

# 5G COVERAGE MEASUREMENTS INSIDE A VESSEL DURING THE UNLOADING AND LOADING IN THE HARBOR

Fabian John and Claudius Noack and Horst Hellbrück

28. ITG Fachtagung Mobilkommunikation, Osnabrück (MKT'24)

## 1. Task Description



## 2. Hypotheses



## 3. Measurement Strategy



## 4. Results



## 5. Discussion & Conclusion



# 1. Task Description

## Research Project Baltic Future Port

- Installation of a 5G Campus Network
- Real-time data exchange
- Logistics applications
- Digital twins
- Monitor the flow of cargo

## Goal: Optimization of the Harbor Logistics

- ✓ Reduce unused storage space
- ✓ Accelerating the movement of cargo
- ✓ Reduce costs and increase profit

## 5G Advantages

- Licensed frequency band
- Higher coverage range and Tx power compared to WiFi6



# 1. Task Description

**Problem:** How do we expand the 5G network to ensure wireless communication links inside the vessel?



Coverage Map (Simulated) for Lübeck Harbor - Skandinavienkai

## 2. Hypotheses

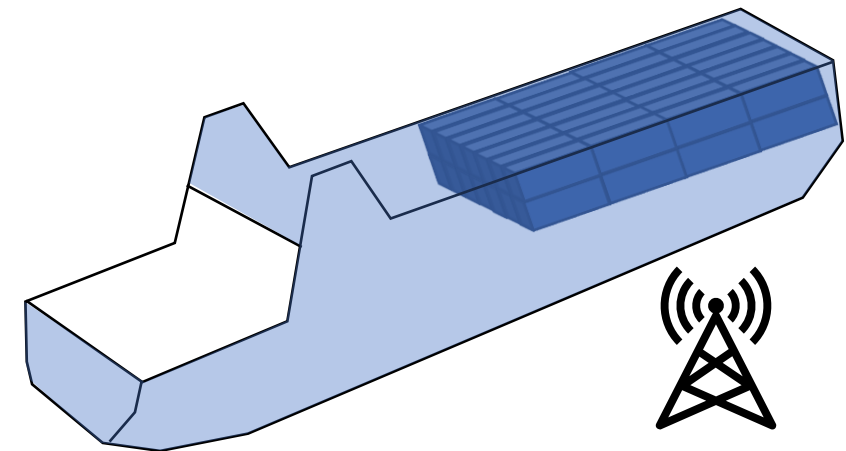
### Hypothesis 1:

By directing the antenna with a high transmission power of 5 W towards the vessel's hull, the transmitted signal strength is sufficient for communication over 5G at the relevant positions for loading and unloading.

**Hypothesis 2:** By directing the antenna with 5 W power towards the open stern ramp during loading and unloading, the signal penetrates the vessel's interior through the effect of multi-path propagation for sufficient communication over 5G at the relevant positions for loading and unloading.



P2



P1



# 3. Measurement Strategy

- Measurements were performed with COTS UE (Samsung Galaxy S21)
- 3 positions outside, 3 positions at the main deck, and 3 positions at the lower deck
- Measurement of RSRP values
- Sporadic/additional throughput measurements with iperf3 (TCP for 60 s, 10 s omitted)
- Measurement of 5G Networks:
  - Public mobile network operator (5G-NSA)
  - Installed 5G campus network (5G-SA)
  - Portable 5G Network / TH Lübeck Trailer in P1 (5G-SA)
  - Portable 5G Network / TH Lübeck Trailer in P2 (5G-SA)



# 3. Measurement Strategy

- Hydraulic antenna height up to 16 m
- RRU 5 W Tx Power + 15 dBi directional antenna
- 100 MHz bandwidth, TDD adaptable
- Workplace with monitor and equipment
- Autonomous operation with batteries (2.4 kWh → ~5h independent from external power supply)
- 5G SA system with open5Gs core



