

# TIME IN THE CONNECTED VEHICLE ECOSYSTEM

WORKSHOP ON  
SYNCHRONIZATION AND  
TIMING SYSTEMS

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A dynamic, high-speed photograph of water splashing against a black background, creating numerous bright, reflective droplets and bubbles. The splash is concentrated on the right side of the frame, with water droplets trailing upwards and outwards. A solid white horizontal bar is positioned at the top left of the image.

# **Agenda**

**Introduction to the Automotive Industry**

**Automotive Platform Architectures**

**Automotive Timing Use Cases and Requirements**

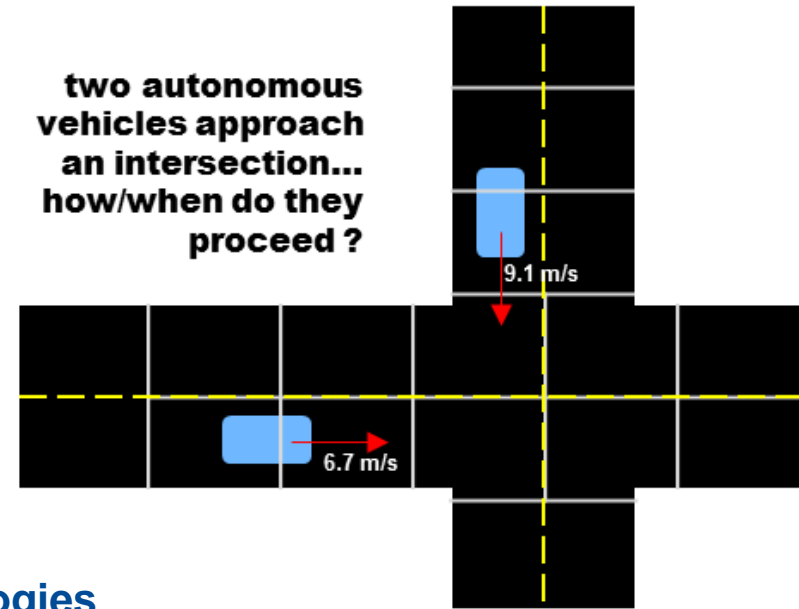
# The Automotive Industry is in a Period of Evolution

The automotive industry has traditionally been composed of disparate technologies, with significant technical differences between vehicle platform architectures and supporting infrastructure

Technology convergence on the vehicle platform is being driven by...

- V2X Communications
- Autonomous Technologies
- Automotive Cyber Security

**Timing Technologies  
are Key Enablers**



**Integration of time into automotive platform architecture must be done securely to ensure consumer safety**



# The Connected Vehicle Ecosystem

## Components

Powertrain, Body,  
Safety, Infotainment,  
Chassis Systems

## Network Interfaces

Internal Networks  
Wired  
Wireless

## Features & Services

Safety Features, Software,  
Infotainment, Convenience,  
Communications Services



## Connected Vehicle

## Enabling Infrastructure



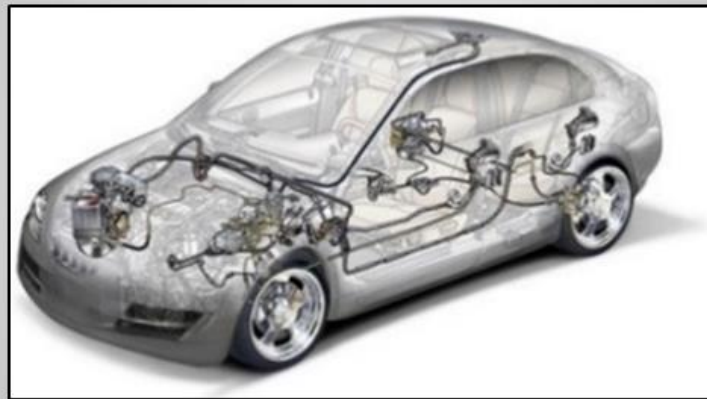
### External

Energy Infrastructure  
Transportation Network  
Financial Services  
Cellular Networks  
Cloud Providers  
Civic Services

### Internal

IT Infrastructure  
Manufacturing Network  
Dealership Network  
Call Centers  
R&D Labs

