All you need to know about...

UNICORN Affordable Quantum Communication for Everyone

Affordable Quantum Communication for Everyone

Revolutionizing the Quantum Ecosystem from Fabrication to Application

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Quantum Communication Today

Aim: Information-theoretic Security (ITS)

- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD): security based on the laws of nature, therefore "quantum-safe" early demonstrations (Vienna, Tokyo, Battelle)
- Classical Post-Quantum algorithms: computationally hard problems, no guarantee for ITS as quantum algorithms evolve



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Quantum Communication Today

Current Roadblocks for a Practical Introduction:

- 1.) ICT infrastructure will not change to accommodate quantum network functions. Need to merge the striking benefits of quantum technology with highly advanced telecom technologies ("co-existence").
- 2. Powerful quantum applications need powerful yet cost-effective components.
 The Second Quantum Revolution is only possible when it follows a success story such as that of

microelectronics, which lead to the Information Age.



Positioning within Quantum Flagship



Basic Science





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- 1.) Develop value-added InP, CMOS and polymer quantum-optic communication component technology with reproducible performance.
 - Quantum-grade monolithic InP integration
 - High-efficiency silicon photon detection
 - Low-cost industry-qualified planar polymer lightwave circuits



- 2.) Shoehorning breadboards into chips Develop a quantum System-on-Chip (QSoC) methodology that enables low-cost assembly and packaging.
 - Hybrid integration of "best-of-breed" components
 - Efficient interposer-to-fiber interfaces
 - Pump source integration
 - RF and thermal features



- UNIQORN
- 3.) Demonstrate the power of the technological food-chain through realization of feature-rich, scalable key sub-systems for optical quantum communications.
 - Heralded and polarization / time-bin entangled photon pair sources
 - 1550 nm up-conversion DV receiver
 - Differential Phase Shift DV transmitter
 - Entangled squeezed light source and homo-/heterodyne CV receiver
 - Quantum random number generator (QRNG)
 - Programmable Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen (EPR) node



The demonstration of **feature-rich and scalable quantum circuits** in the form of QSoC is a significant step forward in the fabrication of a broad range of DV and CV quantum communication sub-systems with reduced size and cost – following the same paradigm of integrated microelectronics during the late 20th century.



- 4.) Deployable system performance and novel network functionalities.
 - **System integration**, e.g. secure key rate >1 kb/s using <u>pluggable</u> QKD optics
 - Network integration
 - introduction of space as a new dimension of multiplexing
 - software defined impairment mitigation and resource optimization
 - programmable Quantum Whitebox





- 5.) From quantum fab to quantum app: Demonstration of low-cost quantum links and novel end-user quantum applications beyond QKD in lab evaluation and field scenarios.
 - Quantum-secured Internet-of-Things (QIoT)
 - One-time programs for cloud-based quantum processing
 - Secure database access through oblivious transfer
 - QRNG as a seed for NIC-integrated randomness engine



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The tight integration of quantum protocols in commercial network equipment and the network-oriented investigation of applicability aspects provides the credential to generate exploitable assets.

TRL Positioning and Time-to-Market

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UNIQORN relies on the integration of innovative quantum-optical building blocks (sources, transmitters, detectors) that are based on well-established InP/polymer/CMOS technologies, offering the optimum balance between innovation and risk/maturity/time-to-market: **quantum revolution through technological evolution**.



Commercialization Path:

- Early adoptions of services and components, e.g.:
 - quantum-grade PIC foundry
 - EDA tools for quantum tech - CMOS SPADs
- 2-3 years after project end: first qSoC solutions



Events



October: Kick-off meeting at NTUA (Athens) December : ICT2018 (Vienna) January: 1st technical meeting at HHI (Berlin)





Thank you for your attention!

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