

IEEE SA Industry Connections Report

**Flexible Factory IoT: Use Cases  
and Communication Requirements  
for Wired and Wireless Bridged  
Networks**

**DRAFT FOR COMMENT**



# IEEE 802 Nendica Report: Flexible Factory IoT—Use Cases and Communication Requirements for Wired and Wireless Bridged Networks

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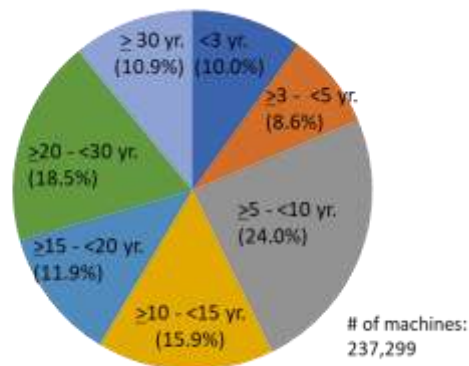
# 1 IEEE 802 Nendica Report: 2 Flexible Factory IoT—Use Cases and 3 Communication Requirements for Wired 4 and Wireless Bridged Networks

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## 5 Introduction

6 Until recently, factories have utilized mainly wired communication. A survey (Nalin<sup>1</sup>, [1]) indicates  
7 that the market share of wired networks in factory automation is 94%.<sup>2</sup> However, shorter product  
8 development cycles have demanded greater flexibility in the layout of machines and sequence of  
9 processes. As a result, there are increasing expectations for the use of wireless connectivity among  
10 machines in the manufacturing and factory processes.

11 When considering the network evolution within factories, consideration should take into account  
12 legacy manufacturing machines that have been in service for many decades. Within factory  
13 installations, sensors are attached to machines for the purpose of monitoring operations and  
14 preventive maintenance. According to a survey by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry,  
15 the lifetime of production machines is long, and about 10.9% of them have been used for more than  
16 30 years, as shown in [Figure 1](#)~~Figure 1~~. In many cases, sensors continue to be used long after they  
17 have been introduced, resulting in the coexistence of sensors and their communication interfaces  
18 in different generations as well within machines.



19  
20 **Figure 1—Share of production machines by age [2]<sup>3</sup>**

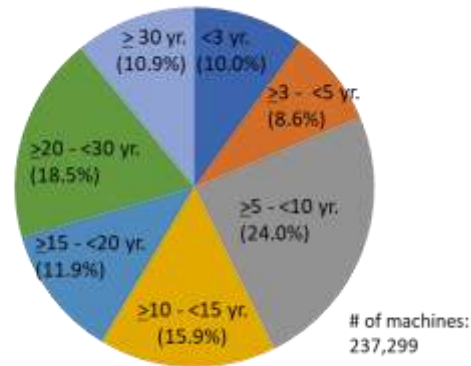
<sup>1</sup>Information on references can be found at the end of the document in the Citations section.

<sup>2</sup>Information on references can be found at the end of the document in the Citations section.

<sup>3</sup>Data came from a survey of 1033 Japanese factories administrated by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan in 2013. Total number of machines was 237,299, including grinders (12.5%), industrial robots (9.3%), automated assembly machines (8.8%), welding/fusing machines (8.7%), lathe machines (7.9%), press machines (6.7%), machining centers (5.5%), and others.



1  
2  
3 Some industrial automation systems, which are built with resilience, have been in continuous  
4 operation for over 30 years without being out of service. To adopt more wireless communications  
5 successfully in these systems, careful consideration is needed for wired and wireless bridged  
6 network.



7  
8 ~~Figure 1 Share of production machines by age [2]<sup>4</sup>~~

9 This report considers the need for network requirements in an evolving factory environment  
10 referred to as “Flexible Factory.” The Flexible Factory represents an evolved site for flexible on-  
11 demand manufacturing of variable product types with variable production volumes. Flexibility in  
12 the factory environment emphasizes mobility and configurability of manufacturing facilities. In  
13 support of the flexibility, human operators are engaged with the production process in order to  
14 oversee the on-demand production. This new flexibility requires the factory network to evolve to  
15 include wireless connectivity in support of increased mobility of humans and automated vehicles,  
16 and the reallocation of facilities.

17 The “Flexible Factory” concept is one aspect of Smart Manufacturing [3] indicating the  
18 enhancement of mobility and configurability of manufacturing facilities. It is supported by successful  
19 integration of wireless connectivity into the wired network in factories.

20 The report addresses integrated wired and wireless Internet of Things (IoT) communications in the  
21 Flexible Factory environment. The report developed under the IEEE 802 Network Enhancements for  
22 Next Decade Industry Connections Activity (Nendica) addresses integrated wired and wireless  
23 Internet of Things (IoT) communications in the factory environment, considering expected evolution  
24 to dense radio device utilization. The report includes use cases and requirements within the factory  
25 wireless environment, with a focus on bridged Layer 2 networks. It presents problems and  
26 challenges observed within the factory and reports on feasible solutions for overcoming these issues.

<sup>4</sup>Data came from a survey of 1033 Japanese factories administrated by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan in 2013. Total number of machines was 237,299, including grinders (12.5%), industrial robots (9.3%), automated assembly machines (8.8%), welding/fusing machines (8.7%), lathe machines (7.9%), press machines (6.7%), machining centers (5.5%), and others.

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1 Topics that may benefit from standardization are addressed in the section titled "TECHNOLOGICAL  
2 ENHANCEMENT OF NETWORKING FOR FLEXIBLE FACTORY IOT~~Topics that may benefit from~~  
3 ~~standardization are highlighted throughout the report.~~

4 ~~The report presents an underlying end-to-end (E2E) network architecture that addresses the~~  
5 ~~operation and control of the various services in the factory network according to their dynamic~~  
6 ~~quality-of-service (QoS) requirements. It analyzes the applicable standards and features in IEEE 802~~  
7 ~~technologies to achieve the requirements in E2E network connectivity for integrated wired and~~  
8 ~~wireless connectivity in a factory environment.~~

## 9 **Scope**

10 The scope of this report includes use cases and communication requirements for Flexible Factory  
11 networks. Dense use of wireless devices with differentiated [quality of service \(QoS\)](#) requirements  
12 and operation in a Flexible Factory environment are taken into consideration. Gap analysis from  
13 existing IEEE 802 standards and necessary technology enhancement are also covered in the context  
14 of time-sensitive networks for the future.~~The scope of this report includes use cases and~~  
15 ~~communication requirements for wired and wireless bridged networks. Dense use of wireless~~  
16 ~~devices with differentiated QoS requirements and operation in a factory environment are taken into~~  
17 ~~consideration. Gap analysis from existing IEEE 802 standards and necessary technology~~  
18 ~~enhancement are also covered in the context of time-sensitive networks for the future.~~

## 19 **Purpose**

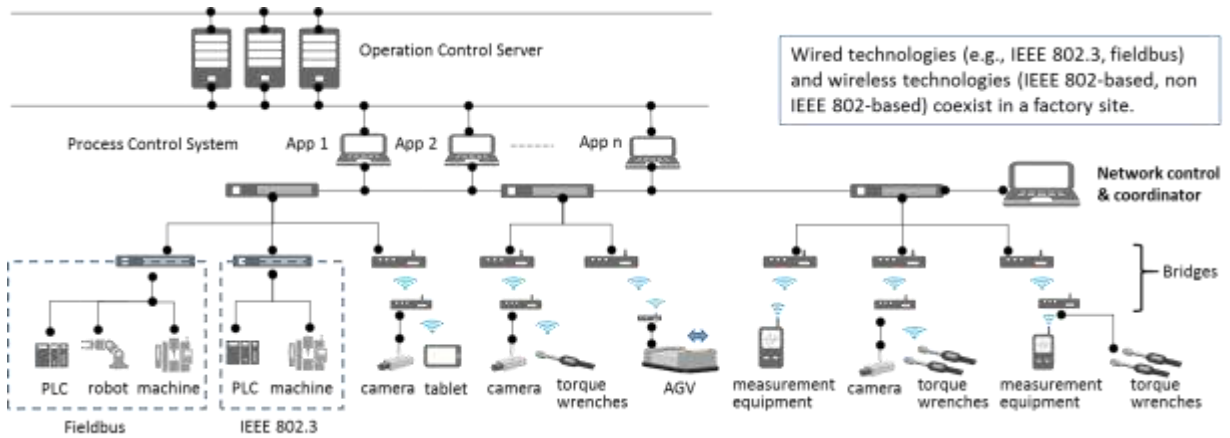
20 The purpose of this report is to document issues and challenges in managing reliable and time-  
21 sensitive connectivity in ~~the~~ Flexible Factory, in which various equipment, sensors and actuators are  
22 attached to the wired network via wireless connections~~in which various equipment is attached to~~  
23 ~~the wired network via wireless connections.~~ The report includes technical analyses of the identified  
24 features and functions in wired and wireless IEEE 802 technologies for managing requirements in  
25 end-to-end (E2E) network connectivity. The results of the analysis lead to recommendations for  
26 enhancements of IEEE 802 standards supporting the integration of wired and wireless factory  
27 networks.

## 28 **Factory Overview and Communication Network environment**

### 29 **Factory communication network environment**

30 Trends to connect devices such as sensors and cameras to factory networks are accelerated by a  
31 strong demand for improving productivity under the constraints of pressure for cost reduction.  
32 Connection of information on production processes and supply chain management within a factory  
33 and across factories has become increasingly important. It is also important to consider future needs  
34 of new technologies and network deployments, in spite of the typical long lifetime of any deployed  
35 technology in the factory floor. Communication networks in factories will undoubtedly change in  
36 the next decade by incorporating more and more wireless connectivities enabling  
37 flexibility~~flexibility in the factories.~~

1 ~~Figure 2~~Figure-2 shows an example of a network for a vehicle assembly line in a factory today.  
 2 Industrial control systems are ranging in scale from a few modular panel-mounted controllers to  
 3 thousands of field connections. They provide remote access to data attributed to various devices  
 4 such as sensors, actuators, motors, etc. The larger systems are usually implemented by Distributed  
 5 Control Systems (DCS) or Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems, which manage  
 6 Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) in the field. The entities labelled in ~~Figure 2~~Figure-2 as 'App  
 7 x' indicate system applications, e.g., preventive maintenance, management of materials and  
 8 products, and machine movement monitoring.



9

10 **Figure 2—Example of network topology for a vehicle assembly line**

11 The factory network infrastructure primarily provides the communication between and within these  
 12 components and systems. One of the distinctive features of factory networks is that the physical  
 13 devices connecting to the network are used to control and monitor real-world actions and  
 14 conditions. This results in a strong emphasis on differentiated QoS.

15 Due to performance and market advantages, Ethernet has emerged as the dominant standard for  
 16 the physical and medium-access control layers of factory networks. In the long term, Ethernet-  
 17 based industrial communication systems, such as in IEC 61784-1 [4] and IEC 61784-2 [5], are  
 18 replacing traditional fieldbus (IEC 61158 [6]) in order to support multiple higher layer protocols  
 19 supporting the interconnection of devices with various bandwidth requirements including  
 20 PLCs Ethernet, unlike serial protocols such as fieldbus (IEC 61158 [3]), supports multiple higher layer  
 21 protocols supporting the interconnection of devices with various bandwidth requirements including  
 22 PLCs, HMI (Human Machine Interface), and devices requiring high-speed communications. In high-  
 23 end industrial communication markets, the use of Ethernet has become increasing favorable due to  
 24 the introduction of the determinism based on the IEEE 802 Time-Sensitive Networking (TSN)  
 25 standards. This set of standards for bridges and bridged networks, developed and supported by the  
 26 IEEE 802.1 TSN Task Group, supports deterministic services such as guaranteed packet transport  
 27 with bounded latency, low packet delay variation, and low packet loss. For further information  
 28 about the TSN Task Group and a list of approved standards and projects in development, see the  
 29 TSN Task Group webpage [7].

30 ~~Installation of wires in a factory environment is costly.~~ Future industrial factory networks are  
 31 expected to use more wireless to reduce the installation cost as well as to enhance flexibility. By

1 utilizing wireless communications, it is possible to collect useful information from IoT sensors to  
2 flexibly allocate equipment, such as cameras, and to analyze the status of humans and machines.  
3 Wireless is an essential element that enables flexible layout of machines and order of manufacturing  
4 processes to adapt to variable-type, variable-volume production, and mass customization (Flexible  
5 Factory Partner Alliance [wWebpage](#) [8]).

6 Transmitting and receiving data over a wireless link is not always as reliable as a wired link, for  
7 example when radio is operating over shared spectrum in a crowded environment, or in spectrum  
8 with non-communicating radio emitting devices.

9 In this case, mMore effort will be required for wireless communication because of its limited and  
10 shared radio resources and the sensitive nature of the environment in which it operates. Details of  
11 methods for increasing radio links reliability is discussed in [9] and [10]. ~~Transmitting and receiving~~  
12 ~~data over a wireless link is not as reliable as a wired link. More effort will be required for wireless~~  
13 ~~communication because of its limited and shared radio resources and the sensitive nature of the~~  
14 ~~environment in which it operates.~~

15 To aid the successful integration of wired and wireless systems, network control and coordination  
16 is essential. This needs to be capable of provisioning (and re-provisioning as network resources  
17 fluctuate) to meet bandwidth and QoS requirements (see figure 2) and can be based on IEEE 802.1  
18 TSN [7] (in particular the project P802.1Qdj) and IEC [11] standards. Further consideration on E2E  
19 network control and coordination section is given in the report in section “Future directions towards  
20 enhancements for Flexible Factory network”. ~~To aid the successful integration of wired and wireless~~  
21 ~~systems, some sort of network control and coordinator may be considered. This should provide the~~  
22 ~~capability to configure and coordinate the heterogeneous network while respecting various end-to-~~  
23 ~~end QoS requirements (see Figure 2).~~

24 Within the factory network, there is a variety of traffic types generated from different factory  
25 applications. ~~Examples of different traffic types in a factory network are defined in IEC/IEEE 60802~~  
26 ~~TSN [6].~~ These are characterized as either periodic with constant bit rate or sporadic with various  
27 packet sizes. There are a number of functions and mechanisms in the aforementioned IEEE 802 TSN  
28 standards that can be used for managing and prioritizing traffic transmission across the factory  
29 network according to their QoS requirements. Note that mechanisms designed for fixed bandwidth  
30 allocation do not work well for sporadic traffic ~~While these mechanisms work well for periodic traffic~~  
31 ~~types with constant bit rate, their performance and efficiency would degrade significantly when~~  
32 ~~processing multiple sporadic data streams. This is because the IEEE 802 TSN standards mechanism~~  
33 ~~are designed for periodic traffic types with maximum bandwidth, such as video or audio data~~  
34 ~~streams, for the transmission over a specified delivery time as indicated in Clause 34 in IEEE Std~~  
35 ~~802.1Q-2018 [7].~~

36 Some factories have employed wireline networks using the Fieldbus protocol. Wireless  
37 communications have not been used extensively in factories, mainly because of their reliability,  
38 security, deployment, control and other requirements ~~of concerns regarding their reliability.~~  
39 Technology developments as well as standardization are keys to success for wireless utilization. If  
40 these efforts are proven successful, wireless use for IoT connectivity in factories can increase the  
41 connectivity of mobile or moving devices and units that cannot be connected to a wired network  
42 because of technology and topology constrains. Wireless communication helps to locate people and

1 things moving around. It can also help to protect people on the factory floor and help them identify  
2 critical situations more quickly while in motion.