## Customer Experience



## Key Influencers

### Consumers

Individual, Corporate

### Government

National, Regional, Local

### Adversaries

Hacktivists, Criminals,  
Nation States, Insiders

### Auto Industry

Suppliers, Affiliates, Partners,  
Competitors, Associations



## Vehicle Lifecycle

### Plan

Design & Test  
Source & Supply

### Manufacture

Market  
Deliver

### Sell

Service & Monitor  
Resale/Dispose

# Core Elements of Connected Vehicle Platform

*Time is Everywhere*

## Electronic Control Unit (ECU)

ECU is a generic term for an electrical system in a vehicle. A typical connected vehicle may have 60-120 different ECUs inside. ECUs may be relatively simple sensor systems or complex multi-functional subsystems



## Head Unit

A primary consumer interface to the vehicle. The head unit may contain Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, analog Radio, and Cellular connectivity. It may allow cellular device pairing, visualization for many other ECU networks (e.g. LIDAR-awareness or TPMS alerts)



## Gateway

A special-purpose ECU that filters automotive bus traffic between “connected” components such as a head unit and other electrical systems. Gateways also interconnect different types of automotive bus networks.



## Telematics Control Unit (TCU)

A special-purpose ECU that enables telematics services to the vehicle platform by providing special cellular connectivity. Typically contains at least one common baseband chip

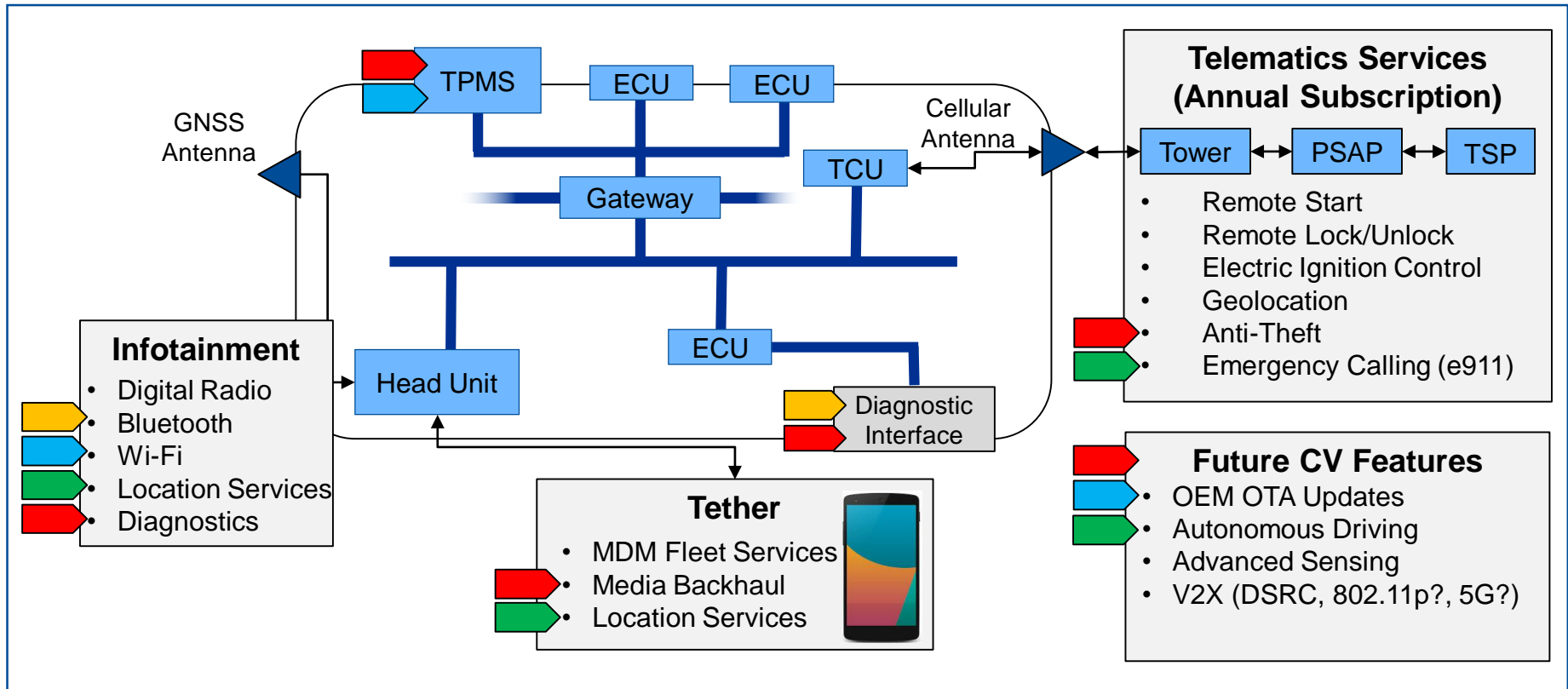


## Telematics Service Provider (TSP)

Provides managed telematics services to vehicles. Telematics services include remote lock/unlock, geolocation, etc. May reside internally within OEMs organization, or be offered as a service.



