

Professor Bal S Virdee

Director of Centre for Communications Technology - London Metropolitan University



Professor Bal Virdee is Director of Centre for Communications Technology in the School of Computing and Digital Media at London Metropolitan University. Prior to becoming an academic he has worked in industry for various companies including Philips, as a R&D Engineer, and at Teledyne Defence & Space as a Future Products Developer in RF/microwave communications systems. He has also taught at several academic institutions.

Bal is currently a Senior Professor of Communications Technology. He serves in the Editorial Board of several international journals and has published numerous research papers. His research, in collaboration with industry, is in microwave, mm-wave & Thz wireless systems encompassing the latest cellular and satellite technologies.

He is Chair and Executive Member of the IET's Technical and Professional Network Committee on RF and Microwave Technology. He is a Fellow of the IET and Senior Member of IEEE.

Dr Mike Short CBE

Chief Scientific Adviser - Department for International Trade (DIT)



Dr Mike Short CBE, after 30 years in telecommunications with Telefonica, joined the Department for International Trade (DIT) as the Department's first Chief Scientific Adviser in December 2017. Mike leads the Science and Engineering profession in the Department and ensures its policy is informed by the best science, engineering and technical advice. He advises DIT on the technical aspects of international trade deals, supports inward investment and engineering collaboration, and works with the UK's research, innovation and academic communities to boost scientific and engineering exports.

Mike has over 40 years' experience in electronics and telecommunications and served as Vice President of Telefonica, the parent company of the O2 mobile phone network, for 17 years to December 2016. In this post, he managed the launch of 2G (GSM) and 3G mobile technologies in the

UK, established an office in Brussels, and went on to lead international research, innovation and standards for Telefonica Europe.

Mike's career includes the promotion of international technical standards in mobile and digital technology. He is a former Chairman of the Global GSM Association, the UK Mobile Data Association, and was President of the IET in 2011/2012.

He is currently a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Surrey, Coventry, Leeds and Salford. He has led the development and collaborations in areas such as smart cities, digital healthcare, cybersecurity and driverless vehicles.

He was honoured with a CBE in 2012 for his services to the mobile industry.

Cristina Data

Director of Spectrum policy and analysis, Spectrum Group – OFCOM



Cristina is the Director of Spectrum policy and analysis, Spectrum Group at Ofcom and is also a NED of the Energy System Catapult and sits on the UK5G advisory board. Cristina is leading work to understand the long term impact of technology, market and international changes on our spectrum management activities. Prior to joining Ofcom Cristina held various market and business intelligence roles within strategy at Telefonica O2 setting up a framework to benchmark data growth across different countries, financial planning and analysis at Orange UK, looking at the profitability of different marketing initiatives and market research and intelligence at Red Bee Media where Cristina had the responsibility to set up the entire unit. Cristina holds a Master Degree in Industrial Engineering from the Politecnico di Torino university in Italy.

Adrian Scrase

CTO – ETSI



Adrian Scrase played a central role in the creation of the “3rd Generation Partnership Project” (3GPP) and is responsible for the operations of the 3GPP Project Co-ordination Group. He heads 3GPPs’ Mobile Competence Centre (MCC) which is an International team of 20 experts who provide comprehensive support to the Project.

He was also principally involved in the formation of the “oneM2M” Partnership Project and oversees ETSI’s support to that initiative.

He is CTO within ETSI with operational responsibility for all ETSI's standards production activities. He has more than 40 years' experience in the telecommunications field, which includes 34 years of experience in standardisation.

Louise Lancaster

Head of Wireless Infrastructure Policy – DCMS



Louise joined DCMS as a sector specialist in 2017, initially helping to develop the 5G Testbeds & Trials Programme, before moving on to co-lead the Barrier Busting Task Force, focusing on reducing barriers to the deployment of mobile networks. Having spent time heading up DCMS' spectrum policy team, Louise is now leading the development of the Government's Wireless Infrastructure Strategy. Before joining DCMS Louise spent more than twenty years in the telecoms industry, working for both fibre and wireless network providers, in a variety of legal, regulatory and policy roles.

