



BLUE DANUBE™

Blue Danube Systems Active Antenna System for 3D-Beamforming Open-Radio Units (O-RUs)

July 8, 2021

U.S.-based Active Antenna RU Company: Overview



Breakthrough architecture for low-cost phased-arrays
3D-Beamforming Active-Antenna Radio Units and massive MIMO for cellular

Locations



Santa Clara, CA
New Providence, NJ

Funding to Date



\$70M
Since 2013

Key Investors



Sequoia Capital
Silver Lake
Northgate
AT&T
In-Q-Tel

US Patents



33
32 Issued & Allowed
1 Pending

Employees



33
9 PhD | 13 MS

Revenue Markets

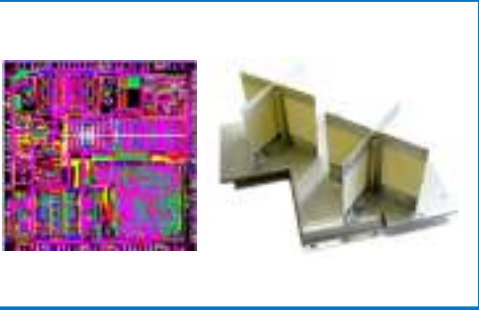


Wireless Telecom
Defense/Intelligence
Disaster Recovery
HAPS

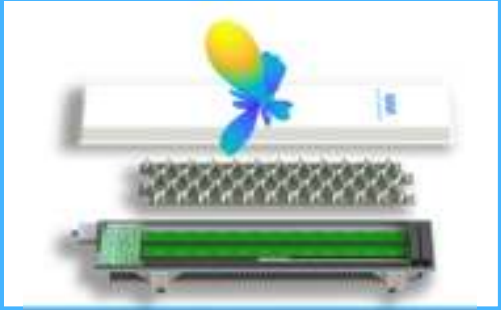
Blue Danube Technology and Product Offering Summary



Semiconductor IC & RF Subsystem Design



3D Beamforming Open-Radio Unit (O-RU)



Software (RIC-based Cognitive BF)



Low Cost, Coherent mMIMO



Network-wide deployment at low cost

+

Advanced AI/ML Optimization



Same HW as baseline, no tower touch

**Disruptive
Hardware Solution
Enables Software
Value Capture**

Technology Genesis Via NSF-SBIR Support (2009) for Clock Synchronization

Original Concept | (2006)

GHz Serial Passive Clock Distribution in VLSI Using Bidirectional Signaling

F. Fodor and M. Buss
IBM Research, LLC, New York, USA

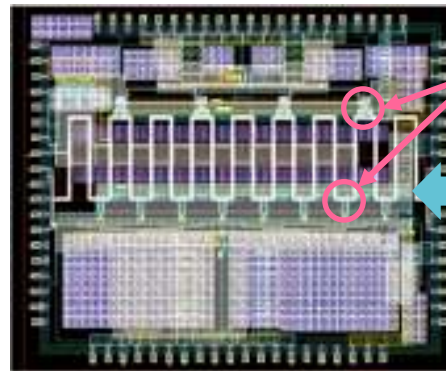
Abstract: This document is a technical paper describing a novel clock distribution technique allowing efficient and accurate skew removal in an arbitrary clock distribution. The primary mechanism enables any on-chip network topologies from both on-chip and off-chip networks, or possibly signal over-pipes, or buses. The proposed technique is particularly beneficial in large scale SoC and other high speed silicon and can be applied to many different topologies.

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary method of distributing GHz clock signals in VLSI is by using a tree. This is done by connecting a series of clock drivers, which connect to the clock inputs of the tree. The clock signals at the top of the tree are distributed to various components for practical clock distribution. This is done by connecting to Bus [1].

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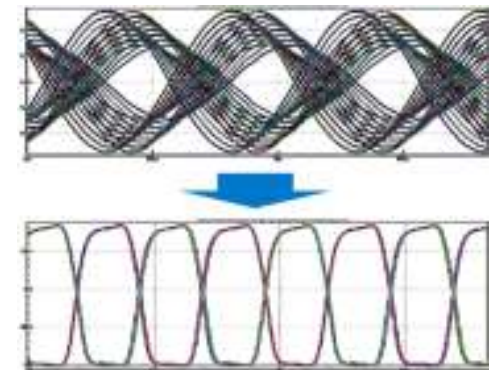
Synchronization Test Chip | (2009)



