

GAST Automotive Industry & Technology Research Report

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Subject: In-Depth Interpretation of the *2023 International Congress of Intelligent and Connected Vehicles Technology*

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Conference Introduction

- Title of the conference: The 10th International Congress of Intelligent and Connected Vehicles Technology (CICV 2023)
- Date: May 15~18, 2023
- Venue: Beijing City, China

Main content

- Focus: new automotive industrial ecosystems that develop with the next-generation AI, smart transportation, information communication, and smart energy in an integrated manner
 - 3 plenary sessions and thematic reports + 16 seminars
 - Topics: ICV strategies, innovative technologies, ecosystems, commercial application, cross-industry integration, etc. The congress gathered global top experts, policymakers, industrial leaders, investment agencies, etc. to share practice, reach a consensus on the ICV industry, promote the development, explore new technologies, further develop ecosystem, and promote the application of cutting-edge technologies

Organizers

- Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, China Society of Automotive Engineers, National Innovation Center of Intelligent and Connected Vehicles, Suzhou Automotive Research Institute of Tsinghua University

Viewpoints of Key Speakers

- China has introduced a series of policies for guiding the adoption of intelligent and connected technologies in the auto industry. The ICV industry has moved into a fast track, thus requiring active cooperation of players at all links to create an open-source and open ecosystem. Such a new ecosystem would require collaboration between OEMs, traditional T1 suppliers, and software vendors
- Operating system is the core of smart vehicles, playing a key role in connecting all links. The discussion about OS is not confined to the underlying kernel, but generalized operating systems that encompass middleware, virtualization, functional SW, etc. It is impossible for a single player to complete the R&D of an automotive OS, which requires efforts of different players from relevant sectors
- “Independent automotive chips and operating systems” are the decisive factors for the second half of the game. Facing a raft of challenges like insufficient core technologies, limited tuning of chips, absent development tool chains, inadequate standards, and weak verification capabilities, China’s auto industry requires a set of open-source and open OS kernels to underpin the development of new SW and HW of new technology architectures in a coordinated manner
- Smart vehicle platform is in its infancy and the market pattern has not been crystallized. Chinese and foreign T1 suppliers, OEMs, and AD companies are making efforts to develop diverse computing platforms. Fundamental computing platforms and AD OS architectures that enable layer-by-layer decoupling and cross-domain integration would become the key

Viewpoints of Key Speakers

- There are two factors for players to win the second half of the AD commercialization game, namely promoting the adoption of AD technology at a large scale and providing excellent user experience. Chinese players have made breakthroughs in the relevant key technologies for AD, including perception, control, and decision-making algorithms, as well as AD, C-V2X, HD map, and smart chassis
- Evolving into the third space, smart cockpit requires high-performance CPUs and scalable architectures to enable the development of a new generation of smart cockpits
- Smart cockpit requires development from both hardware and software. From the dimension of hardware, it is necessary to substantially improve the computing power of vehicles and continuously upgrade cameras, DMS, and other hardware. From the dimension of software, which is more important, it is necessary to build the upper-layer ecosystem according to the underlying layer, thus providing user-specific cockpit services and meeting different user needs based on local reality
- It is an inevitable trend to integrate cars and smartphones. Due to the characteristics of software, automotive software would be integrated ahead of hardware. The price chasm between automotive products determines that they would be far more differentiated than smartphones. It would be a more tortuous process for hardware to get integrated
- Consensuses have not been fully reached on the development concept, technology pathways, etc. in the industry, which, to certain extent, has damped the development and commercialization of advanced AD technologies. It is necessary to develop new architectures, R&D modes, test methods, business models, and other aspects and give full play to the core advantage of integrating vehicles, roads, and clouds

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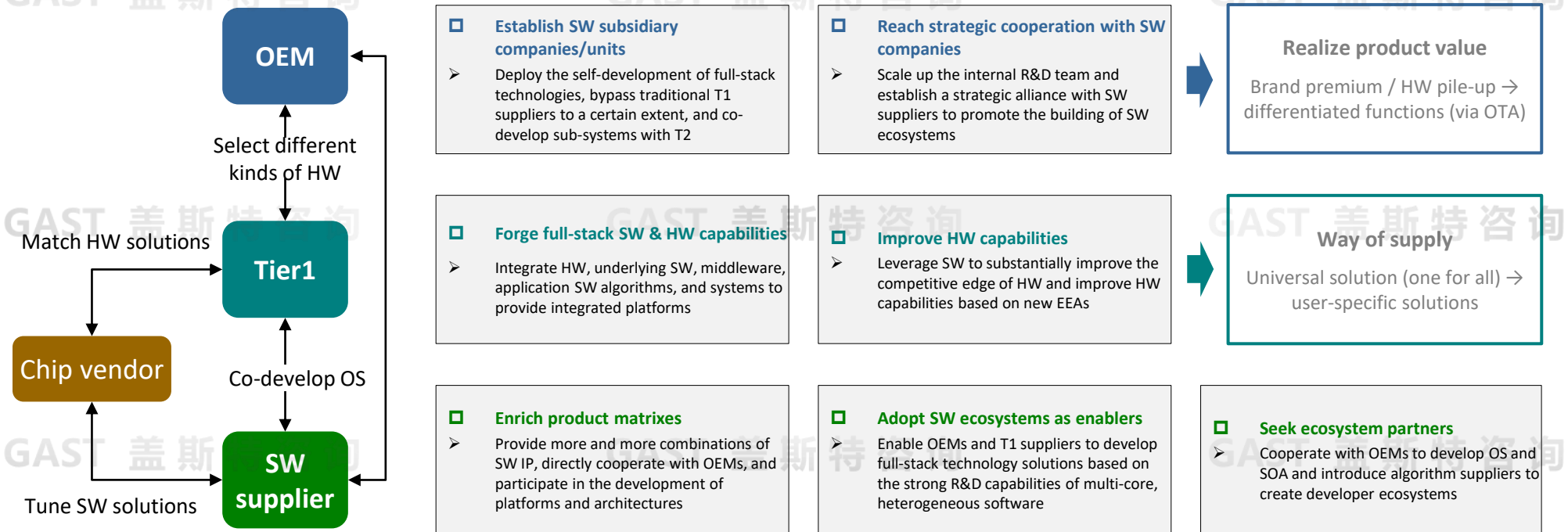
□ Development Trends of SDVs and Corresponding Technologies

□ Development Trends of Smart Cockpits and Corresponding Technologies

□ Development Trends of V2X-Based AD Technologies

SDV Requires Professional Division of Duties

- With SW and HW decoupled layer by layer, the industry requires the division of duties between players. As the auto industry shifts from “traditional supply chain defined by HW and machine” to “digital ecosystems”, all kinds of players face the throes of transformation



- After defining an architecture, OEMs would join in the application SW development ecosystem with HW providers, algorithm suppliers, OS vendors, middleware suppliers, etc.**

OS and Middleware Become More Important for Ecosystems

- Generalized operating systems for cars (kernel + middleware) are evolving from traditional vertically coupled architectures to those with vertically layered modules, which would eventually become distributed service-oriented architectures with microkernel → The core of OEMs to develop ecosystems

The purpose and value of generalized operating systems

❑ Support open application ecosystems

- Provide safe application development and running environments, allow the integration and decoupling of applications, and realize distributed coordination

❑ Develop scalable service ecosystems

- Develop SOAs based on middle ware with “unified standards, centralized configurations, and distributed manners”

❑ Match more generalized HW ecosystems

- OS kernel follows the and the principle of minimization and least privilege; Allow for plug-and-play peripheral drivers

➢ Business cost

- Permit collaboration and parallel development → save the time cost
- Have unified standards and configurations → save the maintenance cost
- Allow cross-model and cross-platform use → save the production cost and labor cost

➢ Technology application

- Convenient development; good transplantability and maintainability
- Meet the demand for automotive functional safety and system development
- Enable high-speed response and multi-tasking according to different kinds of applications

Status quo

✓ **Automotive OS:** Android, QNX, Harmony OS, AliOS, Linux, etc. coexist → Require integration

