Back in 2011, we opened the first AT&T Foundry location in Plano, Texas. This launch coincided with a major milestone for AT&T that year – our first commercial deployment of 4G LTE. While no one could foresee exactly how 4G would change the world, we knew companies needed help integrating this new network capability into their operations and products. The Foundry was designed to tap into this faster, more reliable network so we could rapidly co-create, test, and prove out prototypes for first-of-their-kind solutions with our business customers. And now it’s time to take it to the next level.

How will 5G transform business?

Nowhere is 5G’s promise currently more powerful than in enterprise. And that’s because we don’t have to wait for nationwide coverage to see how 5G will forever change the way we do business. We’re already using live 5G millimeter wave to create this future right now at the AT&T Foundry. And once again, our business customers are looking for guidance on how to turn a revolutionary technology into a financial and competitive advantage.

At the heart of 5G’s promise is what’s called edge computing. For example, with augmented reality and virtual reality headsets today, you generally have to physically tether a graphics processor to the goggles if you want a high-end experience. With 5G, there’s no need to tether at all. A wireless 5G connection is fast enough and responsive enough to replace the wire. Furthermore, why carry that GPU with you at all? Just put it in the network and access it when you need it. Now your glasses are lighter, slimmer, and more power efficient.

What could that mean for an enterprise? Consider a factory. When a piece of specialized equipment breaks down, businesses don’t always have an onsite engineer qualified to make that repair. Augmented reality could eventually offer a perfect solution. Using lightweight, unobtrusive AR headsets, remote engineers could guide onsite technicians through the repair process using context-sensitive 3D animations streamed across the network.

We’re uncovering unique 5G applications across various industries and the public sector and collaborating with a number of companies to see how 5G can help them improve and scale their solutions for the future.

Learn more about AT&T 5G.