Craig Sharp

Dr Glenn Goodall

Head of ICT Research – EPSRC



Glenn is responsible for leading the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) research theme at EPSRC. The team covers a diverse range of research areas, including everything from future communication systems to next-generation computing, low-power design in semiconductors and the interface of psychophysics and ICT, as well as the underpinning discover science that supports AI and Quantum technology.

Glenn has had several roles within EPSRC in his eight years there. Originally a polymer chemist, Glenn started at EPSRC in the Energy team, he then moved to the Governance team and then to Head of Economic Impact.

Glenn has been the Head of ICT Research Portfolio since December 2021.

Dr Kafil Ahmed

Senior RF Engineer, Network Rail



Dr Kafil Ahmed leads the Telecoms Radio Frequency Clearance programme in Network Rail. Besides, he has been driving a number of initiatives for rail innovations in the field of future railway mobile and satellite communications for trains and trackside applications. He is also a member of Network Rail's Telecoms Standards and Control Steering Committee (TSCSG) and led the development of Telecoms Clearance Standards.

From 2015 to 2018, Kafil served as the IET's RF and Microwave Professional Community Network's chair. He was a member of the IET's Community Resourcing Committee and served as an executive committee member of the Electromagnetics Professional network between 2017 and 2020. He led and chaired the IET's annual 5G conferences between 2014 and 2020.

Kafil is a Chartered Engineer. In 2013, he obtained his PhD in microwave metamaterial filter technology. He published several papers in international journals and conferences. While working at Pera technology, He oversaw many FP7 and H2020 projects involving UHF RFID tagging, mm-wave radar systems, and high-power microwave systems.

Regius Rahim Tafazolli

Director of the 6GIC - University of Surrey



Regius Rahim Tafazolli, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, IET, WWRF and Regius Professor of Electronic Engineering, Professor of Mobile and Satellite Communications, Founder and Director of 5GIC, 6GIC and ICS (Institute for Communication System) at the University of Surrey. He has over 30 years of experience in digital communications research and teaching. He has authored and co-authored more than 1000 research publications and is regularly invited to deliver keynote talks and distinguished lectures to international conferences and workshops.

He was an advisor to the Mayor of London (Boris Johnson) on London 2050 Infrastructure.

Professor Joe Butler
CTO at Digital Catapult



Joe is the CTO at Digital Catapult where he leads across telecommunications and digital infrastructure, AI and immersive technologies such as augmented and virtual reality. He is one of the founders of the SONIC Labs programme and is the senior responsible officer for the new UK Telecoms Innovation Network.

Previous roles include Chief Scientific Advisor and Director of Telecoms at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on an interim basis, and CTO for the radio spectrum and Director of AI and Machine Learning at Ofcom.

Joe worked on delivering multi-billion spectrum auctions for 4G and 5G, on releasing spectrum from the public sector for 5G and in agreeing the 5G millimetre wave bands for UK and Europe. He was author of the National Infrastructure Commission report on 5G and the future of mobile communications and spent his early career in AI and computer vision

Professor Andy Sutton
Distinguished Engineer & Principal Network Architect – BT



Andy Sutton is a BT Distinguished Engineer and Principal Network Architect focused on RAN architecture evolution and mobile xhaul. Andy has 35 years of experience within the telecommunications industry, working in radio access, transmission and transport network technologies, and network synchronisation. Andy holds an MSc in Mobile Communications from the University of Salford, is a Chartered Engineer and holds Fellowships from the IET, ITP and BCS. Andy holds the posts of Visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool and University of Salford. Andy has co-authored four books on telecommunications related topics and sits on the Editorial Board of the ITP Journal.

Panel

Professor Maziar Nekovee

Managing Director - 6G Lab



Maziar Nekovee is Managing Director of 6G Lab and Dean of the AI Institute at University of Sussex UK where he develops disruptive RAN and AI technologies for next generation mobile communication systems. He is co-PI of the UKRI/EPSRC Network Plus consortium "A Green, Connected and Prosperous Britain" Prior to joining the University of Sussex in 2017, as a Professor and Head of Department of Engineering, he was from 2013-2017 with Samsung R&D UK (SRUK), where he led Samsung's overall European research and collaborations in 5G as well as working closely with the standards teams and Network Business, hence going through the entire journey to 5G, from pre-standards research and trials, to 3GPP standardisation and products.