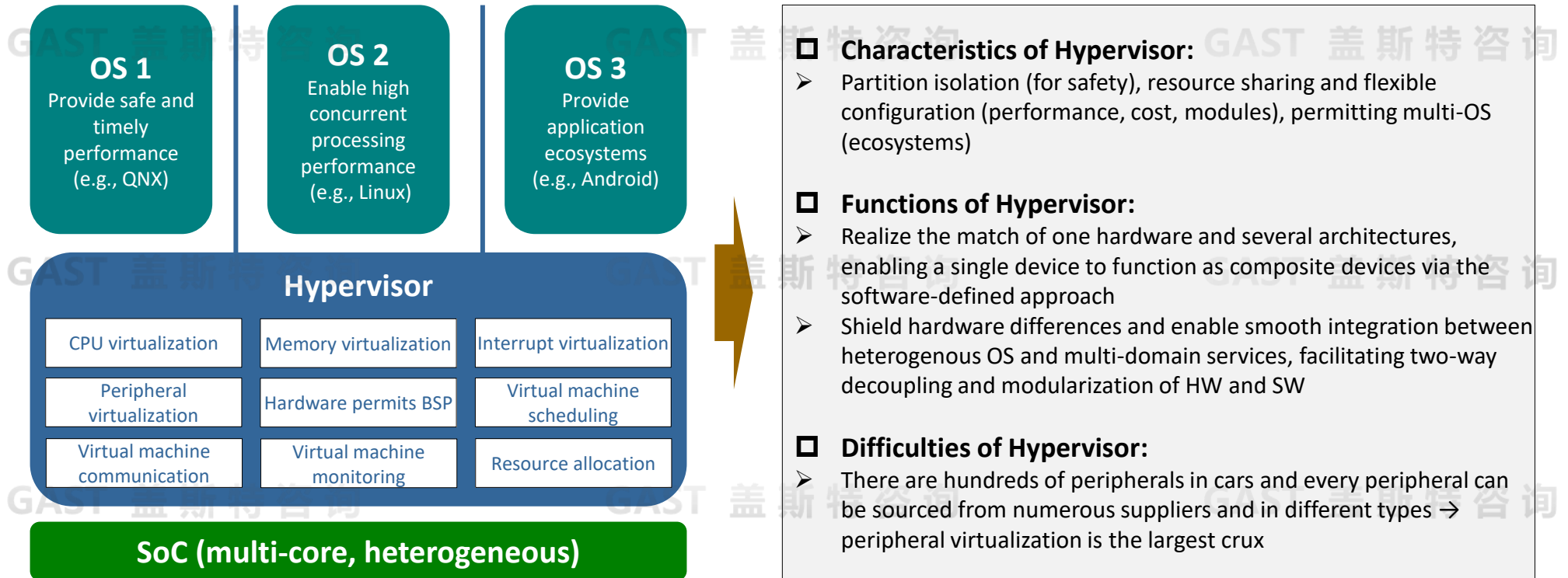
✓ **Safety control OS:** most vehicle control units are developed based on AutoSAR at present

✓ **AD OS:** no proven solutions; lack of safe and real-time kernel, middleware, virtual machines, and two-way decoupled functional SW; no general industry-wide consensus on architectures

- ❑ **Two challenges for automotive OS: ① complex technologies + heavy investment + long period; ② risks of new monopoly → It is imperative to develop innovative ecosystems**

Virtual Technology Empowers Multi-Domain Integration in the SDV Era

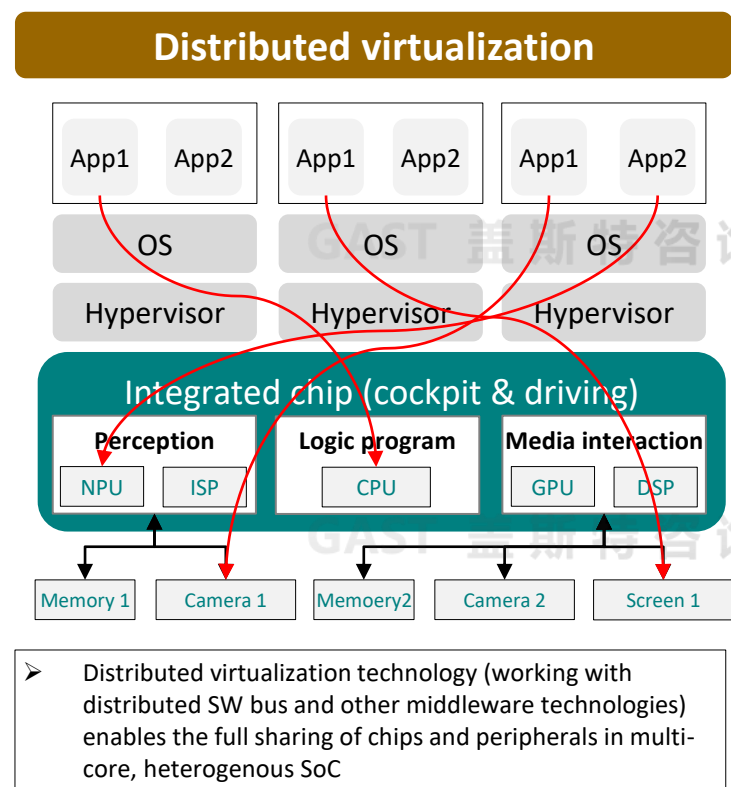
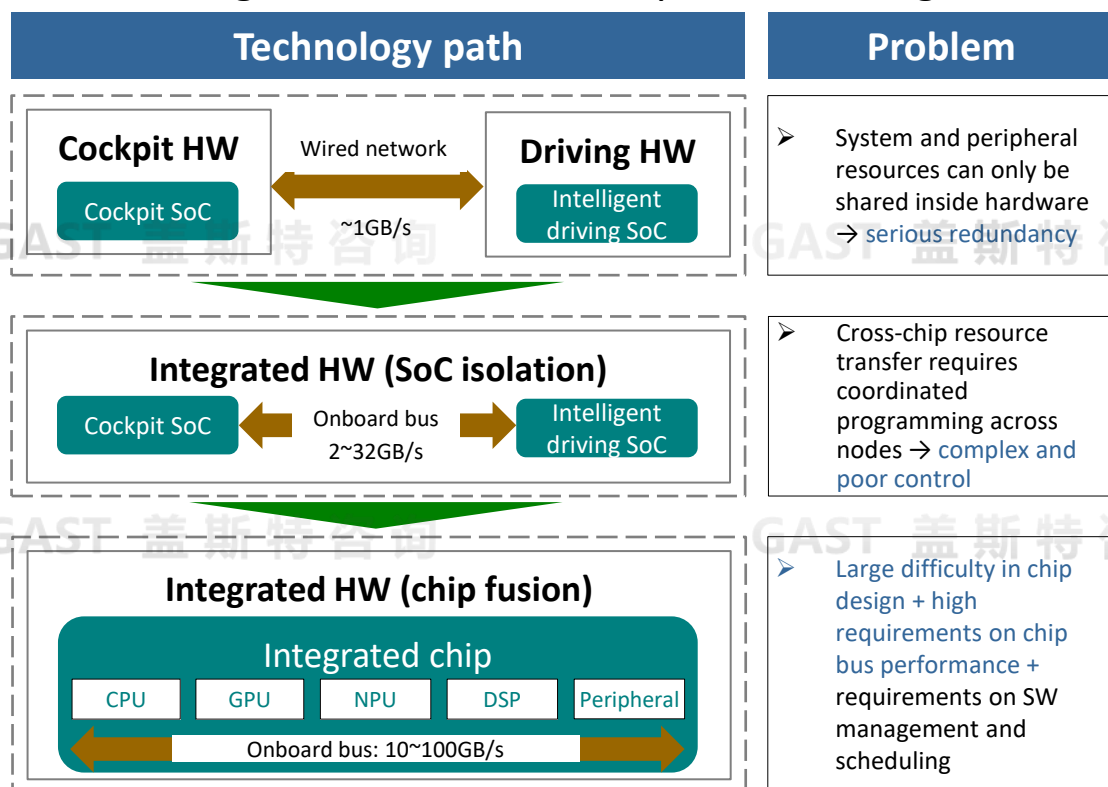
- Different automotive function domains have different requirements on functions and performance
→ Rely on virtual technology to realize “1-to-N” of the OS, thus enabling the integration of domains



- ❑ **The final purpose of Hypervisor is to enable flexible deployment of applications, chips, and peripherals in cars, enabling computing platforms to accommodate richness, safety, and reliability of functions**

Distributed Virtualization Technology Makes the True Integration between Cockpit and Driving Domains Possible

- It is hard to realize low-cost and safe integration between cockpit and driving domains via HW separation and SoC isolation. Distributed virtualization technology provides basic support for chip-level integration between cockpit and driving domains



R&D and Industrialization of Computing Platforms are Flourishing

- As the trend of cross-domain integration is becoming increasingly evident, all kinds of participants in industrial ecosystems start to develop computing platforms for smart vehicles, leaving the market pattern uncrystallized

Typical player

Development strategy

OEM

Tesla, Volkswagen,
Toyota, XPeng, etc.

- Hope to self-develop controllers and even master-control chips to control the autonomy of underlying hardware
- However, most OEMs rely on technology companies for AD computing platforms, algorithms, and chips

Local T1

CAIC, Puhua Soft,
Banma, etc.

