What do we need to do now to make 5G a reality as soon as possible?

TechXLR8, London Tech Week's Expo brought together the converging tech industries by showcasing leading technology events including; 5G World, IoT World Europe, Cloud & DevOps World, Apps World Evolution, VR & AR World, Connected Cars and Autonomous Vehicles Europe.

At one end of the room were the AR/VR pioneers with photo realistic virtual environments. PC's on their backs or constrained by a wire in a "boxing ring", but with the desire to live in the cloud connected to the real world via mobile networks; and Connected and Autonomous Vehicles with the desire to be constantly connected to traffic management, with car to car communications and able to provide passengers with high quality data services. At the other end of the room the infrastructure equipment makers.

One end of the room constrained by latency, coverage and throughput. What an opportunity for the other end of the room! But the big question in 5G seems to be who will pay? For example, there are currently about 18 million small cells in the world, many think 5G will need 20 times that number. The cost involved is clearly enormous. But the opportunity is enormous too. Some operators report 250,000% growth in data usage in the last 10 years, that could look modest in the fully connected world of 2027.

5G is not just a new radio access technology, it's a fundamental change in network architecture. So shouldn't the question be "What do we need to do now to make 5G a reality as soon as possible?".

Innovation and development needs to be tapped into now. Cloud RAN, neutral host, cognitive and pervasive radio, Mobile (or Multi- Access) Edge Computing (MEC) Network Function Virtualisation (NFV) Software Defined Networks (SDN)…. And of course Plasma Antennas reduce the cost of Base stations and CPE by 66%, it's not just us that say this, our lead customers are confirming it.