## Notional Connected Vehicle Platform Architecture





Today		The Future	
Automotive OEMs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participation in Automotive ISAC</li><li>• Participation in AUTOSAR</li></ul>	— Organizational Evolution →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maturation of Cyber Strategies</li><li>• Integration of Connected Services</li><li>• Convergence of Technologies</li><li>• Automotive Platform as Experience</li></ul>	
Tier 1 Suppliers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large reliance on CAN bus</li><li>• Little to no secure processing</li><li>• Deploying deprecated technologies</li></ul>	— Tighter OEM Coupling →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternative Digital Buses</li><li>• Standardized Architectures</li><li>• Integration of Mobile Supply Chain</li></ul>	
Tier 2+ Suppliers			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decoupled from OEMs</li><li>• Lowest-Cost ECUs Required</li></ul>	— Technology Convergence →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signed Firmware</li><li>• Strong Cryptographic Management</li><li>• Time-Aware Hardware</li></ul>	

Opportunities for Timing Vendors

## Precision Time in Automotive Platforms

There may exist many different types of time in an automotive context and use cases are driving technology convergence:

- V2X communications may require UTC time
- A free running clock may trigger events after a certain number of cycles
- Disparate sensor systems may require a common time base so their individual measurements may be integrated

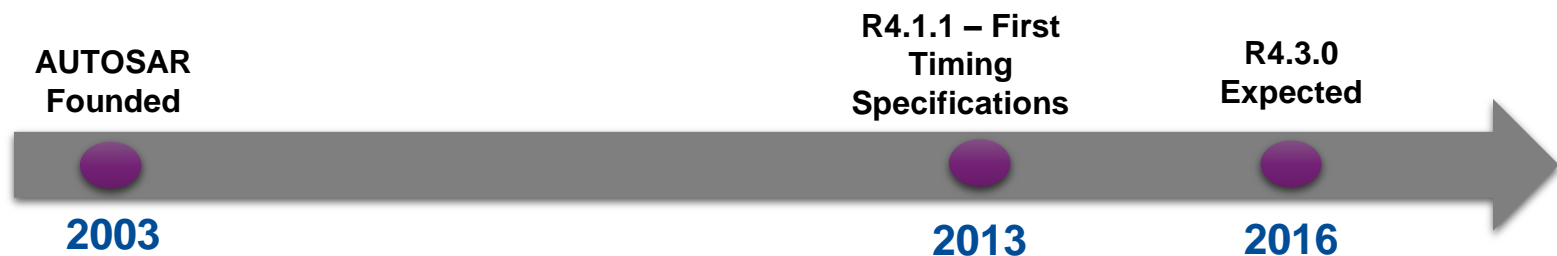
Each application may require time to a different level of precision and may not require time referenced to UTC



