BEHIND THE SCENES

Satellite Regulatory Environment

Connecting Rural & Remote Australia

Mike Johns - Senior Manager
Satellite Services Working Group
Australian Telecommunications Alliance

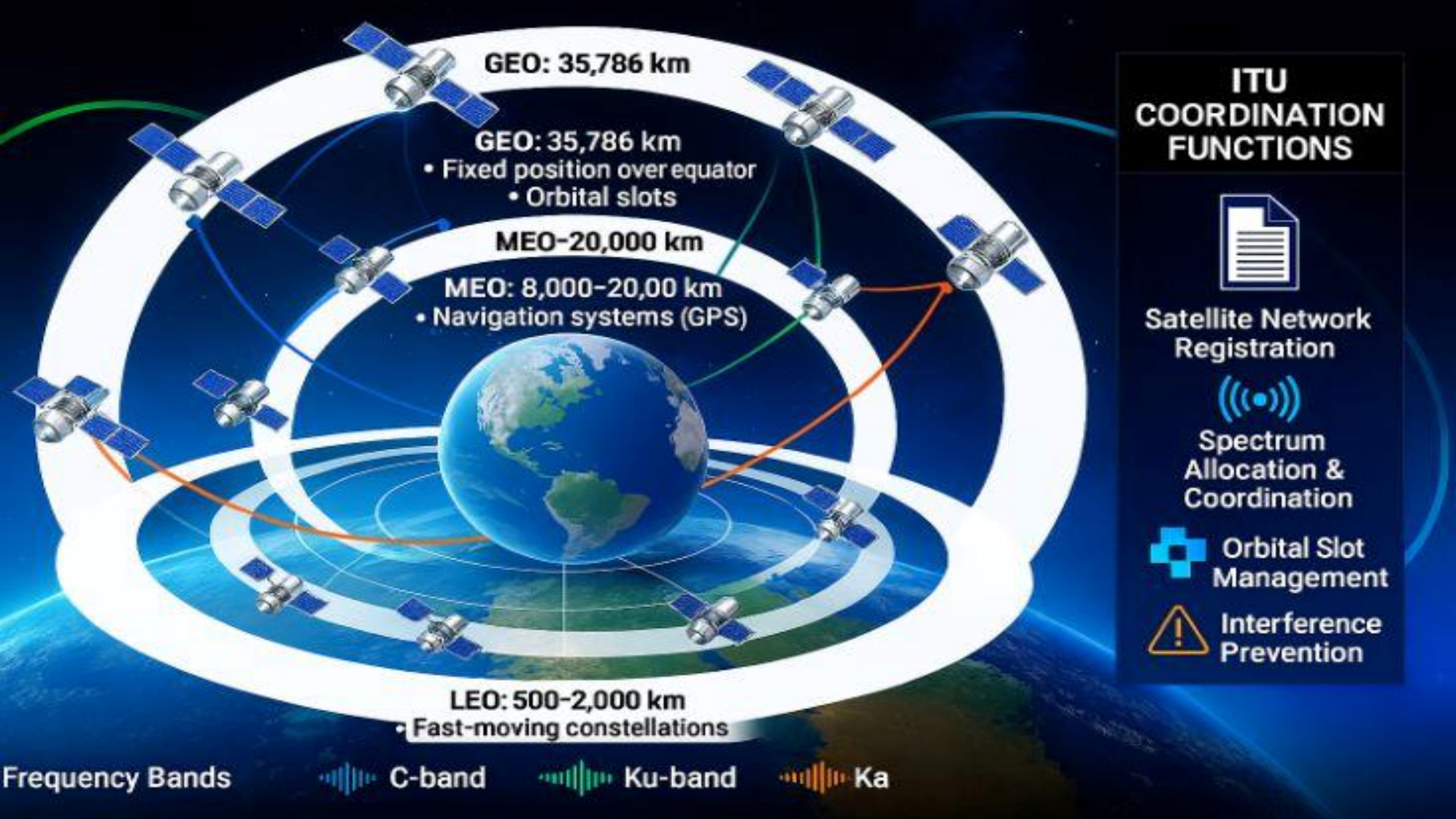
CommsDay Regional & Policy Forum 2026

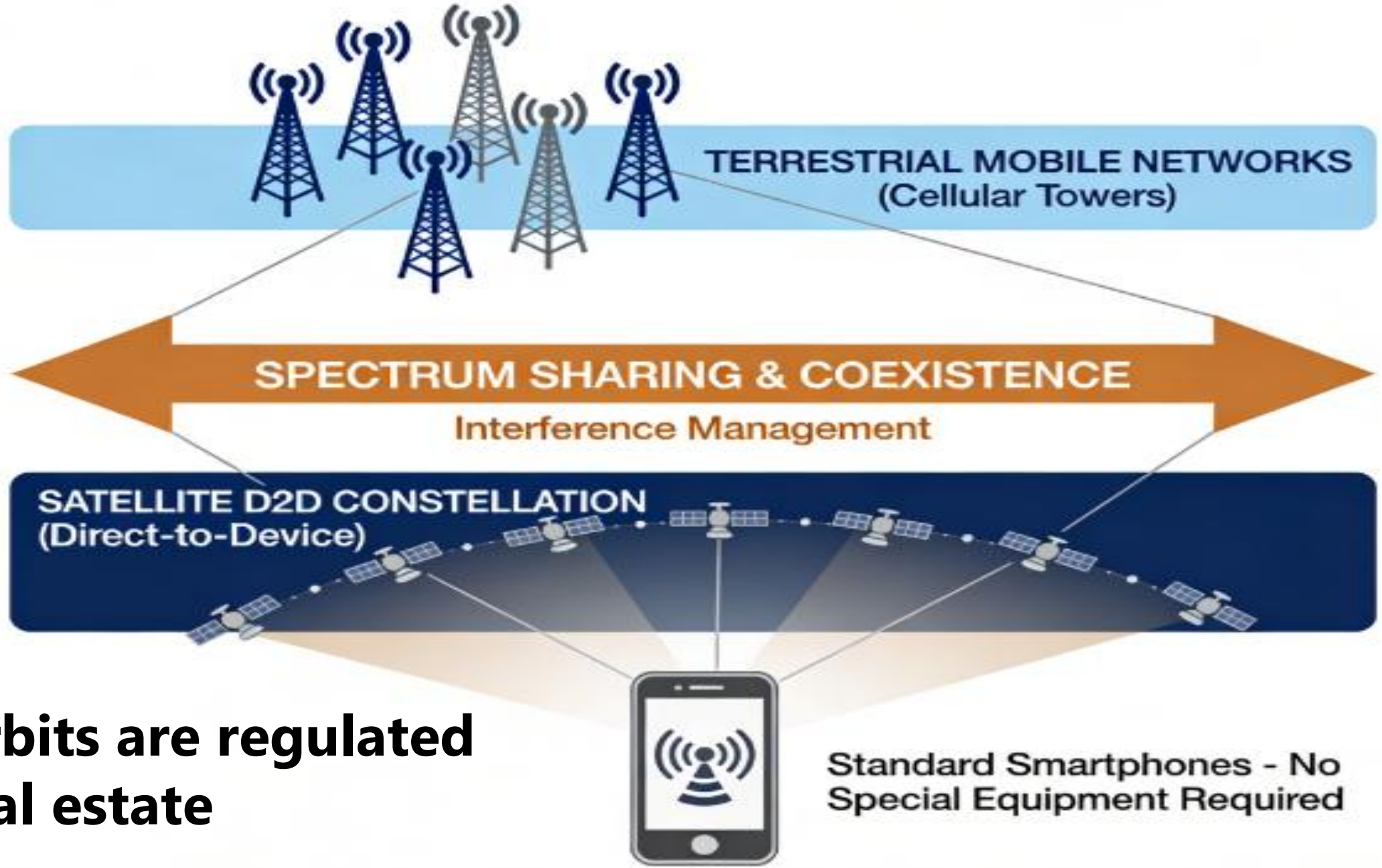
Australian Telecommunications Alliance

A simple outcome

A phone call from a remote part of Australia

BACKSTAGE PASS
Behind the Scenes:
Satellite Regulatory Environment
Exclusive Access to the Complex World of
Spectrum Management & Orbital Coordination
ADMIT ONE
Valid for: 20-Minute Journey Through the Regulatory Landscape


GEO: 35,786 km
GEO: 35,786 km
• Fixed position over equator
• Orbital slots
MEO-20,000 km
MEO: 8,000-20,00 km
• Navigation systems (GPS)
LEO: 500-2,000 km
• Fast-moving constellations
ITU COORDINATION FUNCTIONS
Satellite Network Registration
Spectrum Allocation & Coordination
Orbital Slot Management
Interference Prevention
Frequency Bands
C-band
Ku-band
Ka