- Most players work on full-stack technology solutions and cooperate with OEMs on a deep level
- Bottlenecks in core SW and algorithms entails heavy dependence on foreign players

**International
T1**

Bosch, Visteon, etc.

- Have the first-mover advantage in customers and supply chains in basic computing platforms
- Complex business lines, slow development of local scenarios, and less flexible

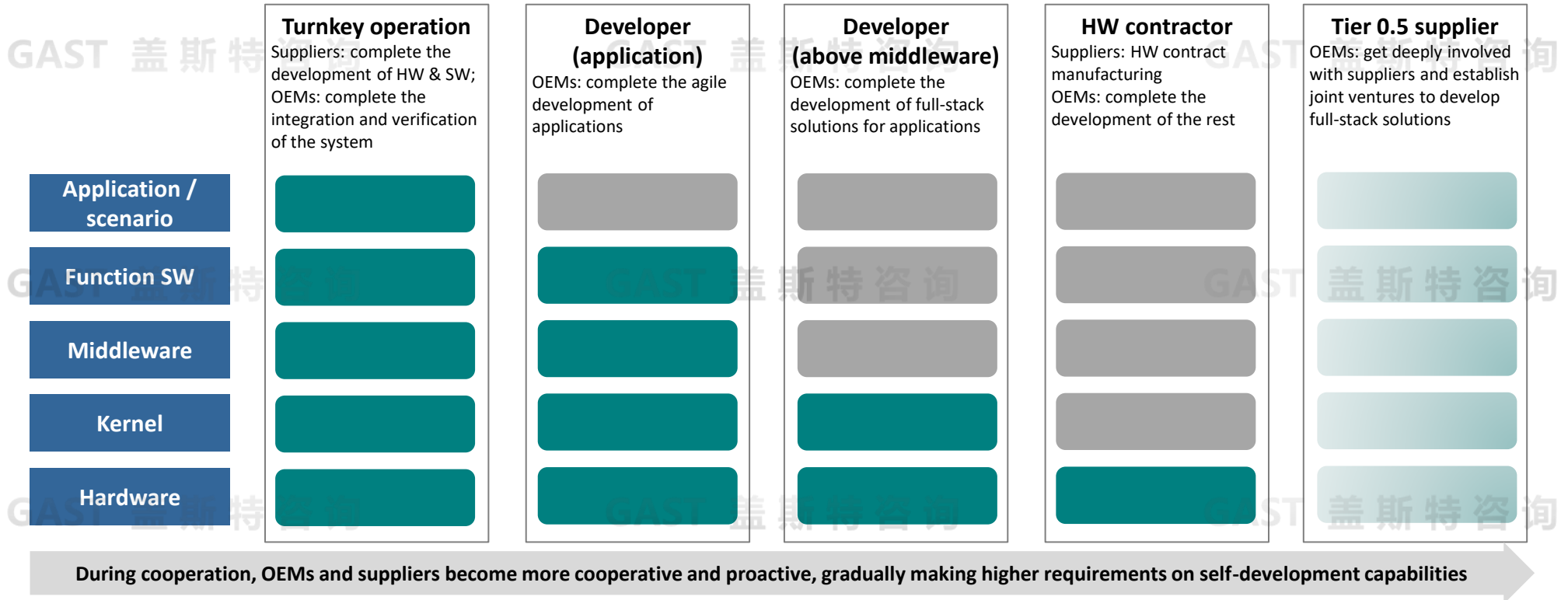
**AD
technology
company**

Waymo, Huawei, etc.

- Start from software to build universal and module platforms, throw down a challenge to traditional T1 suppliers, and seek opportunities to directly enter the computing platform assembly market
- Platforms require cross-model integration; System architectures entail breakthroughs in interconnectivity

Modes of Cooperation on Computing Platforms in the Auto Industry

- Since different OEMs have different needs for the R&D of computing platforms and suppliers can provide different services, there are various modes of cooperation on computing platforms



- OEMs should strike a good balance between short-term and long-term targets based on their capabilities and select the most suitable mode of cooperation

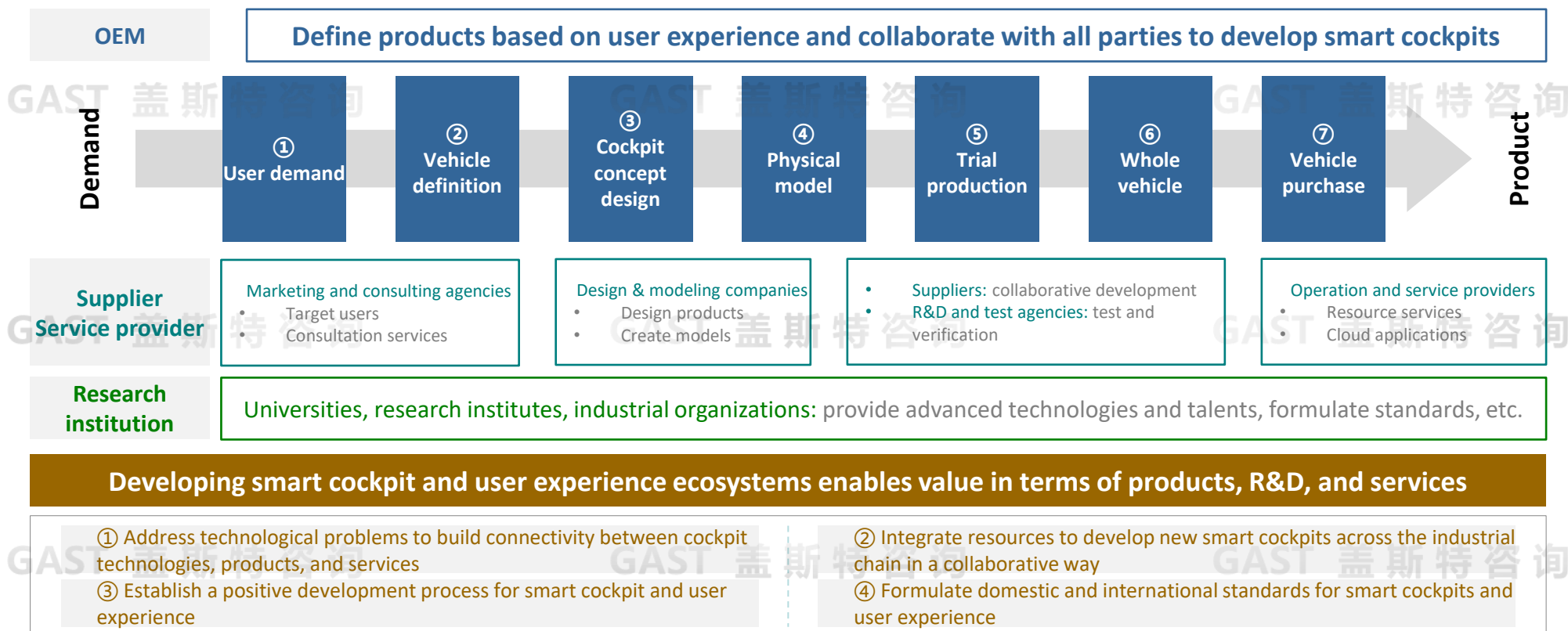
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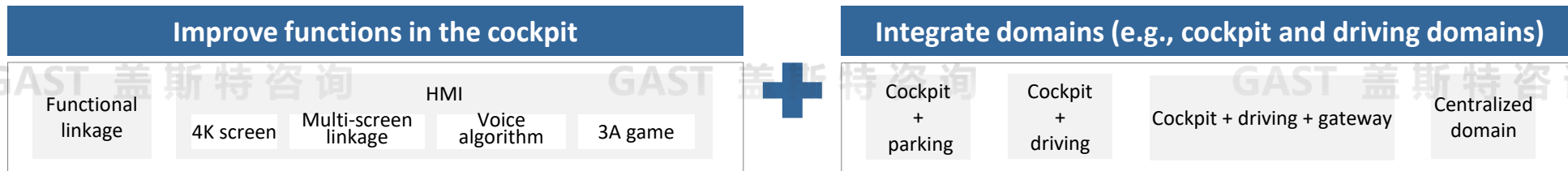
Improving Smart Cockpit Experience Requires Professional Collaborative Development