# The Automotive Community is engaged in a development partnership called Automotive Open System Architecture (AUTOSAR)

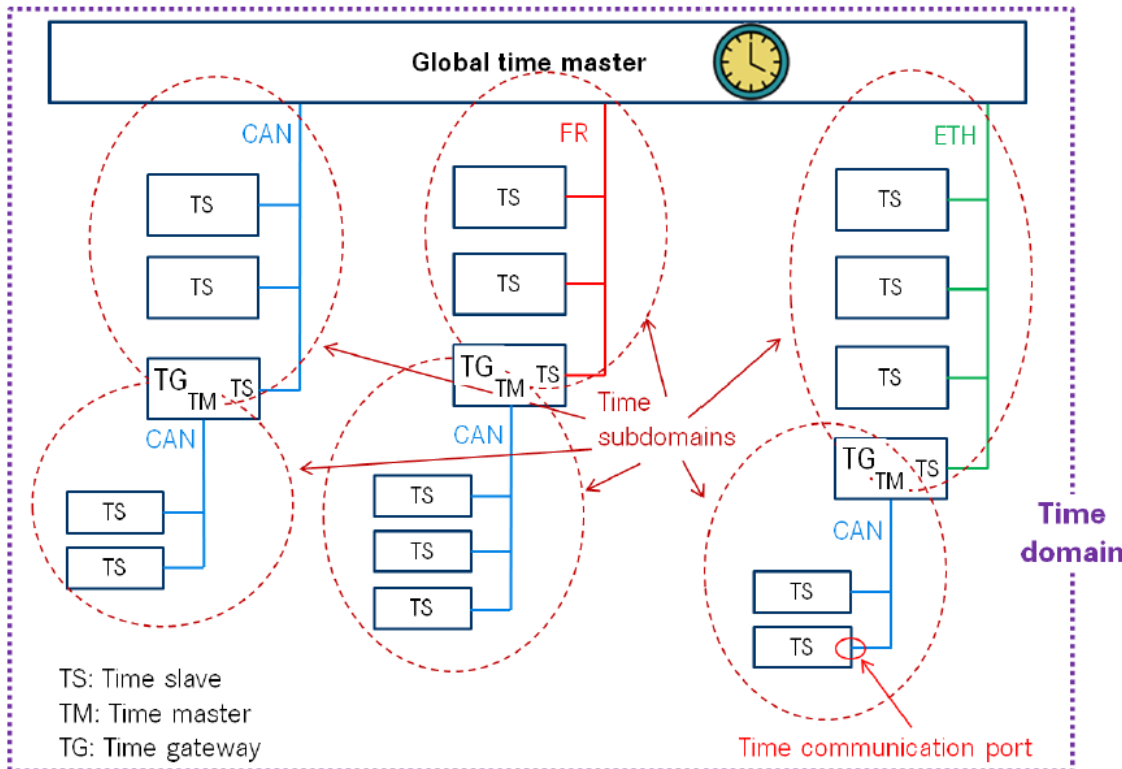
- OEMs and suppliers are investing in an open source and secure electrical architecture (AUTOSAR)
- AUTOSAR R4.1.1 defines a Global Time Synchronization Mechanism to distribute one or more master time bases across various bus systems.
  - Directly addresses automotive use cases
  - Specified time transfer protocols for FlexRay, Ethernet, CAN buses
  - Allows for multiple, independent, Time Domains in an automotive platform
- AUTOSAR may be mandated at the OEM level, will be implemented by Tier 1 and 2 Suppliers

## AUTOSAR Timeline



# Time in the Automotive Platform

## Time Distributed Across Different Bus Types to Systems



## AUTOSAR Definitions

### Global Time Master

Global owner and origin for a certain time base and on the top of the time base hierarchy for that time base.

### Time Domain

Denotes which components (e.g. nodes, communication systems) are linked to a certain time base. A Time Domain can contain no or more than one Time Sub-domains. If the timing hierarchy of a Time Domain contains no Time Gateways, i.e. all nodes are connected to the same bus system, then there is no dedicated Time Sub-domain which otherwise would be equal to the Time Domain itself.

