

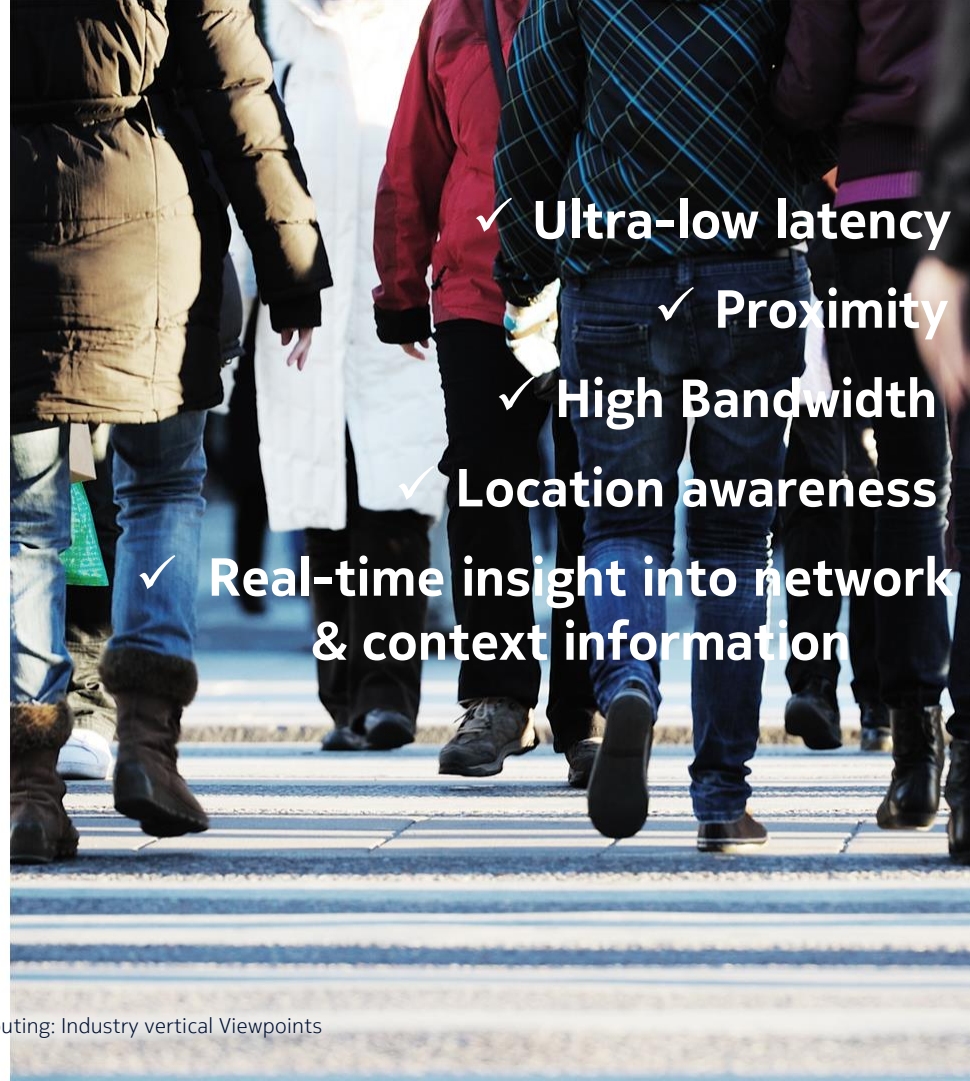
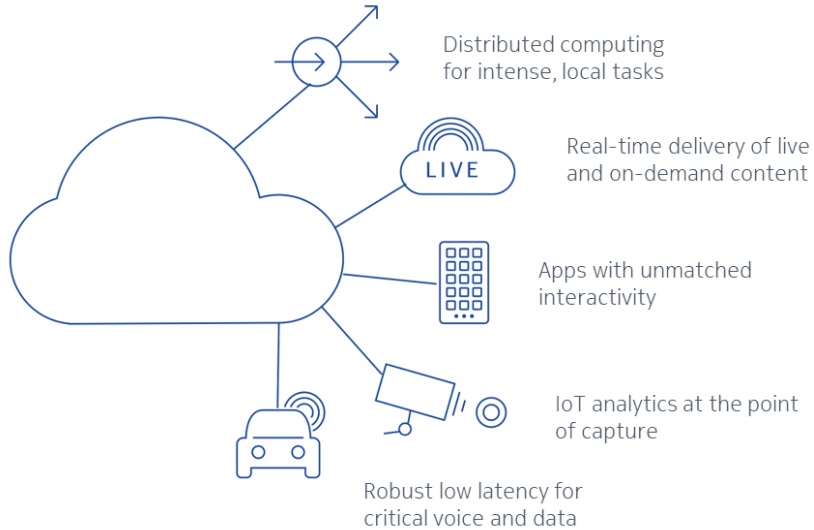
# Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC)

