

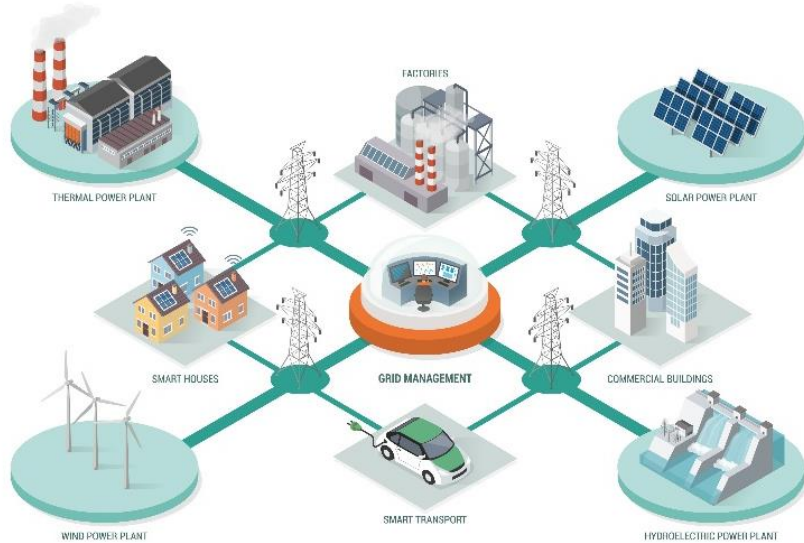


# Communication networks for power companies

ITSF 2021

Clive Wright

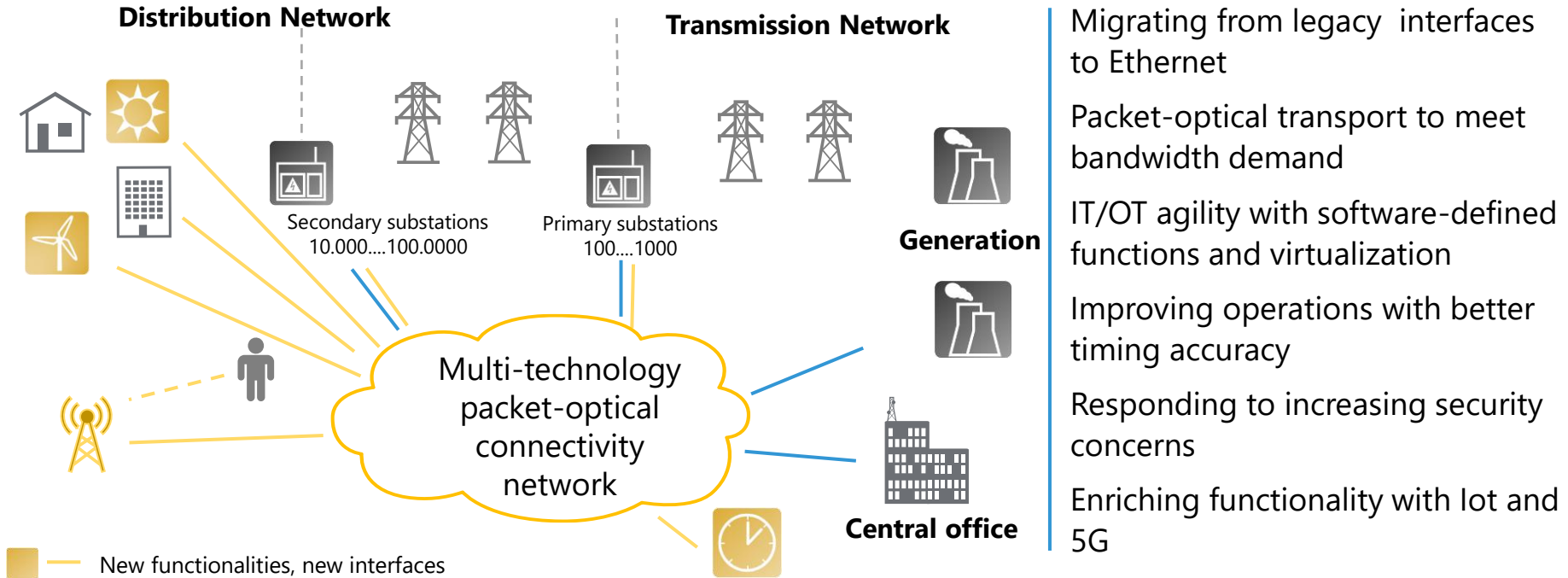
# From central power generation to a smart grid