### Time Gateway

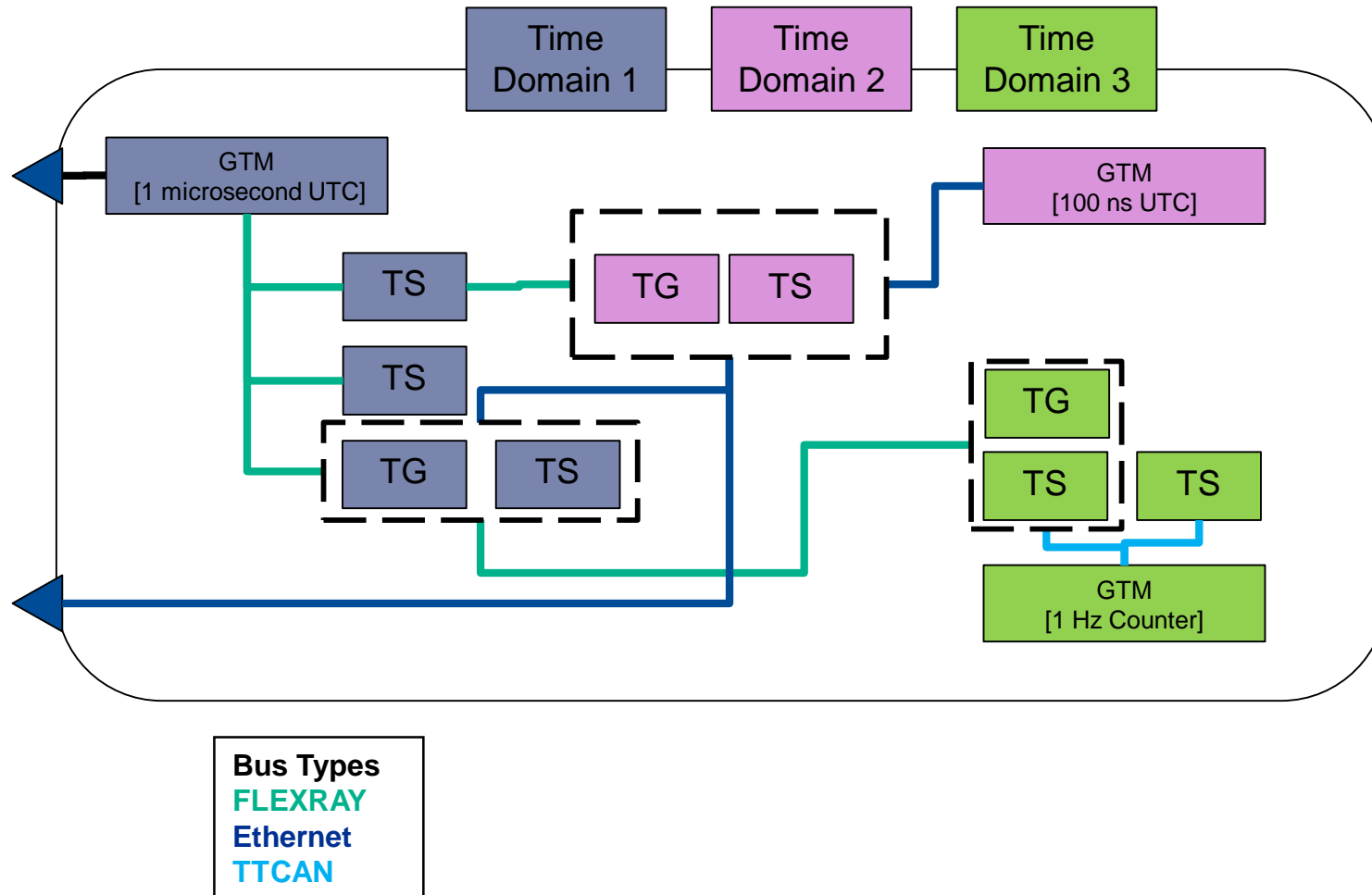
A set of entities where one entity is acting as time slave for a certain time base. The other entities are acting as time masters which are distributing this time base to sets of time slaves. A TimeSync ECU can contain multiple time gateways. A time gateway can be connected to different types of bus systems (e.g. the slave side could be connected to a FlexRay bus whereas the master side could be connected to a CAN bus system).

### Time Master

An entity which is the master for a certain time base and which propagates this time base to a set of time slaves within a certain segment of a communication network, being a source for this time base. If a time master is also the owner of the time base then he is the global time master. A time gateway typically consists of one time slave and one or more time masters. When mapping time entities to real ECUs it has to be noted, that an ECU could be Time Master (or even Global Time Master) for one time base and Time Slave for another time base.

