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Global Vision or Fragmentation?



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EDITORIAL

It's 2025, and 6G is no longer just a research topic — it's entering the active prestandardization phase.

At the 6G Summit in Seoul this April, over 400 global experts gathered to discuss real-world use cases. At the same time, the European Commission launched the Hexa-X-II initiative, led by Nokia and Ericsson. In China, Huawei is already showing 1 Tb/s demos, and Samsung is promising 6G-ready infrastructure by 2028.

The launch of the 6G-MIRAI project in Paris this year is also a strong signal. Coordinated by Ericsson and funded by the EU under the Horizon Europe program, this project reflects a clear strategic ambition: to position Europe as a global center of excellence for smart 6G networks — with Al integrated from the start in the design of radio architectures (RAN). In the same spirit, the EU-Japan cooperation through projects like 6G-MIRAI and HARMONY aims to align efforts around cell-free massive MIMO, intelligent radio resource management, and a shared benchmarking platform. The goal is to anticipate future global standards while laying the groundwork for joint industrialization between two major tech powers.

At the heart of this movement is a fundamental shift in mindset. 6G won't just be about speed even if theoretical speeds above 1 Tb/s are mentioned. It will focus on network intelligence, resilience, and above all, energy efficiency. The aim is no longer just to connect faster, but to connect smarter and more efficiently, in a world where devices, objects, vehicles, and environments are deeply interconnected.

However, these technical ambitions also raise important questions. Who will govern networks that can act autonomously? Who controls the decision-making algorithms built into critical infrastructure? And most importantly: how can we ensure global interoperability while respecting European values around ethics, security, and sustainability?

In other words: will 6G bring about global technological convergence — or will it mark the start of a new fragmentation, where each geopolitical bloc shapes its network based on its own values and strategic interests? Looking closely, we may already be heading toward a more plural and geopolitically-driven vision of intelligent networks.

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From Research to Reality

6G is entering the pre-standardization phase, driven by concrete projects in Europe, Asia, and the United States.

7 Intelligence Over Speed

Beyond extreme data rates, the focus is shifting to AI integration, network resilience, and energy efficiency.

2 Strategic Tech Sovereignty

Major powers are investing to control critical components from intelligent RAN to embedded decision-making algorithms.

Spectrum Tensions Rise

Access to the 6 GHz band is becoming a strategic battleground, with growing competition between telecom and Wi-Fi stakeholders.

5 Convergence or Fragmentation?

Amid rising geopolitical tensions, the key question remains: will 6G become a global standard or a fragmented, multi-model network?



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