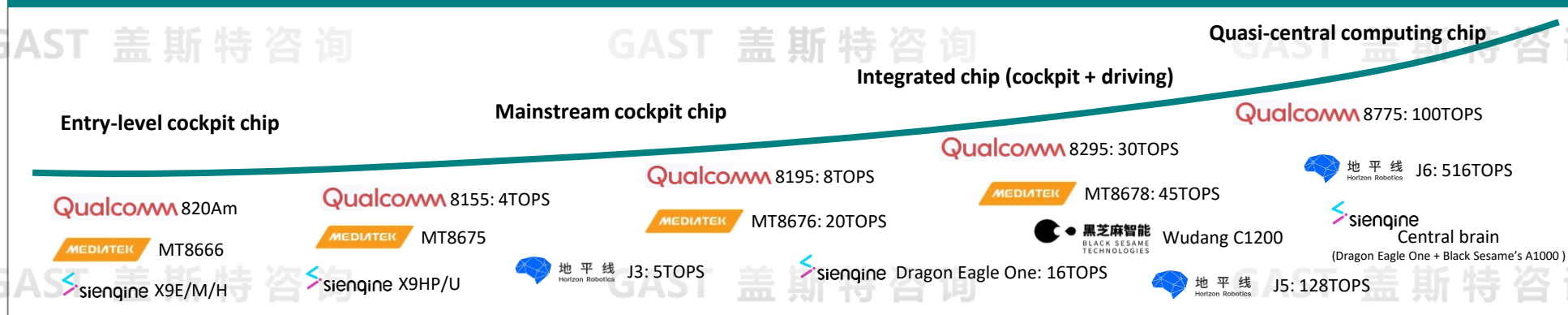
❑ Improving smart cockpit user experience entails new ecosystems co-developed by players in a collaborative manner, covering the whole process from demand to product

High-Performance Chips Enables Better User Experience in the Cockpit

- Increasingly diverse functions and interactions in the cockpit entail larger computing power



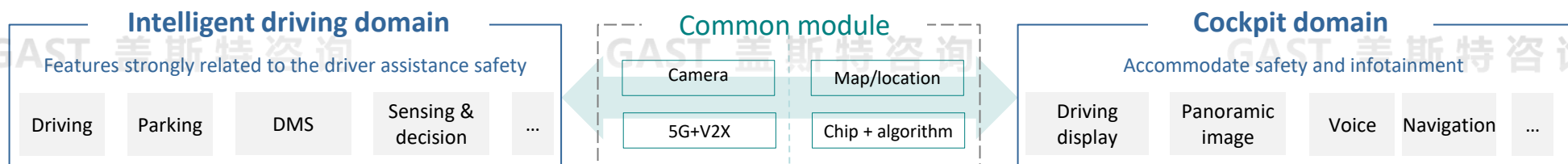
The increasing demand for cockpit chips with higher computing power intensifies the competition between chip vendors



- With the demand for chips with large computing power increasing, local cockpit chip providers embrace a new round of opportunities, who are constantly making their products more competitive, gradually narrowing the gap with international giants

Integration of Cockpit and Driving Domains Enables Innovative Interactions

- Information interactions of intelligent driving and smart cockpit domains get closely integrated, enabling the sharing and reuse of key sensors, functions, algorithm modules, etc.



Demand for integrative interactions

① Safer

- Timely and intuitive feedback
- Real-time monitoring of driver status

② More convenient

- Simplified logic of operation
- Simple and intuitive interfaces that highlight certain content

③ More comprehensive

- Intelligent decisions (judgment/prediction)
- Multi-mode integration (environment perception/decision analysis)

Scenarios for integrative interactions

Driving status monitoring

- When the intelligent driving system receives an instruction that may influence driving safety, the cockpit system would detect the drive's status and make judgment → achieve safety redundancy

Environment information display

- The intelligent driving system would perform real-time simulation of surrounding traffic conditions and display information in the cockpit → enable immersive perception of reality

User-friendly access to functions

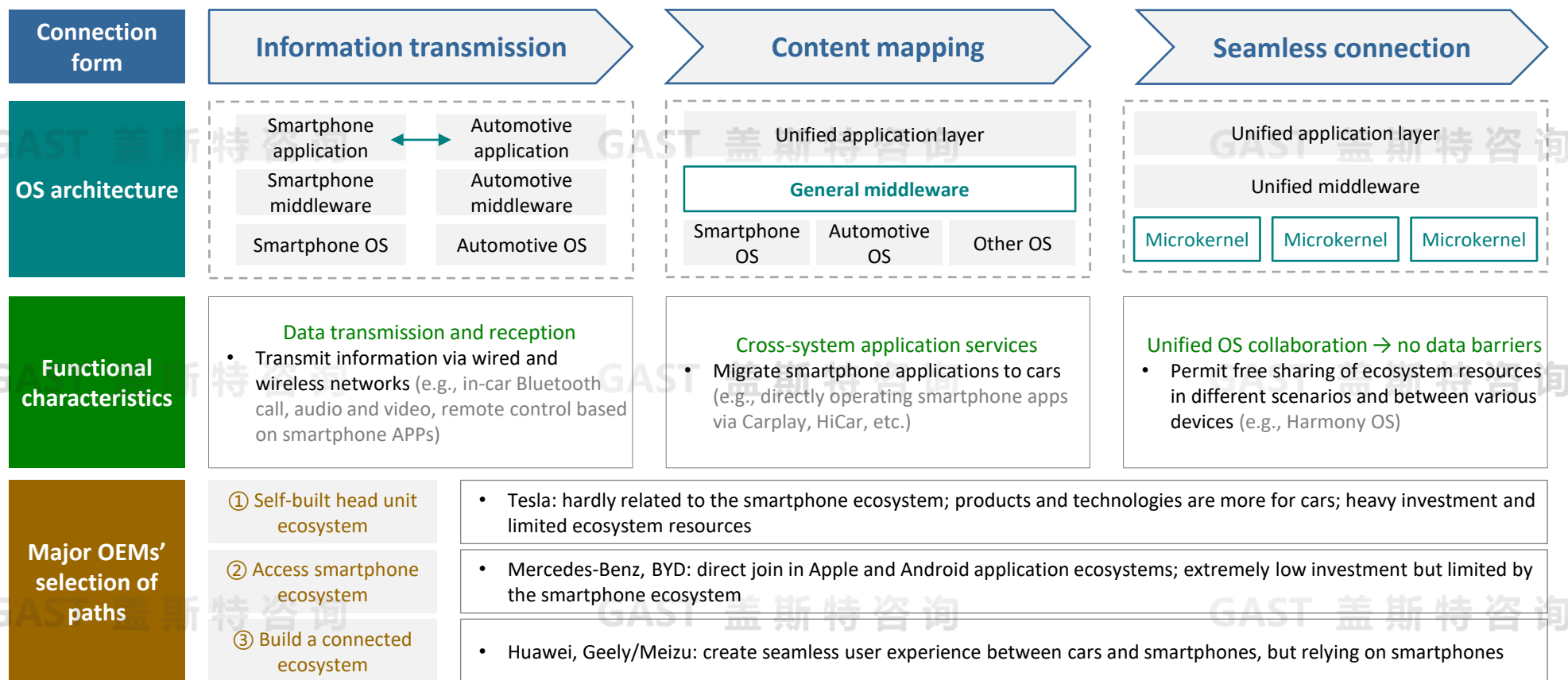
- Allow the activation of intelligent driving functions via voice/key in the cockpit → more convenient and safer

Driving safety feedback

- In case of a warning/danger, the cockpit would inform the driver via vibration, sound, etc. to require take-over

- HMI would enable connection between people, cars, and environment during the integration of cockpit and intelligent driving domains, thus making user experience safe and immersive

Unified OS is the Key to Connecting Automotive and Smartphone Ecosystems

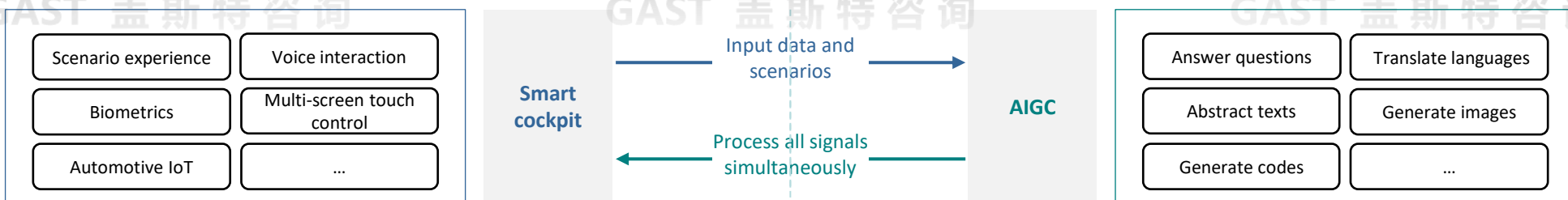


❑ The essence of car-to-phone connection: build a bridge connecting the cockpit with other terminals → create seamlessly connected user experience

