

For land mobile, maritime, aviation



### Passive phased array antennas

For fixed locations up to 100 Mbps

### Legacy technology antennas

For fixed locations with high throughput -  
Maritime, infrastructure, gateways

# Space Segment

## Core technologies

### Satellite constellation

- 2 x 288 + 24 spare satellites
- Altitude: 1.050 km
- ~ 400 kg

### Regenerative payload

Increased spectral efficiency and less interference at satellite level

### Onboard router

MPLS protocol  
High throughput  
High speed switching

### Intersatellite links

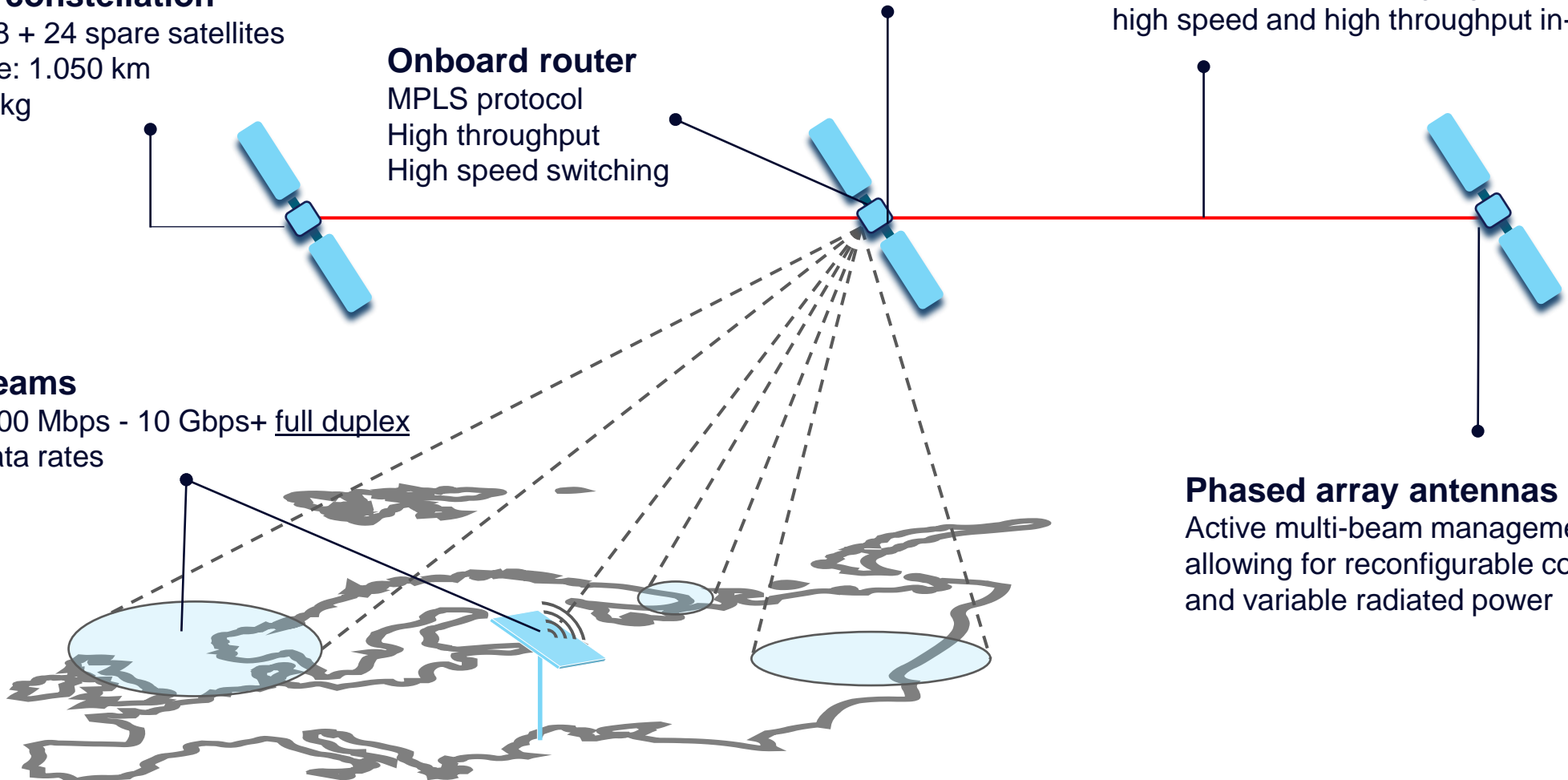
Optical network allowing high security, high speed and high throughput in-orbit