A common and extensible application enabling platform for new business opportunities

Nurit Sprecher

April 20, 2021

# MEC: Getting closer to people and connected objects



✓ **Ultra-low latency**

✓ **Proximity**

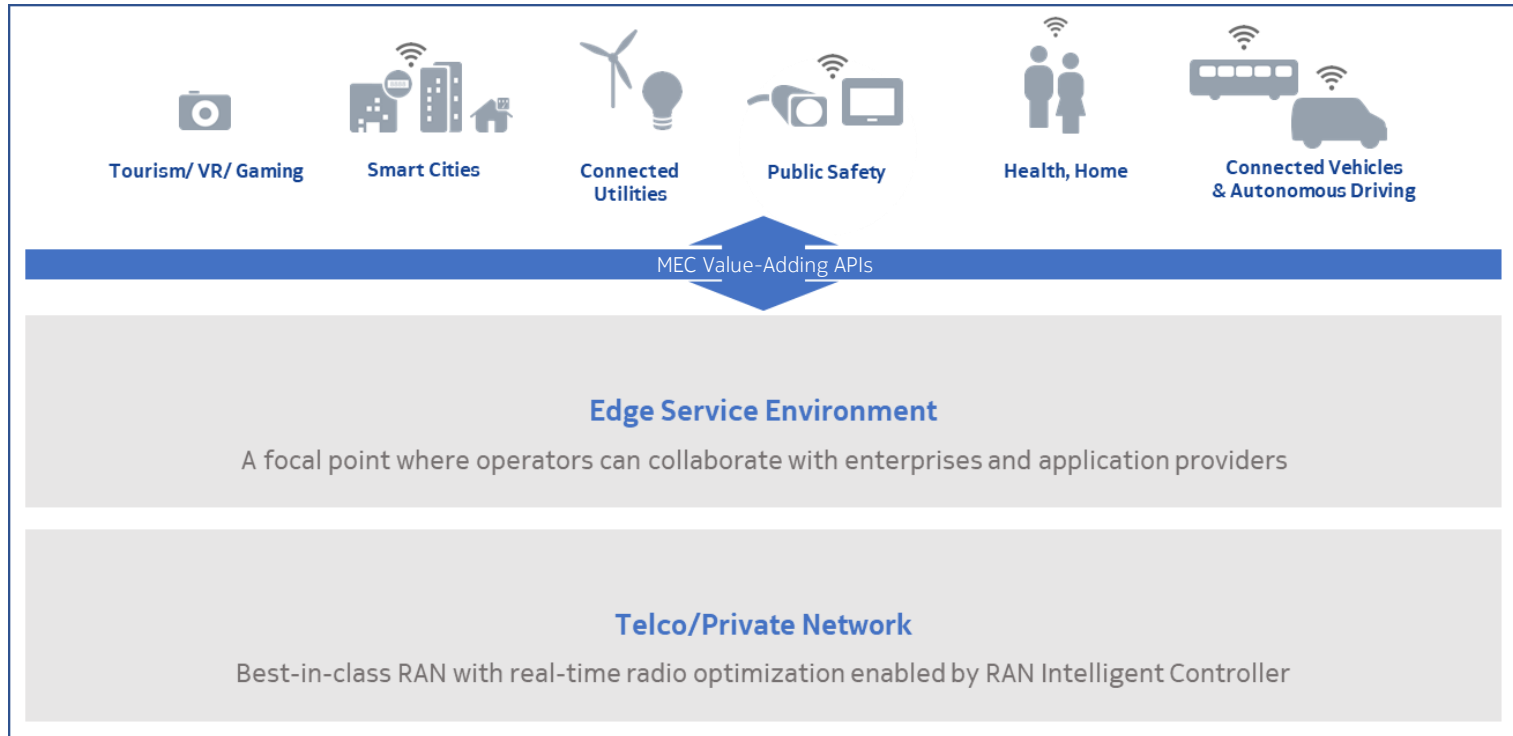
✓ **High Bandwidth**

✓ **Location awareness**

✓ **Real-time insight into network & context information**

# MEC: the opportunity

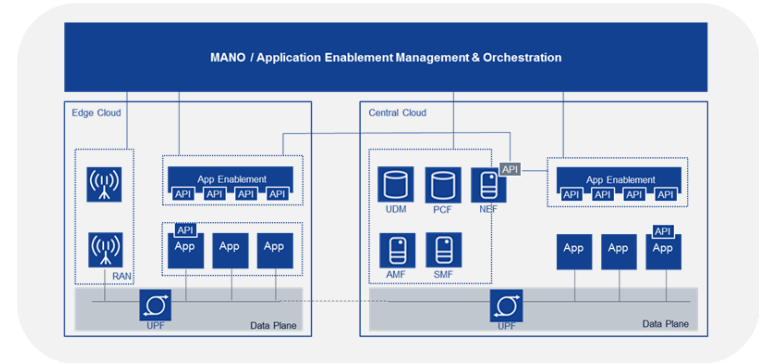