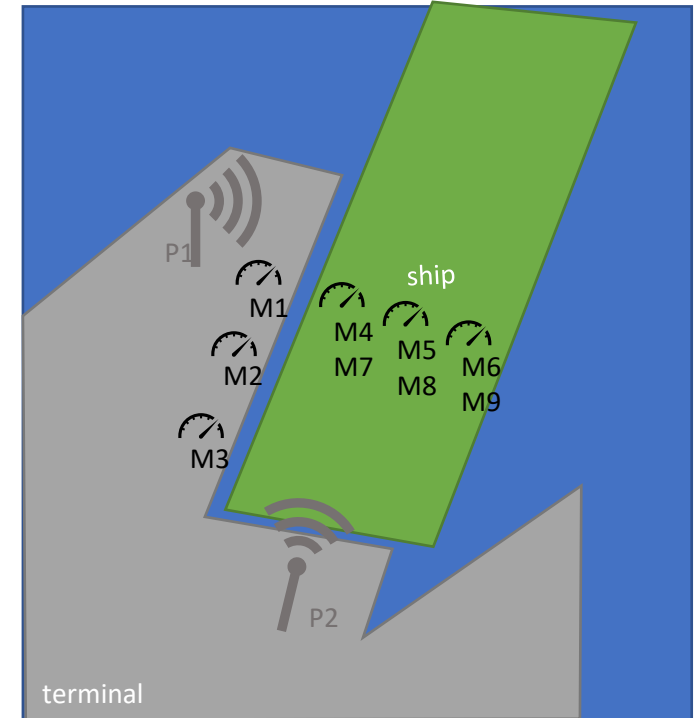
THL 5G Trailer



Hydraulic Antenna (max. 16 m height)

# 4. Results

Deck	M	RSRP in dBm			
		PMNO	Inst. 5G SA	THL P1	THL P2
Outside	M1	-100	-114	-84	
	M2	-101	-109	-71	
	M3	-101	-104	-84	
Main deck	M4	-113	-129	NC	-89
	M5	-105	-123	-120	-80
	M6	-118	-138	-131	-91
Lower deck	M7	-111	-132	NC	-95
	M8	-116	-131	NC	-94
	M9	-110	-126	NC	-90



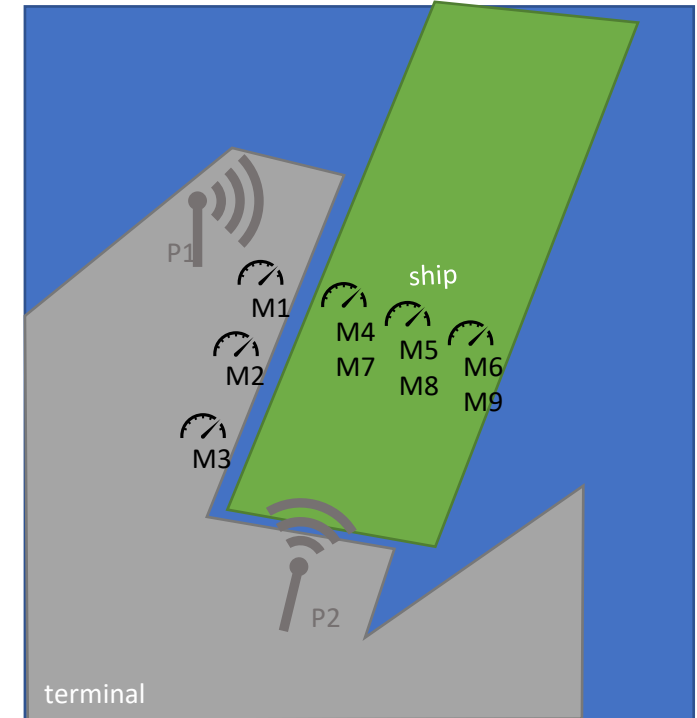
Quality RSRP range in dBm
Excellent > -90
Good -90 to -105
Fair -106 to -120
Poor < -120

RSRP measurement results for: Public Mobile Network Operator (PMNO); Harbor Installed 5G SA Campus Network; THL 5G Trailer in P1 and P2  
 NC: Not connected



# 4. Results

Deck	M	RSRP in dBm				
		PMNO	Inst. 5G SA	THL P1	THL P2	
Outside	M1	iperf: Uplink: 13.9 MBit/s Downlink: 240 MBit/s				
	M2					iperf: Uplink: 51.9 MBit/s Downlink: 328 MBit/s
	M3					
Main deck	M4					
	M5			-120	-80	
	M6	Internet Speed Test: Uplink: 0.09 MBit/s Downlink: 2.9 MBit/s				
M7						
Lower deck	M8					
	M9		-126		-90	



# 4. Discussion

## Hypothesis 1:

By directing the antenna with a power of 5 W towards the vessel's hull, the transmitted signal is not efficient for communication over 5G at the relevant positions for loading and unloading.