AIGC Shapes a New Generation of Smart Cockpit Interaction

■ AIGC would disrupt the way humans interact with machines in the smart cockpit

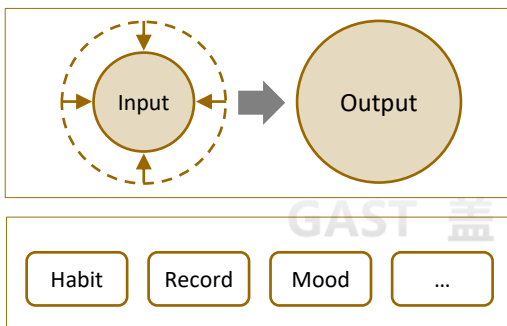
Evolve from multi-mode input to a unified AIGC foundation model in the smart cockpit → more comprehensive and efficient



AIGC enables more efficient interaction, better memory, and more considerate experience for users in the smart cockpit

Break the existing balance between the input and output of cockpit interactions

Smarter intelligent assistants



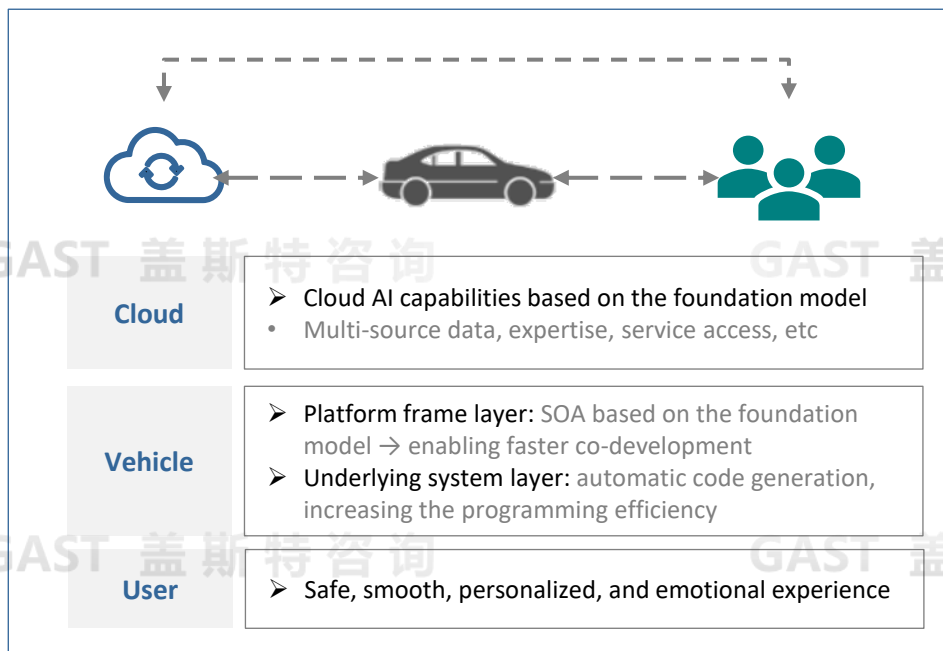
- AIGC could greatly reduce the input → Only require simple instructions/selections
 - For example, the user would get a high-quality picture after a simple description of the content and the style of the picture
- Provide accurate and comprehensive judgment and advice based on people, things, environment, etc.
 - For example, the system would recommend destinations/points of interest based on the weather, schedule, mood, etc.

□ AIGC would make cockpits better understand people and free them from the driving task → become a smarter third space

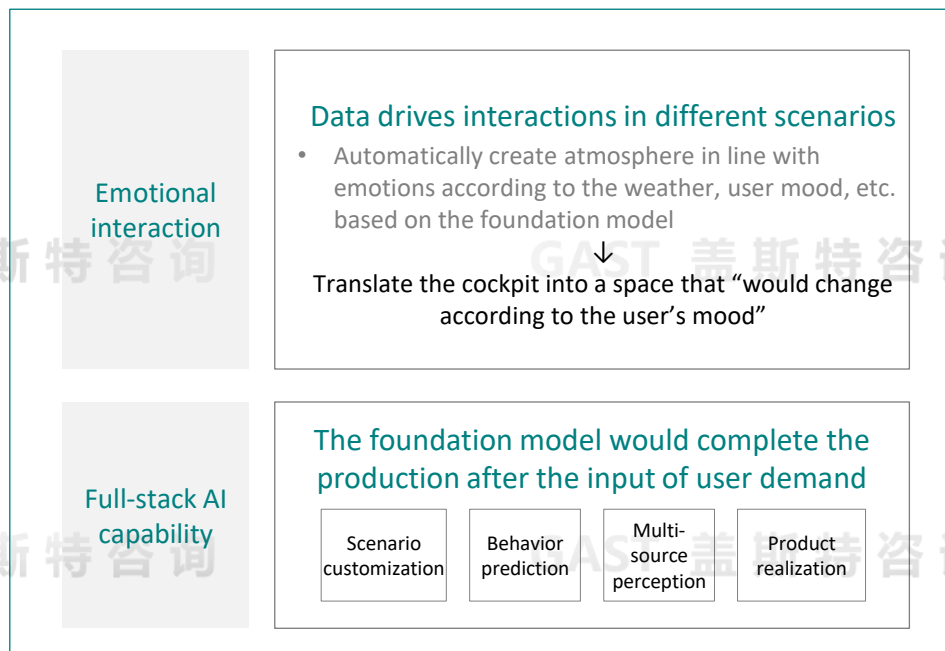
Case: Banma's AI Foundation Model Enables Novel Cockpit Interactions

- Banma's AliOS is weaved into Tongyi Qianwen for testing, creating human-like interactions and providing user-specific experience

Tested based on Tongyi Qianwen



Co-Pilot experience



- ❑ Smart cockpit interactions would involve numerous players and diverse modes, which would become an important arena for the application of AI foundation models