Synchronization circuits

Bus transmission lines – folded many times to generate long electrical length

Actual (Bi-Directional) Signals at Taps



Processed Synchronized Signals

- 2006 breakthrough concept minimized multi-GHz clock skew for application to large VLSI chips
- Validated in 2009 via 180 nm TSMC CMOS test chip (pre-Series-A, NSF-SBIR funded)

Bidirectional Signaling Breakthrough Enables:

- First Ultra Low-Cost Phased Arrays
- Blue Danube Coherent Massive MIMO
- Better Massive MIMO: Digital & Hybrid
- O-RAN Beamforming Cat-A/Cat-B O-RUs

Blue Danube BeamCraft™ Product Portfolio



1.7-2.6 GHz



96 antenna elements
4 columns x 12 rows

FIRST & FIELD-PROVEN PRODUCT

BeamCraft™ 500/550

Single Active Band
FDD 4T4R
4 Programmable beams
CPRI
1x160W or 1x80W

B1, B2/25, B3, B4/66, B7, B70

+optional passive low band

BeamCraft™ 600/650

Dual Active Band
FDD+FDD/FDD+TDD 2x4T4R
8/16 Programmable 3D beams
CPRI/ORAN Category A and B*
2x80W

B1, B2/25, B3, B4/66, B7, B70
B38, B40, B41

+optional passive low band

BeamCraft™ 700/750

Single Active Band
FDD/TDD 8T8R
8/16 Programmable 3D beams
CPRI/ORAN Category A and B*
1x160W

B1, B2/25, B3, B4/66, B7, B70
B38, B40, B41

+optional passive low band

3.5 GHz



128 antenna elements
8 columns x 8 rows

PRIMARY 3.5 GHz FOCUS

BeamCraft™ 300 CBRS

Single Active Band
TDD 8T8R / 16T16R
8/16 Programmable 3D beams
CPRI/ORAN Category A and B*
10W

B48 CBRS

BeamCraft™ 300

Single Active Band
TDD 8T8R / 16T16R
8/16 Programmable 3D beams
ORAN Category A and B*
200W

B42/B43 N77/N78

BeamCraft™ 300 FD

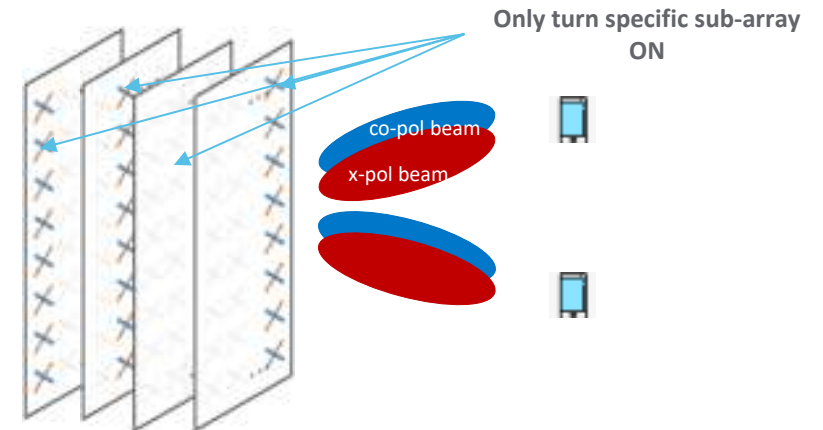
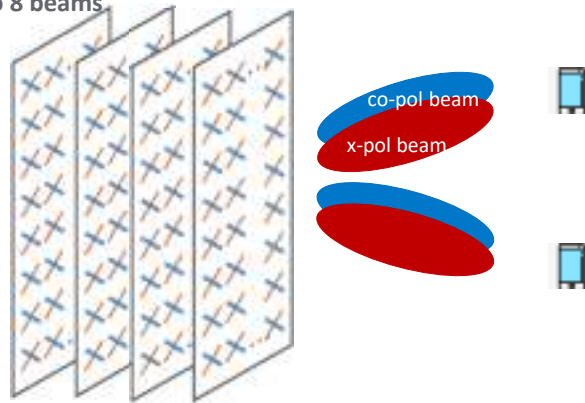
Single Active Band
TDD 32T32R / 64T64R
FD-MIMO
ORAN Category B
200W

N77/N78

*SW configurable to support either ORAN Category A or B operation
Timing & availability depending on customer commitment and partners' product roadmap

Unique Beamforming RU Field Proven for Analog and Digital BF

Creates overlapping analog
BF arrays up to 8 beams



- Multiple beams with analog beamforming (4 x 2T2R, 2x 4T4R, 2 x 8T8R, 8 CSI-RS beams for 5G-NR)
 - Full-connection or overlapping array model for higher-order sectorization
- Analog + Digital Beamforming (8T8R, 16T16R, 32T32R, 64T64R)
 - Sub-array beamforming for massive MIMO
- Digital Beamforming
 - Unique synchronization and calibration support for future use cases (higher cost)