3 When the factory network is extended over radio, the dynamic variation in bandwidth over the  
4 radio segment due to non-deterministic noise/interference, distortion, and fading will require  
5 provisioning of that segment so that anticipated reductions in the total available bandwidth still  
6 allow bandwidth commitments to be met. Increased emphasis has to be placed on safe equipment  
7 operation in cases of bandwidth outage, and the reaction of higher layer protocols (e.g. TCP) and  
8 signalling to bandwidth degradation beyond that usually available needs to be understood~~some~~  
9 ~~incompatibility in QoS provisioning between wired and wireless segments becomes apparent. One~~  
10 ~~reason is dynamic variation in the available bandwidth over the radio segment due to wireless link~~  
11 ~~quality variation resulting from non-deterministic noise/interference, distortion, and fading. As~~  
12 ~~such, analysis phase should be conducted according to [16] [10] to determine if the application~~  
13 ~~requirements can or cannot be met by using wireless communication~~

14 Security consideration is important for factory networks to protect confidentiality, integrity and  
15 availability of data. Security guarantees of data integrity and data origin authenticity (received  
16 packets have been received as sent, and were sent by the authenticated system identified by the  
17 source MAC address) require the delivery of the original frame as sent, even if additional unsecured  
18 control information is added to, or removed from the frame during transition. To satisfy the  
19 requirement, security standards are provided, which include IEEE Std 802.1X for Port-Based  
20 Network Access Control, IEEE Std 802.1AE for Media Access Control (MAC) Security, IEEE Std 802.11i  
21 for wireless security, IEC 62443 [12] for industrial network and system security, and many others.  
22 Security guidelines may also enhance security level for operation and maintenance of the networks.  
23 Some of them cover networks for IoT Safety/Security Development [13] and Flexile Factory [14].

24 Successful factory automation with a high degree of flexibility, dynamic management, and control  
25 of end-to-end streams across mixed wired and wireless links may be facilitated by E2E coordination  
26 as illustrated in ~~Figure 2~~Figure 2. Other topologies are also considered in [10] [11] which support  
27 both centralised and decentralised.

28 The impact of applying QoS control and time synchronization functions and protocols to  
29 heterogeneous factory networks with mixed wired and wireless links is further analyzed in the  
30 following sections. First, however, details of the environment and causes of radio impairments to  
31 the factory environment are presented.

## 32 Coordination System for Factory Automation

33 In current factories, various facilities and equipment with different standards, of different  
34 generations, and by different vendors, coexist in the same site. This heterogeneous factory  
35 environment is known as Brownfield (Hantel, et al.[15] ~~[15][8]~~). Such networks must consider  
36 various wireless interfaces, which include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Zigbee, WirelessHART, ISA100.11a, IO-  
37 Link Wireless, LPWA, and so on~~Such networks must accommodate various wireless interfaces.~~ IEC  
38 has produced coexistence guidelines for manually configuring wireless systems and networks for  
39 co-existence (IEC 62657-1:2017 [9] ~~[9][9]~~, IEC 62657-2 [10] ~~[10][10]~~). In order to overcome the  
40 variable environment for wireless communications (see “Radio Environment within Factories”  
41 below), coordination as described in “Coordination among wireless systems in unlicensed bands”

1 [below](#) may prove superior to static configuration of network elements for co-existence. [The same](#)  
 2 [concept is drafted in the IEC 62657-4 ED1 \[11\] \[11\]](#) and the associated architecture is drafted in the  
 3 [IEC 62657-3 \[16\]](#) ~~The same concept is also discussed in IEC 62657-4 ED1 [11].~~

#### 4 **Radio Environment within Factories**

5 Some factory applications require reliable, low-latency, and low-jitter data transmission compared  
 6 with applications in other environments, like offices and homes. Furthermore, measurement results  
 7 show that some factories are facing difficulties due to the severe environment for wireless  
 8 communications and/or existence of uncoordinated and independent systems in the same space.

##### 9 **(a) Severe Environment for Wireless Communications**

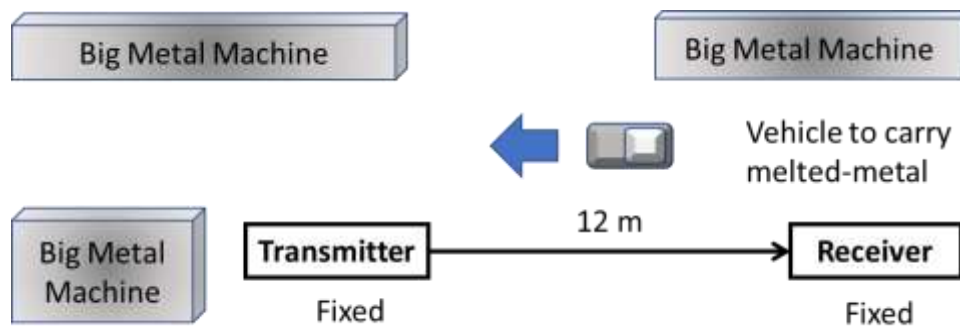
10 Two main sources of impairment to radio signals within the factory environment cause  
 11 unpredictable variations to channel capacity, namely:

- 12 1. Fluctuation of signal strength
- 13 2. Electromagnetic interference

14 Following are examples of such impairments observed within the factory environment.

##### 15 **Example of Fluctuation of Signal Strength**

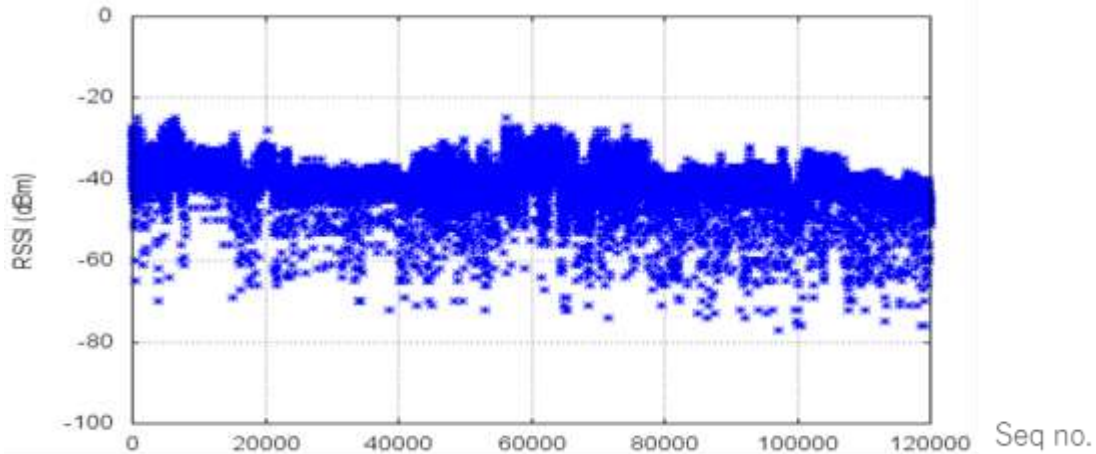
16 [Figure 3](#) ~~Figure-3~~ illustrates an environment in which the measurements of [Figure 4](#) ~~Figure-4~~ were  
 17 collected. The line of sight between the transmitter and the receiver was not blocked by any  
 18 obstacle during measurement.



19

20 **Figure 3—Layout in factory for which measurement of RSSI is recorded**

21 The observed Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) measurement for this layout is shown in  
 22 [Figure 4](#) ~~Figure-4~~. A packet with 54 bytes was sent at each sequential [\(Seq\)](#)-number [\(Seq no.\)](#) -with  
 23 10 ms separation at a data rate of 6 Mbit/s.



1

2

**Figure 4—RSSI fluctuation in factory**

3

This fluctuation in RSSI shown in [Figure 4](#) may be due to motions of materials, parts, products, and carriers in closed space, with multi-path reflections. Similar issues are reported in the NIST report entitled “Guide to Industrial Wireless Systems Deployments” [17][12].

4

5

6

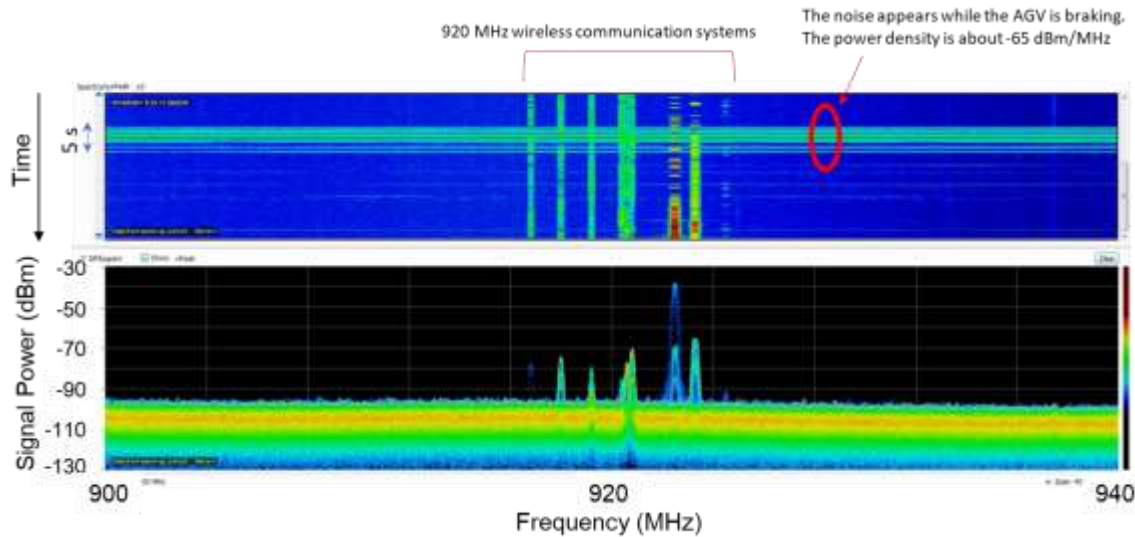
**Example of Noises:**

7

Measurements within one factory environment indicate considerable noise signal within the 920 MHz band. This is shown in [Figure 5](#). The source of the noise signal has been confirmed as Automated Guided Vehicles (AGVs), as the noise appears while the AGV is braking.

8

9



10

11

**Figure 5—Measured noise spectral density**

12

The observed noise power was  $-65$  dBm/MHz, above the receiver sensitivity for the 920 MHz wireless systems.

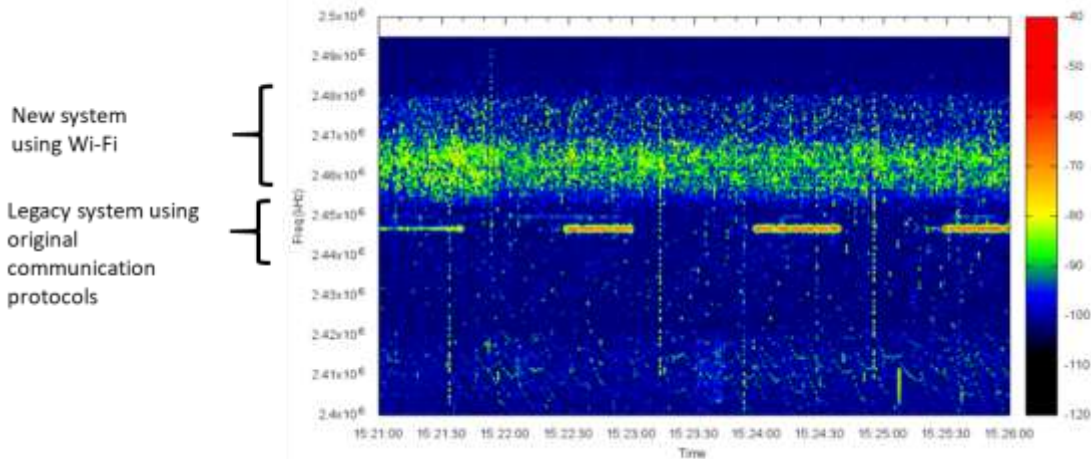
13

1 **(b) Uncoordinated and Independent Systems**

2 The modernized factory environment leads to addition and reconfiguration of machines and  
 3 equipment, much of which is outfitted with wireless network interfaces. This new environment  
 4 brings about the requirement for coexistence of heterogeneous and legacy devices and systems.

5 When considering the coexistence of uncoordinated wireless systems, we observe the problem of  
 6 interference between legacy wireless communications, used by some machinery in the factory, with  
 7 the newly introduced wireless systems. In certain factories, many troubles appear after introducing  
 8 the new wireless systems. The cause of this trouble is mutual interference between the newly  
 9 introduced wireless system and legacy systems using legacy communication protocols, such as  
 10 those based on IEEE Std 802.11 and other systems whose frequency channels overlap in the 2.4-  
 11 GHz band~~The cause of this trouble is due to mutual interference between the newly introduced~~  
 12 ~~wireless system, and legacy systems using legacy communication protocols.~~ Example of techniques  
 13 to avoid this problem is by assigning two separate channels for the two systems in different  
 14 bands~~Currently, the only way to avoid this problem is by assigning two separate frequencies for the~~  
 15 ~~two systems.~~

16 Figure 6~~Figure-6~~ shows wireless signals operating in the 2.4 GHz band in an existing factory site  
 17 where two systems coexist. The legacy system occupies one narrow channel, but only three Wi-Fi  
 18 channels are available. Because there is no common scheme for collision avoidance among different  
 19 communication protocols, an independent channel should be assigned for each system to ensure  
 20 stable factory operation. This limits the number of wireless systems, with different communication  
 21 protocols, that can operate in the same frequency band in a factory area.