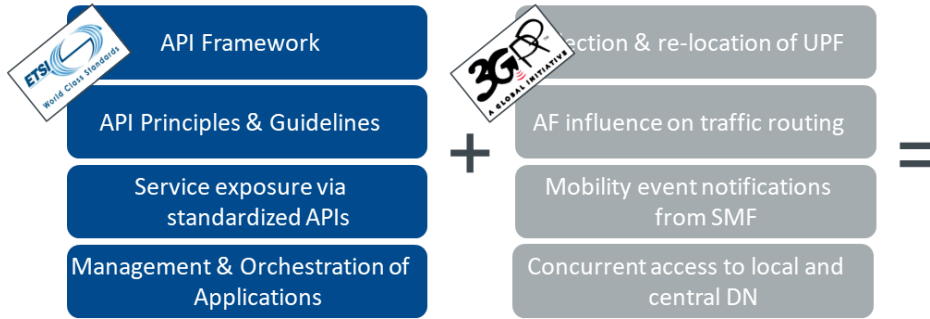
A service environment for enterprise, verticals and application ecosystems



# ETSI MEC: enabling applications in distributed clouds

## Where are we now?

Foundation for Edge Computing created: fully standardized solution to enable applications in distributed cloud, created by ETSI MEC + 3GPP



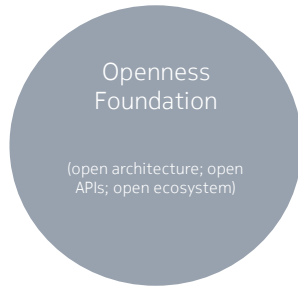
110 members - Operators – Tech Vendors – IT players – Industries – App developers



