

# What you need to Know—NOW!

## 5G: The Big Picture

In November of 2018, the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorized the rocket company SpaceX, owned by the entrepreneur Elon Musk, to launch a fleet of **7,518** satellites to complete SpaceX's ambitious scheme to provide global satellite broadband services to every corner of the Earth.

The satellites will operate at a height of approximately 210 miles, and irradiate the Earth with extremely high frequencies between 37.5 GHz and 42 GHz. This fleet will be in addition to a smaller SpaceX fleet of **4,425** satellites, already authorized earlier in the year by the FCC, which will orbit the Earth at a height of approximately 750 miles and is set to bathe us in frequencies between **12 GHz** and **30 GHz**. The grand total of SpaceX satellites is thus projected to reach just around 12,000.

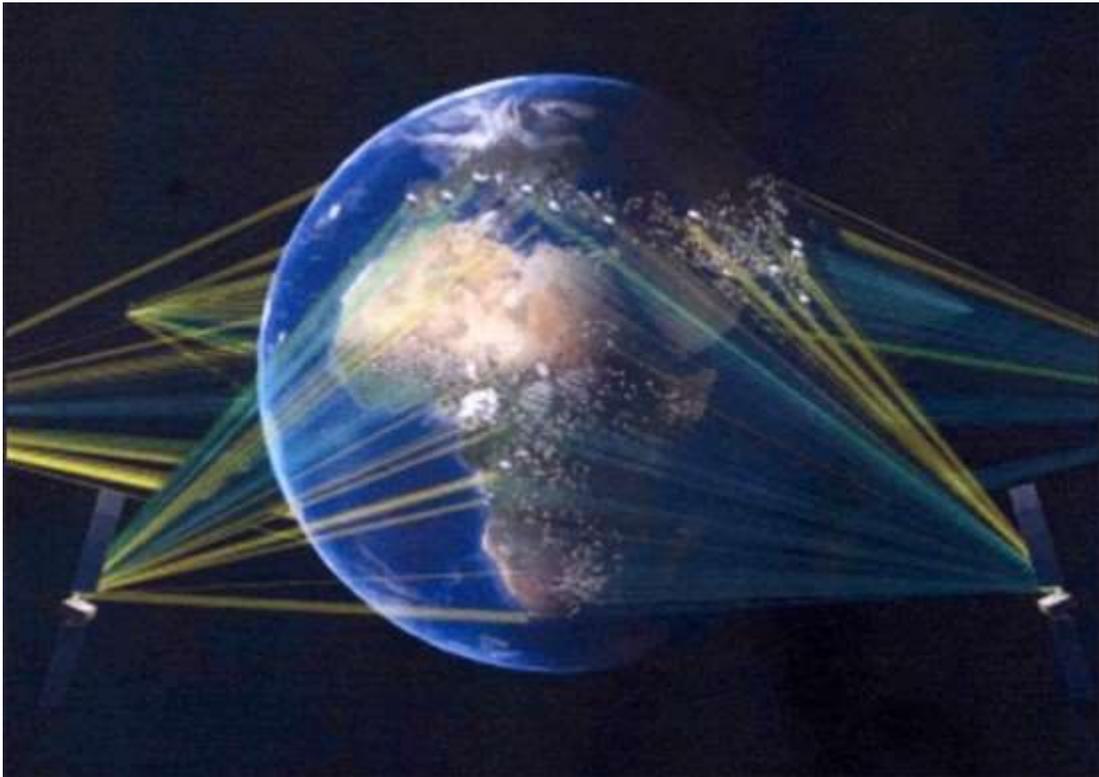


FIGURE 1: Satellites beam down 5G.

There are at present approximately two thousand fully functioning satellites orbiting the Earth. Some beam down commercial GPS (or "SatNav"), some provide TV, some provide mobile phone services, and some bounce radar back and forth to produce images for meteorologists and military surveillance. The Earth is thus already comprehensively irradiated from outer space.

But the new SpaceX fleets will constitute a massive increase in the number of satellites in the skies above us, and a correspondingly massive increase in the radiation reaching the Earth from them. The SpaceX satellite fleet is, however, just one of several that are due to be launched in the next few years, all serving the same purpose of providing global broadband services. Other companies, including Boeing, One Web and Spire Global are each launching their own smaller fleets, bringing the total number of projected new broadband satellites to around 20,000 – every one of them dedicated to irradiating the Earth at similar frequencies.

The noted frequency spectrum set to bathe us in frequencies between **12 GHz** and **30 GHz** will harm all life form on the planet. We already know the harm that comes from the 4 GHz and 10 GHz spectrum range, experienced from “smart” utility meters up to airport passenger scanners. If you were to read the literature on the physical damage from military testing during the 1970s and 80s you would understand why we have reason for serious concern, and most of this literature has been blocked from the Internet since early last year.

What is really driving it is the creation of the conditions within which electronic or “artificial” intelligence will be able to assume an ever greater presence in our lives.