# Time in the Automotive Platform

## *A Time-Centric Perspective of an Automotive Electrical Architecture*



## Automotive Buses

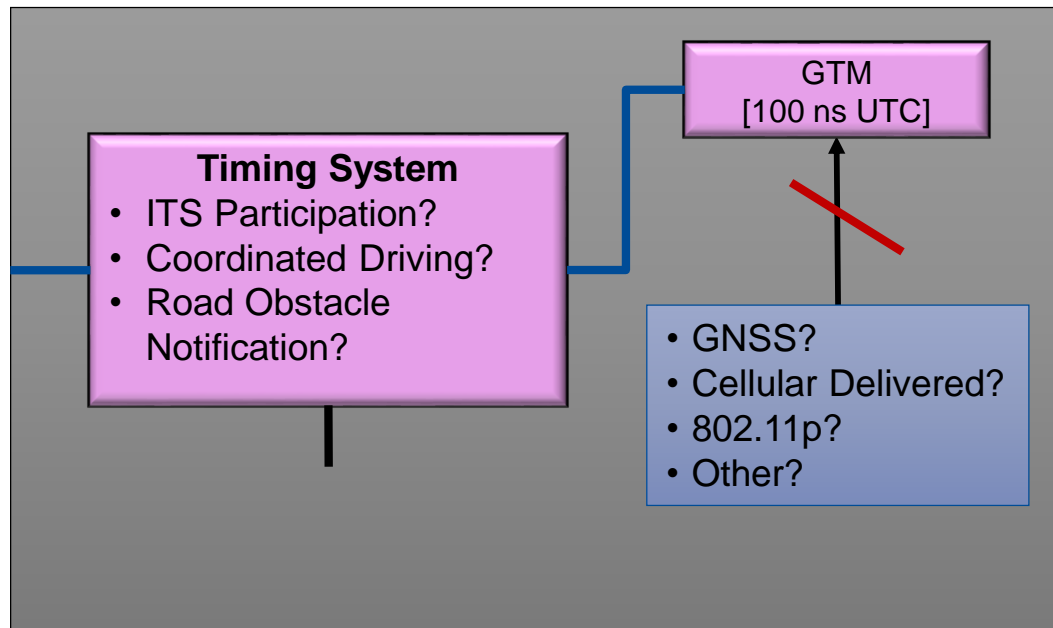
Interface	Controller Area Network (CAN)	FlexRay	Time Triggered CAN	Ethernet
Technical Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contention/Priority Based</li><li>• Broadcast Network Configuration</li><li>• Inexpensive</li><li>• Extremely Mature Technology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TDMA-based</li><li>• Time triggered events to the microsecond</li><li>• More expensive than CAN</li><li>• Priority based traffic</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evolution of CAN Standard</li><li>• Defines a time master on the CAN network that periodically transmits a reference message</li><li>• Time specified in microseconds</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Network topology and configuration does not change in automotive use case</li><li>• Can leverage existing Ethernet technologies (e.g. 1588)</li></ul>
Use Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inexpensive network interface used extensively in automotive industry</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deterministic bus</li><li>• Possible to determine time of transmission with high precision</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time Triggered CAN: Periodic transmission of a reference message by a time master that defines a bus-wide network time that can be used to trigger events</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Perceived as expensive and possibly unnecessary</li><li>• Limited adoption in automotive</li><li>• Addresses timing, security, and throughput</li></ul>

## Selected Candidate Technologies for Automotive Time Reference Sources

Timing Source	UTC Traceability	Scale	Availability	Comments
GNSS	Yes	< 100 ns	Global	Not appropriate for all environments; may be denied
GSM NTIZ	No	~1s	Regional	Will not meet timing requirements of CV
CDMA2000 Sync	Yes	1 ms	Regional	
Free-Running Clock or other Relative Source	No		On Platform	Si through CSAC
DSRC (802.11p)			Under Development	
LTE R11+ SIB 16	Yes	10 ms		Not widely deployed. 10 ms may not be sufficiently precise.
Iridium Time (Satelles)	Yes	< 100 ns	Global	Paid Service; May have higher availability than GNSS
eLoran	Yes	< 100 ns	Europe, Asia, Middle East	Not global coverage (yet...)



## What Timing Systems Might Require 100 ns UTC?



## Safety Concerns

- Lack of understanding around the effects of intentional or incidental disruption of a timing service to a process making real-time decisions and the **impact to passenger or pedestrian safety.**
- Secured timing services are **not widely available.**
- Automotive timing services could become **regulated.**

# Connected Vehicle Platforms Present Opportunities for New Business Models and Integrated Technology Solutions

- Time is not a mature technology on the automotive platform
- Automotive industry understands their use cases, and will look to adjacent industries for solutions

## CONNECTED VEHICLE USE CASES

- Car-to-X
- Autonomous Driving
- Commoditized SW
- Cybersecurity

## ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

- Small Sensor Packages
- Mobile Supply Chain
- **Precision Timing Technologies**
- Cloud Computing
- Commoditized Software

## Customer Vehicle Experience