# ETSI MEC: foundation for edge computing (1)

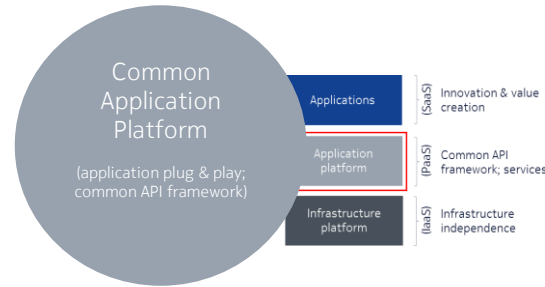


## MEC provides:



### Agile, value-sharing digital platform

- MEC enables speed of innovation and value co-creation with the ecosystems of different industries.
- MEC exposes information that can be used by applications to create value and enhance user experience.
- MEC opens new business opportunities with enterprises and verticals, especially in ultra-low latency use cases.



### Flexible applicability & deployment options

- MEC provides a common and extensible universal application platform which is aligned with the overall cloud transformation and is a natural element of 5G.
- MEC can be brought to all locations: far edge, enterprise edge, access, aggregation hub, distributed data center, centralized data center.
- MEC can be deployed in different cloud environments.



### A key stone of the URLLC transformation

- MEC enables new class of premium SLA-driven applications that require real-time delivery of live and on-demand content as well as a high degree of interactivity.
- MEC supports the digital transformation and mobilization of the enterprise industries. It is a key enabler for IoT and mission critical, vertical solutions.



# ETSI MEC: foundation for edge computing (2)



## Application enablement (API framework)

A framework for delivering services which may be consumed or offered by (**locally hosted or remote**) authorized applications. It enables:

- registration, announcement, discovery and notification of services;
- authentication and authorization of applications providing and consuming services;
- communication support for services (query/response and notifications).

## API principles

A set of API principles and guidance for developing and documenting APIs inside or outside ETSI which **ensures that a consistent set of APIs** is used by developers.

**The work was inspired** by the TMF and OMA best practices.

The APIs are designed to be **application-developer friendly** and easy to implement so as to **stimulate innovation** and foster the development of applications.

## Specific service-related APIs

Services **expose network and context information** via specific service-related APIs.

A different set of services may be applicable at different locations.

Services include:

- Radio Network Information
- Wireless LAN Information
- Fixed Network Information
- Location Information
- UE Identify Information
- V2X Information
- IoT Information
- Third-party services

## Management, orchestration and mobility-related APIs

Facilitate the running of applications **at the correct location at the right time**, based on technical and business parameters

Ensure service continuity

**Enables a myriad of new use cases across multiple sectors as well as innovative business opportunities**

# ETSI MEC: foundation for edge computing (3)



## MEC in 5G

3GPP 5G MEC integration, with enablers specified in 3GPP SA2

Multi-access support: LTE, WiFi, MulteFire, CBRS, 5G, Fixed network

## Security

Ensures security and privacy

Compliance with regulatory and legal requirements

## Federation

Interaction and coordination between MEC platforms and MEC systems, supporting multi-operator, -network, -vendor environment

Operator-driven work item in ETSI MEC

## MEC Ecosystem

MEC OpenAPIs available at the ETSI forge site; white paper on “developing software for MEC”

MEC Sandbox environment

Successful MEC Hackathons

## Testing framework

MEC API conformance test specifications, based on MEC testing methodology guidelines and framework

## Support for mobility

Support for UE (User Equipment) mobility and service continuity, for both stateless and stateful applications

## Industry enablement

5GAA, 5G-ACIA, Akraino

A bunch of white papers describing deployment options and solutions for Industries: - MEC in an Enterprise setting - MEC in 5G networks - cloud RAN and MEC : a perfect paring - enhanced DNS support towards Distributed MEC Environments, etc.