Why is there this sudden flurry of activity? The new satellite fleets are contributing to a concerted global effort to “upgrade” the electromagnetic environment of the Earth. The upgrade is commonly referred to as 5G, or fifth generation wireless network. It has become customary in tech circles to talk about the introduction of 5G as involving the creation of a new global “electronic ecosystem”. It amounts to geo-engineering on a scale never before attempted. While this is being sold to the public as an enhancement of the quality of video streaming for media and entertainment, what is really driving it is the creation of the conditions within which electronic or “artificial” intelligence will be able to assume an ever greater presence in our lives.

In a previous article for ‘*New View*’, (“Radiation, Robot Bees and 5G”, *New View*, 85, Autumn 2017), described how the introduction of 5G will require hundreds of thousands of new mini mobile phone masts (also referred to as “base stations”) in urban centers throughout the UK, and literally millions of new masts in cities throughout the rest of the world, all emitting radiation at frequencies and at power levels far higher than those to which we are presently subjected.

These new masts are much smaller than the masts we currently see beside our streets and on top of buildings. They will be discreetly attached to the side of shops and offices or secured to lampposts. The 20,000 satellites are a necessary supplement to this land-based effort, for they will guarantee that rural areas, lakes, mountains, forests, oceans and wildernesses, where there are neither buildings nor lampposts, will all be incorporated into the new electronic infrastructure. Not one inch of the globe will be free of radiation. This is not an exaggeration in the slightest.

Given the scale of the project, it is surprising how few people are aware of the enormity of what is now just beginning to unfold all around us. Very few people have even heard about the 20,000, closer to 200,000 by 2025, new satellites that are due to transform the planet into a so-called “smart planet”, irradiating us night and day. In the national media, we do not hear voices questioning the wisdom, let alone the ethics, of geo-engineering a new global electromagnetic environment.

But the question we should ask is whether we also want increasingly intense exposure of the natural environment and all living creatures, including ourselves, to more and more electromagnetic radiation.

Instead, there is a blithe acceptance that technology must continue to progress, and the presence in our lives of increasingly “smart” machines and gadgets that each year become cleverer and more capable is an inevitable part of this progress. And who doesn’t want progress? Almost everyone *loves* their sleek and seductively designed phones, Ipads and virtual assistants, and regards them as an indispensable part of their lives.

But the question we should ask is whether we also want increasingly intense exposure of the natural environment and all living creatures, including ourselves, to more and more electromagnetic radiation. Is it likely that this does not entail any adverse health consequences, as both government and industry claim? If the electromagnetic waves that connect our smartphones to the Internet travel through brick, stone and cement, then what happens when these same waves encounter our bodies?

Be assured that they do not just bounce off us! They travel into the human body. The degree to which they are absorbed can be precisely measured in what is called the Specific Absorption Rate, expressed in Watts per kilogram of biological tissue. When we fill our houses with Wi-Fi, we are irradiating our bodies continuously. When we hold a smartphone to our ear, electromagnetic waves irradiate our brains (fig.2). Do we really believe this could be completely harmless?

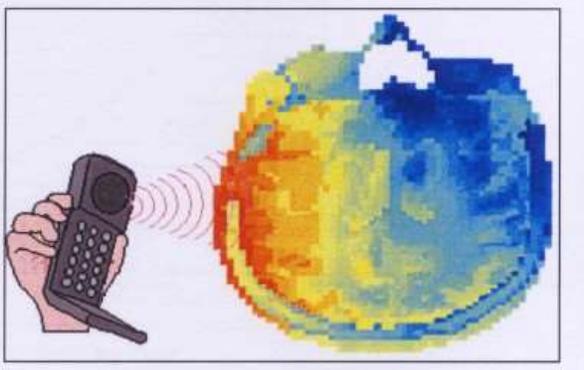


FIGURE 2: The colors indicate the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) of mobile phone radiation. The SAR is the amount of power absorbed by tissue, measured in watts per kilogram, shown here with red as the highest value, blue the lowest.

## Waves and Frequencies

At present, mobile phones, smartphones, tablets, most Wi Fi and so on all operate at under **3 GHz** in what is called the “microwave” region of the electromagnetic spectrum. If you could see and measure their wavelengths, you would find that they are many centimeters (or inches) long. A smartphone operating at 800 MHz, for example, sends and receives signals with wavelengths of 37.5 centimeters (just under 15 inches). Operating at 1.9 GHz, the wavelengths are 16 centimeters (just over 6 inches). Wi Fi uses the 2.4 GHz frequency band with 12 centimeter wavelengths (just under 5 inches long).

The introduction of 5G will entail the use of considerably higher frequencies than these, with correspondingly shorter wavelengths. Above **30 GHz**, wavelengths are just *millimeters* rather than centimeters long. The millimeter waveband (from **30 GHz to 300 GHz**) is referred to as Extremely High Frequency, and its wavelengths are between 10 millimeters and 1 millimeter in length. Up to the present time, Extremely High Frequency electromagnetic radiation has not been widely propagated, and its introduction marks a significant step change in the kind of electromagnetic energy that will become present in the natural environment (fig.3).