## Utilities need to re-invent themselves


- Distributed renewable generation
- Operate grid closer to maximum capacity
- Reduce peak demand:
  - Time of use tariffs - smart metering
- Real-time substation automation:
  - IEC 61850 substation automation standard
- Robust microsecond timing
- Secure IP communication
- Wide Area Monitoring System (WAMS)

# Future-proof communication networks



Distributed energy production is triggering digital transformation

# Evolution of interface requirements at substations



Substation

Application	Legacy
Tele-Protection (delay < 5ms)	RS232, V.24 over PDH
Station-/field bus; RTUs	Modbus, et.al.
Inter control center comm	Proprietary, DNP
CCTV - monitoring	Coaxial
Time distribution	IRIG-B e.g. 1pps, serial V24
Phone	analog



Future	Connectivity requirements
IP (IEC 60870-5)	IP/Ethernet
IP/Ethernet (IEC 61850)	L2 Ethernet
IP (IEC 60870-6)	IP/Ethernet
IP/Ethernet	IP/Ethernet
IEEE 1588; power profile	L2 Ethernet
VoIP	IP/Ethernet

Migration to common IP/Ethernet connectivity network

# Market-specific communication requirements

## Need for change

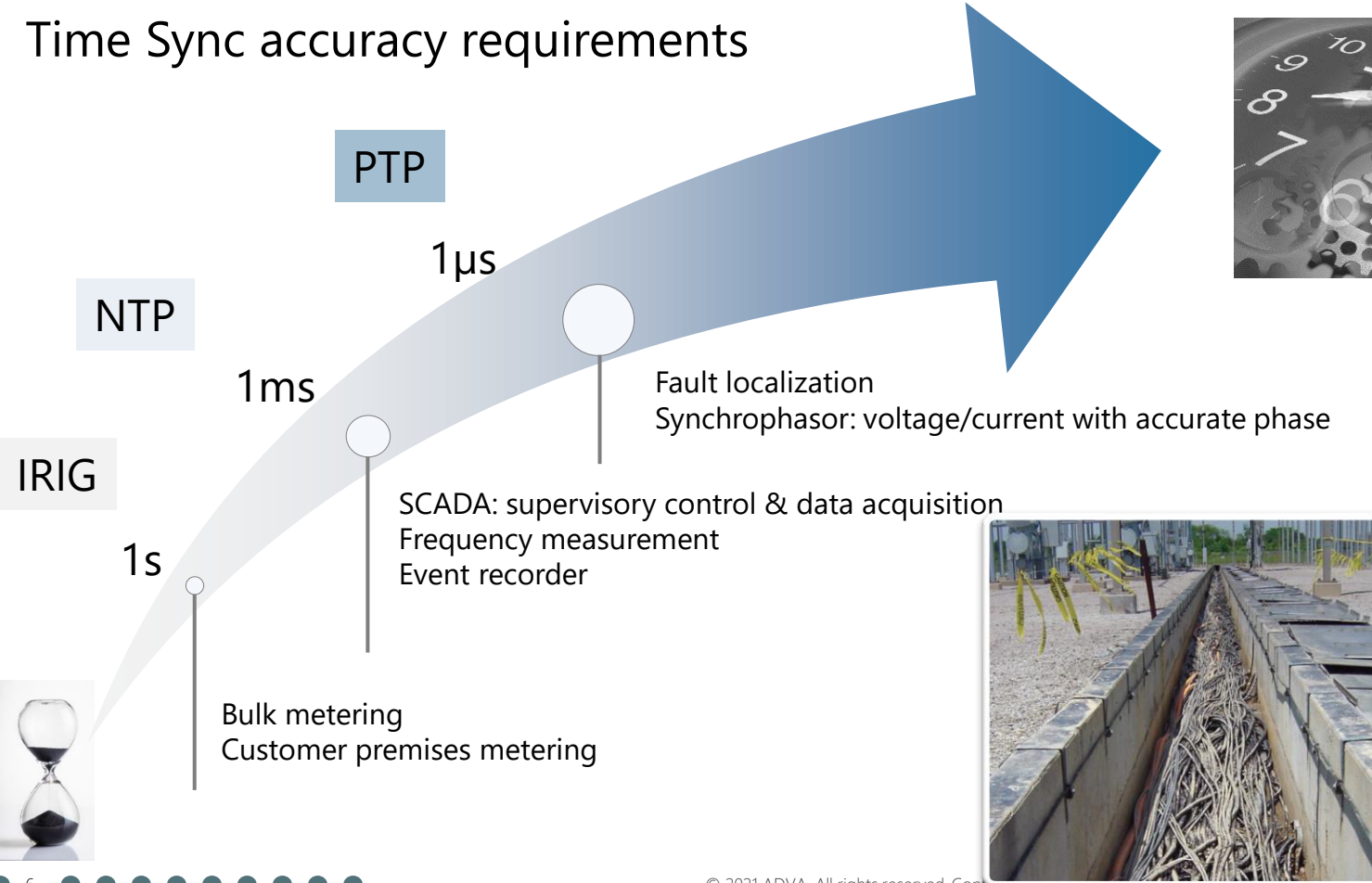