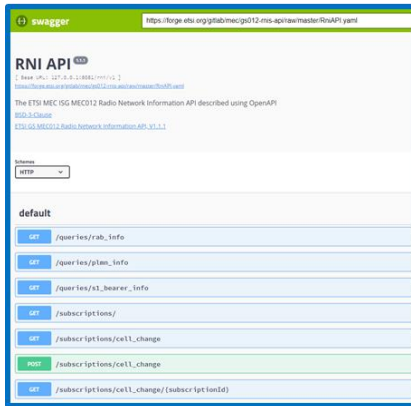
## Openly available

MEC in open source: several MEC-based Blueprints in the Linux Foundation Akraino project

From proof of concept to proof of viability in a live network environment

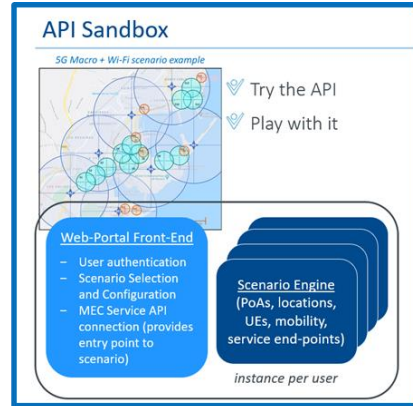
# Attracting the application developers

## API value



Do I understand the value of the API?  
Do I understand how to use the API?  
How simple is it to implement?

## Tools



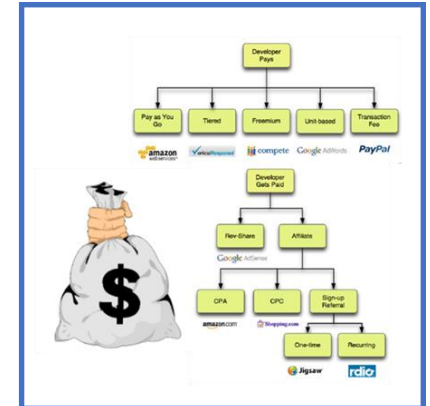
What kind of tools are available?  
How can I play with the API?  
Can I validate my implementation?

## Community



Is there any active community?  
How can I get involved?

## Business models



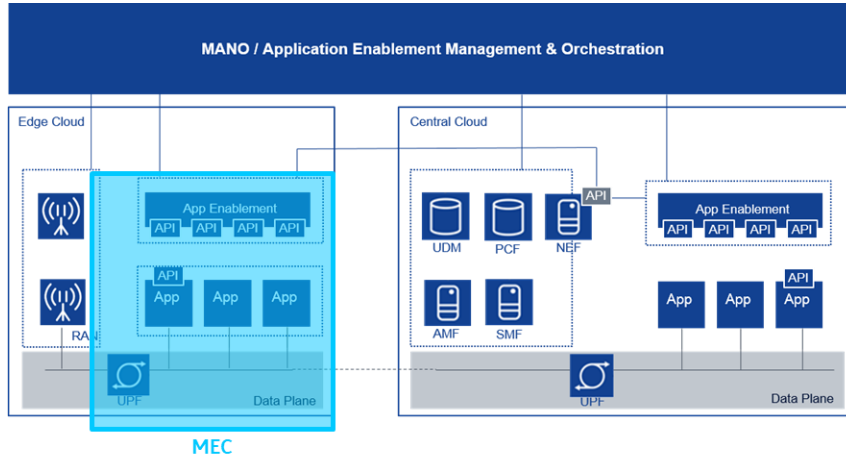
How can I make money out of this?



white papers:

- Business opportunities and monetization options for MEC
- Stakeholder analysis and feasibility study for MEC





MEC is key to deliver the expected 5G performance attributes in practical end-to-end use cases.

MEC is considered in **3GPP 5G Architecture** from the beginning.