22  
 23 **Figure 6—Wireless signals with coexistence of different wireless technologies—The vertical and**  
 24 **horizontal-axes show frequency (Hz) and time, and color shows signal strength (dBm) in a bar on**  
 25 **the right hand side**

26 **Wireless applications and communication requirements**



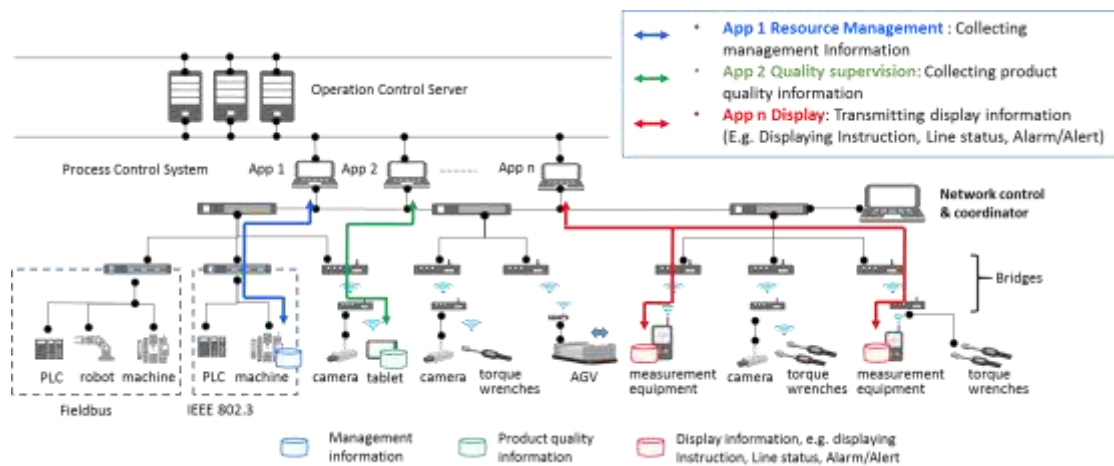
## 1 Scope of wireless applications in factory

2 The wireless applications considered in this clause illustrate wireless systems that are used currently  
3 or in the near future within factories and related facilities. The applications correspond to wireless  
4 systems that are installed for specific purpose.

5 For example, wireless applications are highlighted in the factory network as shown in [Figure 7](#)  
6 [Figure 7](#). The colored lines indicate the data streams planned for specific purposes such as “Collecting  
7 Management Information.” The wireless sub-networks consisting of multiple wireless connections  
8 are deployed to support the information transmission and aggregation for different applications.

9 The factory network must be built, configured, and managed to support the successful operation  
10 with wireless links. In some cases, a critical application may demand a separate wireless segment  
11 setup due to special concerns.

12 The upcoming section entitled “Factory Usage Scenarios” considers factory sites with large needs  
13 for wireless communication and describes usage scenarios in which multiple wireless applications  
14 coexist.



15

16

**Figure 7—Wireless applications in factory**

## 17 Wireless applications

18 In a usage survey (Flexile Factory Project—[\[18\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[13\]](#)) of wireless communication in factories,  
19 characteristics of various applications were collected. These are classified according to their  
20 purposes, and organized by their communication requirements. Collected wireless applications are  
21 listed in [Table 1](#)[Table 1](#). These were divided into six categories, (equipment control, quality  
22 supervision, factory resource management, display, human safety, and others), and then subdivided  
23 into thirteen classifications according to their corresponding purposes.

1

**Table 1—Wireless applications**

Category	Description	Classification according to the purpose
Equipment Control	Sending commands to mobile vehicles, production equipment and receiving status information.	(1) Controlling, operating and commanding of production equipment, auxiliary equipment
Quality Supervision	Collecting information related to products and states of machines during production	(2) Checking that material is being produced with correct precision (3) Checking that production is proceeding with correct procedure and status
Factory Resource Management	Collecting information about whether production is proceeding under proper environmental conditions, and whether personnel and things <sup>6</sup> contributing to productivity enhancement are being managed appropriately	(4) Checking that the production environment (e.g., according to factors such as temperature, pressure, etc.) is being appropriately managed (5) Monitoring movement of people and things (6) Checking the status of equipment and checking the material, small equipment and tool stocks (7) Monitoring the maintenance status of equipment during operation (8) Appropriate recording of work and production status
Display	For workers, receiving necessary support information, for managers, monitoring the production process and production status	(9) Providing appropriate work support, such as instructions and tracking information (10) Visually display whether the process is proceeding without congestion or delay, production irregularities (11) Visually display the production status, the production schedule, and any deviations or operational abnormalities
Human Safety	Collecting information about dangers to workers	(12) Ensuring the safety of workers
Others	Communication infrastructure with non-specific purposes	(13) Cases other than the above

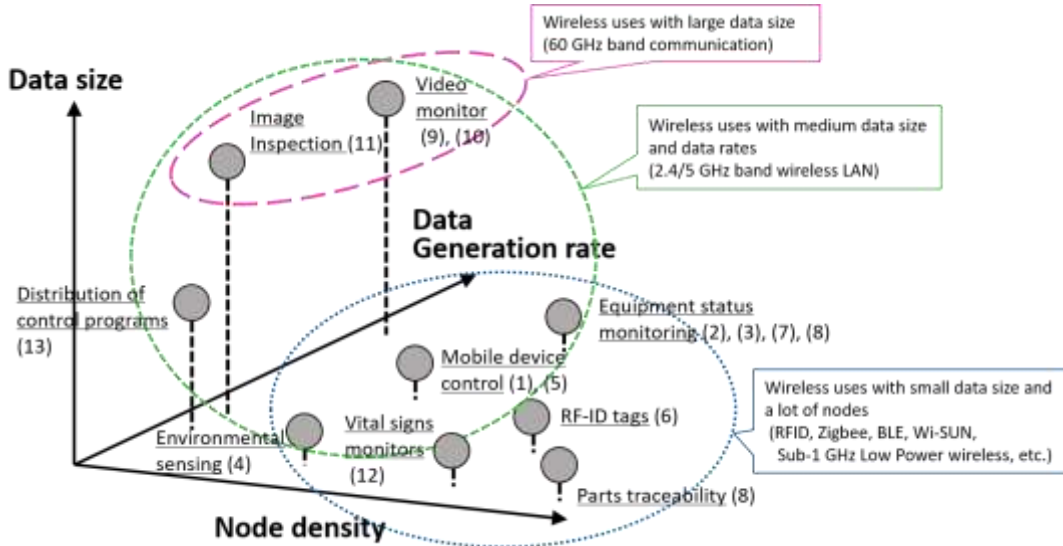
2

### 3 Communication requirements

4 **Figure 8** shows representative wireless applications, with corresponding classifications  
5 (1)–(13) from **Table 1**, and their wireless communication features. Values of data size, data  
6 generation rate, number of wireless nodes, and so forth, depend on the required functions of the

<sup>6</sup>Physical objects such as materials and equipment related to production are called “things”.

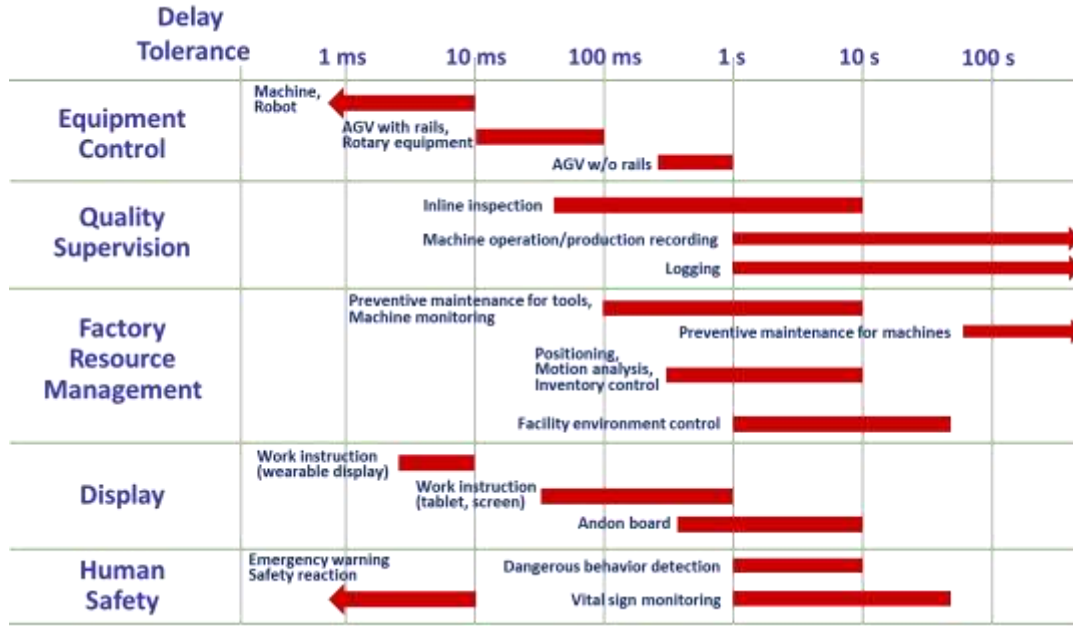
1 systems. Wireless networks use different wireless frequency bands and wireless standards. High-  
 2 frequency bands such as 60 GHz band are expected to be effective for systems with relatively large  
 3 data volume requirements (image inspection equipment, etc.). 5 GHz band and 2.4 GHz band  
 4 networks are used for systems with medium requirements of data sizes and data generation rate,  
 5 such as distributing control programs and control of mobile equipment. Relatively low wireless  
 6 frequency bands such as below 1 GHz are being used for applications with low power requirements  
 7 (such as environmental sensing).<sup>7</sup>



8  
 9 **Figure 8—Representative wireless applications with corresponding classifications (1)–(13) from**  
 10 **Table 1 and their wireless communication features**

11 [Figure 9](#) shows the permissible delay for representative wireless applications as in [Flexible](#)  
 12 [Factory Project \[18\]](#) and [NICT pPress rRelease- \[21\]](#). [This permissible delay is for end-to-end](#)  
 13 [including wired and wireless portions.](#) For some wireless applications, such as robot control and  
 14 urgent announcement, the urgency and accuracy of information arrival timing requires less than  
 15 one millisecond latency. On the other hand, particularly in the categories of quality (inline inspection,  
 16 etc.) and management (preventive maintenance, etc.), there are many wireless applications that  
 17 tolerate latencies larger than 100 ms.

<sup>7</sup>Lower-frequency radio waves propagate better than higher-frequency one. This allows a better range and lower transmitting power, resulting in low power consumption. Environmental sensing that requires long life battery operation is a good example of low power applications. Lower-frequency bands below 1 GHz have become typical for such applications. [19] [20] [14] [15].



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Figure 9—Permissible delay of representative wireless applications

3 **Details of wireless application and communication requirements**

4 Communication requirements for the thirteen classifications of wireless applications are organized  
 5 in Table 2 to Table 14. Each table contains further detailed purpose of the wireless application,  
 6 corresponding information, and the communication requirements of transmitted data size,  
 7 communication rate, delivery time tolerance, and node density.<sup>8</sup> These attributes are based on a  
 8 survey involving for a number of samples within many factories.<sup>9</sup>

9 **Table 2—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for equipment control**

10 (1) Controlling, operating and commanding of production equipment and auxiliary equipment

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
1	Control of liquid injection	Water volume	64	Once per 1 min	100 ms	1
2	Operation of conveyor control switch	PLC	16	5 per 1 d	100 ms	5

<sup>8</sup>Node density: number of terminals per 20 m × 20 m. This area dimension is based on the structure in a typical factory in which pillars are separated by 20 m.

<sup>9</sup>The survey in [18][13] was conducted in 2016 by collecting information from factories of foods, beverages, steels, pulp and paper mill, semiconductors, electrical equipment, electronics devices, communication devices, automotive, chemical plant, precision instruments, and metal processing. The survey included information from companies that provide devices and equipment with communication functions to factories. Additional information available on the internet was also included in the survey results.