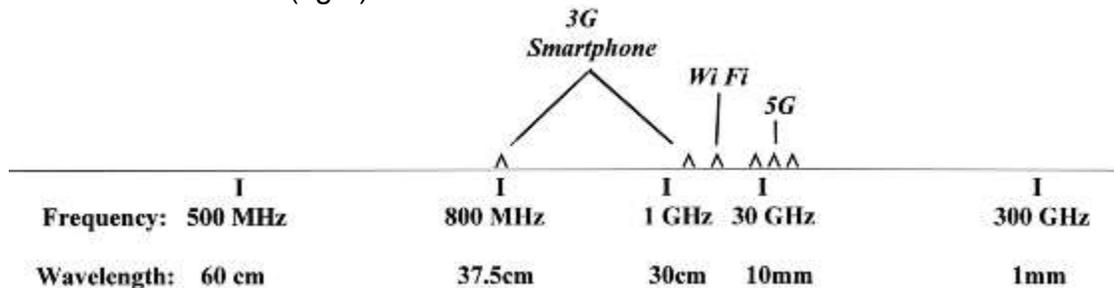


FIGURE 3: Frequencies and wavelengths of smartphone, Wi Fi and 5G.

The reason why millimeter waves are to be used for 5G is that much larger bands of spectrum are available in the Extremely High Frequencies than at lower frequencies. This means that there can be much broader “bandwidth”. Broader bandwidth means that larger quantities of data can be transferred and the speed of transfer of the data will be significantly faster.

One of the effects of this is that it reduces what is called “latency”, or time-lag, in the system, so it improves the quality of video streaming. But in so doing, it also enables a greater seamlessness between the data accessible from virtual sources and our perceptions of objects in the real world, as is required, for example, in Augmented Reality applications. Greater seamlessness means that we more effortlessly inhabit the natural and the electronic worlds as if they were a single reality.

A single 5G transmitter/receiver will have a large number of tiny antennas, grouped together in one unit.

One of the technical problems of using frequencies in the millimeter region of the spectrum is that, because the waves carrying the data are so tiny, being only millimeters

long, they are less able to pass through physical barriers, like walls and trees, than are the longer waves of lower frequencies. This is why it is necessary to have so many more new phone masts or “base stations”. They will need to be spaced at 100 meters apart in cities because beyond this distance their signals weaken and are therefore less able to penetrate buildings, and connect with the devices inside. As well as being more closely spaced, the 5G base stations will operate at much higher power than current phone masts, in order to ensure that the signals are sufficiently strong.

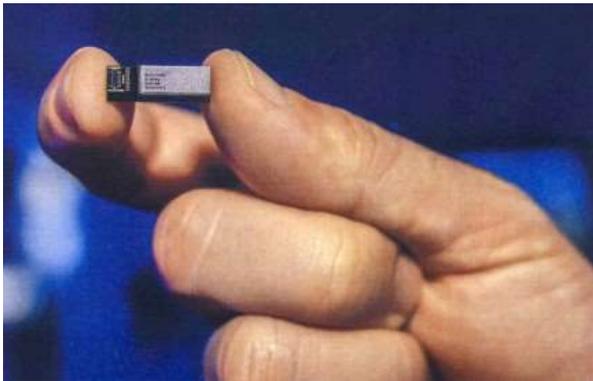


FIGURE 4: Qualcomm’s millimeter wave antenna array module for a 5G smartphone. It has four antennas that can accurately point towards the nearest 5G base station. Phones will have four of these modules, i.e. sixteen antennas.

Because the wavelengths are so much smaller, the antennas transmitting and receiving them will also be much smaller than those of current phone masts and electronic devices. A single 5G transmitter/receiver will have a large number of tiny antennas, grouped together in one unit. An array of just over a thousand such antennas measures only four square inches, so will easily fit into a small base station on a lamppost, while the smartphone in your pocket will probably have sixteen.

But it also means that any living creature that gets in the way of such a concentrated beam will be subjected to a powerful dose of extremely high frequency radiant electricity.

Both 5G satellites and 5G land-based masts will use a system called the “phased array”. In the phased array, groups of antennas are coordinated to radiate pulses in a specific direction and in a specified time sequence. This allows a concentrated beam of radio waves to be exactly aimed at designated targets, to enable signals to be sent or received. Because the beams are concentrated in this way, this adds to their power, which means they are able more easily to penetrate buildings.

But it also means that any living creature that gets in the way of such a concentrated beam will be subjected to a powerful dose of extremely high frequency radiant electricity. A study published in 2018 demonstrated that certain insects, because of their small body-size, are particularly vulnerable to the millimeter waves of the higher frequencies to be utilized by 5G (fig. 5). Other studies have shown that bacteria and

plants are also vulnerable, and so also (as one might expect) are the skin and the eyes of animals including, of course, human beings.