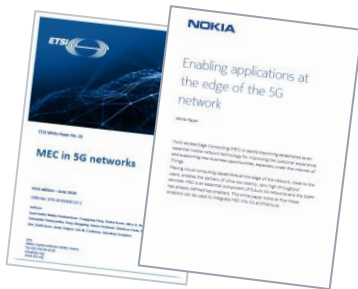
3GPP SA2 specified enablers for MEC as an AF, for example:

- Selection of User Plane Function (UPF) close to the UE
- Local UPF re-selection (based on UE mobility events)
- Concurrent access to local DN (Data Network) and central DN in a single PDU session.
- Support MEC requests for local traffic steering locally (per UE or a group of UEs).
- Local UPF access to applications
- Delivery of UE mobility information to trigger UPF re-selection
- Indication of LADN (Local Access Data Network) availability
- Interface of Information Exposure towards MEC applications
- Charging support for locally steered traffic

Nokia White Paper: [Enabling applications at the edge of the 5G Network](#)

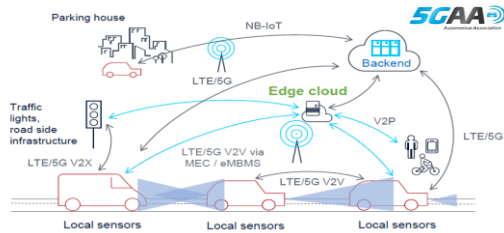
ETSI White Paper: [MEC in 5G](#)

MEC enables services to be offered at the optimal network location, edge cloud or core cloud.



# Edge computing takes a further leap forward with move to harmonize standards ([Link to Nokia Blog](#))

The fundamental MEC specifications are ready; ETSI MEC is widely recognized in the industry as the leading SDO for application enablement and edge computing.



MEC is a key building block for V2X services.



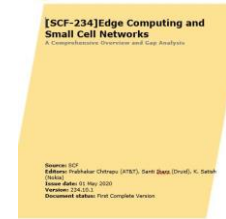
Industrial 5G compute edge use cases, requirements & deployment models



Mobile edge application architecture, with a UE centric approach



MEC is well positioned to satisfy the needs of GSMA Operator Platform and the NGMN Future Networks Cloud Native Platform and help monetizing the operator's network.

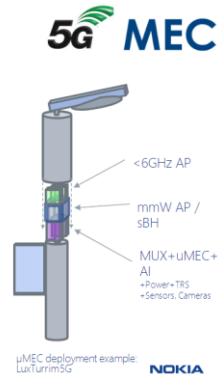


Edge cloud and small cell networks synergies

# MEC-compliant open-source Blueprints in the Akraino project

## µMEC concept

- µMEC is a small form factor HW+SW platform for especially the Smart City services on Ultra Far Edge
- It can use 5G, WLAN or fiber connection
- It can be installed on light poles, vehicles, etc
- The µMEC proof-of-concept is based on LuxTurrin5G and open source components



4 © Nokia 2015

## ETSI MEC and LF Edge signed MoU on Collaboration

### Working towards moving the industry forward together

“The MEC ISG within ETSI and LF Edge’s Akraino project have been working towards moving the industry forward together. The first fruit of this labor is about to ripen – an Akraino Mini-Hackathon, endorsed by ETSI, to be held in San Diego the day before [KubeCon](#).” (see [Blog by Alex Reznik, Chair of ETSI MEC ISG](#))



#### Integration Projects (aka "Blueprints")

- 5G MEC System Blueprint Family
- AI/ML and AR/VR applications at Edge
- Connected Vehicle Blueprint (Aka CVB)
- Edge Video Processing
- ELIOT: Edge Lightweight and IoT Blueprint Family
- Integrated Cloud Native NFV/App stack family (Short term: ICN)
- Integrated Edge Cloud (IEC) Blueprint Family
- KubeEdge Edge Service Blueprint
- Kubernetes-Native Infrastructure (KNI) Blueprint Family
- Micro-MEC
- Network Cloud Blueprint Family
- Public Cloud Edge Interface (PCEI) Blueprint Family
- StarlingX Far Edge Distributed Cloud
- Telco Appliance Blueprint Family
- The AI Edge Blueprint Family
- Time-Critical Edge Compute