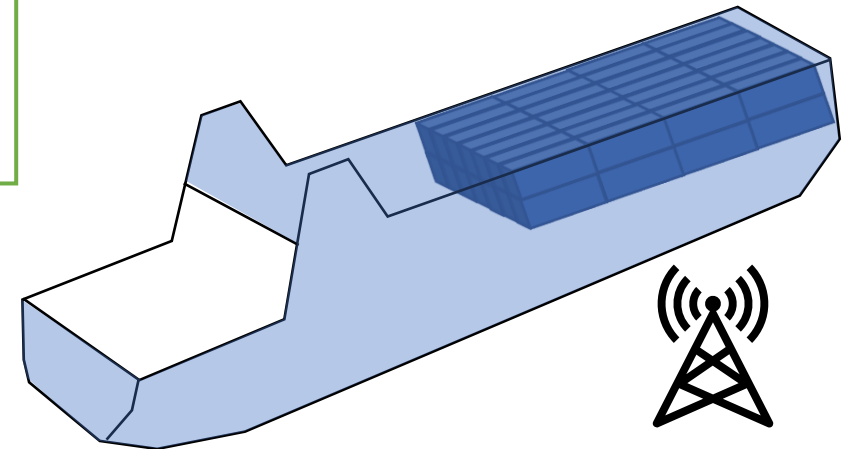
**Not confirmed**

**Hypothesis 2:** By directing the antenna with 5 W power towards the open stern ramp during loading and unloading, the signal penetrates the vessel's interior through the effect of multi-path propagation, resulting in efficient communication over 5G at the relevant positions for loading and unloading.

**Confirmed**



P2



P1

**Problem:** How do we expand the 5G network to ensure wireless communication links inside the vessel?

### Conclusion

- Investigation of antenna positions based on 2 formulated as hypotheses
- First study/measurements were performed for existing networks and the portable THL network
- Results confirmed our second hypothesis (signal propagation **via the open stern ramp**)
- Presence of the existing 5G-SA network inside the vessel was unexpected

### Next Steps

- Follow-up measurement with the 5G-SA network in P2 to create heatmaps for RSRP, Uplink, and Downlink inside the vessel
- Prepare automated measurement systems (with indoor localization)
- Investigate the signal quality inside the vessel during unloading and loading of the vessel

# Thanks for your attention!



Bundesministerium  
für Verkehr und  
digitale Infrastruktur

Projects:

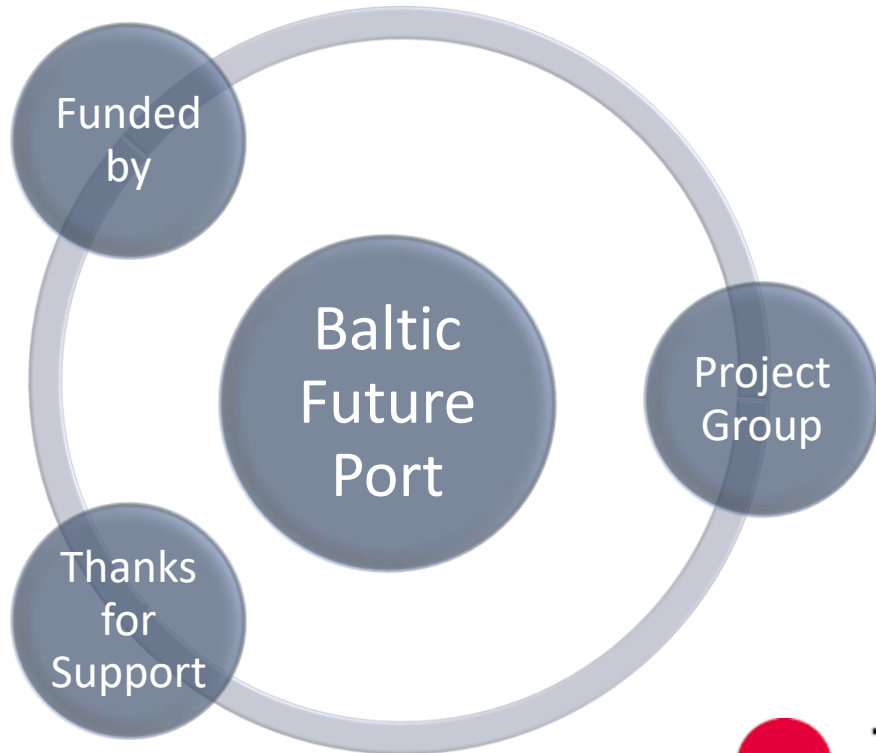
**BalticFuturePort** (165GU056F)  
5G-TELK-NF (165GU135L)



Project: KI-5G  
Förderkennzeichen: 220 21 005



Lufthansa Industry  
Solutions AS GmbH



Lübeck Port Authority

**TRAVE**KOM