3	AGV control	Go signal, positioning	100	Once per 1 min	100 ms	1 to 10
4	Bottle filling	Fill valves	400	Once per 1 ms	500 μs	2
5	Warehouse	Stacker crane positioning	10	Once per 2 ms to 5 ms	1 ms	1 to 20

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**Table 3—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Quality Supervision -1**

(2) Checking that products are being produced with correct precision

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
6	Size inspection by line camera (line sensor)	Size measurements	30 K	Once per 1 s	5 s	1 to 5
7	Detect defect state	Defect information (video)	500	Once per 100 ms	500 ms	1 to 5
8	Detect incorrect operation	Anomalous behavior due to adding impurities (e.g., Contamination)	1 M	Once per 1 s	10 s	1 to 5

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**Table 4—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Quality Supervision -2**

(3) Checking that manufacture is proceeding with correct procedure and status

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Arrival Time Tolerance	Node density
9	Sensing for managing air conditioning	Air stream to control temperature in different zones	64	Once per 1 s	1 min	1
10	Monitoring of equipment	State of tools, disposables	A few hundreds	Once per 1 s	1 s	2
11	Counting number of wrench operations	Pulses	64	Once per 1 min	100 ms	10

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**Table 5—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Factory Resource Management -1**

1 (4) Checking that the factory environment is being correctly managed

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
12	Managing clean room (booth)dust count	Dust count (particles)	32	Once per 1 min	5 s	5
13	Managing carbon dioxide concentration	CO2 concentration	16	Once per 1 min	5 s	2
14	Preventive maintenance	Machine’s temperature	A few tens	Once per event	1 s	2

2

3

4 **Table 6—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for**  
 5 **Factory Resource Management -2**

6 (5) Monitoring movement of people and things

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
15	Movement analysis	Wireless beacon	A few tens	Twice per 1 s	A few seconds	1 to 10
16	Measuring location of people and things, e.g., radio beacon	Transmission time (phase), radio signal strength, etc.	A few tens of thousands	Once per 1 s	1 s	2
17	Measuring location of products	Location of products during manufacture	200	Once per 1 s	1 s	20

7

8 **Table 7—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for**  
 9 **Factory Resource Management -3**

10 (6) Checking the status of equipment and checking the material, small equipment and tool  
 11 stocks

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
18	Racking assets (beacon transmission)	Information of equipment and things	200	Once per 1 s	1 s	20

19	Tracking parts, stock	RFID tag	1 K	1~10 times per 30 min	100 ms	3 to 30
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1

2 **Table 8—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Factory Resource**  
3 **Management -4**

4 (7) Monitoring the maintenance status of equipment during operation

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
20	Managing facilities	Activity of PLC	4 K	Once per 1 s ~ once per 1 min	1 s ~ few tens of 1 s	1 to 10
21	Measuring energy	Energy, current fluctuation	64	Once per 1 min	1 min	1
22	Monitoring revolving warning light	Defect information	100	A few times per 1 h	1 s	25

5 **Table 9—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for**  
6 **Factory Resource Management -5**

7 (8) Appropriate recording of work and production status

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
23	Work record	Text data	100	Once per 1 min	1 s	9
24	Work proof	Certification data	1 K	Once per 3 h	10 s	9
25	Checking completion of process	Image, torque waveform	100 K	Once per 1 s (up to 1 min)	200 ms	1 to 14
26		OK, NG	100	Once per 1 s (up to 1 min)	200 ms	1 to 14

8

9 **Table 10—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Display -1**

10 (9) Providing appropriate work support, such as instructions and tracking information

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
27	Work commands (wearable device)	Image	600	Once per 10 s ~ 1 min	1~10 s	10 to 20
28	View work manual	Text data	100	Once per 1 h	10 s	9

29	Display information (image display)	Image (video/still image)	5 M	Once per 10 s ~ 1 min	A few seconds	1 to 5
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**Table 11—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Display -2**

(10) Visually display whether the process is proceeding without congestion or delay production irregularities

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
30	Managing congestion	Counter (number or remaining number)	A few bytes	Once per 10 s ~ 1 min	A few seconds	1 to 10
31	Managing operation activity	Activity of PLC	128	Once per 1 h	100 ms	<i>Table continues 2</i>
32	Displaying revolving warning light	ON/OFF	A few bytes	Once per 10 s ~ 1 min	0.5~2.5 s	30

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**Table 12—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for Display -3**

(11) Visually display the production status, the production schedule, and any deviations or operational abnormalities

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
33	Managing operation activity	Image	6 K	30 per 1 s (30fps)	500 ms	1
34	Supporting workers	PLC	200	Once per 10 s ~ 1 min	500 ms	5
35	Supporting maintenance	Image, audio	200	Once per 100 ms	500 ms	1

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**Table 13—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for human safety**

(12) Ensuring the safety of worker



No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
36	Detecting dangerous operation	Image	6 K	10 per 1 s (10fps)	1 s	1
37	Collecting bio info for managing worker safety	Vitals information (wearable)	100	Once per 10 s	1 s	9
38		Vitals information (fixed, relay)	200	Once per 1 min	5 s	20
39		Gait	About 100K	~10 per 1 s (1 fps~10 fps)	1 min	10 to 20
40	Detect entry to forbidden area	Body temperature, infrared	2	When event occurs	1 s	1
41	detect entry in the proximity of a machine	Position of human (via connected wireless unit)	10 - 30	100 to 1000 per 1 s	2 to 20 ms	1 to 50

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**Table 14—List of wireless applications and communication requirements for others**

(13) Cases other than above

No.	Wireless application		Communication requirements			
	Purpose	Corresponding Information	Transmit Data Size (bytes)	Communication Rate	Delivery Time Tolerance	Node density
42	Sending data to robot teaching box	Coordinates	Few hundred thousand bytes	Twice per year	Less than 500 ms (safety standard)	10
43	Relay of images moving	Video	20 K	30 per 1 s	20 ms	5
44	Techniques, knowhow from experts	Video, torque waveforms	24 K	60 per 1 s (60 fps)	None	1

5

**6 Factory usage scenarios**

7 The usage scenario represents a complete manufacturing process that utilize a number of factory  
8 applications to achieve a deliverable product. Examples of factor usage scenarios include the  
9 following:

- 10     ▪ Metal processing site

- 1       ▪ Mechanical assembly site
- 2       ▪ Elevated and high temperature work site
- 3       ▪ Logistics warehouse site

4 Example factory-usage scenarios and their collective applications used are described next.

## 5 Usage scenarios example: Metal processing site

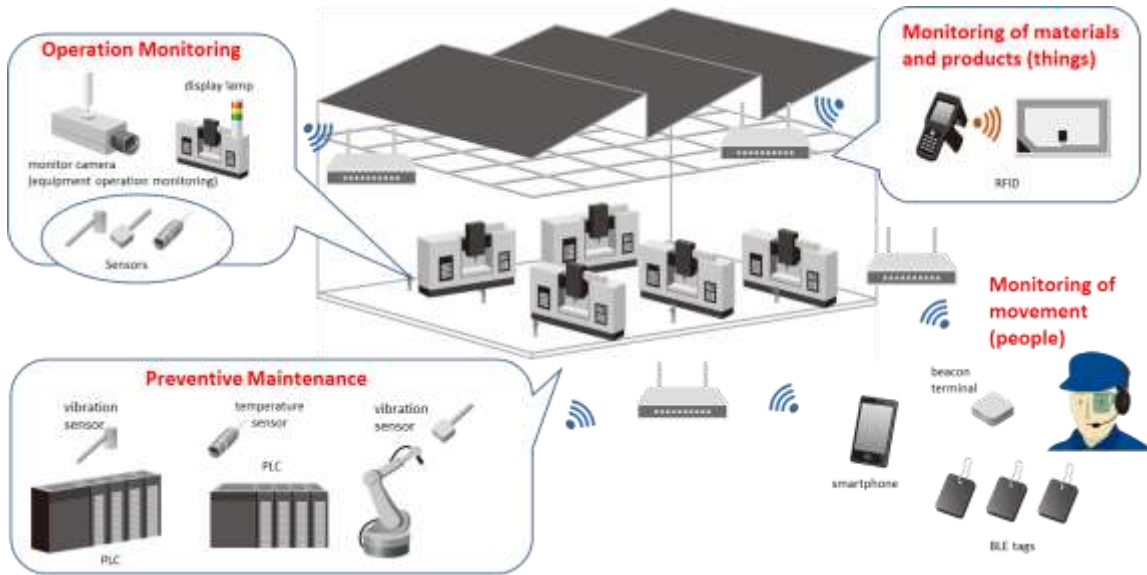
6 An illustration depicting a wireless usage scene at a metal working site is shown in Figure 10. A  
7 building has a row of machine tools, and materials and products (things) are managed in a certain  
8 area of the building. Workers are at locations within the building as needed to operate the  
9 machines. In the case of operation monitoring and preventive maintenance, sensors may be  
10 attached to machines. As machine tools may be used for twenty to thirty years, there may be many  
11 old machines, with sensors attached after installation. Communication is necessary to collect  
12 information from sensors, but if ceilings are high, installing wiring requires high site work, making  
13 the cost of wiring expensive. The cost and long work times required by rewiring work when  
14 machines are relocated make wireless communication desirable. In the case of management of  
15 objects and analysis of worker movement, the subjects move, so the use of wireless communication  
16 is a necessity.

17 In the case of operation monitoring, monitor cameras and sensors are installed on machines to  
18 monitor the operation status of the machines. For wireless operation, wired LAN to wireless LAN  
19 media converters are installed on wired LAN ports. On machines without wired LAN ports, adaptors  
20 may be connected for wireless networking. A wireless network is formed between the machines  
21 and a wireless access point, and when an intermittently operated machine is switched on, a link  
22 with a wireless access point is established automatically without human intervention. As the  
23 wireless interference conditions change with the ON/OFF of wireless devices operating in  
24 coordination with the intermittent operation start and stop of nearby machines, it is necessary for  
25 the wireless network to have flexibility, such as monitoring the radio environment and switching  
26 the used frequency channel. Using this network, time series data such as vibration and torque  
27 waveforms acquired by tools and sensors inside machines during operation are sent to a server.  
28 Using the acquired data on the server, analysis software detects anomalies or anomaly precursors,  
29 and informs a manager. According to requirements such as the number of devices, transmitted data  
30 volume, and necessity of real-time response, the data is transmitted by an appropriate wireless  
31 network such as wireless LAN, Bluetooth, or Zigbee.

32 In the case of preventive maintenance, various sensors are installed on machine tools. The sensors  
33 and wireless communication device are implemented on a single terminal, and terminals may  
34 execute primary processing before sending, or the gateway may execute primary processing on data  
35 collected from sensors via a wireless network. When sensors and wireless device are implemented  
36 on a single terminal, the terminal may aggregate data received from other terminals within radio  
37 range and attach it to its own data when it transmits to reduce the number of transmissions. It may  
38 be necessary to sample or compress the data to reduce the volume of data transmitted. In addition,  
39 data may be normally recorded at the terminal, but limited under certain conditions in order to  
40 reduce the data volume.

41 In the case of management of objects and movement of workers, wireless communications such as  
42 Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) are used to monitor the locations of people and things. A wireless  
43 location monitoring system uses tags that periodically transmit beacons, and gateways that receive

1 the beacons. Multiple gateways are placed in the monitor area and tags are attached to each person  
2 or thing to be monitored. Beacons transmitted by a tag are received by multiple gateways and the  
3 received signal strengths are used to determine the location of the tag. By obtaining acceleration  
4 information as well as tag ID, the accuracy of location information can be increased. Wireless  
5 communication is also used when an operator remotely operates a robot with a terminal called a  
6 teaching box. The operator moves around the robot to visually check the position of the robot and  
7 its relation with the object being processed. The movement of the operator is only around the robot  
8 and not over a wide area, but it is important that the response of the wireless communications is  
9 fast. In order to ensure safety, commands triggered by an emergency stop switch need to be  
10 transmitted immediately and reliably.

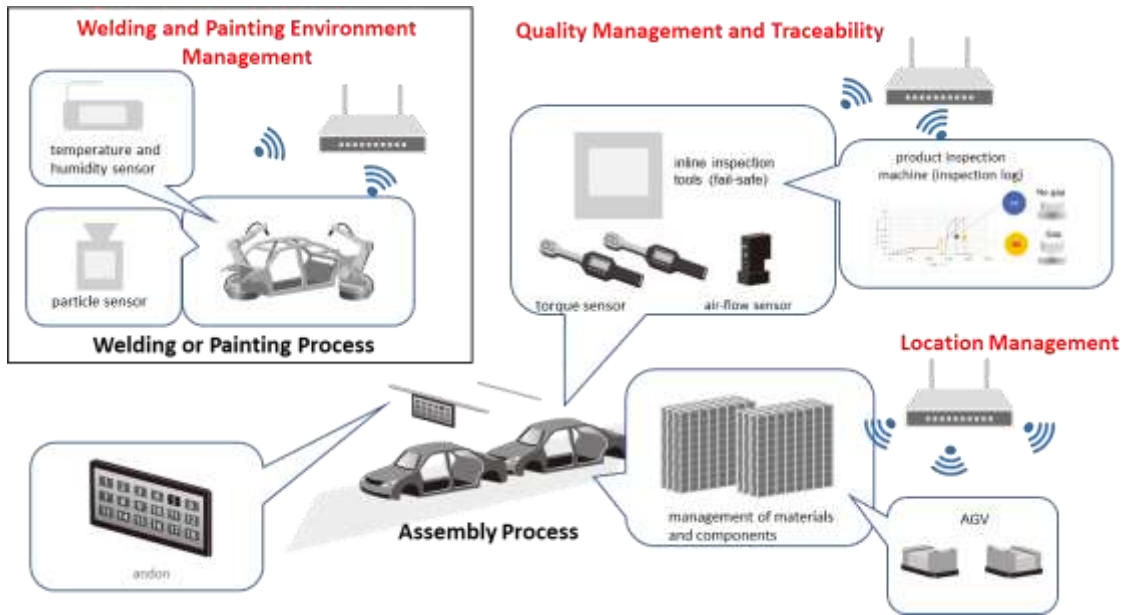


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12

Figure 10—Usage scene: Metal working site

### 13 Usage scenarios example: Mechanical assembly site

14 A wireless usage scene at a mechanical assembly site is shown in Figure 11 as an example in  
15 automotive plant. In a mechanical assembly plant, the benefit of wireless communications is  
16 expected where there is management of building systems for collection and analysis of data for  
17 quality management and traceability, and management of operations, such as AGVs for transport  
18 of components.



1

2

**Figure 11—Usage scene example: Mechanical assembly site (automotive plant)**

3

4 Wireless communication is used to send data to servers—inspection data from large numbers of  
 5 workbenches, operation sequences in Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) used for machine  
 6 control, error information and environmental information. Also, work tools such as torque-  
 7 wrenches, acquire and send data to servers such as the number of wrench operations and the  
 8 success of the operations, and even time series data such as vibration and torque waveforms. As  
 9 ISO 9001 specifies the mandatory recording of inspection data, it requires the reliable collection of  
 10 data, although strict requirements are not imposed on communication latency. Hence when  
 11 transmitting data, it is necessary to check radio usage in the neighborhood, and use available  
 12 frequency bands and time slots (transmission times) according to the requirements such as number  
 13 of machines, transmitted data volume and necessity of real-time response.

14 In the case of production management display (such as an “Andon” display board), in coordination  
 15 with the above information, wireless communication is used to send data for real-time display of  
 16 production status information, such as production schedule, production progress and production  
 17 line operation status.

18 In the case of AGV with autonomous driving ability, the AGV itself will be able to control its current  
 19 position and path. Each AGV will be sent a command “go from position A to position B” from a  
 20 parent device (fixed device) and the AGV will move accordingly. As an AGV may move over a wide  
 21 area in a factory, it is possible that in some locations the quality of wireless communication will  
 22 degrade due to physical obstruction by facilities and manufacturing machine tools. Hence, it is  
 23 necessary to consider the radio propagation environment when deciding where to place wireless  
 24 access points and to consider the use of multi-hop networks. The number of mobile vehicles used  
 25 in factories is continuing to increase, and the related issues of the radio environment will require  
 26 more consideration in the future.