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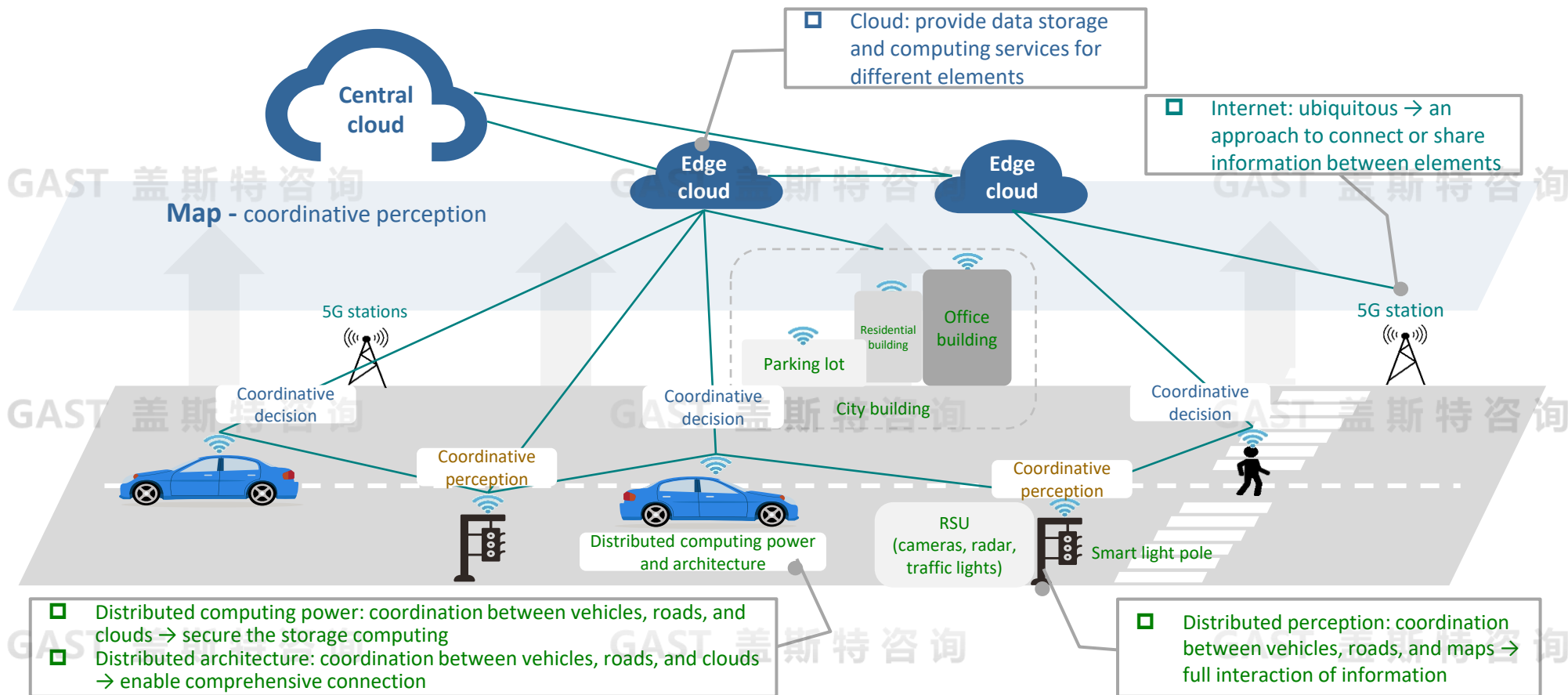
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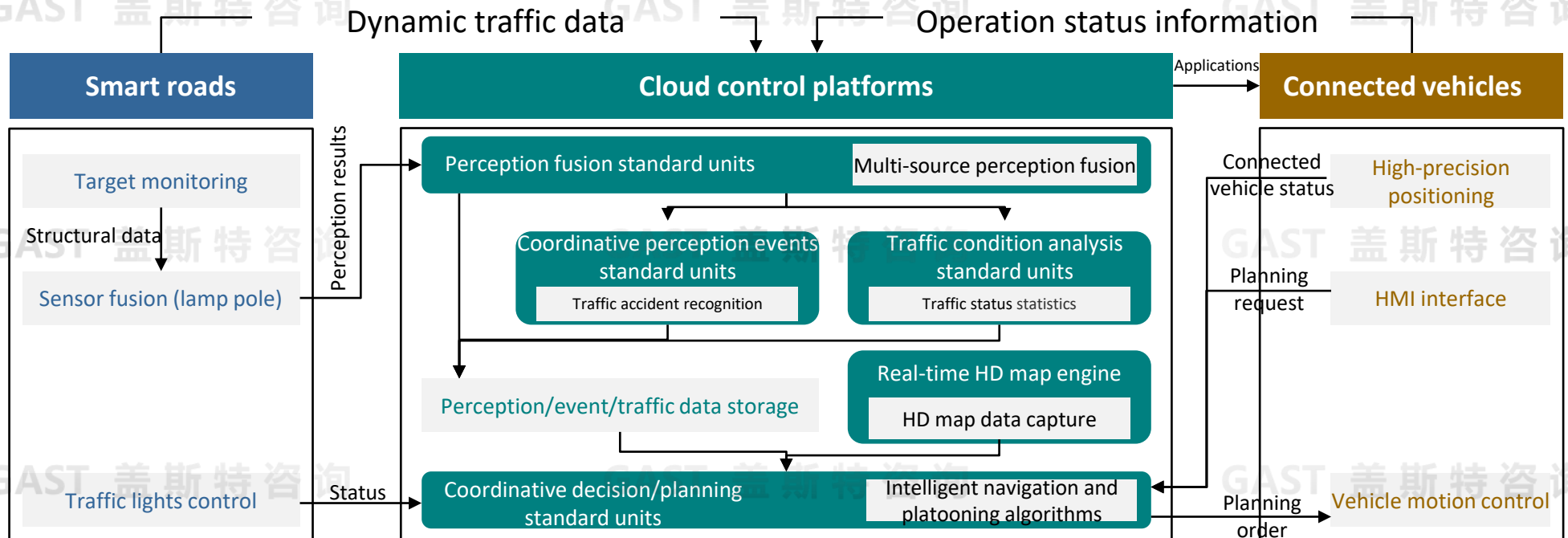
Development Trend of AD: Multi-Player Coordination



Truly realizing AD relies on various elements (vehicles, roads, clouds, networks, maps, etc.) and players to work in a coordinated manner: achieve seamless connection of data by interconnecting computing power, architecture, perception, etc.

Architectures Enabling V2X-Based Autonomous Driving

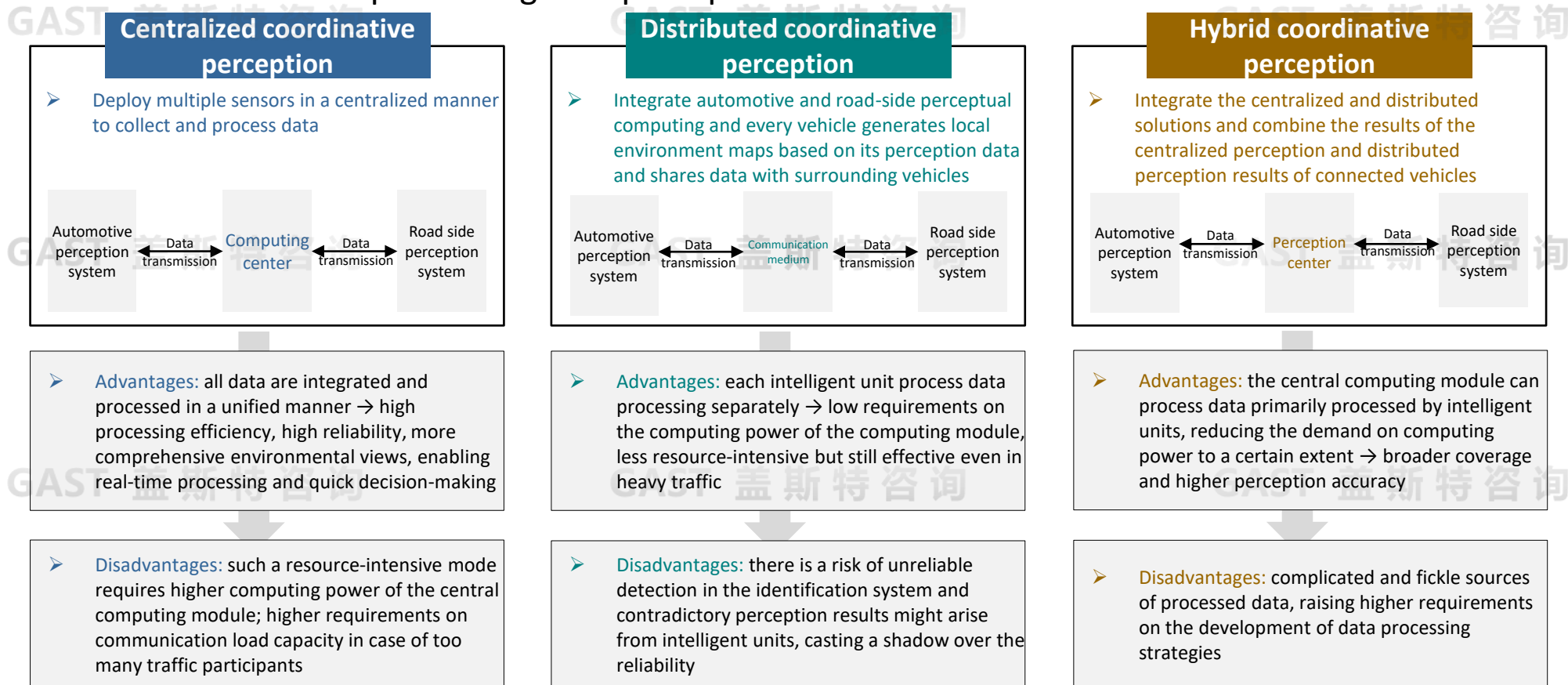
- Some or all of “perception, decision, planning, control, and execution” are available on the cloud, enabling integrated perception, decision, planning, and control based on the integrated computing and connectivity



- Integrate physical-cyber space of vehicles, roads, and clouds and help vehicles to handle global improvement and edge cases based on cooperative sensing, decision, and planning → enabling safe, energy-saving, and efficient operation

Classifications of Sensor Solutions for V2X-Based Autonomous Driving

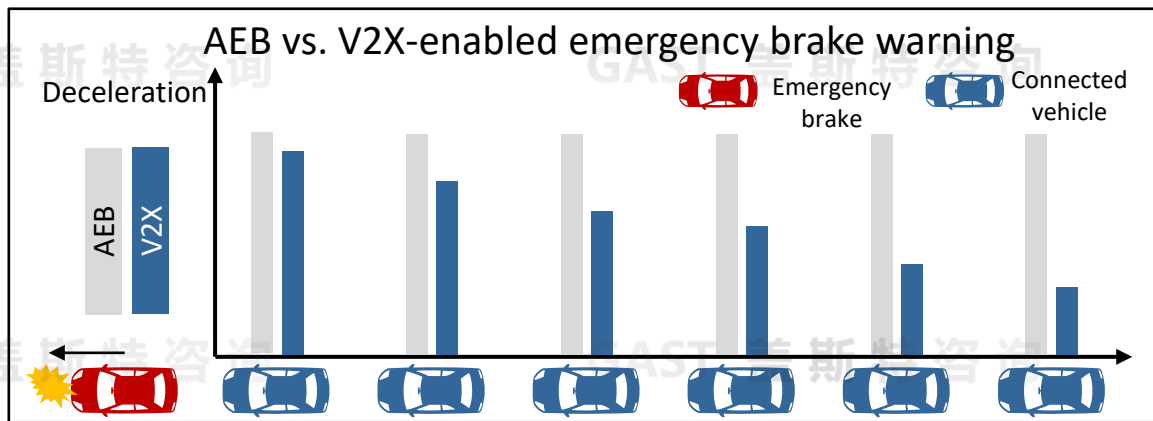
- Coordinative perception boasts the characteristics of open view, large perception scope, and long range of perception, which can address the weakness of automotive and roadside sensors and facilitate the development of global perception