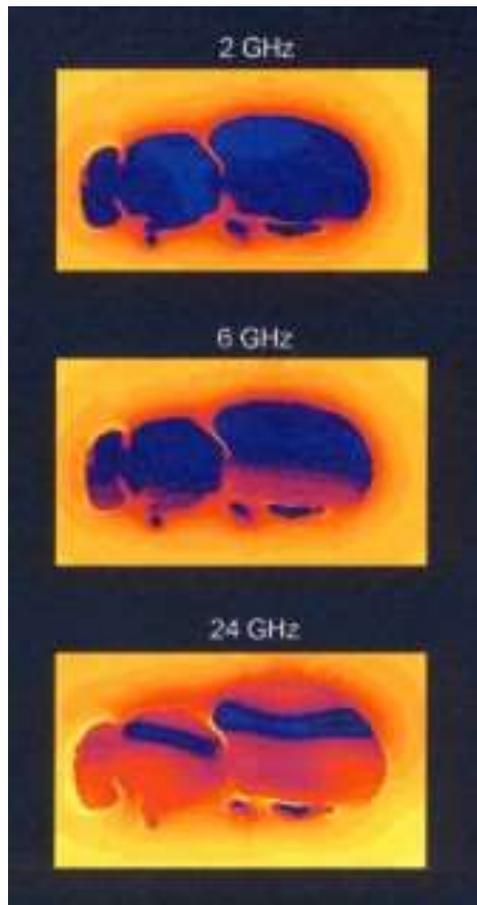


FIGURE 5: Illustration of the absorption of Radio Frequency electromagnetic radiation in the Honey Bee. At currently used frequencies between 2 GHz (top) and 6 GHz (middle), the wavelength is relatively large compared to the insect. But at 24 GHz, (bottom) the wavelength is closer to the insect's size and the radiation penetrates further.

As well as its ability to concentrate power in focused beams, phased array technology has a further complicating factor. Either side of the main beam, the time intervals between the pulses are different from the time intervals between those of the main beam, but they may overlap each other in such a way as to produce extremely rapid changes in the electromagnetic field. This can have a particularly detrimental effect on living organisms, because instead of the radiation decaying when it is absorbed into living tissue, it can be re-radiated within the body.

The moving charges streaming into the body effectively become antennas that re-radiate the electromagnetic field and send it deeper into the organism. These re-radiated waves are known as Brillouin precursors, named after the French physicist Leon Brillouin, who first described them in 1914. Research suggests that they can have a significant and highly detrimental impact on living cells.

## **The Un-reassuring Assurances of Government and Industry**

The Government body charged with protecting public health advises us that there is no convincing evidence that Radio Frequency radiation (which radio, television, mobile phones, smartphones and 5G all use) has any adverse health effects on either adults or children.

This advice is based on the recommendations of a supposedly independent UK body called AGNIR (Advisory Group on Non-Ionizing Radiation), which produced a report in 2012 on the safety of Radio Frequency radiation. The report stated that there was a lack of “convincing” and “conclusive” evidence for any adverse health effects. It was like giving a blank check to the telecommunications industry to move on into the higher frequencies, without any heed for the consequences.

It turns out that far from being independent, AGNIR has a high proportion of members with blatant conflicts of interests, and their report distorted or simply left out of account evidence that should have compelled them to reach the opposite conclusion to the one they arrived at. In a forensic analysis of the report, the environmental health researchers, makes it clear that only a willful disregard of the available scientific evidence could explain its internal contradictions and apparent incompetence.

And yet it was the basis of current global government policy, allowing government to roll out 5G without so much as even a nod towards the need for prior health and safety assessment. Health and safety simply do not feature in government thinking, despite a veritable mountain of literally thousands of research papers demonstrating adverse health effects, which continues to grow at the rate of roughly 350 per year, on average practically one every day.

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One of the reasons for ignoring this evidence in the dash to create the 5G electronic ecosystem is the conviction in government circles that, unless we introduce it immediately, we will be “left behind” and our economic growth and competitiveness will be put at risk. There is simply no time to consider the possible health consequences.

The National Infrastructure Commission, whose 2016 report, *Connected Future*, forms the basis of current Government policy, pushed this panicky vision of the UK falling behind other nations and urged the government to ensure that the new digital infrastructure is fully in place by 2025. The NIC and the U.S. FCC reports repeatedly points out that the rewards of the “connected future” are to be measured in billions of pounds and dollars worth of revenue.

The mind-boggling amounts involved are well exemplified in a recent estimate that the global media industry alone stands to gain \$13 trillion from 5G by 2025, not least because 5G will “unlock the potential of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR)”.

The irony that the “connected” future is one in which dizzying profits stand to be made from technologies that *disconnect* us more and more from the real world is entirely missed.

The sums involved are sufficient to explain why the telecoms industry has for the last twenty-five years done its utmost to ensure that research into the health effects of wireless technologies produce negative or inconclusive results. Since 1993, the industry has financed a large number of studies, saving governments a great deal of expense and at the same time preserving the convenient illusion that the jury is still out on whether exposure to Radio Frequency radiation causes harm.

Earlier this year, *‘The Guardian’* published an article citing research which showed that while 67% of independently funded studies found a biological effect of exposure to Radio Frequency radiation, only 28% of industry-funded studies did. Industry-funded studies are almost two and a half times less likely than independent studies to find health effects. The authors of the *‘Guardian’* article explain that the telecoms industry doesn’t need to win the scientific argument about safety, but simply keep the argument running indefinitely by producing studies with results that fail to verify, or even better contradict, the research that does find adverse health effects.