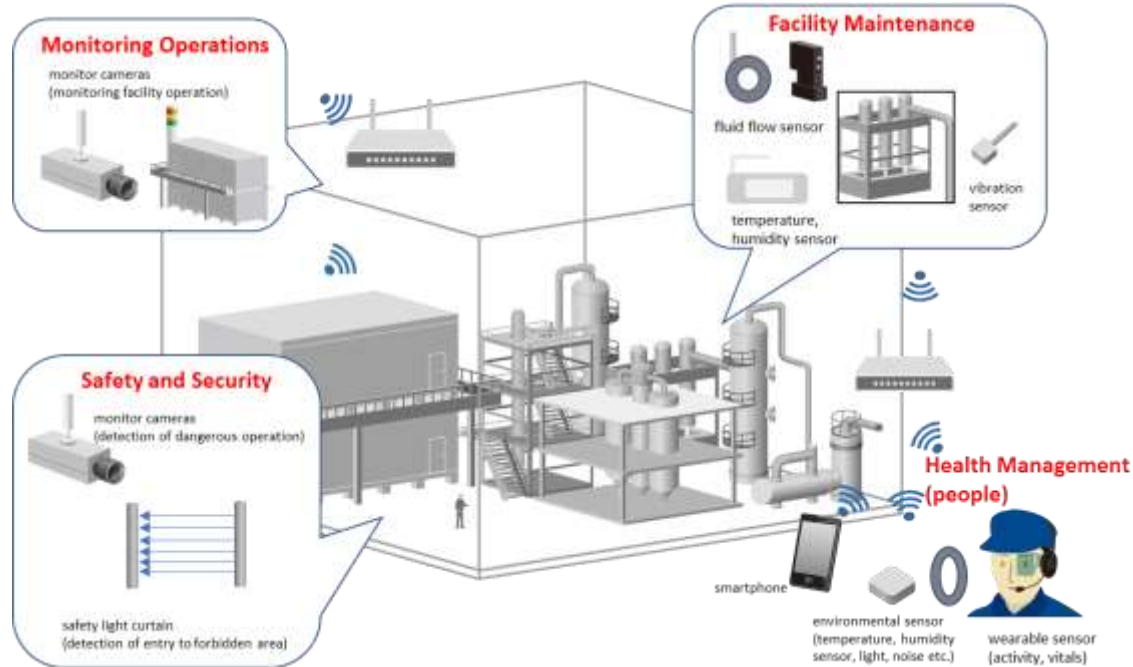
1 In a modern automotive plant, the welding or painting process is usually located adjacent to the  
2 mechanical assembly. As such, IoT devices such as temperature, humidity, and particle sensors are  
3 used for environmental monitoring in places such as paint-shops or clean-booths as shown in Figure  
4 13. Wireless communication is used for collecting sensor information remotely at any time from  
5 outside the rooms where the sensors are installed without requiring reconstruction work. The  
6 sensors transmit collected environmental information to an upper layer server at periodic time  
7 intervals. It is required that no data loss occurs. As such, communication routes can be checked  
8 when necessary at times of trouble, and relay devices can be installed where radio signal reception  
9 is weak without complex expert knowhow.

## 10 Usage scenarios example: Elevated and high temperature work site

11 Figure 12 shows an illustration of a wireless communication scene in an elevated and high  
12 temperature work site. In production sites such as chemical plants and steel plants, there are  
13 intrinsic dangers due to collisions and falls, and extreme environments with high temperatures and  
14 high humidity. Monitoring each worker's location and situation from vitals sensors and visual  
15 images will be an important application. Workers move about, so it is necessary to collect data using  
16 wireless communication. It is assumed that production facilities will be used for many years, so it is  
17 necessary to collect information about facility operation and monitor facility operation from a  
18 preventive maintenance perspective. In regard to collecting information from existing facilities, the  
19 use of wireless systems that can be easily be added are promising for monitoring facility operation  
20 using cameras and indicator lights.

21 In a production site with elevated or high-temperature work places, such as a drying furnace or a  
22 blast furnace, wireless communication is used to manage the safety of workers by collecting  
23 workers' vitals sensor information (pulse, activity, body temperature, room temperature, posture  
24 for fall detection, etc.) and environmental information (temperature and humidity, pressure, dew  
25 point, etc.), and remotely monitoring the situation at the production site using cameras etc. In such  
26 cases, wireless communications, such as multi-hop networks with wireless LAN/920 MHz  
27 communication, are used to collect data. Using sensors that detect entry into forbidden areas,  
28 combined with BLE beacons, it is possible to monitor the location of workers and warn of entry into  
29 dangerous areas. Wireless communications are basically used to transmit position information and  
30 vital information of each worker, but it is also possible to send alerts to workers and managers when  
31 an abnormal situation arises. Vitals sensors should be of types that do not interfere with the work  
32 to be performed, such as wristwatch type, pendant type, or breast-pocket type.

33 The communication terminals in a production site may form a wireless multi-hop network, and  
34 upload sensor data to a cloud service or server (where the data is finally collected) via a gateway.  
35 The uploaded data is used to monitor the worker's status. For example, in the case of a system with  
36 a path from a sensor attached to a worker via a gateway to a server, wireless communication from  
37 the sensor to the gateway might use 920 MHz band communication, wireless LAN, or Bluetooth.  
38 Communication from gateway to server will require connection via 3G/LTE or wired LAN. When the  
39 server is far from the gateway, and it is necessary to have a wireless connection (such as when  
40 wiring is not possible) a wireless mesh using wireless LAN, or a point-to-point 60 GHz frequency  
41 band system may be used as a backbone. In this case, interference between the wireless backbone  
42 and the communication between sensors and gateway must be considered.



1  
2 **Figure 12—Usage scene example: Elevated and high temperature work site**

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5  
6 **Usage scenarios example: Logistics warehouse site**

7 In a logistics warehouse,<sup>10</sup> as shown in Figure 13, three-dimensional automatic storage<sup>11</sup> is used to  
8 increase spatial use efficiency. Operation of a three-dimensional automatic storage system requires  
9 monitoring of storage operation, preventive maintenance of the stacking system, management of  
10 AGV movement, and so on. A large-scale warehouse has multiple storage racks placed in a row,  
11 each of over 30 m height and 100 m length, and separated by a few meters or less.

12 The operational status of the warehouse is monitored in conjunction with the transport of storage  
13 items in and out by a computer-controlled stacker-crane. When the stacker-crane makes an  
14 emergency stop due to detecting a stacking fault, workers might have to climb up a high ladder,  
15 tens of meters high, to manually check and repair the stack.

16 When the inspection and repair operation is in a high place, there is greater danger for the worker  
17 and operation delay time increases. Previously, workers had to spend time checking the storage  
18 even when there was actually no need to stop. Now cameras are used to remotely check the  
19 situation on the stacks and the stacker-crane to decide whether operation should be halted or  
20 continued, reducing the number of dangerous tasks of workers, and reducing the average time to  
21 recovering normal operation. However, in large-scale storage systems, the stacker-cranes move  
22 over large ranges, and wiring to cameras attached to stacker-cranes is difficult. Using wireless  
23 cameras eliminates the need for signal cables, and so the installation of wireless cameras in three-

<sup>10</sup>A warehouse in which items are stored and managed in racks, and moved in and out automatically with computer control.

<sup>11</sup>Equipment for transporting in and out of a three-dimensional automatic storage system.

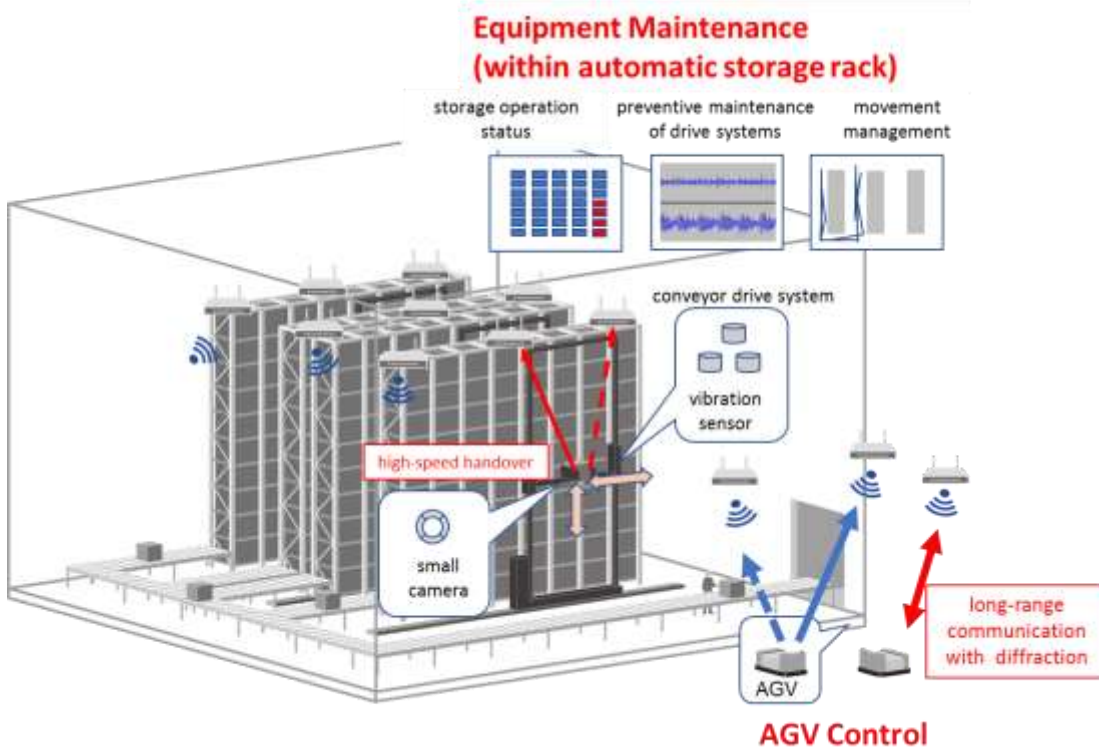
1 dimensional automatic storage systems is increasing. Information is sent from the wireless devices  
2 on the luggage platform of the stacker-crane to wireless access points (fixed stations) that are  
3 placed at one or both ends of the stacker-crane's floor rail.

4 The images sent from the camera could be video (for example, 30 frames-per-second VGA) or still  
5 images (for example, JPEG or PNG with VGA resolution). The speed of the luggage-platform could  
6 be as fast as 5 m/s, and the wireless device should automatically select, connect to, and transmit  
7 data to the wireless access point with the best link quality. It should also avoid interference with  
8 wireless devices on other stacker-cranes that might be running on parallel racks separated by just a  
9 few meters.

10 In three-dimensional automated storage systems, higher speeds of stacker cranes and their  
11 continuous operation are required to increase the transport efficiency. Sensors are attached to the  
12 drive system that drives the vertical motion of the luggage-platform, and the drive system that  
13 drives horizontal motion of the crane along its rails. A wireless communication device relays the  
14 sensor data, and computer analysis, and learning of the data is used for preventive maintenance of  
15 the drive systems.

16 In some cases, in order to increase the flexibility of the layout in the warehouse, the luggage carried  
17 out by a stacker-crane is transported to another storage or work place by a forklift or AGV. The  
18 magnetic tape that is used on the floor to guide the motion of a trackless AGV cannot carry data, so  
19 control information such as destination is sent by wireless communication. Also, forklifts and AGVs  
20 have devices for detecting their location, and location information is relayed by wireless  
21 communication. Location information collected from forklifts and AGVs is used to manage their  
22 operation. Methods are also being developed to improve transport efficiency by coordinating their  
23 motion with stacker-cranes, allowing the selection of the AGV with the shortest travel distance, for  
24 example.

25 Concerning the use of sensors for preventive maintenance on drive systems of stacker-cranes, and  
26 managing movement of forklifts and AGVs, in large-scale factories, the range of motion may extend  
27 over large areas with various large structures such as three-dimensional storage racks. Therefore,  
28 the placement of wireless access points, ~~and~~ the selection of wireless frequency band ~~are important~~  
29 ~~issues and possible use of directional antenna are important issues.~~



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Figure 13—Usage scene example: Logistics warehouse site

3 **Technological Enhancement of Networking for Flexible Factory IoT**

4 **Coexisting of wide variety of factory applications with different requirements**

5 According to ~~Figure 9~~ and Table 2 through Table 14 in “Wireless Applications and  
 6 Communication Requirements,” examples of QoS tolerances in factory applications are summarized  
 7 in Table 15. Table 15 shows that tolerance of latency is classified into small, medium or large,  
 8 tolerance of bandwidth is classified into wide, medium or narrow, and tolerance of packet loss is  
 9 classified into loss intolerant or loss-tolerant. It means that factory applications may be represented  
 10 by not only traffic classes but also additional information related to QoS requirements, which  
 11 include traffic flow identification and specifications in IEEE Std 802.1Q [22] or similar ones depicting  
 12 data attributes. It means that factory applications may require a large number of QoS classes more  
 13 than the eight classes specified in IEEE Std 802.1Q. To deal with a large number of QoS class  
 14 requirements, defining usage of tag fields may be needed for precise and fine QoS control on L2.

15 In addition, there would be a requirement to map priority from the IEEE 802.1 domain to the specific  
 16 media (e.g., wireless link) and achieve the required performance.