- **End of life technology:** PDH systems and asynchronous interfaces (E1/T1, RS232, X24) for monitoring and control but also tele-protection to isolate failures on power lines
- **Fully connected:** Smart grid with need for real time control of any connected power device – production and consumption
- **Simplification:** SCADA using field bus systems and wide range of proprietary interfaces/protocols
- **Precise sync:** Legacy Synchronization with IRIG, ToD not accurate enough

## Digital transformation

Interfaces and protocols **converge to IP and Ethernet**, driven by new sub-station technology  
Increasing dependency on OT/IT impacts need for **high-available and secure connectivity** and connectivity to any device  
**Virtualization** for agility and flexibility  
Legacy timing technologies are **migrating to IEEE 1588 (PTP)** and network-delivered timing  
Growing bandwidth demand creates need for **100G packet-optical transport**

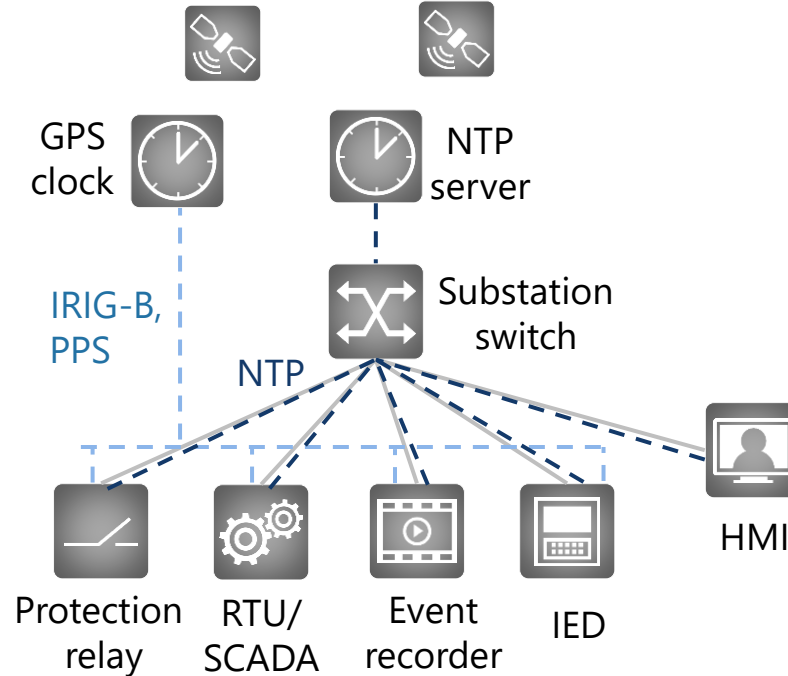
# Standards - IEC 61850 Substation Modernization