Existing Application Value of V2X-Based Autonomous Driving

- With a low level of intelligent driving or a low penetration rate of connected vehicles, V2X would continue to function

Value of V2X to L2 driver assistance

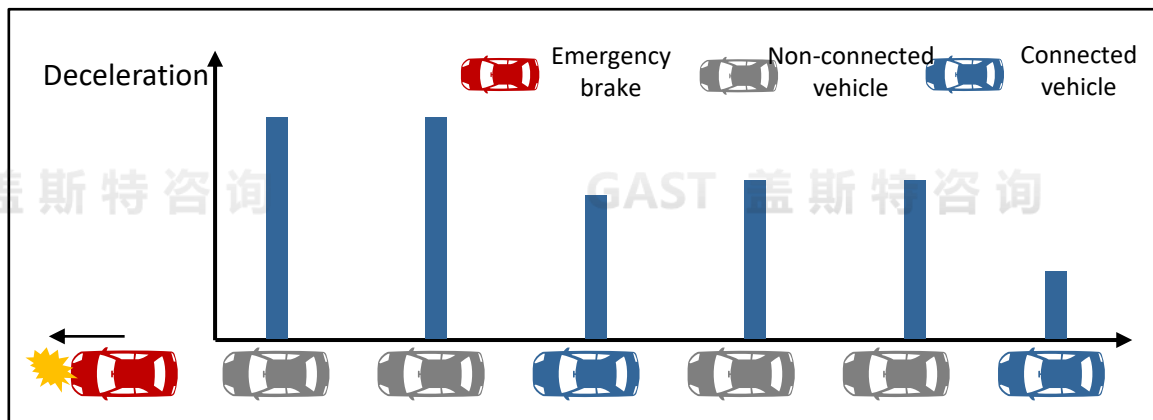


- Misunderstanding: V2X-based safety warning and ADAS are overlapped in functions → no new value

Analysis

- The rear-end collision risk avoided by AEB may affect the following vehicles. As a supplement to ADAS, V2X could further reduce the risk of rear-end collision and protect more non-connected vehicles

Value of V2X during the technology trigger



- Misunderstanding: V2X has limited contributions to traffic safety in case of a low penetration rate

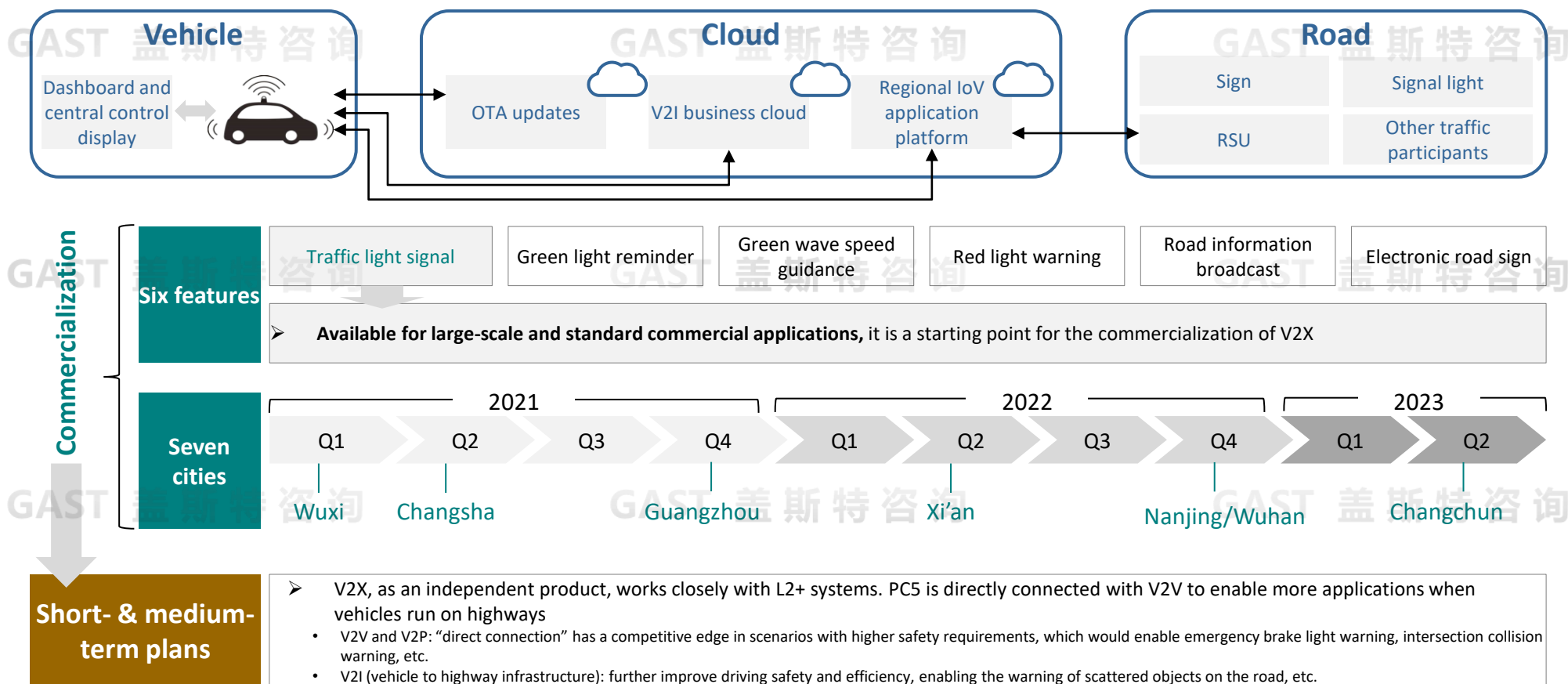
Analysis

- With a penetration rate of 10%, 1% of double-vehicle accidents and 10% of connected vehicle accidents would be directly avoided → V2X could recognize 29%* of emergency braking events and protect more non-connected vehicles

*Data source: "Practice in Integrating Content Value-Oriented V2X with Intelligent Technologies for Vehicles" by Ph.D. Wang Yinsong

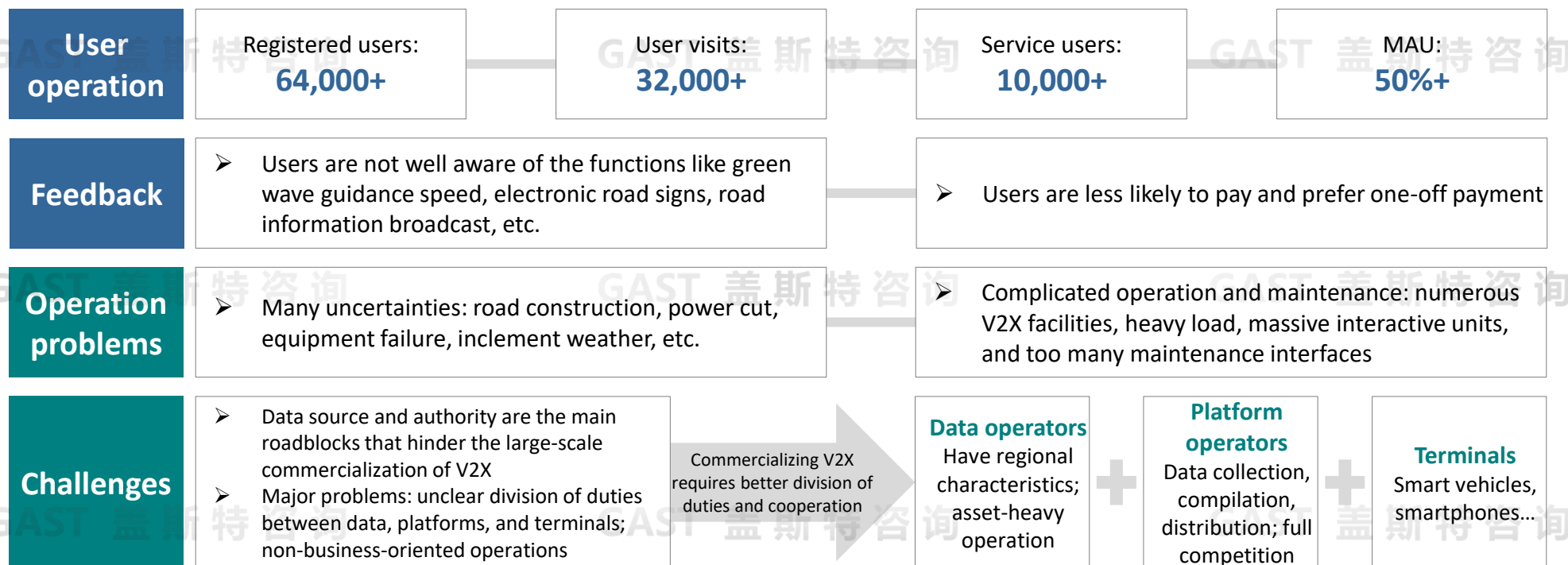
Case: Status and Plan of Ford for the Application of V2X to Production Cars