Multiple Successful Commercial LTE Network Deployments | Summary



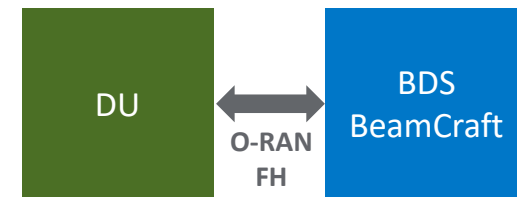
<p>Suburban/Rural Virginia (2016-)</p>	<p>Dense Urban Mexico City (2018)</p>	<p>Providence, RI USA (2020-now)</p>	<p>2.5x Capacity Increase</p>	<p>10x Video Streaming</p>	<p>BBU </p>	<p>BBU </p>
<p>BBU </p> <p><i>Delivered HD streaming over 3+ miles</i></p>	<p><i>Huawei could not provide equivalent solution</i></p>	<p><i>Eliminated need for small cells, closed loop demonstration</i></p>	<p>2.7x Capacity Increase</p>	<p>2x Volume Increase</p>	<p>2.1x Capacity Increase</p>	<p>1.9x Throughput Increase</p>
<p>Dense Urban Mumbai (2019)</p>	<p>Honolulu, HI USA (2019-now)</p>	<p>Extended Metro USA (TBD)</p>	<p>2.5x Capacity Increase</p>	<p>3x Volume Increase</p>	<p>BBU </p>	<p>BBU </p>
<p>BBU </p> <p><i>Extreme traffic load, volume & revenue increase</i></p>	<p><i>Most challenged OpCo market, avoid new/expensive sites</i></p>	<p><i>Site minimization and TCO savings for greenfield network</i></p>	<p>2.3x Capacity Increase</p>	<p>2 – 3x Signal at Key Sites</p>	<p>Deployment Flexibility</p>	<p>Accelerated TTM</p>

Current Connectivity to RU for Commercial Evaluation with OEM DU



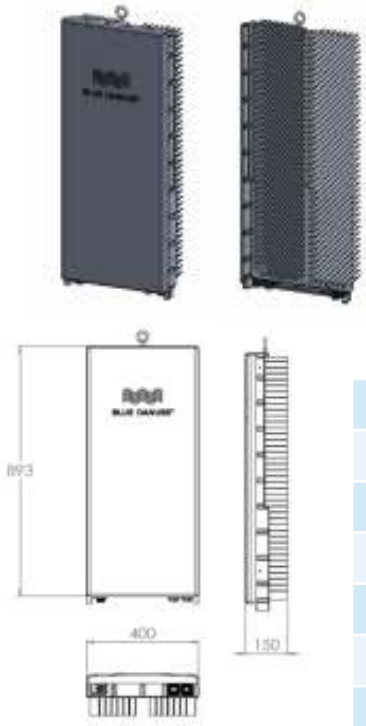
*Commercial Evaluation with direct RF connection similar to DAS
and Beam control over Local LAN*

Closed Fronthaul Problem



***OpenRAN Fronthaul enables Open-Radio
Unit interoperability with Open-DU***

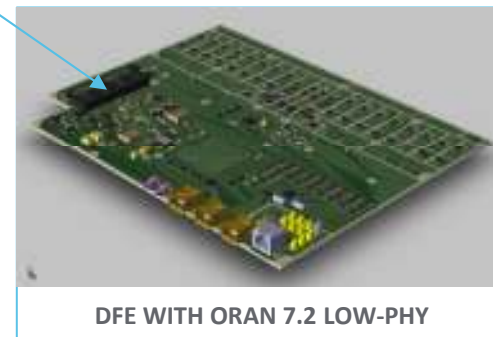
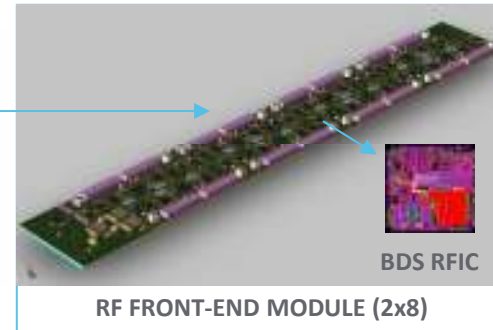
5G-NR 3.5GHz 8T8R/16T16R Modular Product Design