## Time Sync accuracy requirements



# Substation Time Sync - today

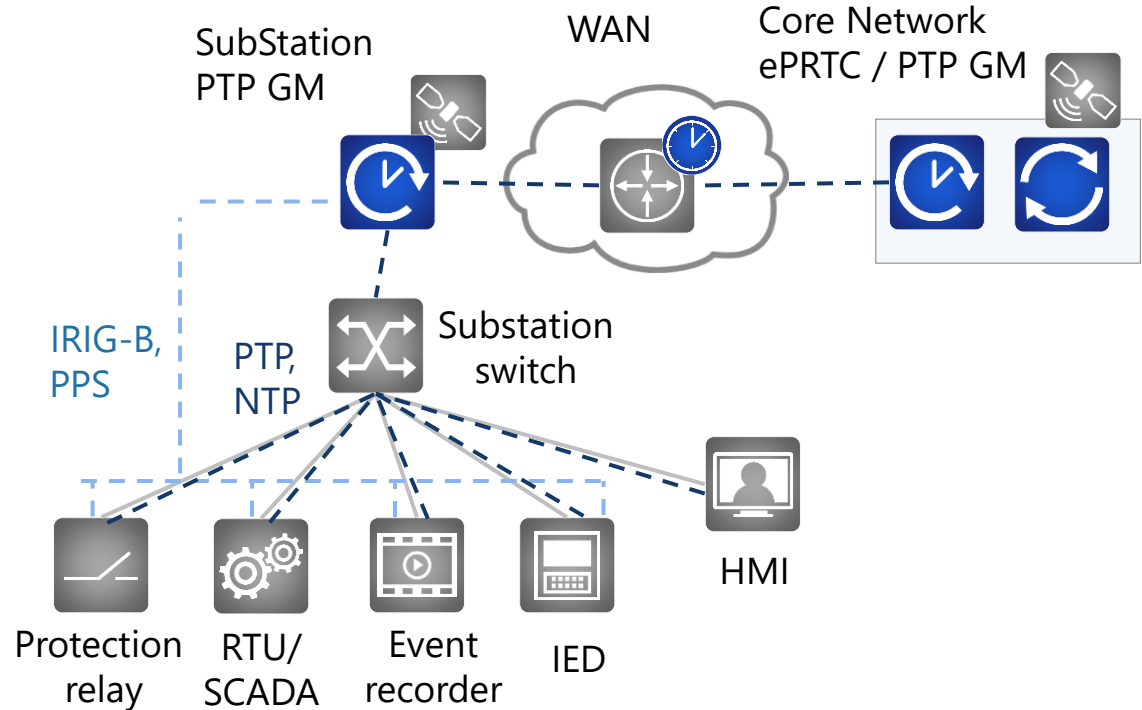
- IRIG and PPS provide time over dedicated cables
- NTP provides msec precision
- GPS used as higher accurate local time reference



Presently applied solutions neither meet accuracy nor availability requirements

# Substation synchronization - tomorrow

- Precision Time Protocol for **sub- $\mu$ s timing accuracy**
- Converging PTP, NTP and IRIG-B into **single PTP solution over Ethernet**
- Mitigating GNSS outages with network-based backup for **highest availability**
- Assuring business continuity by **monitoring sync quality**



