DECT today supports the most diverse range of professional use cases of any wireless technology. From high-quality corporate conferencing to professional intercom, from critical healthcare communication & monitoring to emergency support for the elderly and disabled, DECT for years has been the technology of choice, due to its unequalled quality and reliability. More than 135 million DECT devices are sold every year, with professional DECT representing the fastest growing segment.

Recent evolution in the technology has pushed the boundaries and further extended the already impressive range of use cases that DECT can support. With lower fixed latency, three-times higher user densities, and an impressive Quality of Service, more manufacturers and their customers are moving to DECT to meet critical local-area wireless audio and voice communication needs. Every year at the Integrated Systems Europe (ISE) and Infocom trade shows, the list of manufacturers exhibiting new DECT products grows, as does the market penetration.

The latest and most exciting variant of DECT, DECT NR+ is an IMT-2020 wireless technology and in the coming years, will help private enterprises and 5G service providers solve one of the biggest and fastest-growing challenges facing the communications industry’s quest for URLLC (ultra-reliable, low-latency communication): how to provide a wireless local-area solution for very high densities of extremely robust, high-quality, low-latency voice and low-medium data-rate communication.
The DECT technology has steadily evolved to meet the demands of its expanding market. The main capabilities driving the increasing use of DECT for professional applications include:

**Very high densities of users**: In call centres, corporate conferencing, and enterprise communication, DECT is the technology of choice for wireless headsets, microphone systems, and handset/pagers, as no other technology can support such a high density of live users without drop-outs or interference. Recently, higher-level modulation support has tripled the already high density of users. User density with live, independent audio can reach one user per 2 square meters!

**Robustness & Security**: Due to its highly regulated license-free band, available in more than 100 countries at around 1.9 GHz, DECT is the choice for intercom systems – many of which require very high levels of reliability for secure & safety-critical use cases. Also, DECT is unique in its ability to support complex hierarchies of call groups – essential for clear and precise intra-team and inter-team communication such as in PMSE (shown opposite), rescue, and oil and gas. DECT-enabled intercom types have a wide range of uses, but a common requirement unites them all - the 'high-stakes' communication where failure is not an option.

**High Audio Quality**: Since 2010, DECT has enabled networked conferencing microphone solutions providing 'Super-wide-band' audio (CD quality 50Hz–20kHz). Using DECT’s built-in QoS features, these systems can avoid other in-band DECT interferers before any audio artefacts result, giving a communication quality experience unparalleled by any other wireless technology.

**Low / Fixed Latency**: DECT provides a low-latency wireless audio streaming performance further enhanced by the consistency of its TDMA structure. This attribute is attractive to live voice and live audio streaming use cases, where end-to-end acoustic/RF latency has been driven down towards 5 milliseconds.

**Total in-building/campus/outdoor range**: DECT’s band at 1.9 GHz can provide 300m range Line Of Sight (LOS), while its multi-cell capability enables total campus coverage, regardless of size. Compared with RF frequencies of 5GHz and greater, which suffer from through-wall propagation losses, DECT provides the perfect balance of range and data rate, enabling comprehensive enterprise capability. Typical installations include; hospitals, TV and radio broadcasting studios, supermarkets & drive-thru outlets, manufacturing plants, power stations, R&D facilities, large commercial office buildings, conference centres, hotels, penitentiaries, schools and university campuses.
The future of DECT: It is often said by users that “DECT is the next best thing to a wire.” In the next evolution, DECT-NR+, will drive the above-mentioned five primary user benefits even further and add new capabilities in mesh networking and low-power wireless IoT. With the advent of DECT-NR+, DECT’s professional applications will become even more unique in their ability to collaborate and support IMT2020’s goals. The latest DECT NR+ performance projections show that DECT will continue to be the technology of choice for its current wide range of users, and in addition, ‘NR+’ will enable important new use cases:

**Smart Cities:**
An evolutionary step forward from Smart Homes and Smart Buildings, Smart Cities will be one of the World’s frontiers in the battle to combat Climate Change, by reducing carbon emissions using an array of applications such as; traffic management, finding parking spaces, optimizing refuse collection and street lighting, smart energy storage etc. All of these applications require literally millions of remote sensor & control (IoT) nodes connected through networks to cloud-based control centres. Such network complexity is only feasible and practicable with wireless mesh networking covering metropolitan and rural areas – coverage that until now was the domain of the cellular network. DECT-2020 NR has been designed to incorporate highly reliable high-performance wireless mesh networking, that will make deployment of such massive machine communication not only possible but economically attractive.

**PMSE (Program Making and Special Events):**
By reducing acoustic/RF latency to < 5 milliseconds for more than ten coexisting channels and keeping DECT’s extremely high QoS performance, DECT is poised to deliver a viable supplement to UHF Band wireless microphones, where the available TV spectrum is gradually being reduced.
Industry 4.0 (next generation factory automation):
The unparalleled robustness of DECT combined with DECT-5G’s over-the-air fixed digital latency of less than one millisecond will make DECT the only wireless control and sensing solution fast enough and reliable enough for semi-autonomous vehicles working in the Industry 4.0 “Factories of the Future.”

Seamless Collaboration:
As organisations of all shapes and sizes seek ways to globalise and become as responsive, and agile as customers increasingly demand, and at the same time strive toward a carbon-neutral future, the need to be highly effective and secure collaborators in the real world and in cyberspace will become one of the biggest challenges to be faced in the decades to come.

And in the post-Covid world, Hybrid Working will further transform collaboration needs. The universal challenge for the first half of the 21st century will be to make collaboration intuitive and effective, regardless of location, making communication and information sharing, a seamless experience for all individuals and teams.

Powered by DECT and DECT NR+, professional collaboration applications promise to further eradicate the dual frustrations of a) lack of integration and b) a lack of ‘inclusiveness’ faced by physical present and remote collaborating participants – especially those with disabilities.

The future for DECT and DECT NR+ for professional applications holds great promise, to innovatively adapt to future customer needs. This was clearly evident during Covid-19 Pandemic, when behind the scenes, DECT-enabled products played their part in the fight to keep our societies safe, supplied and cared for! DECT Intercoms & headsets were used extensively to keep teams well-coordinated and deal with emergencies. The DECT technology and the ingenious engineers behind DECT Professional products will strive to exceed all expectations of their customers, users, and those of us that sometimes without knowing, depend on this extraordinary technology!