

UK CELTIC-NEXT Focus

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Innovate UK

- We are the UK's innovation agency
- We invest in new ideas, services and technologies and connect businesses to the right people, to drive economic growth and social benefits
- We support businesses and research collaborations in all economic sectors, value chains and UK regions



Benefiting everyone through knowledge, talent and ideas

UK Research and Innovation brings together the 7 Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

As part of UK Research and Innovation, Innovate UK drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas including those from the UK's world-class research base.



**UK Research
and Innovation**



UK Funding Situation

- We are working with the DCMS supporting the UK's participation via Innovate UK
 - Budget up to **£3m**
 - Looking to fund projects until **March 25**
 - Not impacted by Horizon Europe Association
- InnovateUK to administer the UK competition
 - **Usual IUK funding rates** i.e.
 - 70% SME Industrial Research
 - 30% RTO participation
- More info please get in touch

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Competition Process

1. Initial **submission to CELTIC-NEXT** as part of **wider project**
 - Projects **ranked** and successful projects notified
2. Projects with OK from CELTIC-NEXT UK **apply via InnovateUK**
 - Using **IFS portal** (to go live after results announced)
 - Deadline to be nearer end of year
3. IUK support to **live projects**
 - Help in forming collaboration agreements and project management
 - Assigned **monitoring officer** to help with reporting

Areas of Interest: Diversification

- Addressing the lack of diversification in the UK telecoms supply chain
- Key technology enabler is OpenRAN following the principles below:

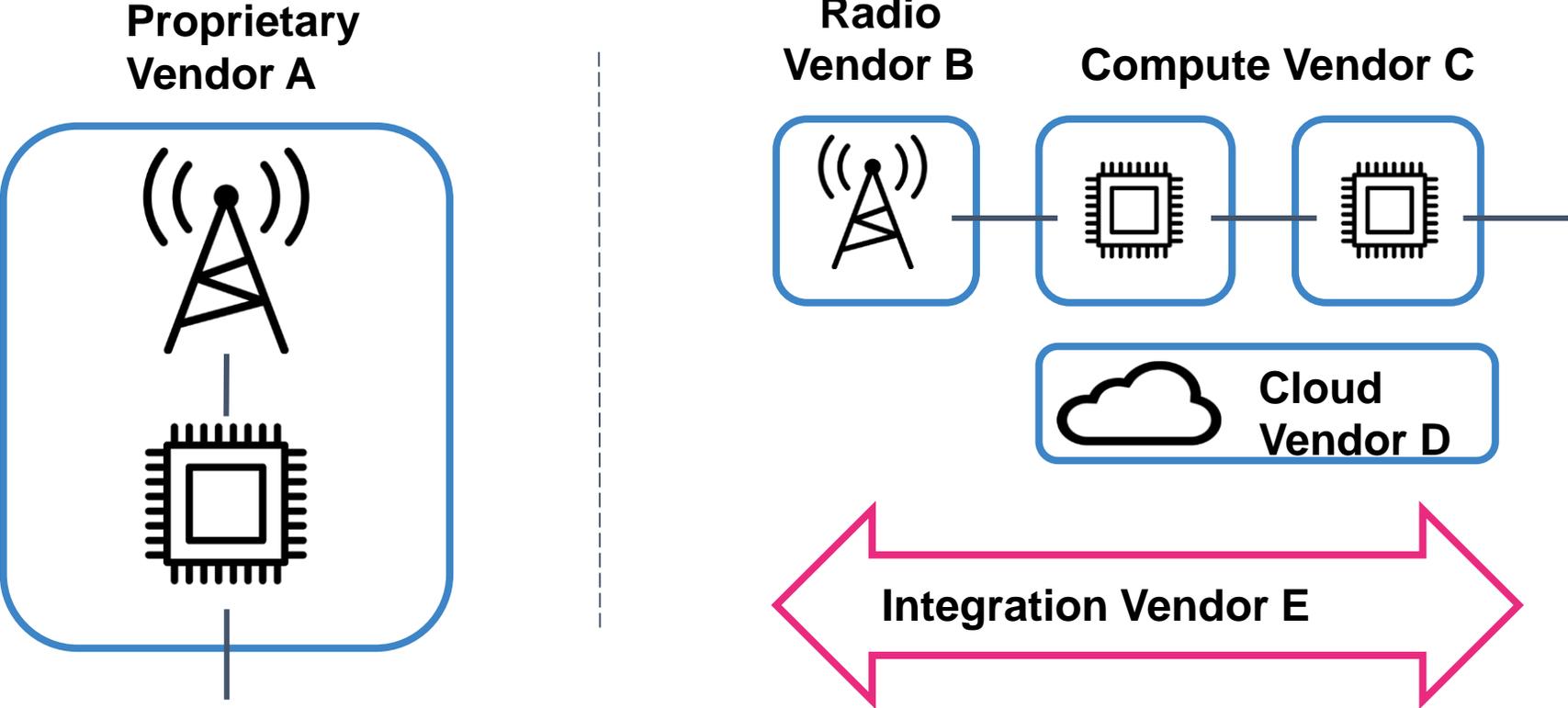
1. Open disaggregation, allowing elements of the RAN to be sourced from different suppliers and implemented in new ways.

2. Standards-based compliance, allowing all suppliers to test solutions against standards in an open, neutral environment.

3. Demonstrated interoperability, ensuring disaggregated elements work together as a fully functional system — at a minimum matching the performance and security of current solutions.

4. Implementation neutrality, allowing suppliers to innovate and differentiate on the features and performance of their products.

Open RAN Architecture: Example



Areas of Interest: Use Cases

- Wide ranging application areas to align with wider CELTIC call
Including by not limited to:
 - Smart City application of technology
 - eHealth Application
 - Industry 4.0 Manufacturing
- Innovations around RAN
 - Energy efficiency, beam forming etc
 - Sat / non terrestrial applications of mobile connectivity.
- Public and private deployments are valid
 - Preference to use open standards beyond ORAN such as OCF

Thank you
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