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UK Capabilities: Looking back to look forward

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Aneurin Bevan who established the NHS on 5th July 1948 was reported as saying:

"If you want to see the future, don't look in the crystal ball, look back at history!"

In 1974

There was a looming oil (energy) crisis and a shortage of radio spectrum for mobile radio. RF bandwidth for FM and AM had been reduced to 12.5kHz at VHF and 25kHz at UHF. What next as demand growing rapidly for PMR and bandwidth reduction no longer possible?

Applied in 1974 to the then Science Research Council (SRC) for a research grant

What could I do if anything as a young researcher?

I applied for and obtained a grant for £9,600 to undertake the "Computer simulation of multipath fading in the mobile radio environment and means for its reduction" based on a topographical description of the radio environment.



PDP8e Mini computer and signal sampling kit linked to an ICL4-50 mainframe

Mobira Securicor RC25 (or Mobira BT Emerald MC25 radiophone)



Cartesian Loop Lineariser Chip Securicor/LMT

N.B.: Did you know that a second Cartesian Loop chip was designed for Ericsson under an NDA with the CCR at Bristol by Plessey Semiconductors in Swindon



Tokyo Skytree Tower, Sumida City

- The Tower houses 3 Toshiba Digital Video Broadcast RF power amplifiers covering Metropolitan Tokyo area
- Based on the original research of Toshiba Research Bristol in collaboration with University of Bristol
- RF PAs were so efficient they did not require water cooling saving a large amount of energy for such a tall tower



Further achievements associated with SRC Award



Speech Scrambler



Wideband CDMA (pre 3G)



Conformal Antennas



Selection of key achievements

- Raytracing for network planning
 - Outdoor, indoor, hotspot...
- State of art RF Power Amplifiers
 - Highly linear, power efficient
- Linear modulation techniques for high throughput data wireless communications, e.g., HIPERLAN and 802.11
- Smart antenna arrays
 - Diversity, SIMO, MIMO, testbeds
- Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) and Block Spread CDMA for use in 3G and 4G mobile systems
 respectively
- Spatial temporal propagation measurements and prediction
 - Modeling and measurement
- Physical layer/MAC layer interactions
 - Novel protocols and radio resource management
 - Smart Metering/Smart Grid and HEMS
 - SDR commencing with the Intel 2920 in 1979



PROFESSOR R. BENJAMIN CB

Professor Ralph Benjamin CB FREng (1922–2019)

Professor Ralph Benjamin CB FREng was a visiting Professor at the University of Bristol following his retirement from GCHQ where from 1971 he held the position of Senior Superintendent Director and Chief Scientist. He was Security Advisor to Margaret Thatcher. During World War 2 he joined the Royal Naval Scientific Service to work on the secret development of radar. In 1960 at the age of 37 he became Deputy Chief Scientist at the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment and in 1964 at the age of 41 he became Chief Scientist at the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment. At Bristol, he collaborated with Prof Joe McGeehan and his research teams within the Centre for Communications Research on a range of projects in communications, networks and medical electronics. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering in July 2000.

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Enabling Next Generation Industrial Internet

Please contact:

Professor Mahesh Sooriyabandara, MD of Bristol Research & Innovation Lab, Toshiba Europe Limited for more details on the IIoT Testbed



- Next Gen Industrial Internet -Thinking beyond Data and AI
 - Building eco-systems and lowering barriers
- Greening the Aerospace industry The unsolved carbon challenge
 - Accelerating innovation in electric aircraft industry
- Semicon Will it be new "oil" or "data" industry?
 - Core building block of Industrial and consumer internet ?
- Analogue in a digital world
 - Addressing limits faced by digital technology

•6G – Industry Opportunities and Tech/logistical Challenges

Toshiba

Towards CPS technology Company



Toshiba Group's Vision

Become world's leading CPS^{*1} technology company, ensure profitability by implementing the Toshiba Next Plan



Open Programmable IIoT Testbed in South Gloucestershire



Reflections

The UK has had a long history of leading edge innovation in many areas of Electrical and Electronic Engineering including RF Engineering and Communications, Electromagnetics and Antennas, Networks, Semiconductors and Device Technology. Going forward we have to select areas for funding that are capable of being transformed from research to products and services that will create wealth and jobs. All of the above areas still amongst our research strengths and in particular activities such as RF power amplifiers, IIoT, autonomous systems and AI, SDN, compound semiconductors, wireless and optical devices and systems, Reflective Intelligent Surfaces (RIS) and Software Defined Materials should be part of our consideration for support.

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A sincere thank you to all my colleagues and former colleagues at Plessey Research (Caswell), University of Bath, University of Bristol and Toshiba for their contribution, support and collaboration over many years.