- Ford adopts the “vehicle-road-cloud” network to apply its V2X technology to production cars, connecting the dashboard, road signs, and signal lights. Ford has launched 6 primary V2X functions



Case: Status and Challenges of Fords' V2X Application in Commercial Service

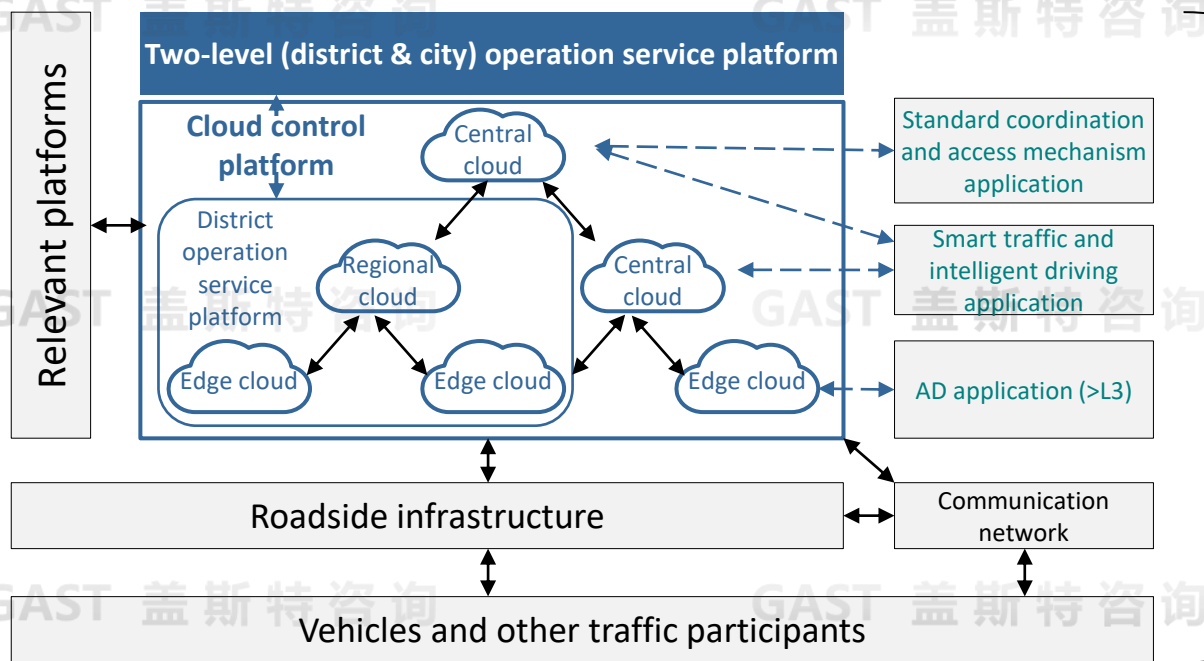
- Ford's V2X is deeply integrated with vehicles, requiring no addition of hardware, enabling OTA updates, and prioritizing user experience based on road conditions in China



- Ford plans to accelerate the large-scale application of V2X into services, improving the coverage and quality of data, extending the safety levels to platforms and roads, and driving V2X and AD to develop in a coordinated manner

Case: Development of V2X Platforms for Three Districts in Suzhou City

- Suzhou adopts a three-level (“center-region-edge”) cloud architecture that covers Xiangcheng District, Industrial Park District, Changshu City and G524, forming a cloud control platform system composed of “three districts and one corridor”



Features

Industrial application

- Perception of all transportation environmental elements, accurate space-time information service, V2X services, ICVs supervision, global traffic situation analysis, traffic information control optimization, integrated simulation test evaluation, real-time and holographic digital-twin models

Infrastructure application

- Multi-sensor fusion, real-time AI video recognition, real-time holographic road network, vehicle-road-cloud gateway, multi-source heterogeneous data access and processing, test scenario library, dedicated technology engine, security verification, monitoring and command centers

- ❑ Suzhou’s V2X cloud control platform has been initially available for local facility takeover, data analysis, information release, and safety regulation. However, cross—district construction and operation would result in different standards and regulations, making it hard to develop in a coordinated manner

Summary

Key Takeaways of the CICV 2023

- ❑ **SDV emphasizes the construction of ecosystems in which players work in a coordinated manner to jointly create SW & HW ecosystems**
 - After defining an architecture, OEMs would join in the application software development ecosystem with HW providers, algorithm suppliers, OS vendors, middleware suppliers, etc.
 - Generalized operating systems for cars are evolving from traditional vertically coupled architectures to those with vertically layered modules, which would eventually become distributed service-oriented architectures with microkernel → The core of OEMs to develop ecosystems
 - Different automotive function domains have different requirements on functions and performance → Rely on virtual technology to realize “1-to-N” of the OS, thus enabling the integration of domains
 - Since the development and industrialization of computing platforms are flourishing, all kinds of participants in industrial ecosystems start to develop computing platforms for smart vehicles
- ❑ **Smart cockpits involves numerous factors and players, making it impossible for one player to complete the development, thus requiring ecosystems the most**
 - Numerous players develop new ecosystems for smart cockpit products in a coordinated manner, covering the whole life cycle from demand to products
 - Unified OS is the key to connecting car-phone ecosystems → creating seamlessly connected user experience
 - Information interactions of intelligent driving and smart cockpit domains get closely integrated, enabling the sharing and reuse of key sensors, functions, algorithm modules, etc.
- ❑ **The true realization of AD entails various factors (cars, roads, clouds, networks, maps, etc.) to work in a coordinated and intelligent manner**
 - Build interconnectivity between cars, roads, clouds, etc. in computing power, architectures, sensors, etc. to enable seamless connection of data
 - Integrate physical-cyber space of vehicles, roads, and clouds and help vehicles to handle global improvement and edge cases based on cooperative sensing, decision, and planning
 - With a low level of intelligent driving or a low penetration rate of connected vehicles, V2X would continue to function
 - OEMs take active steps to develop feasible V2X applications and improve user experience, which would accelerate the development of V2X and AD technologies



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Company Profile

Setting its foothold in China automotive industry, GAST Strategy Consulting, LLC is oriented to the globe to focus on the ecosystem of the whole automotive industry and starts from three dimensions (industry, enterprise and technology) to carry out in-depth study on strategy design, business positioning, management improvement, system building, business process reengineering, product planning, technology choices and business models. It is dedicated to providing governments at all levels with decision-making support and implementation advice and enterprises in the automotive industry chain and relevant industries with all-dimensional high-level professional consulting services in strategies, management and technologies. Since the establishment, GAST is dedicated to becoming a world top auto think tank as the vision and sharing wisdom as the mission. Adhering to creating value for clients and focusing on actual effects, GAST commits itself to forging long-term partnership and providing guidance service. It has fostered strategic partnership with and is providing services for nearly 100 domestic and international enterprises, organizations in the automotive industry and governments at all levels by virtue of comprehensive, systematic, advanced and pragmatic consulting methods.

Range of Service

Provide diversified and open services and flexible ways of cooperation for customers, including but not limited to:

- Executive-oriented strategy, management and technology consulting services
- All-round and customized special project research: covering macro strategy, industrial development, interpretation of policies and regulations, the internet, business models, corporate strategy and management, auto market, product research, product design methodology, research on auto shows, interpretation of forums, energy conservation and emission reduction, new energy vehicles, intelligent vehicles and comprehensive automotive technologies
- Serve as reliable resource that can win customers' long-term dependence and provide open cooperation that can meet customers' specific requirements at any time
- Provide a high-end sharing platform (CAIT) for industrial communication, exchange and in-depth research
- The company provides nearly 1,000 research reports in Chinese, English and Japanese at present

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