## Telco needs of IPDK, Cloud, HW and SW suppliers

Observations from Tomas Fredberg Senior Expert Cloud Infrastructure @Ericsson

## Why Telco requirement initially differ from enterprise, clouds and other market areas

- Requirements on a stable, always available, cost-efficient solution
  - Basic connectivity with continuously increasing capacity and improved characteristics
  - Mobility with availability everywhere and all the time at a massive scale
- Few competing operators in each country yielding about 800 different operators worldwide
  - All must follow respective country's laws and regulatory frameworks
- This puts many Telco requirements at the technology forefront that enable large scale operations
  - But limits the use of technology to mature and "standardized" technologies

## What Telco Operators ask for

- Stability Quality, Backwards compatibility, long support times
- Portability in a modular stack
  - No vendor lock-in at any level with choices for each layer and function
  - This require a lot of standardization of different sorts
- Predictability
  - Supply chains, deliverables and solution functionality at large scale
  - Characteristics like reliability, availability, performance, latency, etc.
- Evolutionary change with gradual in-service migration from existing solutions
- Rapid Telco feature development and deployment
- Alignment with other industries, but not at any cost







### Where abouts are the Operators now

- but beware there is a large span of where each operator are in their journey

- Transitioning into usage of Cloud Native technologies for at least the coming 5 years
- Usage of Cloud technologies with learnings of how to manage and orchestrate that at scale
- Early trial usage of large Cloud Providers initially for IT-like applications
- Understanding that HW accelerators will be required for a small set of critical applications
- Each combination of HW and SW components are thoroughly tested before deployment at scale
- Every technology shift is always driven as a slow and gradual migration

Technology adoption take time for Telco and a smooth gradual migration must be supported

# What does it take for Telcos to use IPU/DPU and Programmable Switches

- Industry alignment without HW, SW or Cloud vendor lock-in
- Telco Network Functions application portability is a must
  - Easy migration from current SR-IOV based applications
  - Transparent/invisible Infrastructure acceleration
  - Standardized/aligned NF application interfaces for NF acceleration/offload
- Supported Software and Solutions
- Improved TCO



#### Without these elements fulfilled, there will mostly be sporadic trials and niche products

## Could IPDK support Telcos requirements

- IPDK should
  - Allow multi-vendor IPU/DPU for Telco Operator
  - Allow mix of IPU/DPU and CPU based networking stack for Telco Operator
  - Enable IPU/DPU SW stacks with large portability for Telco Vendors
    - Enable CPU usage for deployment without IPU/DPU
    - Enable functional portability over CPU, IPU/DPU and Programmable switches where deployed
  - Enable SW application portability with low need for re-verification
    - Over different IPU/DPU, CPU and Cloud providers
  - Fit the Cloud Native paradigm and be seamlessly exposed through K8s Infrastructure
    - Must support the Telco functional extensions e.g. for secondary networking

#### Work together to grow the shared cake instead of chasing growth of each small slice or crumble

|   | laaS                              | PaaS       | Inline Acceleration   |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------|---|
| Use<br>Cases                              | NETWORK STORAGE CRYPTO            | (ئ) 🛞      | $ \begin{array}{c} \qquad \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \  \ $ |
| IPDK Infrastructure Application Interface |                                   |            |   |
|   | Open<br>Community                 | @ipdk      | Compiler<br>Driven  |
| ,   | IPDK Target Abstraction Interface |            |   |
| IPDK<br>Targets                           | CPU Target                        | IPU Target | Switch Target   |



### Call for action

- Drive IPDK to enable portability for Infrastructure, Application and Devices
  - Supported by IPU/DPU developers
  - Supported by HW OEM suppliers
  - Supported by OSV distributors
  - Supported by Cloud Service Providers
  - Included and referenced by Telco, IT and NW related standards
- Enable IPU/DPU TCO to be a positive step for all deployment cases
  - Broad acceptance is required to start the initial SW development
  - Enable interaction with other HW accelerators

#### Let's engage together and grow the cake for all Telco deployments