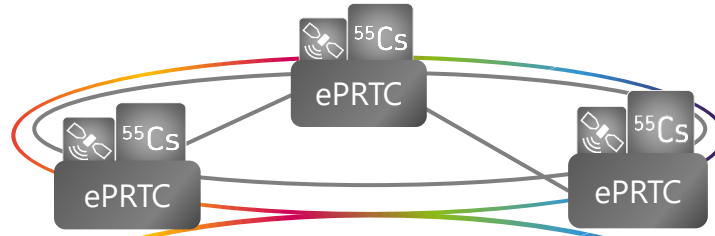
Highest accuracy and best availability with satellite **and** network based timing



# The new Time Sync Architecture – Time keeping, distribution & assurance

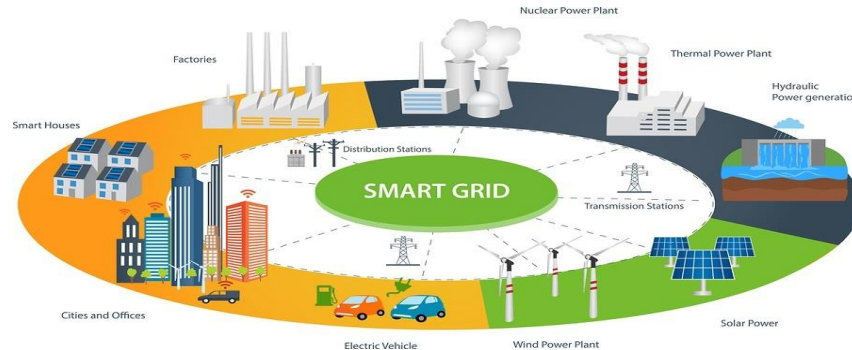
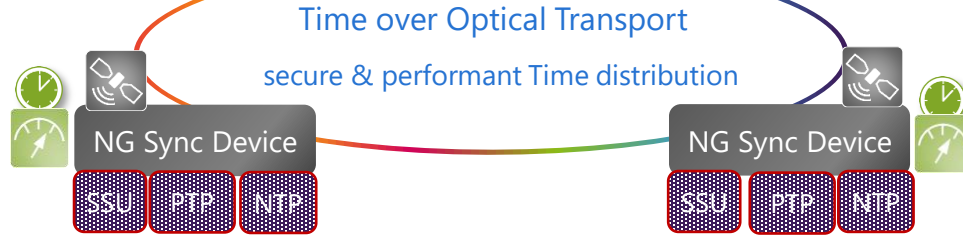
## Core Network