One of the most notorious is the mammoth, industry-funded “Interphone Study”, which managed to conclude that holding a mobile phone to the head actually *protects* the user from brain tumors!’

This study, which is full of contradictions and suffers from grievous design flaws, is often quoted as the most authoritative to date, while it has in fact been thoroughly discredited. Nevertheless, the impression is maintained that there is no scientific consensus, and so there are not sufficient grounds for action to be taken. Needless to say, this suits Government just as much as it suits industry.

### **The Path to Total Immersion**

Beyond the health effects there is another level altogether of what the roll out of 5G actually entails. To gain a perspective on this, we should remember that it was not so long ago that the Earth’s electromagnetic field was undisturbed by human-generated electromagnetic frequencies.

Before the 1880s, there were only two main causes of electromagnetism, both of them natural: the lightning of thunderstorms, which also set in motion the very weak, low frequency resonances known as Schumann Resonances, and sunlight. Lightning and sunlight produce effects in specific, and very limited, parts of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Beyond lightning and sunlight, the energies of the electromagnetic spectrum did not impact on human life, for they were entirely dormant.



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During World War II, a method was discovered for generating even higher frequencies, between 3 and 30 GHz (thousands of millions of cycles per second), which became the basis for radar. With each escalation in frequency, more power was required to transmit the radio waves. The advent of mobile phones, smartphones and Wi Fi, brought into widespread use the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) part of the spectrum (300 MHz – 3 GHz) for signal transmission.

Transmission in these frequencies demands more than ten times the power needed for VHF transmission. Today, poised at the threshold of the new era of an Extremely High Frequency “electronic ecosystem”, with frequencies of up to 70 GHz envisaged, yet more power will be required for effective transmission of its millimeter waves. Then the natural environment will be fully saturated with an invisible fog of radiation (fig. 7).

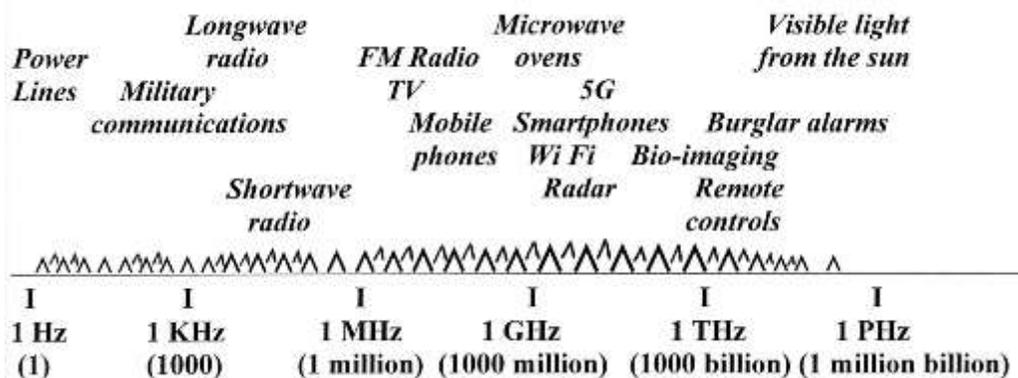


FIGURE 7: Human induced electromagnetic radiation, showing frequencies in cycles per second.



### Beware of sWTFs Next to Homes, Schools & Parks

sWTFs = 4G/5G so-called “small” Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

**sWTFs** are hazardous — perhaps small in dimension, but **LARGE IN POWER OUTPUT.**

“Pulsed, data-modulated, Radio-frequency Electromagnetic Microwave Radiation

(RF-EMR) causes scientifically-established melatonin-suppression, immuno-suppression, and immediate/direct neurological damages, as well as other bio-effects — all which increase synergistically, not merely additively, with the increased complexity of many simultaneous wavelength deployments for 4G/5G antennas.

- **As a wavelength approaches body-part size, its absorption increases exponentially. Thus, microwaves, waves in the “size of life”, have been known for decades as the most bioactive and harmful RF-EMR. When a wavelength approximates a body dimension, resonance is achieved: the body part or whole body effectively becomes a concentrating antenna.**
- **Similarly, this RF-EMR interferes with electronic medical devices. See [Mobile Communications Safety](#) pp. 65-94 — *RF interference (RFI) of medical devices by mobile communications transmitters.***
- **The ~20” waves (from 600 MHz T-Mobile 5G) penetrates deeply into human and animal bodies, maximizing harm in babies and small children.**
- **The ~2” to 5” waves (from 2,450 MHz to 5,800 MHz Wi-Fi) target the primary organs: brain, heart, lungs, liver, thyroid, thymus, kidneys, genitalia, in humans and larger animals.**
- **The 10 to 0.1 millimeter waves (from 30,000 MHz to 300,000 MHz) target the most critical organs of perception – eyes and ears – in addition to the body’s largest organ: the skin.**
- **Resonating at the lengths of insect antennas, these mm microwaves can exterminate pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies , and birds and all other wildlife, as well.**
- **Farm animals are immediately harmed by 4G/5G RF-EMR — Initially torturesome to all living beings by way of neurologic interference, and interference with hormonal control systems.”**

#### **Wireless at 60 GHz Has Unique Oxygen Absorption Properties**

The demand for bandwidth is growing at a rapid pace. International Data Corporation projects that Internet commerce in the United States will grow from \$74 billion in 1999 to \$708 billion in 2003, with the number of computer users more than doubling from 81 million to 177 million in the U.S. alone. Due to the tremendous expected growth, reliable fiber optic networks must be installed quickly.