17 **Table 15—Examples of QoS Tolerances in Factory Applications**



Category of Wireless Applications	QoS Tolerances							
	Latency (ms)			Bandwidth (kbit/s)			Packet Loss	
	<100	100~1000	>1000	>1000	100~1000	<100	loss-intolerant	loss-tolerant
Equipment Control	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Quality Supervision	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Factory Resource Management		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Display		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human Safety	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Others		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓

1

2 **Overview of the standard landscape for Flexible Factory IoT**

3 A list of relevant existing standards and standard projects are provided in Table 16.

4

5 **Table 16—Standards and Projects relevant to Flexible Factory Network**

Working Group	Standard and Project	Title
IEEE 802.1	IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018 Clause 35	Stream Reservation Protocol (SRP)
	IEEE Std 802.1AS-REV	Timing and Synchronization for Time-Sensitive Applications
	IEEE Std 802.1BA	Audio Video Bridging (AVB) Systems
	IEEE Std 802.1Qcc	Stream Reservation Protocol (SRP) Enhancements and Performance Improvements
	IEEE Std 802.1CB	Frame Replication and Elimination for Reliability
	IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018 Clause 36	Priority-based Flow Control
	IEEE Std 802.1CF-2019	IEEE Recommended Practice for Network Reference Model and Functional Description of IEEE 802® Access Network
	IEC/IEEE 60802	TSN Profile for Industrial Automation
IEEE 802.11	IEEE Std 802.11aa	MAC Enhancements for Robust Audio Video Streaming
	IEEE Std 802.11ak	Enhancements for Transit Links Within Bridged Networks
	IEEE Std 802.11e	Medium Access Control (MAC) Quality of Service Enhancements
	IEEE Std 802.11ae	Prioritization of Management Frames

6 Non IEEE 802 standards also exist and can be found in IEC website [23].

7 TSN defines standard L2 technology to provide deterministic capability on IEEE 802.1Q bridged  
 8 networks. It guarantees end-to-end QoS for the real-time applications with bounded latency,  
 9 minimized jitter, and high reliability. Industries like automotive, industrial and professional audio  
 10 comprised by multiple network devices will benefit from deterministic connectivity and  
 11 optimization over Ethernet wires.

1 Future industrial wireless communications will take advantage of this infrastructure. The  
2 wired/wireless integrated networks for future flexible factories IoT scenarios should be able to  
3 accommodate various applications with different end-to-end QoS requirements. These  
4 requirements can be guaranteed by closing the gaps within the following functions:

- 5     ▪ End-to-end stream reservation in a wired/wireless integrated network
- 6     ▪ Wireless link redundancy for reliability and jitter improvement
- 7     ▪ Adaptation to rapid changes in wireless environments
- 8     ▪ Coordination among the wireless transmissions in the unlicensed bands

## 9 **Gaps analysis of existing standards and technologies for Flexible Factory network**

### 10 **End-to-end stream reservation in a wired/wireless integrated network**

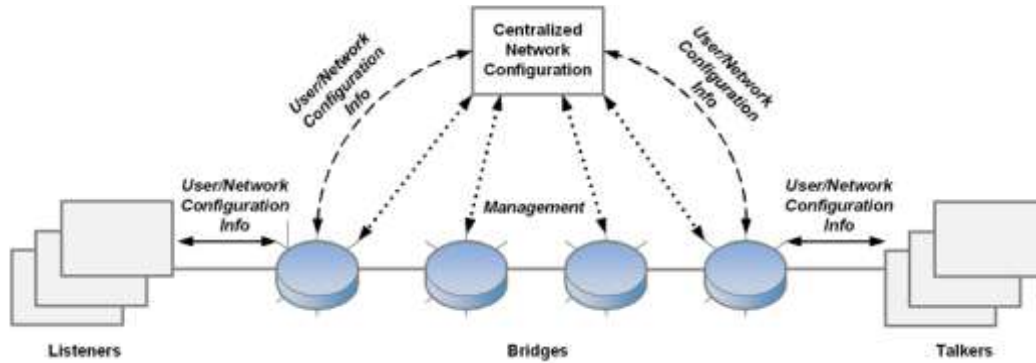
11 Streams are used to describe the data communication between end stations with strict time  
12 requirements. In 2010, the 'Audio/Video Bridging (predecessor of TSN) Task Group' standardized  
13 the Stream Reservation Protocol (SRP) as IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018 Clause 35, which was then  
14 incorporated in the mainline IEEE 802.1Q standard.

15 The protocol allows end stations to register their willingness to "Talk" or "Listen" to specific streams,  
16 and it propagates that information through the network to reserve resources for the streams.  
17 Network bridges between the end stations maintain bandwidth reservation records when a Talker  
18 and one or more Listeners register their intentions for the same stream over a network path with  
19 sufficient bandwidth and other resources. SRP utilizes three signaling protocols from IEEE Std  
20 802.1Q-2018, MMRP (Clause 10.9), MVRP (Clause 11), MSRP (subclause 35.1), and the new Project  
21 P802.1Qdd on Resource Allocation Protocol to establish stream reservations across a bridged  
22 network and MSRP (subclause 35.1), to establish stream reservations across a bridged network.

23 IEEE 802.11aa specifies a set of enhancements to the original IEEE 802.11 MAC QoS functions that  
24 enables the transportation of AV streams with robustness and reliability over wireless shared  
25 medium. It defines the interworking with bridge networks to facilitate end-to-end stream  
26 reservations when one or more IEEE 802.11 wireless links are in between Talker and Listener.

27 It is stated in Annex C.3 of IEEE Std 802.1Q that "From the bandwidth reservation standpoint, an  
28 IEEE 802.11 BSS network is modeled as a Bridge." As one of the essential advantages of SRP, it  
29 provides a single bandwidth reservation protocol across multiple media types of both wired and  
30 wireless.

31 The recently published standard, IEEE Std 802.1Qcc, specifies a set of large enhancements to SRP,  
32 introducing the concept of centralized configuration model with a centralized network controller  
33 (CNC). As shown in Figure 14, CNC is a new system level entity that may be capable of calculating  
34 the best possible solution for a set of predefined configuration and configure the bridges to meet  
35 those QoS demands conveyed through the User Network Interfaces (UNI). Within UNI, the  
36 attributes about traffic specifics and maximum latency are shared with the CNC for proper stream  
37 management in an end-to-end perspective.

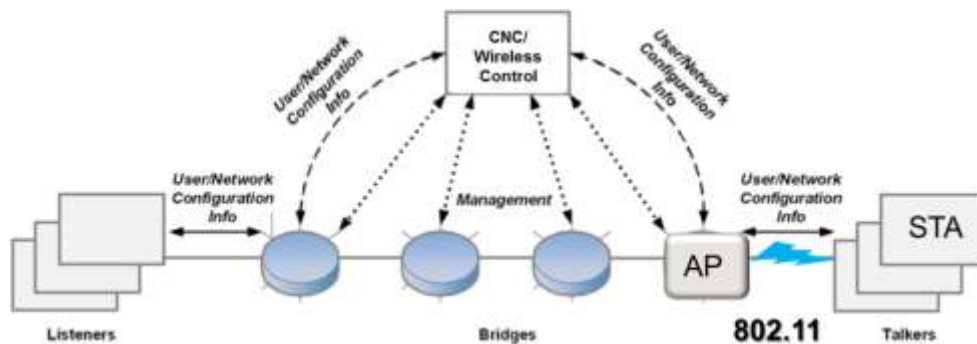


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**Figure 14—Centralized configuration bridge network**

3 Such a new paradigm can be much appreciated in the wired/wireless integrated networks in flexible  
 4 factories, as shown in ~~Figure 15~~ Figure 15. If partial network resources like bandwidth cannot  
 5 temporarily meet the performance required by the traffic streams, the CNC will notify the user and  
 6 work out a solution with modified configuration to accommodate the QoS requirements of the  
 7 system. CNC kind of wireless controller for both bridges and IEEE 802.11 AP/STA will certainly be  
 8 helpful in the scenario to address the unstable wireless bandwidth and latency issues. By managing  
 9 all the traffic streams between all connections in the network, the robustness of the stream  
 10 reservation and the network efficiency will both be improved.



11

12

**Figure 15—Centralized configuration heterogeneous network**

### 13 **Wireless link redundancy for reliability and jitter improvement**

14 Beginning in around 2012, efforts began in the IEEE 802 TSN Task Group to specify seamless  
 15 redundancy in conjunction with TSN streams, particularly to address Layer 2 networks in industrial  
 16 control and automotive markets. Eventually, this led to the completion and publication of IEEE Std  
 17 802.1CB-2017, specifying “Frame Replication and Elimination for Reliability” (FRER). IEEE Std  
 18 802.1CB provides specifications “for bridges and end systems that provide identification and  
 19 replication of packets for redundant transmission, identification of duplicate packets, and  
 20 elimination of duplicate packets.” Essentially, packets are duplicated and transmitted along  
 21 differentiated paths; copies received at the destination, following the first, are discarded. The

1 purpose is “to increase the probability that a given packet will be delivered,” and to do so in a timely  
2 manner. FRER “can substantially reduce the probability of packet loss due to equipment failures.”<sup>12</sup>

3 FRER emphasizes improvement in loss, rather than latency. FRER is built upon earlier TSN standards  
4 and groups and, accordingly, presumes that frames are parts of a stream carried along a provisioned  
5 reservation. As a result, the latency of the reservation may be determined and presumed bounded;  
6 the bounds, however, depend on the reliability of the network along the reserved path. ~~For some~~  
7 ~~applications, this reliability limitation is insufficient.~~ FRER can, in effect, provide instantaneous  
8 backup of each frame. This dramatically reduces the ~~likelihood~~ frame loss rate due to independent  
9 failure of identical equipment, roughly squaring it. For example, if each ~~of two independent paths~~  
10 ~~link~~ experiences a frame loss rate of  $\epsilon$ , FRER would be expected to result in a frame loss rate of  $\epsilon^2$ .  
11 The difference may be highly significant in practice.

12 FRER is specified to apply only to frames carried in TSN streams. Not all streams in a network need  
13 to be subject to FRER; it can be limited to mission-critical streams only.

14 The concept of frame duplication and duplicate elimination preceded TSN discussions toward IEEE  
15 Std 802.1CB. In fact, the concept was standardized as early as 2010 in IEC 62439-3:2010, “Parallel  
16 Redundancy Protocol (PRP) and High-availability Seamless Redundancy (HSR).” The standard  
17 supports the use of Ethernet in industrial applications. ~~While HSR and PRP do not support the~~  
18 ~~flexibility to sequence frames per stream that the IEEE Std 802.1CB provides, they are both capable~~  
19 ~~of transmitting TSN streamsIt is not based on TSN technologies and accordingly does not support~~  
20 ~~the flexibility to sequence frames per stream.~~ A number of industrial applications of PRP have  
21 followed.

22 The use of PRP wireless networks is not excluded and has been explicitly studied. This case is similar  
23 in principle but may be qualitatively different because the wireless link may be far more variable  
24 than the typical industrial wire link. As a result, a frame may be delayed significantly and  
25 unpredictably on a link without equipment failure. One implication is that, in the wireless  
26 environment, PRP may be more prominently used for jitter reduction rather than simply for frame  
27 loss.

28 Rentschler and Laukemann presented a study at the 2012 IEEE 17th International Conference on  
29 Emerging Technologies & Factory Automation (~~ETFA 2012~~) ~~regarding redundancy and wireless LAN~~  
30 ~~(WLAN)~~ [24]~~(ETFA 2012) regarding PRP and wireless LAN (WLAN)~~ [17]. Industrial applications were  
31 a key target. The study noted that “wireless transmission is known to be error-prone and its error  
32 characteristics behave time-variable and non-deterministic. This labels wireless communication as  
33 not very well suited for industrial applications with tight reliability requirements, such as guaranteed  
34 maximum latency times for packet transmission.” The authors indicate that they consider  
35 “reliability, latency and jitter... as the most important criteria for industrial communication  
36 systems.”

37 Rentschler and Laukemann applied the standardized IEC PRP protocol to two parallel wireless LANs  
38 (WLANs) based on IEEE Std 802.11n; one of the two WLANs operated in the presence of interfering  
39 WLAN traffic. Regarding latency, the paper demonstrated that the minimum latency is attained

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<sup>12</sup>IEEE Std 802.1CB includes the following note: “The term packet is often used in this document in places where the reader of IEEE 802 standards would expect the term frame. Where the standard specifically refers to the use of IEEE 802 services, the term frame is used. Where the standard refers to more generalized instances of connectionless services, the term packet is used.”

1 without PRP, because the PRP processing adds delay. However, the maximum latency is attained  
2 with PRP, because PRP chooses the frame arriving first. PRP improved jitter (average deviation of  
3 the mean latency) by about 40% in one example. The paper reported examples in which frame loss  
4 was around 0.02% per individual WLAN, but in which frame errors were not observed using PRP due  
5 to the unlikelihood of simultaneous loss of both packets.

6 The Rentschler and Laukemann study does not address the resource requirements necessary to  
7 implement PRP. In the wired case, whether PRP or FRER, the additional bandwidth resources to  
8 support redundancy may be supported by a cable and some switch ports. However, in the wireless  
9 case, the primary resource is a radio channel. As noted, one of the two available wireless channels  
10 in the Rentschler and Laukemann experiment was dedicated solely to the link. However, as  
11 discussed throughout this report, spectrum resources are limited in the factory environment. Each  
12 duplicated frame consumes twice the spectral resource of a single frame. If interference and  
13 channel availability are limiting factors, transmitting each packet in duplicate seems likely to be  
14 counter-productive. However, in some circumstances, such as for low-bandwidth mission-critical  
15 control messaging, duplicate wireless transmission might prove effective.

16 Another issue that needs to be considered regarding the application of PRP or FRER duplication in  
17 the wireless setting is the degree to which the pair of wireless channels is independent. For many  
18 realistic scenarios, such independence is a reasonable assumption in many wired networks. In the  
19 wireless case, the LAN elements may be physically separate, but the wireless environments may  
20 nevertheless be correlated. Operating the two links in different radio channels, or better yet  
21 different radio bands, can help to separate the interference conditions. However, even then, it is  
22 easy to imagine scenarios that would result in simultaneous degeneration of both links. One  
23 example might be a broadband noise source that affects both channels. Another example is that of  
24 large moving machinery, such as a moving truck discussed earlier in this report, which blocks the  
25 direct line-of-sight of two antennas.