Ensemble of highly precise and accurate Time Clocks (ePRTC's)  
< +/-30ns to UTC



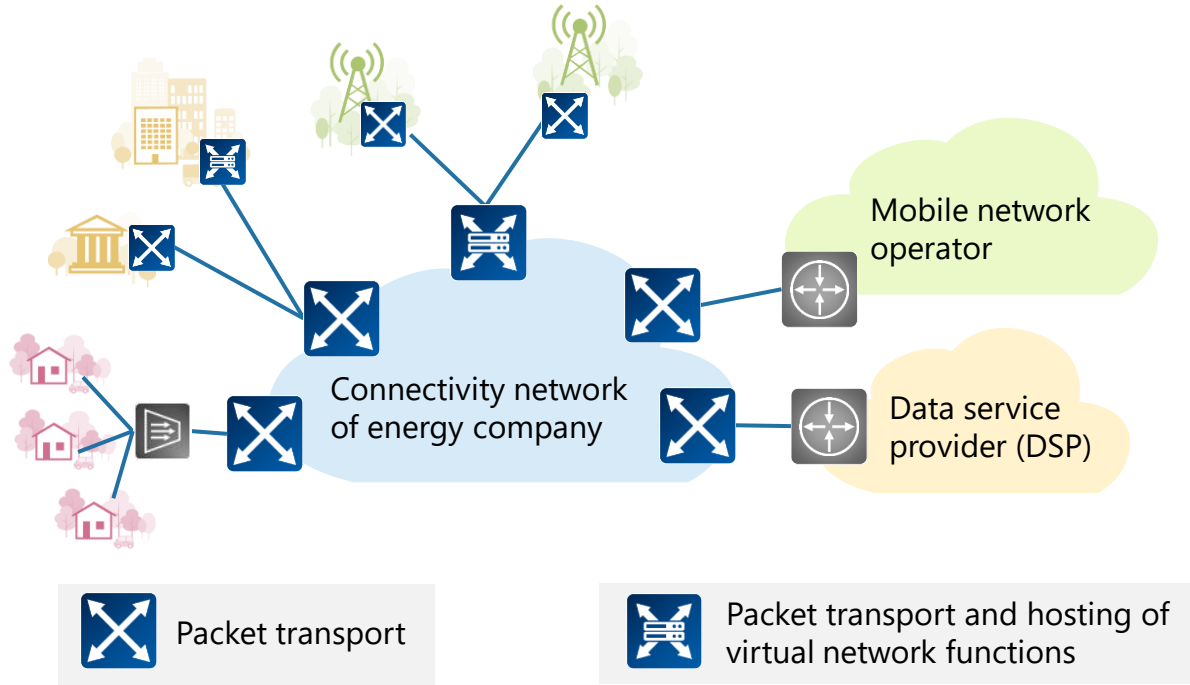
## Substations/Smart Grid IoTs

enabled to provide time information  
+/- 100ns - 1ms to UTC



Network & Service Management

# Utelco – utility is offering communication services



## Business services

- Ethernet and IP connectivity
- Edge-hosting of virtual network functions

## Managed bandwidth and hosting services

- Wholesale services
- Connectivity services to fixed and mobile network operators

## Preferred access architecture

GPON for residential  
FTTH/B/C for business and mobile

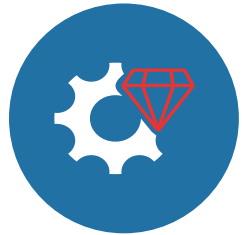
Strong separation from OT/IT: separate fiber or separate wavelength

# Digital transformation for power utilities



## Network modernization

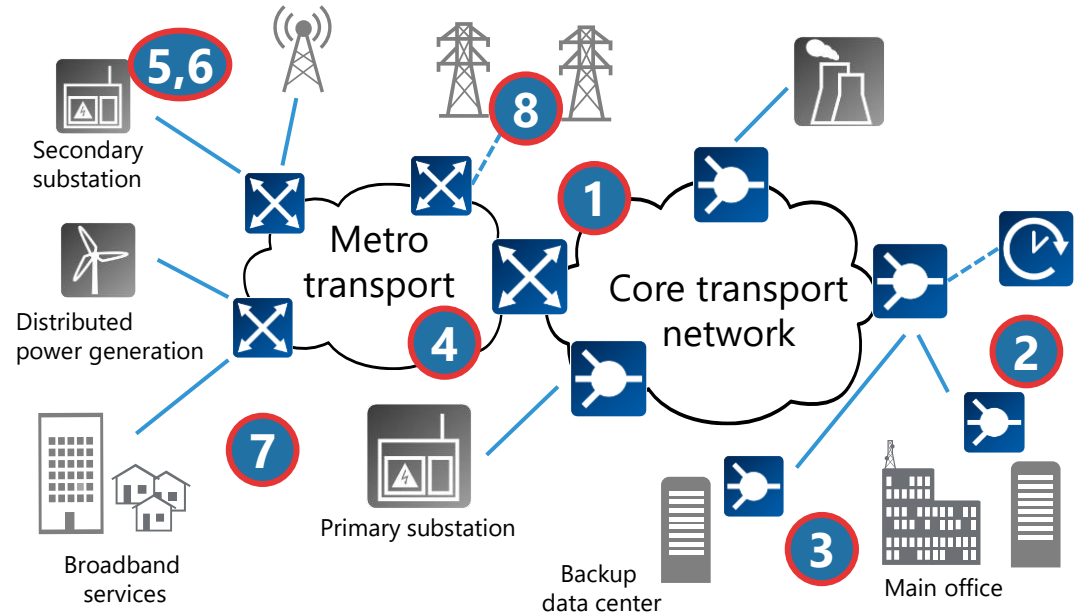
- Security
- Sync
- Assurance
- IT/OT convergence