Short haul, high-density deployments of wireless communications devices are required in metropolitan areas and business parks throughout the United States. Most often, office buildings though not physically linked to the fiber backbone are within one half mile of a local fiber trunk. Wireless communication devices operating at higher

frequencies, such as 60GHz, allow businesses to link to the fiber easily, without the cost and time delays associated with physical fiber installation.

Figure 8: Dry Atmospheric Absorption per Kilometer

Due to the increased bandwidth demands and the scarcity of microwave frequency allocations, the wireless communications industry is beginning to focus on higher, previously unallocated portions of the spectrum in the millimeter wave frequencies from 40GHz to 300GHz. Due to the high levels of atmospheric RF energy absorption, the millimeter wave region of the RF spectrum is not usable in long haul, wireless communications segments. However, for short haul, "last mile" segments, the expanded RF data bandwidth available in the millimeter wave region makes it possible for high speed connectivity.

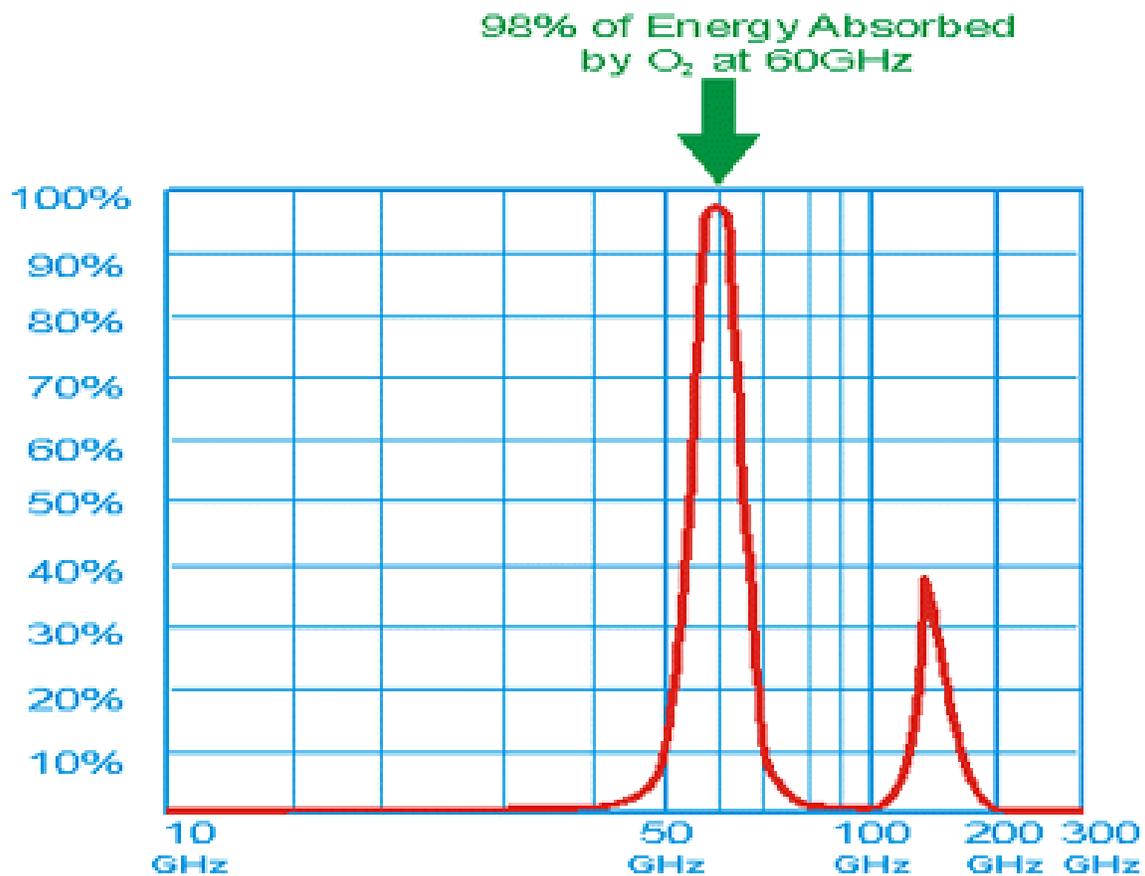


Figure 8 illustrates the atmospheric absorption for millimeter wave frequencies. At the millimeter wave frequency of 60GHz, the absorption is very high, with 98 percent of the transmitted energy absorbed by atmospheric oxygen. While oxygen absorption at 60GHz severely limits range, it also eliminates interference between same frequency terminals.

**Operation within the 60GHz millimeter wave spectrum enables very dense interference free deployment of same frequency radio terminals.**

A 60GHz communications system must overcome the effects of oxygen absorption, 16dB/KM. In order to operate reliably at even short ranges, a very focused, narrow-beam antenna must also be employed to increase the level of signal available to the target receiver.

