



# High-Performance and Resilient PNT (Position, Navigation & Timing)

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# Who Is Satelles?



#### **Satelles Business Overview**

Satelles is a U.S. company that provides an alternative to GPS/GNSS for global network time synchronization that is:

**Delivered by Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites,** 

**Resilient to GPS/GNSS outages,** 

Satelles

Works indoors where GPS/GNSS does not, and

**Provides a secure backup for critical infrastructure.** 







### Satelles at a Glance

Satelles provides the only global time and location service available today that augments GPS/GNSS and addresses some of the limitations of these systems

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LEO satellites via exclusive partnership with Iridium

**40+**<br/>patents

70+ employees



World-renowned GPS experts from leading companies and academic institutions:

BOOZ Allen Hamilton Caltech COMCAST Cornell University DigitalGlobe Harvard University DigitalGlobe

l'liī



NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Qualcom Technologies SPACEX STANFORD

#### L Band! (Most mega LEOs are small sats in K Band)

STL using 66 Iridium satellites global coverage 485-mile altitude 1,000x closer

High-power signals from nearby LEO satellites can penetrate indoors and in places where GPS does not reach

> 24 GPS satellites global coverage 12,550-mile altitude 25x farther away

### What Makes Our STL Technology Unique?

Powerful Signal

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Proprietary Authentication

Impervious to Hacking

( Satelles stronger than GPS, allowing them to penetrate indoors and underground

STL's high-power signals are 1,000x

An innovative mesh architecture of 66 cross-linked LEO satellites forms a global network in space to ensure service everywhere

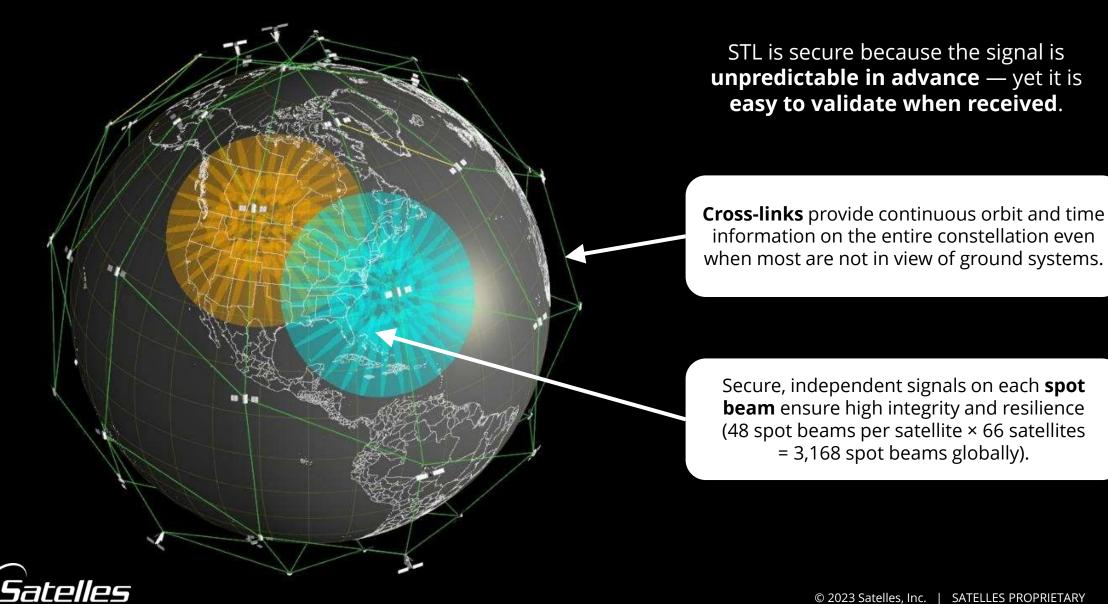
Timing solutions **with UTC accuracy of 50 nanoseconds;** 1-sigma with maximum error of less than 200 nanoseconds

Satelles' LEO orbit benefits, combined with modern cryptographic techniques, allow Satelles to deliver a trusted time and location service globally