## Communication services

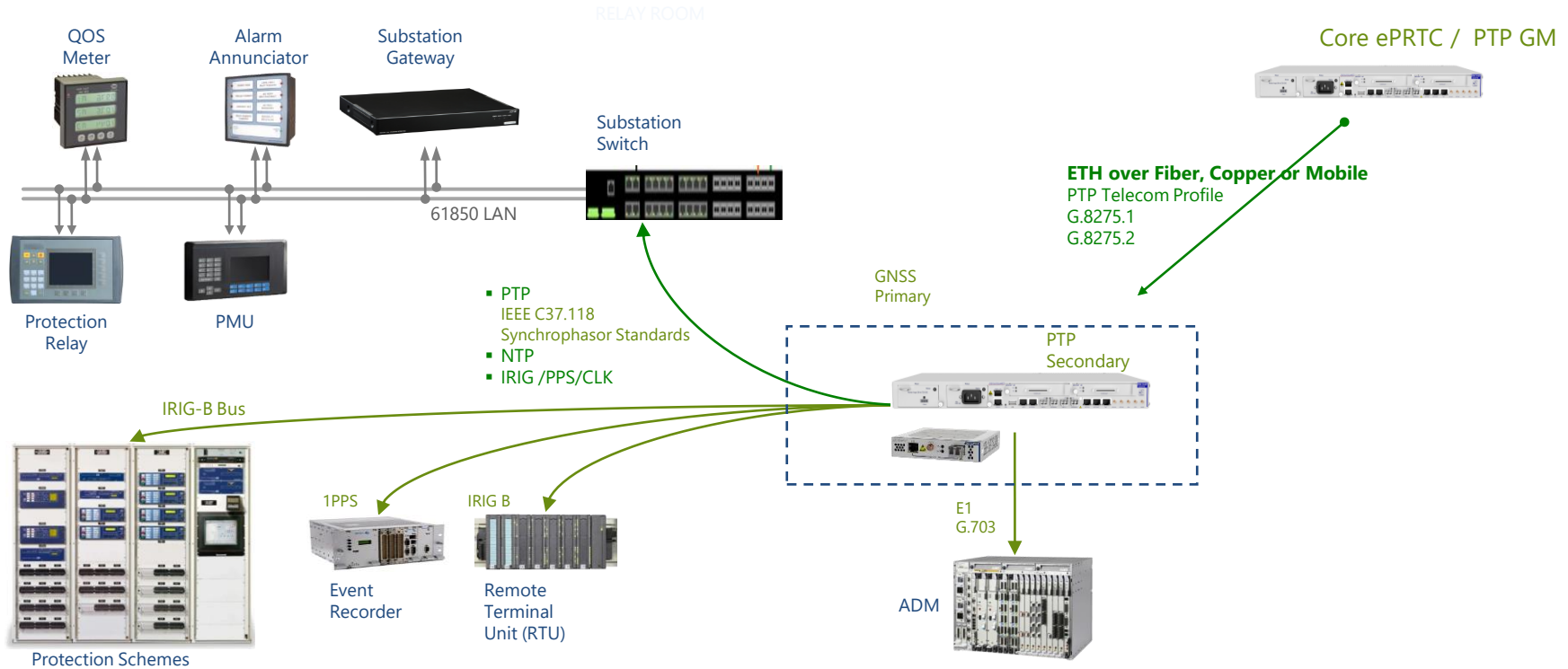
- Residential
- Commercial
- Wholesale

Some Key Changes	
1. Core transport	5. Connecting substations
2. Core synchronization	6. Synchronizing substations
3. Business continuity	7. Broadband services
4. Metro transport	8. Monitoring power lines