Prior to that he was from 2001-2013 a Group Leader and Senior Scientist at BT Research. Prof Nekovee is Chair of Network Europe Technology Platform in Communication Networks and Services (WG Verticals), full academic member of 6G Infrastructure Association (6GIA), ETSI ISG RIS and ETSI ISG NFV, and is a Committee Member of the IET RF And Microwave TPN.

Maziar is the author of 150+ highly cited papers, has authored a bestselling book and has 15 patents. He obtained his PhD in Physics in 1995 and his MEng in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (cum laude) in 1990, both in the Netherlands.

Dr Alain Mourad

Senior Director at InterDigital and the Head of Future Wireless Europe Lab in London (UK)



Dr Alain Mourad is currently a Senior Director at InterDigital and the Head of Future Wireless Europe Lab in London (UK) leading research on 5G evolution towards 6G. Prior to InterDigital, Alain was a Principal Standards Engineer at Samsung Electronics R&D (UK) and previously a Senior Engineer at Mitsubishi Electric R&D Centre Europe (France). Throughout his career, Alain has been active in the research and standardization of wireless systems (3GPP, IEEE802, DVB, ATSC, ETSI, IETF). Alain is a prolific inventor with over 50 issued patents and several additional patent applications. He received Samsung Electronics Inventor of the Year Award in 2012 and 2013, InterDigital Innovation Award in 2016, 2018 and 2020, 2018 Global Telecoms Award "Highly Commended" for "Advancing the road to 5G", and the 2021 CSI Award "Highly Commended" for "Best 5G technology or service".

Professor Howard Benn
GSA Representative



Howard is a GSA representative. He started his career in the fixed telecommunication sector (Plessey) back in 1982, did his degree and PhD at Bradford University, moving into radio-based communications in 1989.

He started working in ETSI GSM standards committees in 1993, helping create 3GPP and chairing 3GPP RAN 4 from 1998 to 2007. He has been a board member of ETSI since 2008, is currently advising the ICANN board on mobile technology, and a member of a number of advisory boards for UK universities and research programs.

His current role is 'Vice President Communications Research' for Samsung Electronics R&D Institute in the UK, managing a team of engineers covering ETSI, 3GPP, and GSMA. Recently has become a visiting Professor at Bristol University. He also sits on the UK5G government advisory committee

looking at the future of communications technology in the UK, and an advisor to the UK government on international free trade agreements.

Professor Muhammed Imran
Dean - University of Glasgow UESTC



Muhammad Ali Imran is serving as Dean University of Glasgow UESTC collaboration and as a Professor of Wireless Communication Systems. He heads the Autonomous Systems and Connectivity Division and the Communications, Sensing and Imaging (CSI) research group at University of Glasgow. He is an Affiliate Professor at the University of Oklahoma, USA; Adjunct Research Professor at Ajman University, UAE and a visiting Professor at 5G Innovation Centre, University of Surrey, UK. He is PI for Scotland 5G Centre's urban testbed and an advisory board member of UK5G forum.

He has previously served as Associate Editor of IEEE Comms Letters and IET Communications and is currently associate editor for IEEE Transaction for Communications, Wiley Internet Technology

Letters and IEEE Access. He is editor-in-chief for IoT and Sensors section of Frontiers in Communications and Networks.

He is a Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh, Fellow of IET, Fellow of Royal Society of Arts, Senior Member IEEE and Senior Fellow Higher Education Academy.

Professor Ben Allen

Director of Communication Systems Engineering – OneWeb



Professor Ben Allen is Director of Communication Systems Engineering with OneWeb and Visiting Professor at the University of Surrey.

His career has spanned academia and industry, including as a Royal Society Industry Fellow with the University of Oxford and Network Rail. He has led numerous R&D activities relating to communications engineering, several of which exhibited state-of-the-art advances.

Over the years he has published numerous papers and several books on radio and telecommunications research developments.

He is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Engineering & Technology, Institute of Telecommunications Professionals, and the Higher Education Academy.

Professor Sandra Dudley-MacEvoy

Tom Kirkham