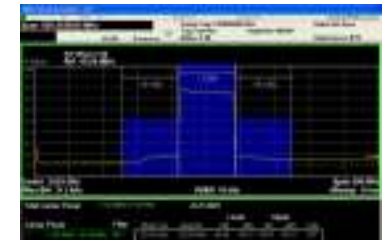
200W UNIT
Volume: 54 L, Weight: 24 KG

Frequency	3-4.2 GHz
TX power	200w (320w [†])
DC power	850w (1100w [†])
Beamwidth	12° Az, 9° EI
Steering	+/-45° Az, +/-7.5° EI
Array	8 x 8, dual polarized
Ports	8T8R / 16T16R

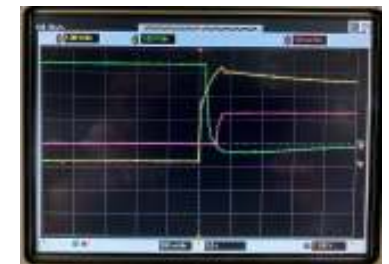
[†] future 320W variant, 250mm depth



Transmitter dynamic range using 3GHz RFIC

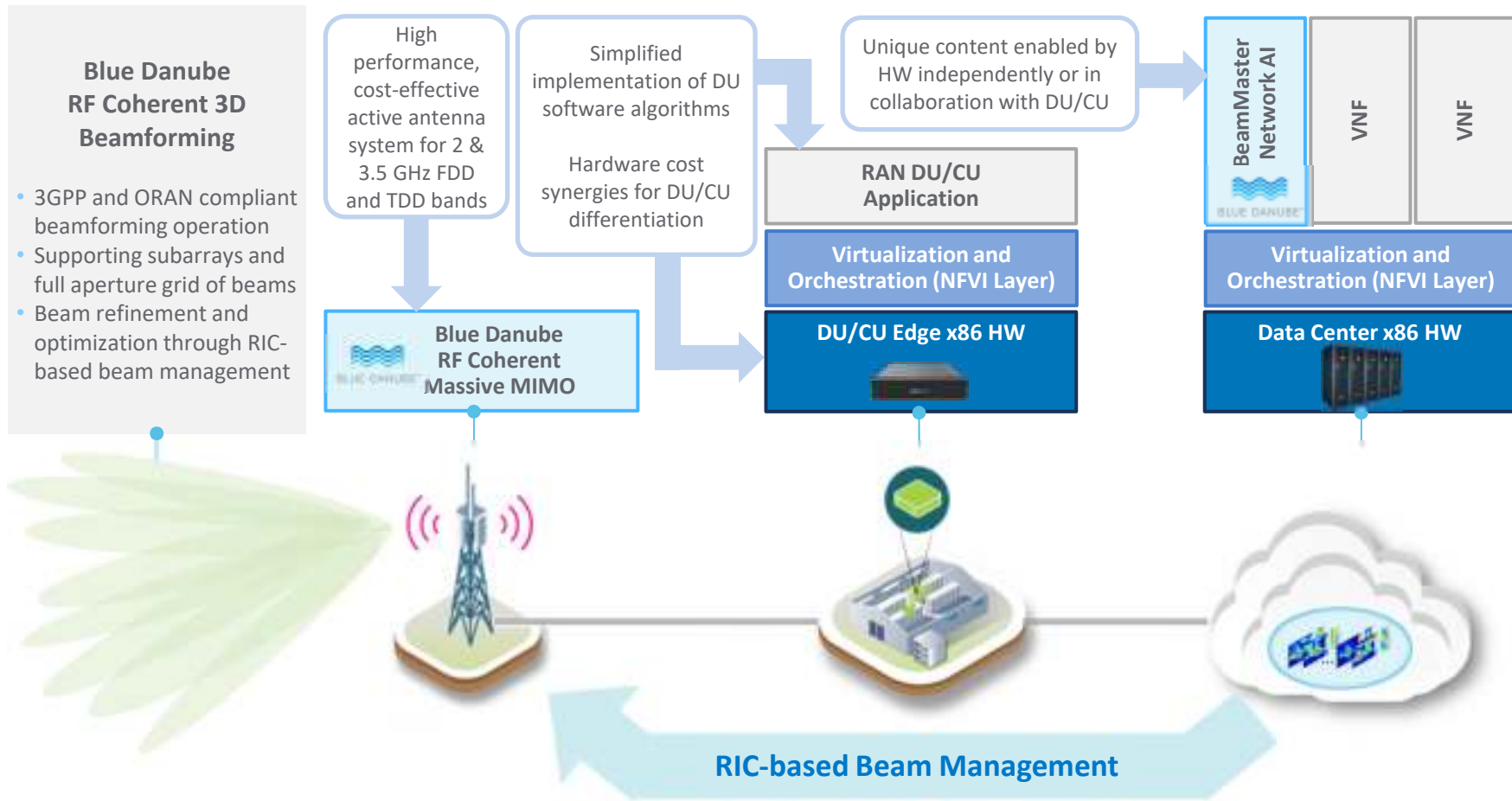


TDD waveforms showing ~400ns switching






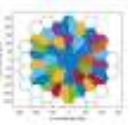

Small, light form factor with low power consumption supporting O-RAN fronthaul and Category A and B beamforming modes

Enabling Differentiation and Accelerating Open vRAN



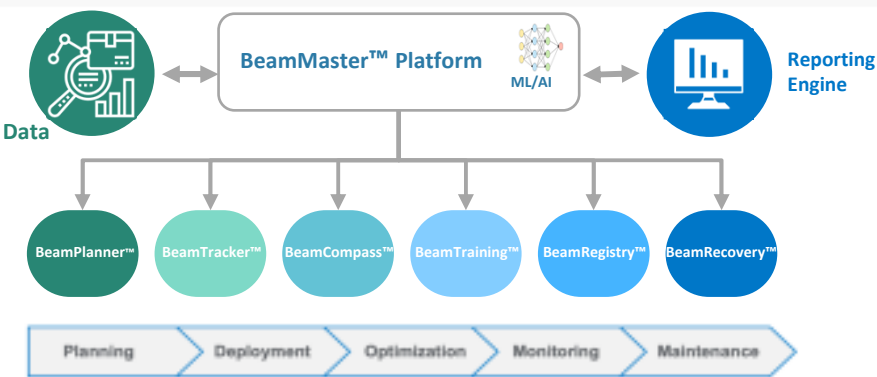
Product & Service Availability Jan-2022

BeamCraft™ Open-RU Products

FDD		<p>BeamCraft™ FDD 2GHz</p> <p>FDD 1.7-2.6GHz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96 active antenna elements 4T4R/2x4T4R/8T8R <p>Single and Dual-band + passive low band column</p>
TDD		<p>BeamCraft™ TDD 2/3.5GHz</p> <p>TDD 2/3-4.2GHz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 256 active antenna elements 4T4R/8T8R/16T16R <p>Single and Dual-band + passive low band column</p>
HAPS & Military	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HAPS >100 Km LTE Range test validated with BeamCraft RU Integrated x86-BBU/CPRI Airship flight targeted for July Extensible to 5G over Satellite Engaged with NSC and DoD on sensing, DoA and spectrum sharing 

BeamMaster™ Suite | Software

- BeamMaster is an RF automation platform that optimizes HDAAS deployments by flexibly customizing 3D Beam patterns for improved coverage, capacity and interference control