### **Resilient Architecture**



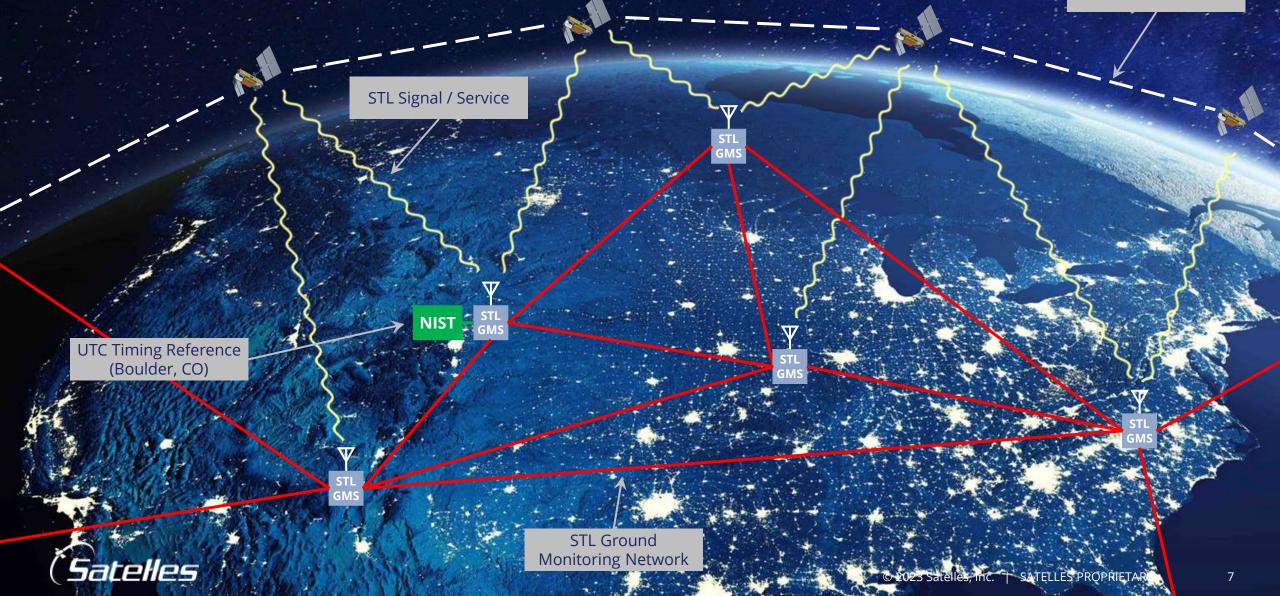


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**STL Ground Segment** 



Satellite Cross-Links



### **Satellite Time and Location (STL):** Alternative PNT from Low Earth Orbit



- Powerful signals
- Secure service
- Global availability
- Resilient to the loss or disruption of GPS
- Traceable to UTC(NIST) and UTC(USNO)
- Commercially available since 2016

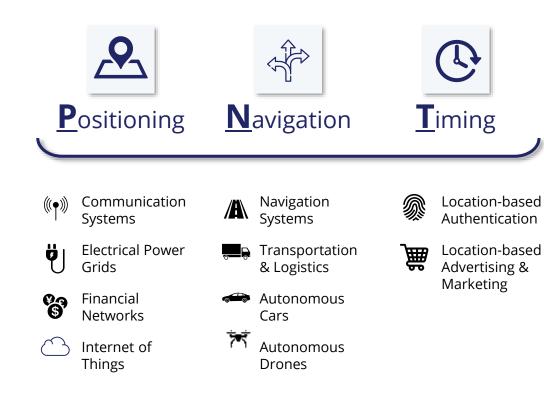
- Timing accuracy of 20-100ns (oscillator dependent)
- Timing stability comparable to GPS — confirmed via NIST study
- Stratum 0 source for Stratum 1 PTP Grandmaster — Primary Reference Source
- Positioning accuracies of ~10 meters (33 feet)



# **Satelles Solves Important Problems**



# **PNT for Critical Infrastructure**



Most of these applications are essential for the proper functioning of our society, and they all use GPS for PNT... without any back-up





### **The Need for Resilience**



#### GPS and other GNSS are amazing, but they require an operational contingency plan for:

- inadvertent events
- unintended interference (such as jamming)
- deliberate attacks (such as jamming)

Because of the widespread adoption of PNT services, the disruption or manipulation of these services has the potential to adversely affect the national and economic security of the United States.