26 A number of wireless industrial applications of PRP have been introduced in the market, primarily  
27 regarding WLAN. However, no wireless applications of IEEE Std 802.1CB have been identified.  
28 Perhaps the best explanation is that IEEE 802.1 TSN is rarely implemented in wireless networks and  
29 wireless traffic is rarely carried in TSN stream reservations, and therefore IEEE 802.1CB FRER is  
30 inapplicable. Should IEEE 802.1 TSN functionality, including TSN streams, become introduced into  
31 wireless networks, techniques such as FRER could be considered. However, it appears that some  
32 additional complications could arise. For example, FRER relies on sequence numbering in which the  
33 number of bits required depends on the maximum possible path latency difference that needs to  
34 be accommodated. In the wireless case, given the expected difficulty in ascertaining a tight latency  
35 bound, that number could be difficult to assign without improvements in network design, control  
36 and management ~~could be impractically large without improvements in network control and~~  
37 ~~management.~~

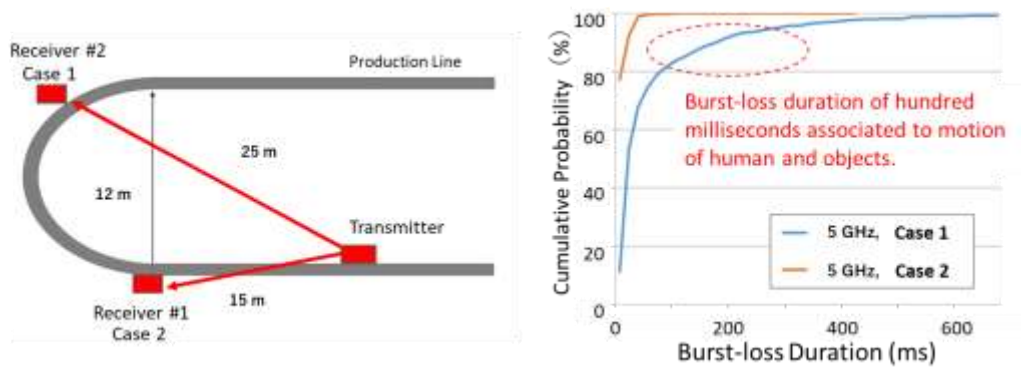
38 Concepts like FRER may find application in contributing to improved reliability and jitter in wireless  
39 factory networks. However, some of the challenges discussed will first need to be addressed and  
40 resolved.

#### 41 **Adaptation to rapid changes in wireless environments**

42 Modern manufacturing process requires fast feedback to get immediate response after each action  
43 by worker in management and operation to increase high productivity and high quality of products,

1 simultaneously, where human and machines tightly collaborate in high-mix and low-volume  
 2 production. Permissible delay in feedback messages for most wireless applications in this sense is  
 3 ranging from 20 ms to 10 s as shown in [Figure 9](#)~~Figure 9~~. The lower boundary may be determined  
 4 by human reaction time (Kosinski [25]). For example, in an application in which an online inspection  
 5 occurs, an action by worker is checked by a system as to whether it is good or not. He/she ~~shall~~  
 6 receives go/no-go signal from the system indicating to whether to proceed to the next action or  
 7 not. In the network accommodating factory, applications such as quality supervision, factory  
 8 resource management, display, and some of equipment control and safety, permissible latencies  
 9 within 100 msec or less for communications between a terminal and a management system of the  
 10 factory application are considered reasonable.

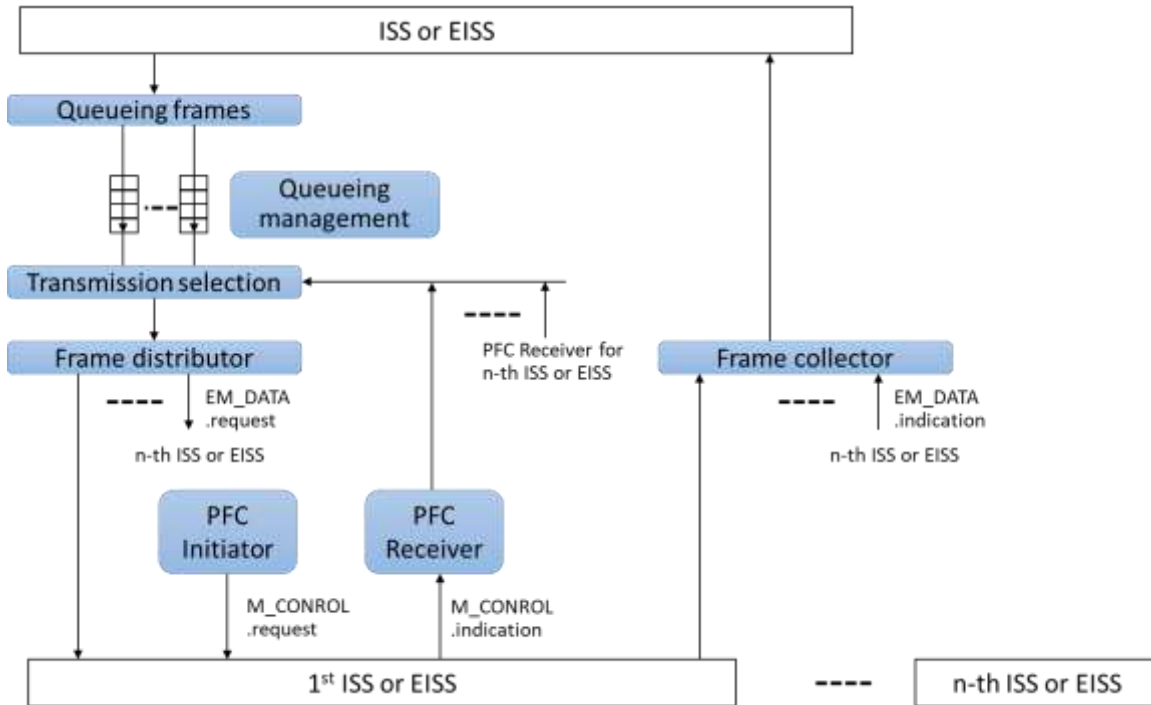
11 In a typical factory structure (or layout), there are many metallic objects that are moving in a closed  
 12 space, resulting in unforeseeable fluctuation in RSSI due to rapid change in propagation condition.  
 13 An example of measurement in a metal casting site showed RSSI changed by more than 20 dB within  
 14 a short time ranging from tens of milliseconds to hundreds of milliseconds as discussed earlier in  
 15 [Figure 4](#)~~Figure 4~~. The bandwidth might decrease by one-tenth in a case during RSSI dropped.  
 16 Another example of measurement in a large machine assembly site indicted burst-loss occurred for  
 17 the duration of several hundred milliseconds as shown in Figure 16.



18

19 **Figure 16—Burst-loss measurement in a large machine assembly site** ~~(Maruhashi [26])~~

20 In order to ensure transfer of information between terminals in a dynamically changing wireless  
 21 environment within the allowed latency as required by factory applications, a fast and efficient  
 22 queueing control and forwarding mechanism to multiple links is needed while maintaining required  
 23 QoS for the application. For this purpose, we consider the applicability of the Priority-base Flow  
 24 Control (PFC) protocol specified in the IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018, as shown in Figure 17.



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**Figure 17—PFC aware system queue functions with Link Aggregation  
(Rewritten Figure 36-4 in IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018)**

It should be noted that the application of PFC has been so far used in data center environment.<sup>13</sup> However, when used in a factory environment such as the one described above, the performance and efficiency of the PFC protocols can be degraded significantly due to reduced available bandwidth between terminals. A real-time video streaming is a good example illustrating when the performance of the PFC function can be improved when operating in varying radio propagation conditions. Traffic for the video stream is allocated high priority in normal operation condition (i.e., traffic type for video has higher priority than traffic for critical applications according to Table I-2 in IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018 [22] [7]). With varying RSSI, the available bandwidth between terminals is reduced. In real-time video streaming application, video quality can be adapted to available link bandwidth (along the end-to-end path) at the codec source. However, until this video adaptation is complete, while the bandwidth of the link is low and the video quality is degraded below its usable level, streaming is paused, although further packets are incoming to the queueing buffer that are not useable any more. This is the current operation of PFC because data loss is not allowed in a data center for which the PFC protocol was originally designed.

Since the video packets are no longer usable, pause operation and preserving the video packets is no longer valid during this transition period. During this period, the packets for streaming ~~shall be~~ are discarded and critical traffic ~~shall continue~~ is to be sent. A more efficient operation method is to discard the unusable video packets until useful video packets are sent again. This occurs when video adaptation to a lower quality matching the available bandwidth, or the link bandwidth is recovered naturally or by switching to a new link with sufficient bandwidth.

<sup>13</sup>Subclause 36.1.1 in IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018 reads "Operation of PFC is limited to a data center environment."

1 If another ISS (or EISS) connection becomes available for the video stream application, data frame  
2 can then be forwarded dynamically at the bridge (Table 17).

3 **Table 17—Gaps between Current PFC (IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018) and Functions to be enhanced**

Current PFC (IEEE Std 802.1Q-2018)	Functions to be enhanced
Eight (max) links can be independently paused and restarted by queue control. Only no loss is acceptable for data center environment.	Not only “pause” but also “discard” are acceptable if QoS requirements of factory applications permit it.
There is no specific description about “frame distributor”.	Dynamic frame distributor mechanism is required to follow rapid changing bandwidth and to avoid burst losses for each ISS/EISS connected to a wireless media.
—	It is required to have negotiation function with a factory application for data rate reductions to determine if this reduction is acceptable to the application.

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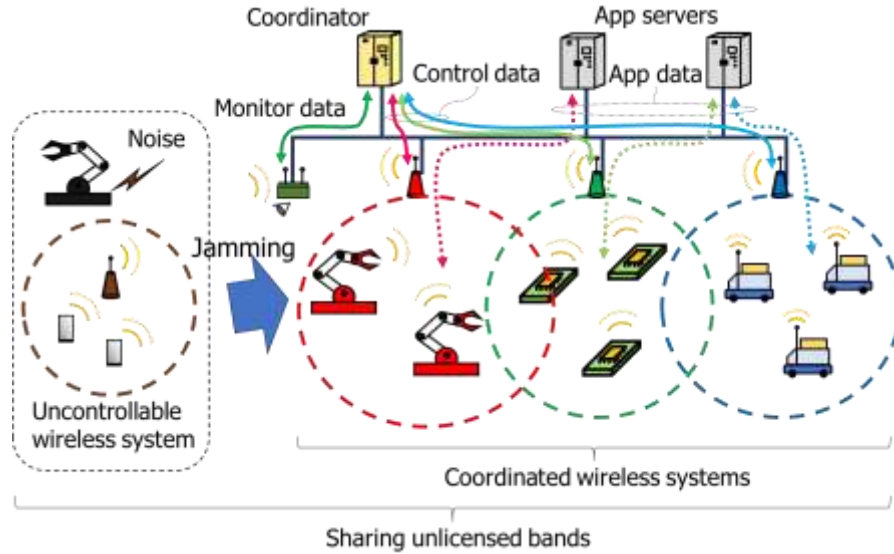
5 The issue here is to adapt to rapid changes in wireless environments while ensuring a variety of QoS  
6 requirements across the end-to-end connection of the whole network. Flow control at the bridge  
7 may be based on data attributes and flow control information coordinated over the network by a  
8 coordinator, as shown in~~The rapid flow control at the bridge based on information of data attributes~~  
9 ~~and flow control over the entire network shall work together by a coordinator as shown~~ in Figure  
10 2~~Figure 2~~.

### 11 **Coordination among wireless systems in unlicensed bands**

12 As for the factory IoT, wireless technologies that work in unlicensed bands are used in many cases  
13 because they have large cost advantage in network deployment. Normally, such unlicensed bands  
14 wireless technologies have MAC layer functionalities that enable coexistence with various wireless  
15 systems—CSMA/CA of Wi-Fi and frequency hopping of Bluetooth, for example. These functionalities  
16 make network deployment simple. However, stable quality of service is difficult to keep with such  
17 simple schemes especially when many wireless systems share the same wireless resources. It is  
18 because each wireless system, which consists of multiple wireless stations and is managed by a base  
19 station, works independently based on their own probabilistic approach without any coordination  
20 with the other wireless systems. In the factory IoT usage scenarios, many wireless systems work in  
21 a broad area, which is not separated completely in terms of wireless resource, and such competition  
22 of wireless systems in unlicensed bands are unavoidable.

23 To mitigate the impact of the competition in unlicensed bands, it is necessary to coordinate wireless  
24 systems in factory as much as possible. To assign channels of each wireless system according to  
25 required bandwidth of applications is a simple example of the coordination. Both distributed and  
26 centralized manner can be applied for the coordination. However, wireless systems need to be  
27 connected to the same wired network for exchanging control data. Wired network of the factory  
28 IoT needs to handle the control data for the wireless system coordination in addition to application  
29 data of each wireless systems. Figure 18 illustrates an overview of centralized type of coordinated  
30 wireless systems.





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**Figure 18—Overview of coordinated wireless systems**

3

Ideally, all the wireless systems in an area should be connected to the same network and coordinated together. However, it is difficult to root out uncontrollable wireless systems in all the cases and noise from non-communication devices, such as machine tools, needs to be taken into consideration. It is necessary to monitor wireless channels, analyze behavior of such interferers and estimate available wireless resources accurately for allocating wireless resources according to demands of applications. The wired network of the factory IoT needs to handle the monitoring data as well.

9

10

As latency of control data exchange and monitoring data exchange among wireless systems becomes lower, more efficient wireless system coordination becomes available. Improvement of latency of bridging is one of the issues for the efficient coordination of the wireless systems.

11

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### Future directions towards enhancements for Flexible Factory network

14

#### End-to-end network control and coordination

15

Within flexible factory scenarios, networks need to meet various traffic requirements and provide QoS at application level. There are different types of data flow between factory applications and network nodes, such as devices, access points, gateways, switches, bridges, and routers. To keep QoS across the factory network with prioritized control, data attributes are introduced at network nodes. Data attributes are defined based on characteristics of applications and its corresponding requirements. These attributes are attached to the data field and mapped to appropriate traffic types. Setting data attributes for factory applications rather than extending traffic types is essential for backward compatibility to existing standards.