Orbits are regulated real estate

ITU: Reaching out to the World

ITU Headquarter: Geneva, Switzerland

Europe Regional Office
Geneva, Switzerland

CIS Area Office
Moscow, Russia

Americas

Regional Office
Brasilia, Brazil

Area Offices
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
Santiago, Chile.
Bridgetown, Barbados

Asia-Pacific

Regional Office
Bangkok, Thailand

Acting Regional Director
Mr. Sameer Sharma

Area Office
Jakarta, Indonesia
Head: Ms. Aurora Rubio

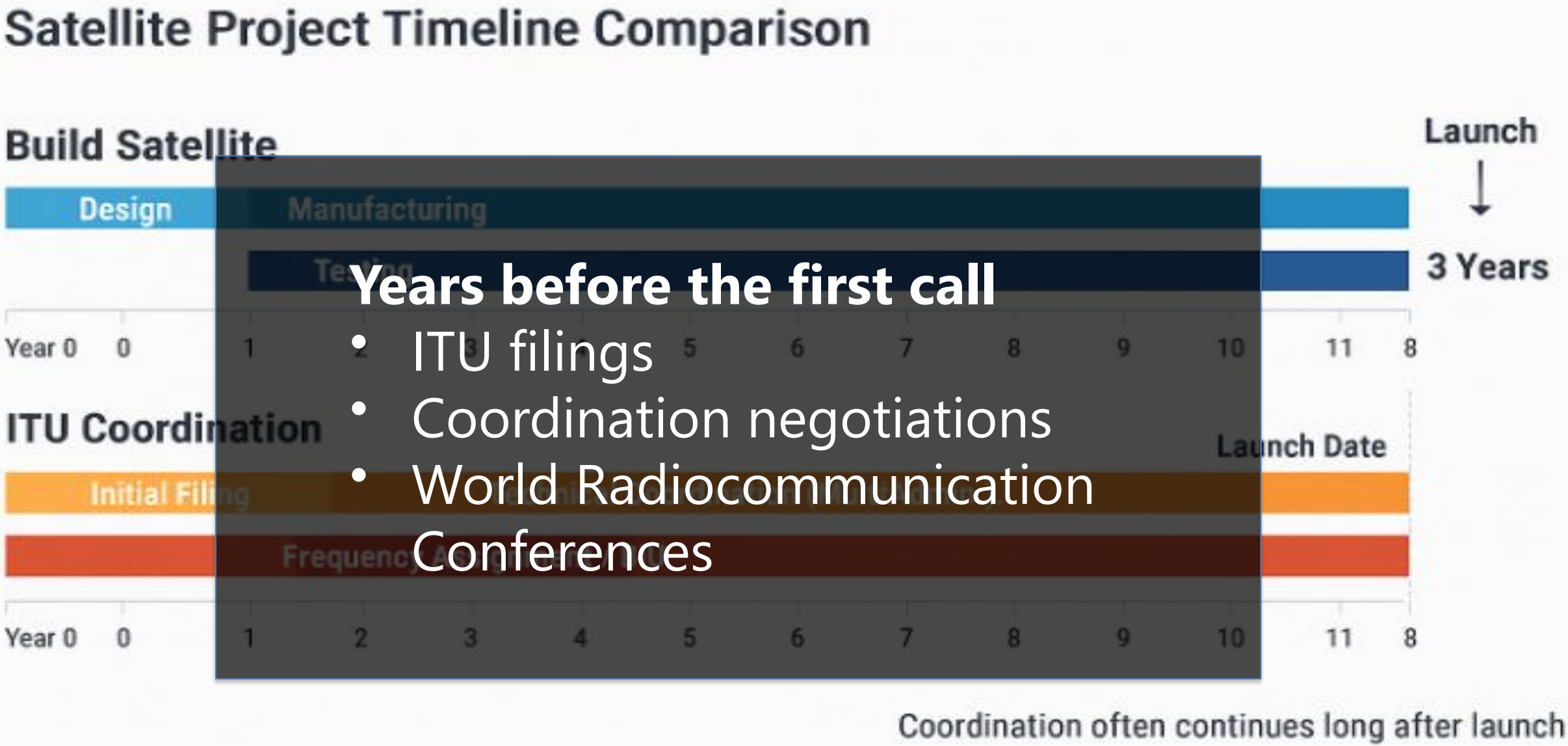
Africa

Regional Office
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Area Offices
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Harare, Zimbabwe
Dakar, Senegal