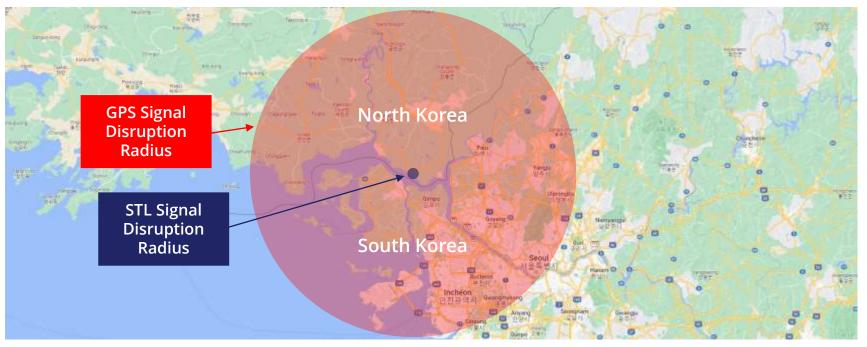
Executive Order 13905 – Strengthening National Resilience Through Responsible Use of Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Services



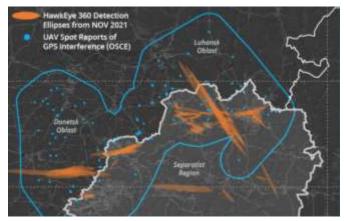
# **STL is Resistant to Jamming**



#### **GPS/GNSS Jamming Radius Compared to STL**



#### Active Jamming in Europe Ukraine Invasion



Jamming devices must be significantly closer to the desired jamming area or far more powerful to disrupt STL

A truck driver used a cigarette lighter GPS jamming device to hide his whereabouts from his employer and caused interference at Newark Airport





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#### **Critical Infrastructure – Telecom** *The 5G Synchronization Problem*



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# **5G is Moving Wireless Communications Indoors**



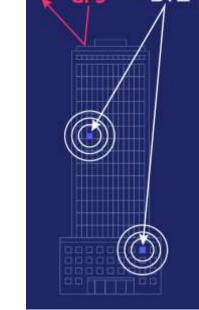
To provide high-speed services directly to users, 5G is moving wireless communication access points (eNBs) from outdoor high power Radio Access Networks (RAN) on towers and buildings to indoor low power RAN, small cells, and femtocells on ceilings and walls



GNSS synchronization **is the most accurate method** to meet 5G timing requirements – **5G deployments are delayed while operators struggle to find alternatives to GPS/GNSS** 

However, it works poorly or not at all in:

- Urban canyons (limited sky view)
- High multipath environments (signal shredding)
- Indoors (excessive attenuation)





### **STL: Small Antennas – Operate Indoors**

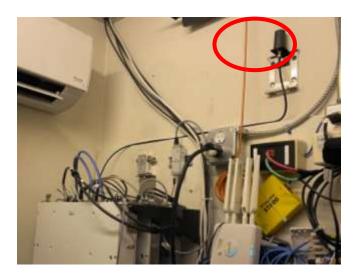




STL antennas not only install and operate indoors but are significantly smaller than GPS antennas











### **STL Equipment Form Factor — Stand Alone Receivers**





Standalone receivers are small and can be rack mounted to integrate easily with 4G and 5G RAN gear.



# Recent Installation Examples for 5G Operators Using Indoor Antennas



# **STL EXAMPLE: Urban High-Rise Building**

STL receiver used to synchronize Nokia 5G Micro BTS RANs on 40<sup>th</sup> floor of office building

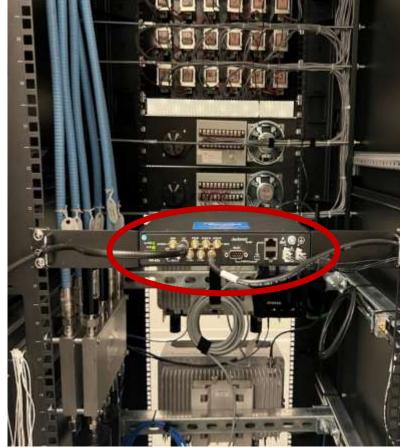


STL antenna mounted in office area ceiling









# **STL EXAMPLE: Data Center**

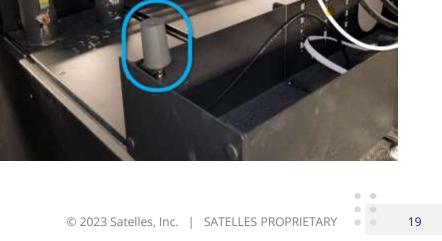
Proper synchronization of cloud servers increases throughput by >10x