22

23

Centralized control and coordination mechanism is required in order to ensure end-to-end QoS provisioning over the entire factory network, even in the brownfield where various facilities and equipment with different standards, of different generations, and by different vendors, coexist. The following control functions over the wired/wireless network are anticipated for coordination purpose:

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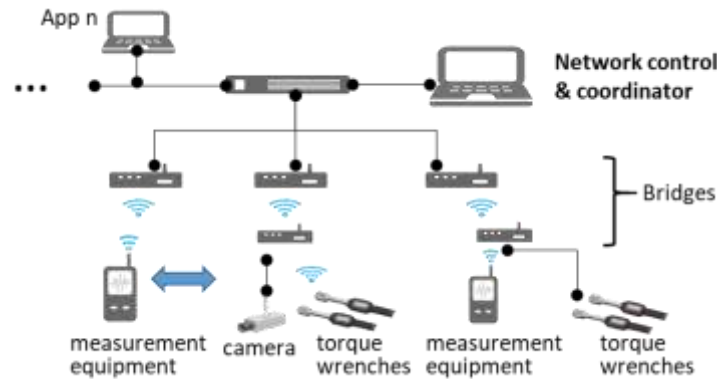
26

27

- 1 1. Control of data flows across wireless links.
- 2 2. Joint coordination of frequency channel and forwarding paths.
- 3 3. Spatial control for wireless links, i.e., power and antenna directivity.

4

5 Coordination is achieved by a coordinator managing the factory network. As illustrated in Figure 19,  
 6 the Bridge/AP of each sub-network is deployed for various applications. L2 data frames need to  
 7 communicate between individual devices or towards the application server. The control policy could  
 8 be provided by the coordinator for each sub-network for the ease of implementation, in cases  
 9 where they should be provided on individual device basis by an application specific policy template.



10

11

**Figure 19—Typical network scenario for flexible factory IoT**

12 Wireless link or path quality is changing rapidly (from milliseconds to seconds) due to multipath  
 13 fading and shadowing in the closed environment of factories where human, product and material  
 14 handling equipment e.g., forklift trucks and AGVs are moving. It is required to reserve minimum  
 15 bandwidth for priority application by enhancing bridge functions, despite the degradation in the  
 16 local link quality. For the purpose of reliability, queueing and forwarding, mechanisms for  
 17 redundancy need to be defined to use data attributes over the network. The coordinator can set  
 18 policies for transmission of application data in a way that tolerates the degradation in the network  
 19 due to the bandwidth changes. The control policies should be established to ensure the low priority  
 20 bulk data transfer does not impact the transmission of the high priority critical messages and  
 21 important data.

22 For coordination and control of a factory network made up of several tens of systems, a huge tightly-  
 23 controlled network and computing resources would be required. Tight control directly conducted  
 24 by the coordinator is impractical. This implies the necessity for hierarchical control consisting of (1)  
 25 centralized coordinator that implements the global control for coordination of independent systems  
 26 to satisfy requirements of each factory applications, and (2) the distributed coordination agent on  
 27 each individual Bridge/AP that serves as local control for each system according to control policy.  
 28 The control policy implies how radio resources of time, frequency, and space are utilized to optimize  
 29 operation of entire network in a factory.

30 To realize the hierarchical control, more information needs to be concentrated on the centralized  
 31 controller enabling an autonomous operation and quick response. For this purpose, the following  
 32 three items need to be considered for standardization:

- 33 a) Control policy: messages and interfaces between a coordinator and various systems.

- 1        b) Information on wireless environment: link/path quality.
- 2        c) Data attributes: common information including various requirements, e.g., data rates (or
- 3            data size at an application level and data frequency), latency, affordability of packet loss. The
- 4            information is helpful for transportation of various traffics by better control of flows when
- 5            mapping to traffic classes, scheduling, and forwarding.

6        **A unified network reference model**

7        Network reference model (NRM) for flexible factory IoT network is a generic representation that

8        includes multiple network interfaces, multiple network access technologies, and multiple

9        applications. The NRM defined in IEEE Std 802.1CF [27] is appropriate for this purpose and can be

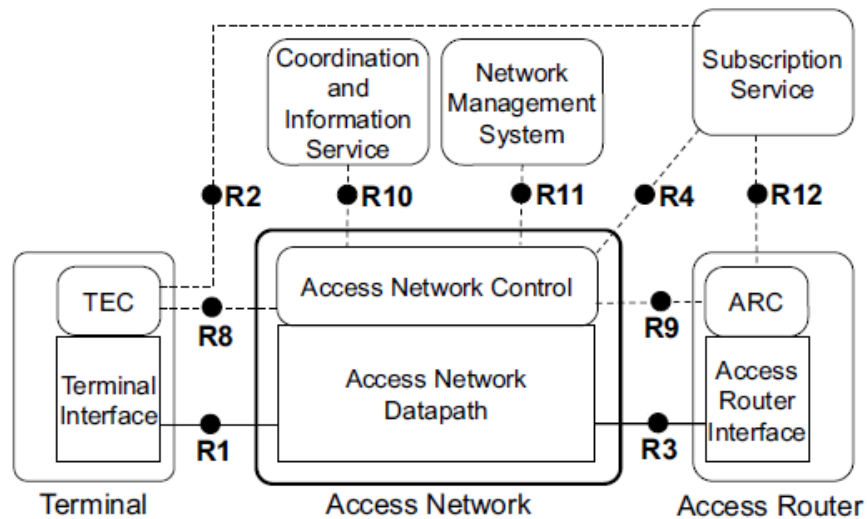
10       used to generalize the concept of centralized configuration paradigm and to explain how data

11       attributes are managed as informative description as well. The minimum enhancement could be

12       achieved by creating a factory profile consisting of the reference model and data attributes.

13       Specification of new protocols is subject to further investigation~~Detail investigation is required if~~

14       ~~any protocols shall be added.~~



15        **Figure 20—Network reference model defined in IEEE Std 802.1CF**

17        The aforementioned network scenarios shown in Figure 20 can be mapped to IEEE Std 802.1CF NRM

18        as depicted in Figure 21. Bridge/AP represents the node of attachment (NA) providing

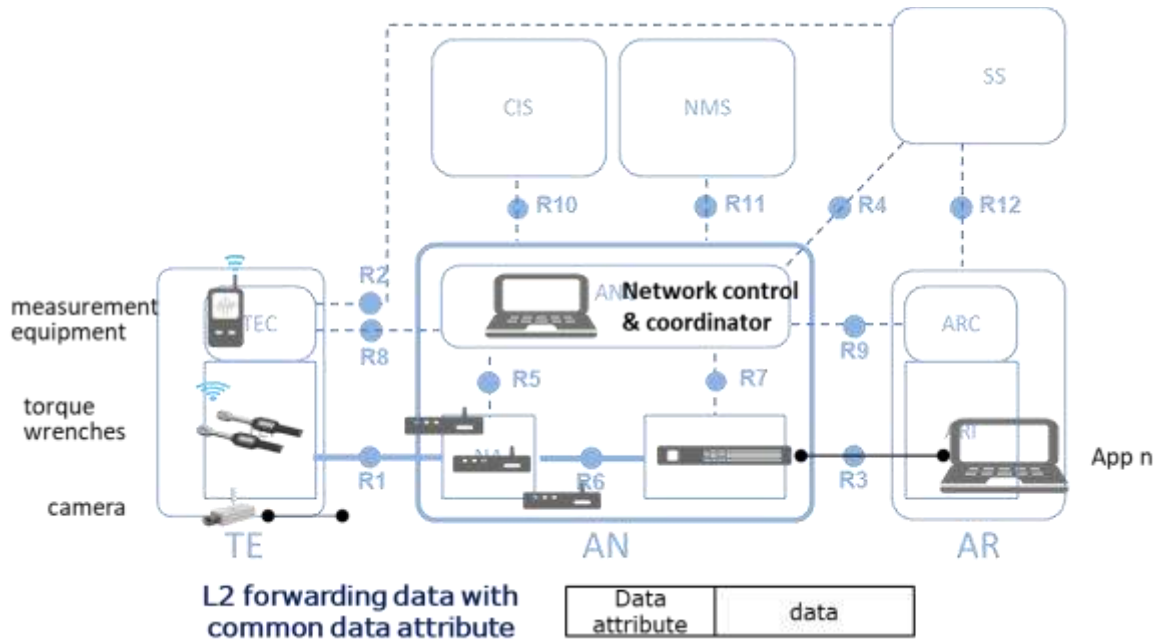
19        wired/wireless access through R1 to the terminals (devices). L2 data frames with common data

20        attributes are aggregated and forwarded to the second level bridges, represented as backhaul (BH)

21        through R6 datapath interface. The coordinator is located in the access network control (ANC)

22        providing control policy to the underlay bridges and APs through R5 and R6 control interfaces.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Refer to Clause 5 of the IEEE Std 802.1CF [27] for detailed information of network reference model (NRM).



1  
2

**Figure 21—Mapping factory network to IEEE 802.1CF NRM**

3 The centralized coordinator fits well in the role of ANC providing enhancements to IEEE 802.1  
4 protocols and procedures, e.g., SRP, for time-sensitive applications. More complex TSN use cases  
5 benefit from the complete knowledge of streams in the network, especially for the ones going  
6 through wireless mediums, which are stored and processed by the coordinator.

7 In the case that performance requirements cannot be guaranteed as promised due to e.g.,  
8 bandwidth fluctuation, the coordinator may respond quickly based on its knowledge of the global  
9 network resources and adjust parameter settings among all bridges/APs. Based on control policy,  
10 network resources could be adaptively assigned with the goal of maintaining stable streams~~Control~~  
11 ~~policy shall be provided to keep sufficient resources to accommodate short term variance and to~~  
12 ~~re-allocate network resources adaptively to establish stable streams, even on wireless mediums.~~ It  
13 ensures that the end-to-end QoS provided by the factory network meet the different requirements  
14 from the wide variety of factory applications.

15 Further to the aforementioned considerations, when wireless is used in factory networks and  
16 systems, some TSN features may be required to perform seamlessly as they would over the wired  
17 portion of the network. This implies additional challenges that need further consideration, such as  
18 the impact on latency and reliability of the wireless links at Layer 1/2.

19 The radio environment in the factory also poses additional challenges. The NIST report on “Guide  
20 to Industrial Wireless Systems Deployments” [17]-[19][12] gives good guidance on planning and  
21 deploying wireless systems within the factory environment. Characterization of radio channels in  
22 factory environments may additionally help, if available, with such planning and deployment.

23  
24

## 1 Conclusions

2 Communication in factories has until now been mainly wired communication. There are increasing  
3 expectations for the use of wireless connectivity among machines in the manufacturing and factory  
4 processes. Future industrial factory networks are expected to use more wireless to reduce the  
5 installation cost as well as to enhance flexibility. As such, the factory network needs to support the  
6 successful operation of various wireless applications.

7 This report addresses integrated wired and wireless IoT communications in the factory environment,  
8 and includes use cases and requirements with a focus on bridged Layer 2 networks. It presents  
9 problems and challenges observed within the factory and reports on possible solutions for  
10 overcoming some of these issues in order to enable flexibility within factories.

11 One distinct aspect of factory networks is that the physical devices connecting to the network are  
12 used to control and monitor real-world actions and conditions. This requires the provisioning of  
13 QoS for a variety of traffic types that may be characterized as either periodic or sporadic. In a flexible  
14 factory, humans are engaged in the control and monitoring system and therefore need to be  
15 interconnected with the network in order to interact with physical devices and machinery.

16 When the factory network is extended over radio, some incompatibility in QoS provisioning  
17 between wired and wireless segments becomes apparent due to unpredictable variations in the  
18 available bandwidth over the radio segment. In order to overcome the variable environment for  
19 wireless communications, coordination among network elements is required.

20 The report considers communication requirements for six categories of wireless applications, which  
21 are classified according to their purpose.

22 For factory applications, QoS latency tolerance is classified into small, medium, or large. Bandwidth  
23 tolerance is classified into wide, medium, or narrow, and the tolerance for packet loss is classified  
24 into loss intolerant or loss-tolerant. This implies that factory applications may be represented by  
25 not only traffic classes but also additional information related to QoS requirements, which include  
26 traffic flows identification and specifications~~This implies that factory applications may require a~~  
27 ~~large number of QoS classes, more than the eight classes specified in IEEE Std 802.1Q [7].~~ To deal  
28 with a large number of QoS class requirements, defining usage of tag fields may be needed for  
29 precise and fine QoS control over L2. Any priority tag must be understood in both wired and wireless  
30 networks, which may require tag translation among the two.

31 Future industrial wireless communications will take advantage of TSN functions and features  
32 specified in IEEE Std 802.1. The wired/wireless integrated networks for future flexible factories IoT  
33 scenarios should be able to accommodate various applications with different end-to-end QoS  
34 requirements. These requirements can be met by closing the gaps within the following functions:

- 35     ▪ End-to-end stream reservation in a wired/wireless integrated network
- 36     ▪ Wireless link redundancy for reliability and jitter improvement
- 37     ▪ Adaptation to rapid changes in wireless environments
- 38     ▪ Coordination among the wireless transmissions in the unlicensed bands

1 Coordination mechanism is required in order to ensure end-to-end QoS provisioning over the entire  
2 factory network. The following control functions over the wired/wireless network are anticipated  
3 for coordination purpose:

- 4     ▪ Control of data flows across wireless links.
- 5     ▪ Joint coordination of frequency channel and forwarding paths.
- 6     ▪ Spatial control for wireless links, i.e., power and antenna directivity.

7  
8 For the purpose of reliability, queueing and forwarding, mechanisms for redundancy need to make  
9 use of data attributes over the network. The coordinator can set policies for transmission of  
10 application data in a way that tolerates the degradation in the network due to the bandwidth  
11 changes that can occur over the wireless links.

12 A hierarchical control system consists of a centralized coordinator and distributed coordination  
13 agent on each individual Bridge/AP. For the purpose of satisfying requirements of each factory  
14 applications, the following considerations need to be standardized:

- 15     ▪ Control policy: messages and interfaces between a coordinator and various systems.
- 16     ▪ Information on wireless environment: link/path quality.
- 17     ▪ Data attributes: common information including various requirements, e.g., data rates (or  
18 data size at an application level and data frequency), latency, affordability of packet loss.

19 When wireless is used in factory networks and systems, some TSN features may be required to  
20 perform seamlessly as they would over the wired portion of the network. This implies additional  
21 challenges that need further consideration, such as the impact on latency and reliability of the  
22 wireless links at Layer 1/2.

23 The radio environment in the factory also poses additional challenges. Characterization of radio  
24 channels in factory environments may additionally help, if available, with such planning and  
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