### Flexible user beams

- Up-/downlink 100 Mbps - 10 Gbps+ full duplex
- Symmetrical data rates
- Ka-Band

### Phased array antennas

Active multi-beam management allowing for reconfigurable coverage and variable radiated power



# Value Proposition

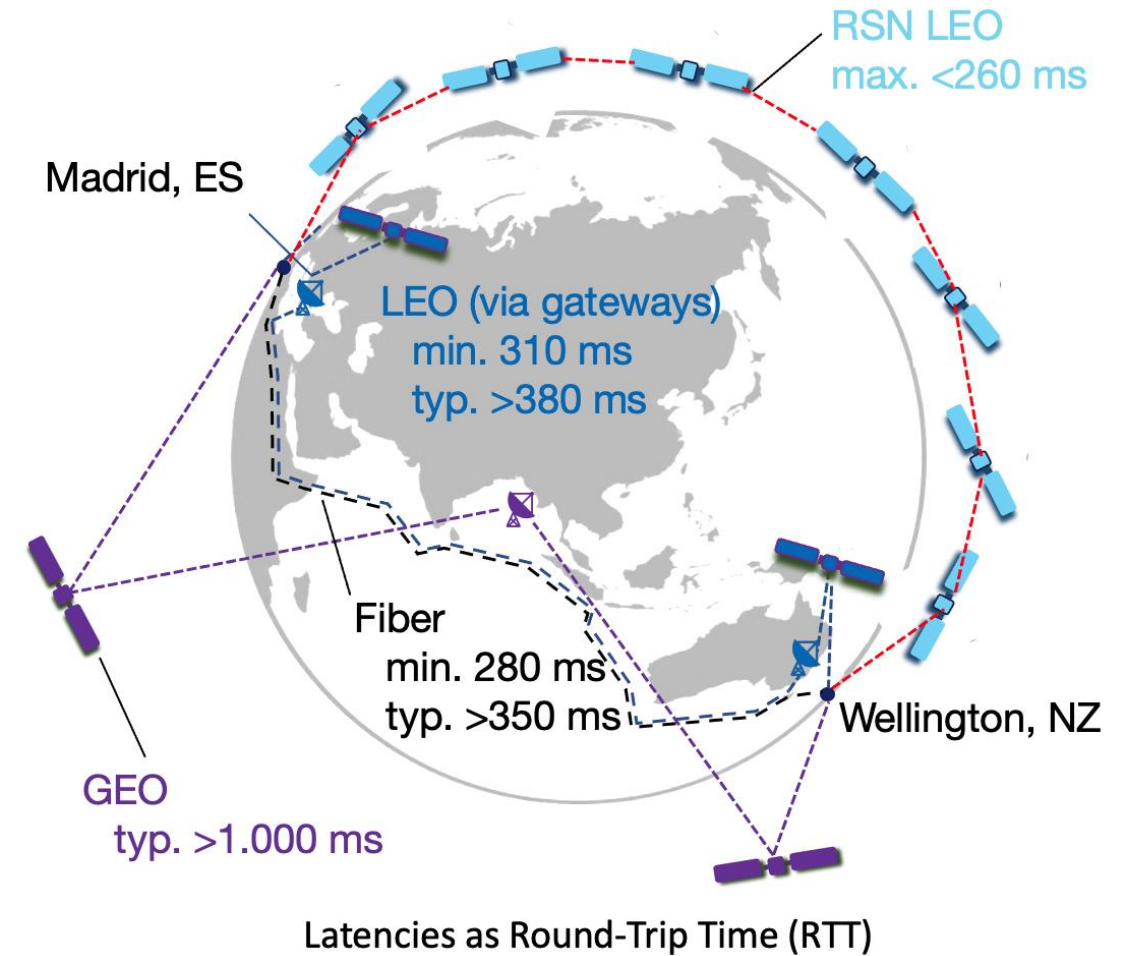
## A near - but not that near Satellite Network – Fast and Secure

### The property: ultra low latency

- **35x times closer** than GEO
- **50% faster** in vacuum than in fiber optic cable
- **Efficient shortest path** with optical intersatellite links
- Typical RTT <150 ms
- RTT < 25 ms up to 1000 km distance