The diagram shows the BeamMaster™ Platform at the center, connected to Data and Reporting Engine. Below the platform are six functional modules: BeamPlanner™, BeamTracker™, BeamCompass™, BeamTraining™, BeamRegistry™, and BeamRecovery™. These modules are supported by a process flow: Planning → Deployment → Optimization → Monitoring → Maintenance.

BeamPlanner™	Comprehensive RF planning & site selection with interference simulation models
BeamTracker™	Intelligent traffic-sensing software assists in direction finding and hotspot detection
BeamCompass™	Automated site preparation and accurate installation directionality calibration
BeamTraining™	AI-driven sector and network beamforming optimization
BeamRegistry™	KPI Dashboard for monitoring, reporting, and beam inventory
BeamRecovery™	Self-healing network troubleshooting

Unique U.S.-designed and manufactured Active Antenna OpenRAN RU



Flexible Solution Meeting Current and Future Operator Requirements

3D-Beamforming 8T8R SU-MIMO Operation

- >3dB higher beamforming gain compared to passive four-column antenna
- Better 5G-NR coverage and higher data throughput

FDD available today
TDD Jan 2022

Capacity Enhancement with 8T8R Grid-of-Beams

- Full aperture beamforming with 3GPP Grid-of-Beams method enables MU-MIMO for increased capacity
- Software upgrade over same O-RU

>4x
SU-MIMO
Capacity

Technology scalable to higher digitization

- Supports 16T16R mMIMO RU configuration
- Higher digitization to >32T32R based on market demand and performance

16T16R
available Jan
2022



BLUE DANUBE™



Thank You

Confidential