**Traditional wireless communications systems operating in the lower frequency ranges of 600 MHz to 40 GHz often interfere with each other when placed too closely together.** This interference, due to the dispersion and uncontrolled propagation of RF energy through the atmosphere is minimized by FCC frequency coordination, licensing and through the implementation of interference avoidance techniques such as spread-spectrum modulation.

FCC Licensing precludes dense deployment through the limited number of regional licenses granted and spread-spectrum techniques have proven only marginally effective, as the **overall noise floor has risen**. In the 60 GHz region, the effects of oxygen absorption and the use of narrow beam antennas minimize the probability of interference between the radios.

Weather conditions have an adverse effect on all RF transmissions, especially in the millimeter wave region where severe **rainstorms can cause as much as a 20dB loss in signal strength for every kilometer of transmission**. As the distance the radio transmission increases, the fade margin needed to compensate for weather effects increases proportionately. Since radios operating at 60 GHz transmit only over short distances, the compensation for weather effects is not as great as for systems transmitting one kilometer and beyond.

At 60 GHz, the extremely high atmospheric absorption level is due primarily to the molecular composition of the atmosphere. For millimeter waves, the primary absorption molecules are H<sub>2</sub>O, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>3</sub>. Since the presence of O<sub>2</sub> is fairly consistent at ground level, its effect on 60 GHz radio propagation is easily modeled for margin budgeting purposes. In addition, the high level of attenuation from oxygen absorption makes even the worst weather-related attenuation insignificant, especially on the short paths where 60 GHz systems operate. Even extremely heavy rainfall, 25mm/hr (5dB/KM), will make only a very small percentage contribution to aggregate attenuation in the 60 GHz oxygen absorption region.

Currently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has allocated the millimeter wave RF spectrum from 57.05 to 64 GHz for unlicensed use under Part 15. All wireless equipment operating at 60 GHz must obtain FCC Part 15 type certification. Once certified, the product can be deployed license-free throughout the United States. This unlicensed frequency spectrum allows the end-user to avoid the added cost of regional spectrum auctions held by the FCC or competition for the limited number of licensed bands.

60 GHz communications systems can be used for a variety of applications, including metropolitan area networks, campus networks, network backbones, network branch links, temporary emergency restoration and local access

60 GHz communications never proliferated from 2001, to the present (Feb 2020). Why? Millimeter wave frequencies suck at long-distance propagation and no one — **and I mean no one** — wants Wireless Telecommunications Facilities (WTFs) installed in their neighborhoods because people want and have the **right to the quiet enjoyment of our streets and our homes** — without Effective Radiated Power polluting the environments where we live, play, eat, sleep and heal.

In this brief historical sketch, we see higher and higher frequencies forming the basis of each new technological innovation. As each one of the new technologies was introduced, human beings became a little more disassociated from the natural world.

Consider how this happened. From the 1890s onwards, the supply of mains electricity to homes, schools, hospitals and factories caused a revolution in living standards, liberating humanity from subservience to nature's cycles of day and night, summer and winter, by giving access to a new source of light, warmth and power. Then, in the 1920s, radio enabled people to communicate over vast distances, and brought the voices of kings and politicians, singers and poets into our living rooms, even though they were not physically present.

In the 1950s, television intensified the experience of an absent yet present world, conveyed by the moving image. I remember as a child the addictive quality of television: one is drawn out of oneself and away from awareness of one's immediate surroundings into the fascinating world of images on the screen.

Smartphone addiction both dislocates users from their own inner center of stillness, and at the same time disconnects them from the natural environment.

With the advent of the smartphone, the trend towards addictiveness was greatly strengthened, partly because the screen became a portable interface with the Internet, and partly because of the deliberately exploitative policies of Facebook, Google and others to hook people into an addictive relationship to their devices.<sup>18</sup> Smartphone addiction both dislocates users from their own inner center of stillness, and at the same time disconnects them from the natural environment.

5G will further accentuate this tendency for people to lose themselves, and it will weaken even more their relationship to nature, for it promises to make advanced immersive Virtual Reality accessible to all. While VR headsets have been commercially available for some time now, VR is still in its infancy. The next development in VR technology is to supplement the headset with a "haptic suit", which enables the wearer to experience sensations of touch – pressure, warmth, hardness, softness, moisture and dryness – in virtual reality.

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Such opportunities for “total immersion” in virtual reality will lead to an increasing confusion as to which world we really belong: the electronically generated or the natural world. The use of Augmented Reality, made possible through special helmets, electronic glasses, or contact lenses, that overlay virtual content onto the experience of the physical world, will add to the confusion, as the virtual is increasingly integrated within the real world.

People will become adjusted to regarding the virtual world as having as great a claim on their attention, their emotions and thoughts, as the natural world. The temptation will be to give their loyalty to that which not only undermines their relatedness to nature but also, through its assault on the imagination, has a corrosive effect on the inner life of the soul. The confusion will only be exacerbated by a huge increase in the use of 3D holographics that will give virtual entities the ability to incarnate electronically in the physical environment.