### The value: highest security

- **Focused radio transmissions** thanks to narrow spot-beams
- **Resilient against cyberthreats** thanks to optical intersatellite links
- **Security and data sovereignty** in a single end-to-end network
- **Separation** from the Internet and other public and private networks

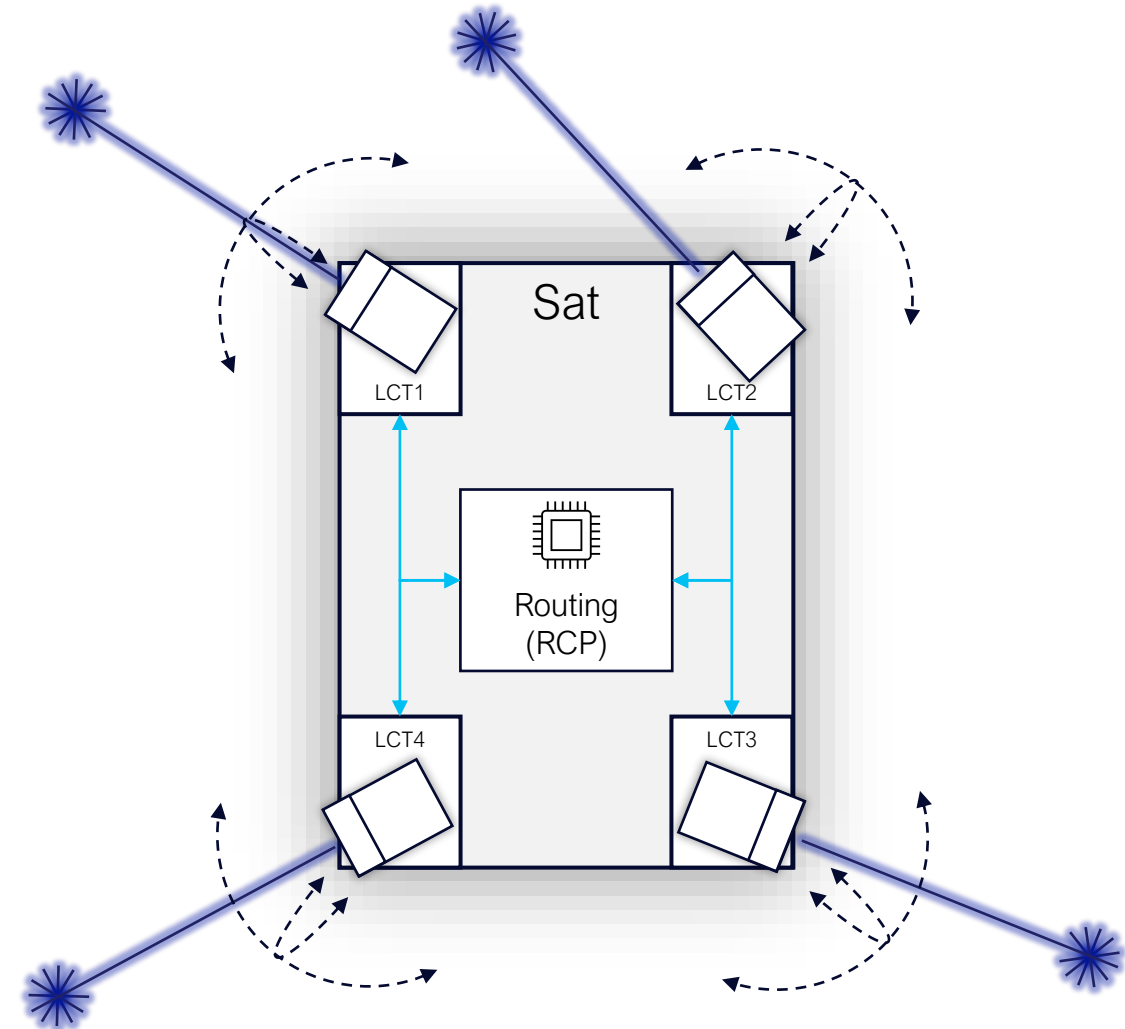




# Optical Intersatellite Links

## Baseline Configuration

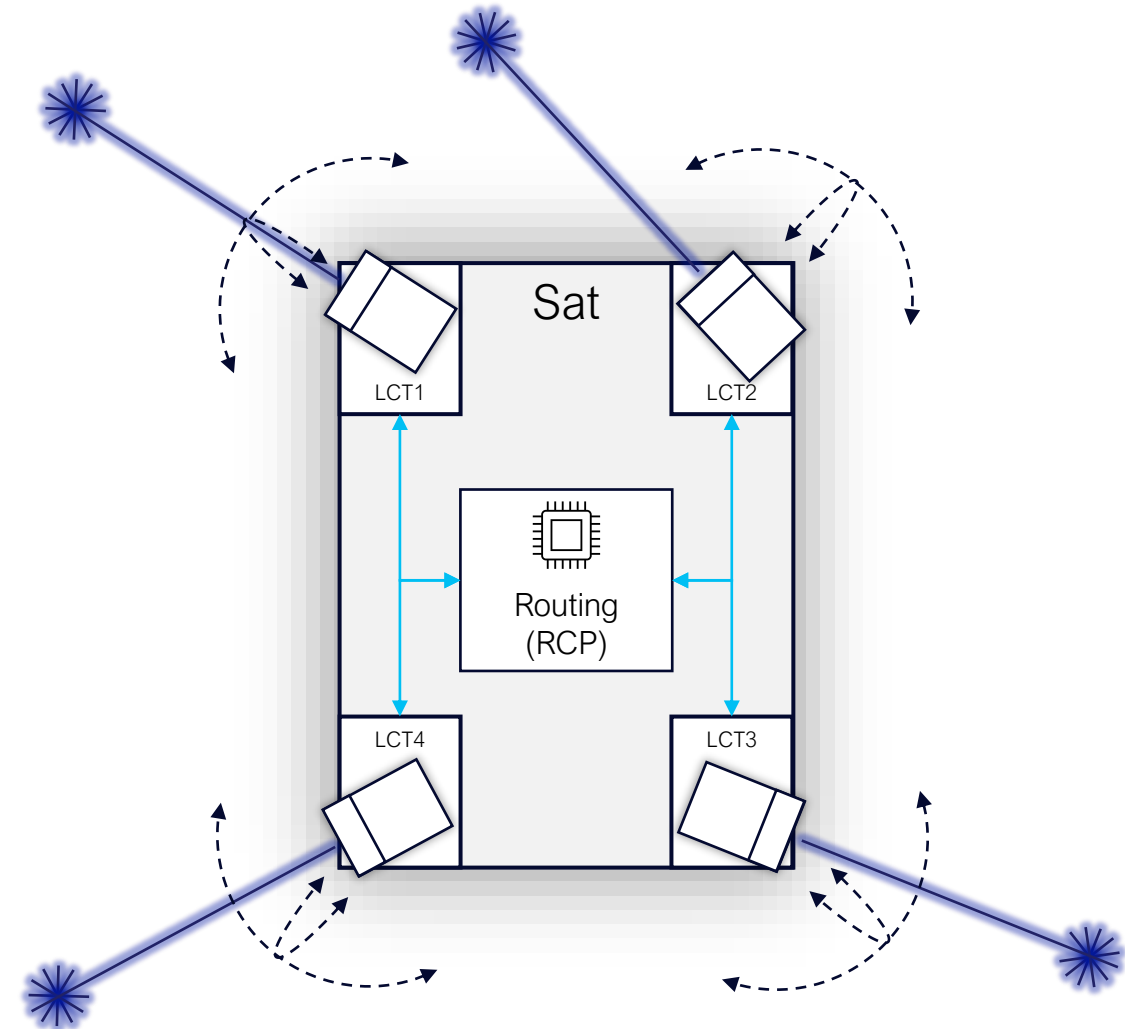
- Each satellite equipped with four independent Laser Comm Terminals (LCT)
- Up to 1176 steady point-to-point links
- Automated tracking of the relative movement of connected satellites
- Full-duplex optical links with 10 Gbps and more connected to the on-board Router (RCP)
- Upcoming generations aim for 100 Gbps
- Laser links bridge distances from ~450 up to ~7000 km



# Optical Intersatellite Links

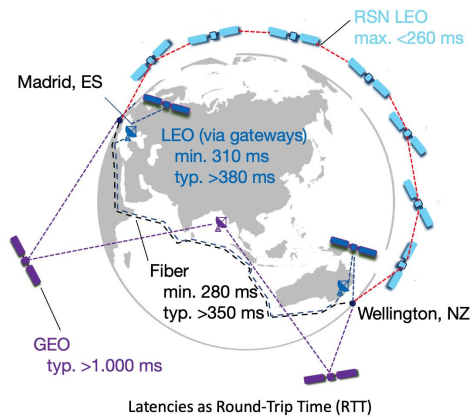
## Benefits

- Narrow beam – physically secure end-to-end user links
- Substitutes a ground station based bent-pipe approach
- Lowest impact on propagation delay compared to bent-pipe and/or fiber backbone (in space:  $n = 1$ )
- High link redundancy