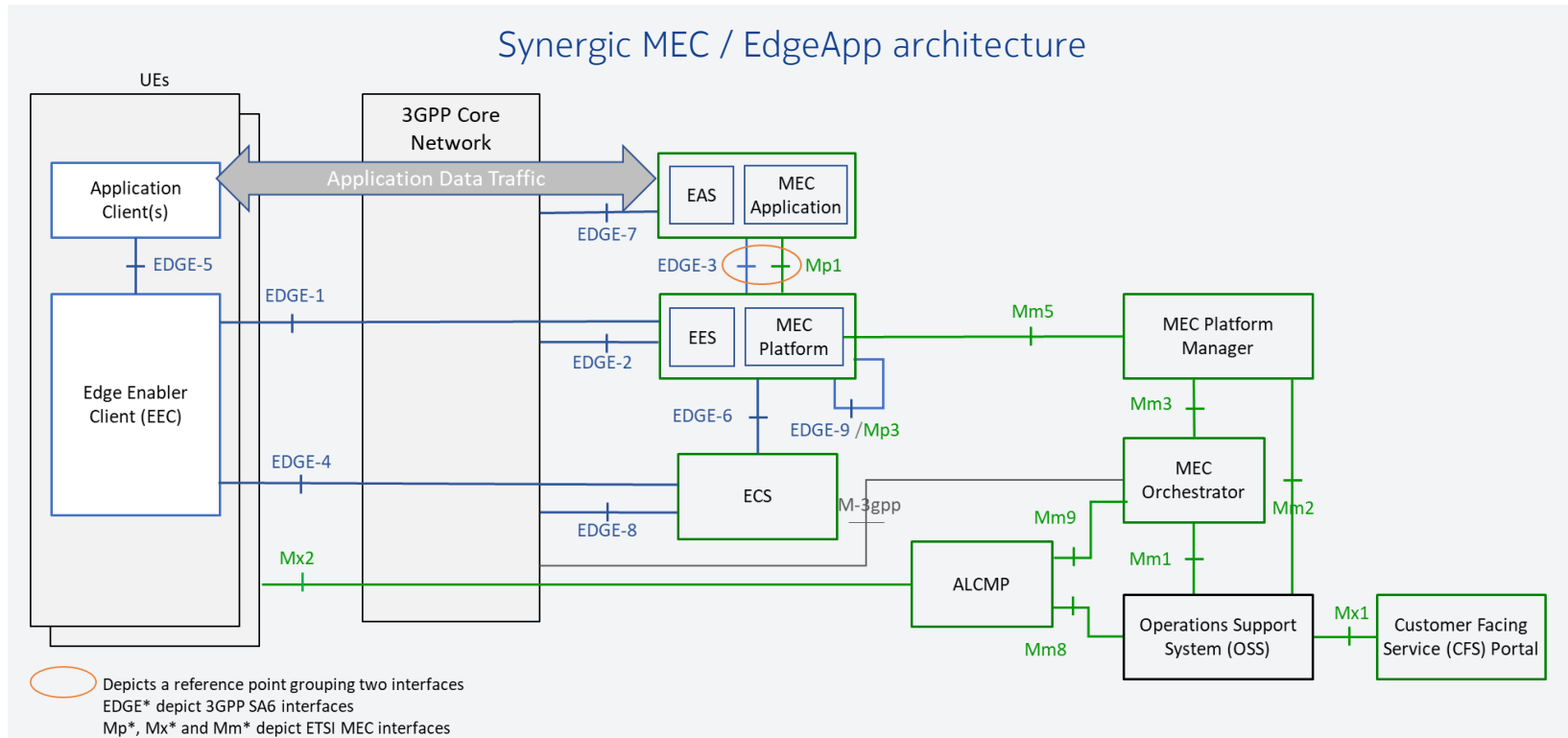
#### Feature Projects

- Cluster Health & Overload Monitoring Platform (CHOMP) Feature Project
- Support of OVS-DPDK in Airship
- Akraino Portal Feature Project
- Akraino Blueprint Validation Framework
- MEC API Framework
- API Gateway
- Akraino Profiling
- Akraino Regional Controller
- Backup and Restore (Snappy) Feature Project
- KONTOUR