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This is what the saturation of the world with extremely high frequency millimeter waves will enable. The waves themselves are only part of the issue: it is the technologies that ride on the backs of the waves and their impact on our inner life that should also concern us.

### **The Formation of the Global Electronic Brain**

But if 5G promises to radically alter the experiential world we inhabit in these ways, there is something further that we must understand if we are to grasp what is really being prepared. At the same time as increasingly sophisticated technologies increasingly disconnected human beings from the natural world, a network of electronic “intelligence”, global in extent, gradually emerged. At first it was under close human supervision, but it has steadily grown more autonomous.

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Consider the difference between radio broadcasting and the Internet: the former is under tight human control and serves a very specific purpose, whereas the latter has established itself as a permanent, constantly available electronic infrastructure of undefined scope and reach. What has been happening over recent decades is the increasing co-ordination of intelligence-endowed machines, so that they operate without need of human supervision.

The efforts now underway to create a 5G electronic ecosystem are the necessary precondition for developing and perfecting a global Artificial Intelligence network, which feeds on the very fast transfer of large amounts of information. This global electronic “brain”, innocuously called the “Internet of Things”, is already impacting on our lives.

But the reality is that The Internet of Things is itself the precursor to what has been called the “Internet of Thinking”, in which human beings will find themselves having to live in relationship to the vast global electronic intelligence.

Through the Internet of Things, more and more things will be linked to the Internet and made “smart” by being given the ability to function autonomously. On smart highways your car will drive itself while you, wearing your VR headset and haptic vest, play interactive computer games in the back seat; and in your smart house your fridge will autonomously order more eggs, milk and cheese for you via a wireless connection with a supplier.

But the reality is that The Internet of Things is itself the precursor to what has been called the “Internet of Thinking”, in which human beings will find themselves having to live in relationship to the vast global electronic intelligence. It will be active everywhere in our environment and we shall be obliged to interact with it in order to accomplish the simplest of tasks. In the Internet of Thinking it is not hard to see the lineaments of an electronically supercharged totalitarian state, with unprecedented control over the minutiae of individuals’ lives.

The possibility of this happening will only be increased by the thousands of new mini phone masts and satellites irradiating every inch of the planet with millimeter waves. For this is what 5G means: it means putting in place not just an improved telecommunications system, but rather a new “system of systems” – the infrastructure of electronic totalitarianism.

### **A Curtain Drawn Against the Light**

For this is what 5G means: it means putting in place not just an improved telecommunications system, but rather a new “system of systems” – the infrastructure of electronic totalitarianism.

As our world is increasingly smothered by a fog of radio waves, microwaves and millimeter waves, it may seem that the gods of the Underworld have taken hold of humanity in an ever-tightening grip, drawing us towards the false lights – the illusory lights of the hell-beings and hungry ghosts that the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* long ago warned against.

The electromagnetic energies that we have summoned, and which promised to give us new powers, now appear to be *overpowering us*, carrying us down into an Underworld realm of hellish entertainment and distraction, of illusion and disconnection from the reality that really matters – the reality of nature and the spiritual order that infuses

nature, the reality of fellow creatures with whom we share our world, living in soil and sky and walking the Earth beside us.

We must ask: Does the Earth *need* an electronic ecosystem? Is it going to benefit in any way from being irradiated with millimeter waves? Is there actually any *need* at all for 5G? Can we even remotely conceive that 5G is the answer to any of the pressing ecological, social and spiritual problems that face us today? We stand at a dreadful threshold, and yet surrender to despair cannot be the right response. What can we do?

First of all we can protest! There are campaigns against 5G that we can join, there are petitions to sign, letters to write, and legal actions to support. The best place to begin is the “International Appeal to Stop 5G on Earth and in Space”, which has now gathered over 300,000 signatures, including those of many health professionals, environmentalists and other scientists.

But as well as protest there is something further that needs to be done, and that is to bring spiritually informed understanding to the deeper significance of the global electronic brain whose emergence 5G will hasten. To this end, we need to develop a clear perception of the *moral* quality of electricity, the better to recognize the kind of spiritual entity or entities that it serves.

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This will empower us to break the spell that electricity and electronic technologies have cast over us, and it will enable us to form a more appropriate relationship to them. One of Rudolf Steiner’s most helpful insights into electricity was his observation that it is light in a fallen, degraded state – light that has fallen beneath nature into the sub-natural realm – and that is why we must actively guard against an ever increasing dependence on it, for it threatens to drag us down.

This points to a third thing we can do, which is really the foundation of everything else. It is to rebuild our relationship to the light, which in its selfless benevolence and purity greets us every morning, and which, unlike the false and illusory electronic lights that would lead us into the Underworld, beckons us in a quite different direction, towards our essential humanity.

It is to rebuild our relationship to the light, which in its selfless benevolence and purity greets us every morning. Through a deepened meditative relationship to the light, practiced through the hours of the day and the seasons of the year, we can nurture a relationship to the inner light that is the source of all that is creative and good in the world. This inner light the Christian tradition knows as the cosmic Logos.

As the curtain of electro-smog is drawn across our world, we are presented with a sacred task that, come what may, we attend to all that the light has to give, for therein lies the divine Saving Power.

Blessings,

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