STL receiver used to synchronize data center servers





STL antenna mounted inside server room at the top of the server rack

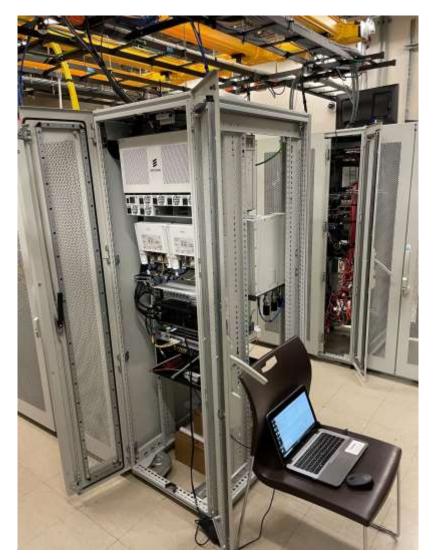




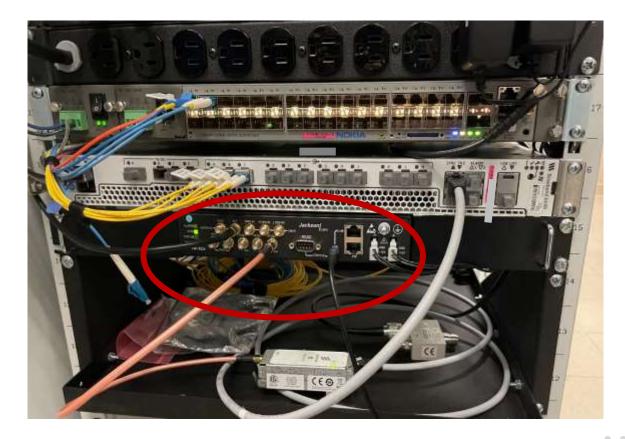


#### **STL EXAMPLE: Smart Hospital Installation**





#### STL receiver used to synchronize Ericsson 5G Micro BTS RANs in smart hospital





### Satelles is Commercially Available Worldwide Today Validated by Independent Authorities



# STL Evaluated by U.S. Dept of Transportation

In January 2021, the DOT published a report summarizing the performance, availability, and readiness of 11 alternative PNT technologies.

#### **Report Summary of (STL) LEO PNT Technology:**

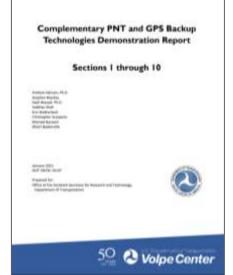
- Technical Readiness Level: 9 (Ready now)
- Spectrum Protection: Protected Spectrum
- Service Deployment Effort: Low (no new infrastructure needed)
- **Service Coverage:** 66 LEO satellites provide worldwide PNT service
- Service Synchronization: UTC
- **PNT Signal Robustness:** Strong (available indoors and is authenticated)
- Service Resilience: Fail-Over (STL promptly reports loss of service)





- **PNT Information Security:** High (uses signal authentication for maximum security)
- Time to Service Implementation: Short (STL service is available now)
- **PNT System/Service Longevity:** Medium (projected satellite life of 15 to 30 years)

*Of the 11 providers evaluated, STL from Satelles is the ONLY alternative PNT technology that is nationally and globally scalable and is available today.* 





STL Evaluation by European Commission (DEFIS)

A technical demonstration was conducted Dec 2021 as part of an evaluation of STL and other technologies by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS) in a study conducted by the EC's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy.

Satelles was the only SOURCE OF TIME, all others were time transfer.