Arab

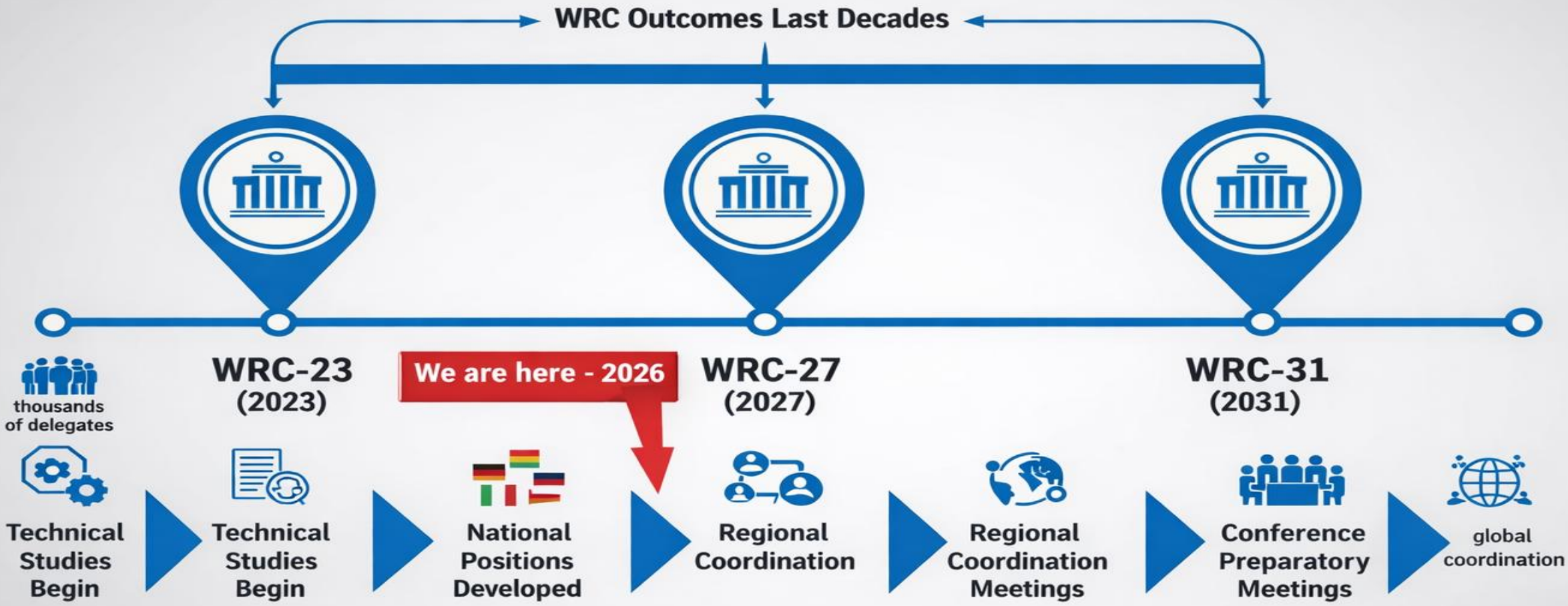
Regional Office
Cairo, Egypt



Years before the first call

- ITU filings
- Coordination negotiations
- World Radiocommunication Conferences

WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE CYCLE (2023–2031)



Global Rules
ITU
Global Coordination Stops
National Jurisdiction Begins
National Rules
ACMA

AUSTRALIA'S SATELLITE REGULATORY ECOYSYSTEM

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communiçations, Sports and the Arts

