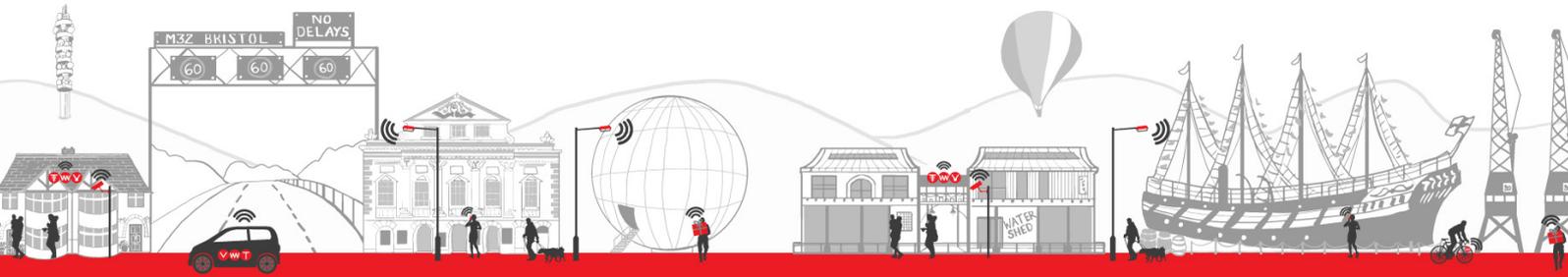




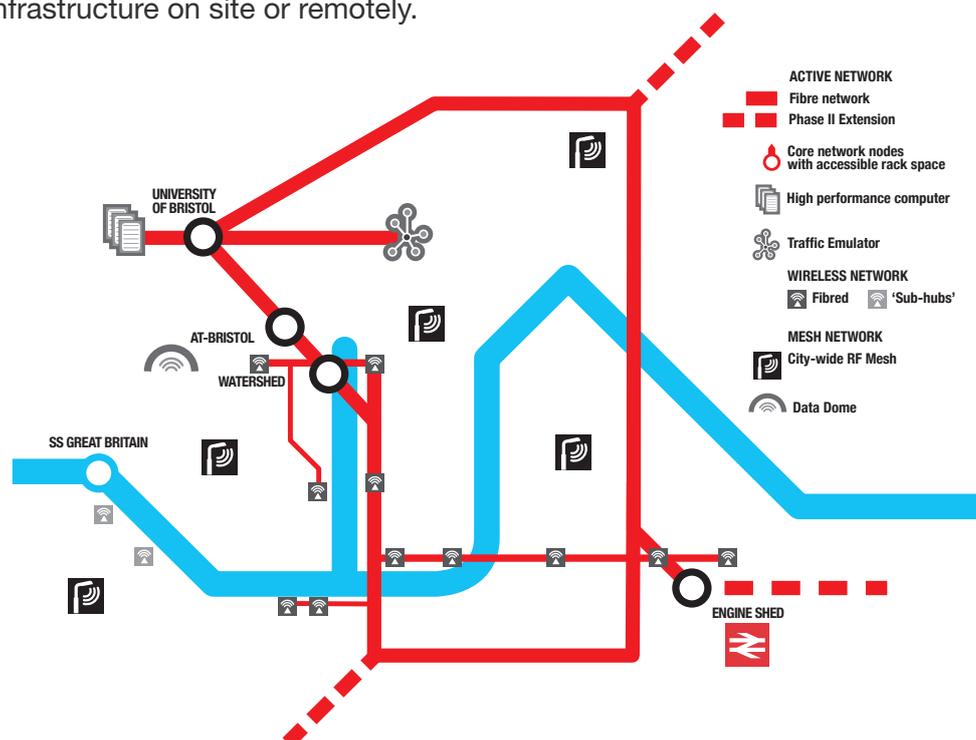
## The Wireless Mile



The mobile industry is moving towards a heterogeneous technology environment – a ‘hetnet’ – where complex multi-layered networks of overlapping big and small cells supply smartphones, tablets, cars, drones and even buildings, with a huge amount of cheap connectivity. Getting a hetnet to work is not simple, and Bristol’s Wireless Mile provides an ideal test-bed for those developing solutions.

The Wireless Mile stretches across a picturesque and heavily populated area of central Bristol, combining waterscapes, old and new buildings, metal and wooden boats, and dense eight story warehouse buildings. It creates a rich and diverse urban test-bed for wireless communication companies, wanting to use the Wi-Fi, 3G, 4G, LTE & 5G experimental technologies already deployed. It includes, for example, small cell millimetre wavelength technology with access points spaced regularly along the Mile, providing very localised coverage in a challenging urban topography. The mixture of access types gives maximum flexibility.

Bristol Is Open’s customers can choose between using edge computing, with rack space available at various points along the mile, or have dynamically managed access to a high-performance computer housed at the University of Bristol. This means that it will be possible to isolate any experiment taking place on the infrastructure on site or remotely.



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Bristol Is Open needs to ensure that experimental uses comply with Bristol Is Open's R&D mandate and that there is no intention to offer a service on top of the experiment. Then there's a phase of scoping a partner's requirements in terms of infrastructure technologies. Bristol Is Open will then virtualise the infrastructure to make available the access points and resources needed to take a trial forward.

The launch of the Wireless Mile will also add another vital feature to the City Experimentation as a Service (CEaaS) offering in the form of a 5G testbed. With 5G at best a nascent technology at present, there are only a few field tests taking place globally and with industry pundits predicting the commercialisation of 5G by 2020, demand for well-proven test facilities are only going to increase in the intervening years.