Tested for 1 day, 14 days and 100 days

Timing Accuracy to UTC
Timing Stability (Allan Deviation)
Availability (%)
Continuity (per hour)
Horizontal accuracy (95%)
Vertical accuracy (95%)
First time to provide continuous services upon cold start-up

*Rigorous testing conducted by EC evaluators confirmed the STL LEO PNT service performed well in all categories verifying that it can provide the accuracy and reliability needed for critical infrastructure operations* 

(including system and receiver contributions)



# **STL Validated by NIST**

In November 2021, NIST published Technical Note 2189, An Evaluation of Dependencies of Critical Infrastructure Timing Systems on the Global Positioning System (GPS)

#### In this report NIST...

- concluded that STL is a reliable source of timing that is highly consistent with Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)
- categorized STL as an indirect distribution source for UTC(NIST)
- attested that STL is a commercial alternative that exists today
- verified that the timing accuracy specification for STL is ±500 ns (0.5 μs) which meets critical infrastructure requirements, and they acknowledged that published measurements indicate an accuracy better than 200 ns
- confirmed STL's long-term stability of better than 25 nanoseconds with short-term time deviation of 50 ns
- Satelles has an STL ground monitoring station directly connected to NIST's main clock ensemble — the source of UTC(NIST)

NIST has concluded that (STL) LEO PNT is a reliable source of UTC timing and available today.

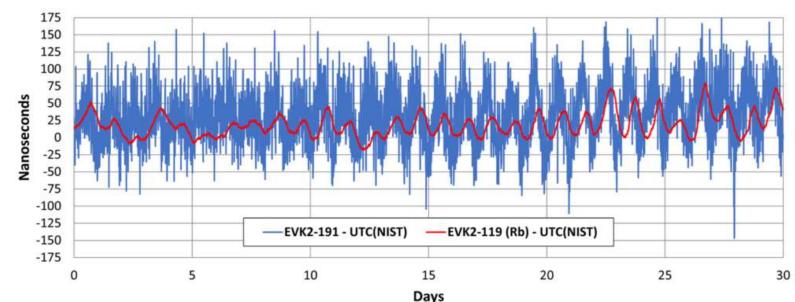




# **NIST: Timing Accuracy of STL**

- Time experts at Satelles and NIST co-wrote a paper<sup>1</sup> that was presented at the Institute of Navigation (ION) Precise Time and Time Interval Systems and Applications (PTTI) meeting in January 2023.
- The underlying research of the paper demonstrated that a calibrated STL receiver can achieve an **average time offset better than 18 ns** with respect to UTC(NIST) with a peak-to-peak variation of 325 ns for a typical OCXO receiver and better than 80 ns with a rubidium-based receiver.

This chart visualizes the comparison of STL to UTC(NIST) for a 30-day period. The **blue line depicts the time offset between UTC(NIST) and an STL receiver with an OCXO oscillator**, and the **red line** represents the same measurement for an STL receiver with a **rubidium oscillator**.





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<sup>1</sup> "Measuring the Timing Accuracy of Satellite Time and Location (STL) Receivers"; Johnson, Novick, and Lombardi; <u>https://www.nist.gov/publications/measuring-timing-accuracy-</u> <u>satellite-time-and-location-stl-receivers</u>

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#### 5G Wireless Market Recognition for STL as an Innovative Commercially Available Timing Sync Solution





Fierce Telecom Awards December 2022

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#### Small Cell Forum Industry Awards May 2023

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# How Can Governments Promote Resilience?



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# Critical Infrastructure Requirements Need Multiple Options



- Multiple forms of alternative PNT deliver a range of operational and performance characteristics that:
  - meet the diverse needs of applications across all industry sectors
  - are better adaptable to future threats than a single technology with its inherent vulnerabilities
- **Governments should not "pick winners"** by selecting <u>a single technology or</u> <u>architecture</u> as a national backup to GPS. This would stifle the ingenuity of the private sector that is otherwise spurred by competition and investment that:
  - drives the development of multiple GPS alternatives
  - proactively responds to technological innovations and market dynamics
  - addresses new and still evolving use cases not supported by GPS

A multi-technology approach to PNT resilience not only meets a more diverse set of critical infrastructure needs but also ensures a more robust approach to security by providing multilayer resilience. Delivering alternative PNT capabilities on an equal footing with GPS will require government policies and funding that ensure these solutions are cost-effective for critical infrastructure providers and sustainable over the long term.



# What Can Governments Do <u>NOW</u> to Ensure National Resilience?





Continue to study the problems and potential solutions — but don't stop there



Encourage and support innovation by the private sector — incentivize private sector owner operators to adopt resilient altPNT



Lead by example — invest in projects and programs that put multiple forms of PNT into actual operational use to protect critical infrastructure





# Thank you! QUESTIONS?





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