Pollcy & Legslation

ACMA

Spectrum & Licensing

Australian Space Agency

Space Activities & Coordination

Industry

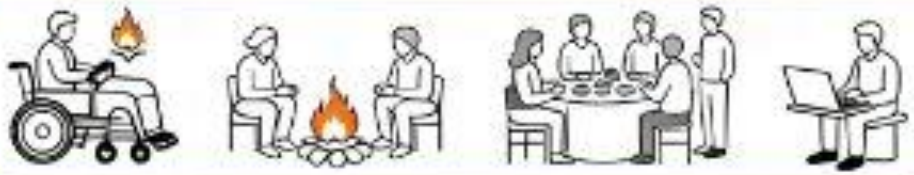
Satellite Operators

Satellite Operators

Service Providers

Manufacturers and comms

Users



AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE

SATELLITE SERVICES WORKING GROUP

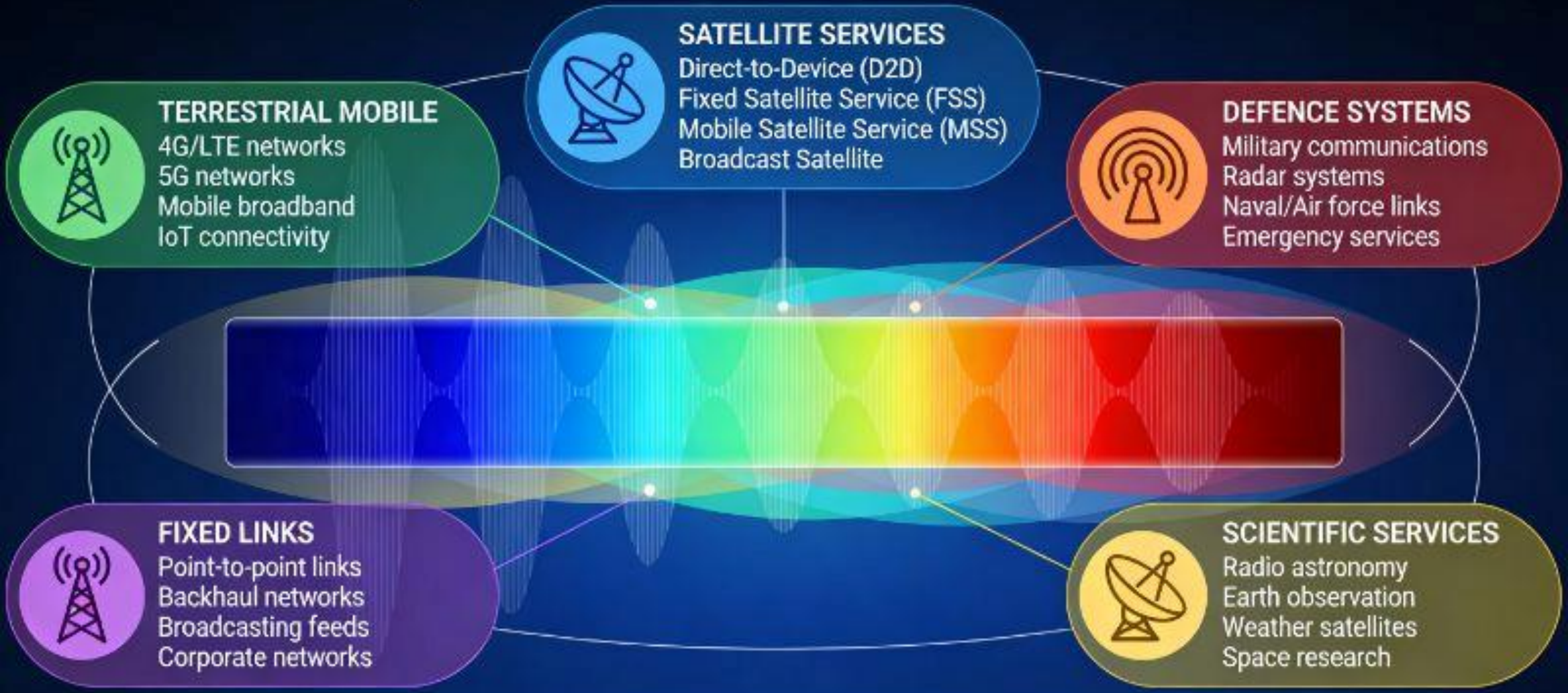
Within ATA, the Satellite Services Working Group brings together operators, manufacturers, integrators, service providers, and policy specialists.

Our members:

- contribute technical input into ITU and WRC processes
- work with ACMA on spectrurn coexistence
- test devices and services under Australian conditions
- and translate global rules into deployable services

This is quiet, unglamorous work – but it's what allows innovation to land safely in the real worid.

Spectrum is Never ‘Unused’



Every new satellite service = A coexistence negotiation between services with different priorities

The Phone Matters as Much as the Satellite

Future satellite integration

D2D capability layer

Original handset design

- **Device specifications:** Antennas, power limits, emissions, safety standards
- D2D services push handset design boundaries
- Progress is incremental, not instant

When It All Lines Up

The Complexity

- Orbital Coordination
- Spectrum Allocation
- International Filing (ITU)
- National Authorization (ACMA)
- Device Compliance

Must Align Perfectly

The Result

When it works, nobody notices.
Which is exactly the point.

Why This Matters Now

Why this complexity suddenly matters

Direct-to-Device blurs old boundaries

UOMO raises baseline expectations

Many new systems share the same bands

Tolerance for failure is shrinking

The Remarkable Thing Isn't the Satellite

It's that the system works at all

Dozens of institutions, rules, and technical systems must align to make something simple feel effortless