# Optical Intersatellite Links - Dynamics

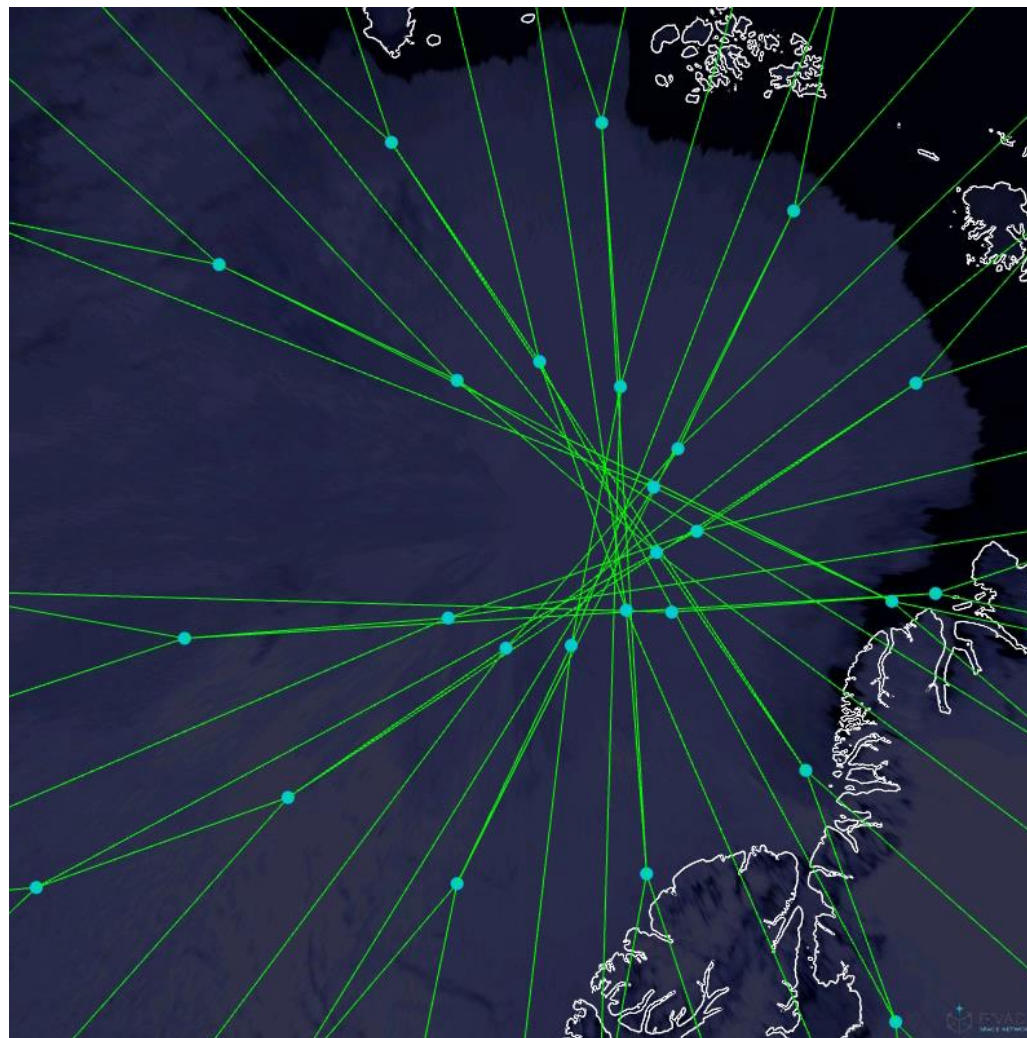
Shortest Path Connection Visualization –  
Santiago de Chile to Seattle





# Optical Intersatellite Links - Dynamics

“Polar Satellite Ballet”  
and node swap





# Thank you

Thomas Laurent

Director Business Development

[tlaurant@rivada.com](mailto:tlaurant@rivada.com)

+49 151 24103385

[rivada.com/space](http://rivada.com/space)