7 MEC-based Blueprints

# ETSI MEC and 3GPP SA6 Edge Application Architecture

## Complementary efforts



# Nokia solution: RAN Intelligent Controller (RIC) and MEC on a single platform

## Application awareness of the MEC combined with RAN awareness of the RIC

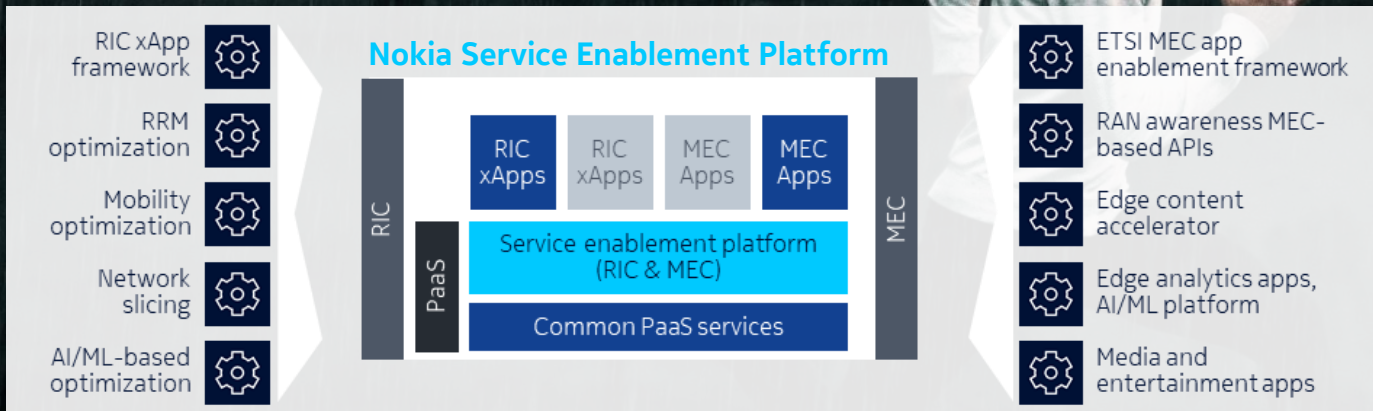


### RAN Intelligent Controller

RIC xApps framework for RAN optimization and customization

Standard APIs for xApps to interact with the RAN

Common Application onboarding and integration methodology



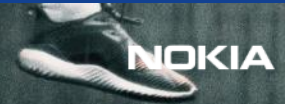
### Multi-access edge computing

Standard compliant MEC API framework and service APIs for application awareness in the RAN

Open platform for innovation by third-party MEC Apps & xApp



Infrastructure independent, containerized platform for innovation, AI & ML platform services





# Epilogue

- ✓ There are vast business opportunities at the edge.
- ✓ MEC is coherent with the openness ambition for innovation and growth. It provides a common API framework for third-party plug-ins and open APIs for data exposure and programmability.
- ✓ MEC is aligned with the overall cloud transformation and is a natural element of 5G.
- ✓ MEC is a key enabler for IoT and mission critical, vertical solutions. It is a focal point for collaboration between operators and Enterprises.
- ✓ The fundamental MEC specifications are ready; ETSI MEC is widely recognized in the industry as the leading SDO for application enablement and edge computing. MEC is well positioned to satisfy the needs of an Operator Platform and help monetizing the operator's network using MEC APIs. MEC is flexible and extensible.
- ✓ The number of edge initiatives in the industry has considerably grown and they should leverage MEC to ensure common practices and tools for the developers. This will help to ensure adoption and accelerate time-to-market.