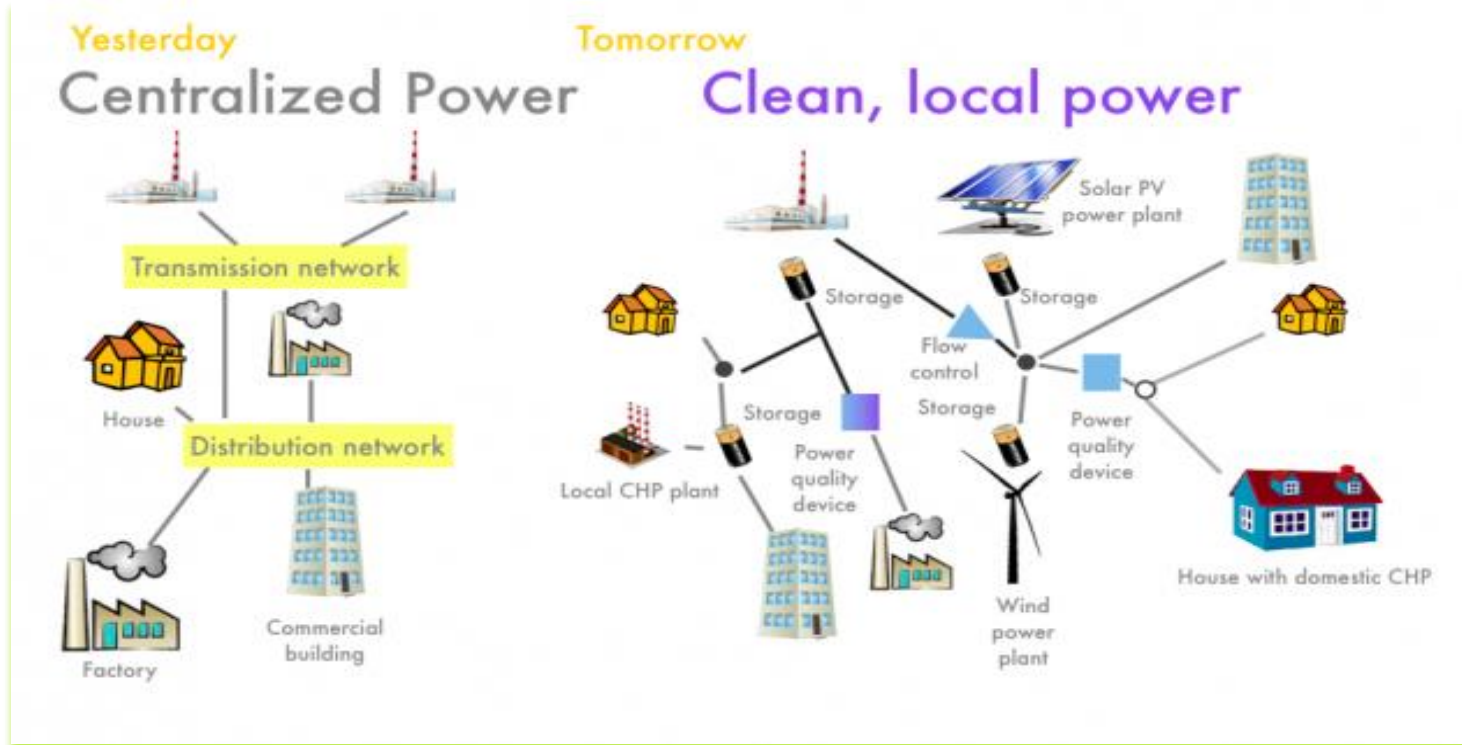
# Timing Delivery For Substations

... Today *and* Tomorrow



IEEE C37.238 "IEEE Standard Profile for use of IEEE 1588™ PTP in Power System Applications" and IEC PAS 61850-9-3 "PTP profile for power utility automation"

# Renewable & decentralized Energy Production



Smart Grid (IoT) in the Distribution will require 5G



Thank you



# Thank you

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