

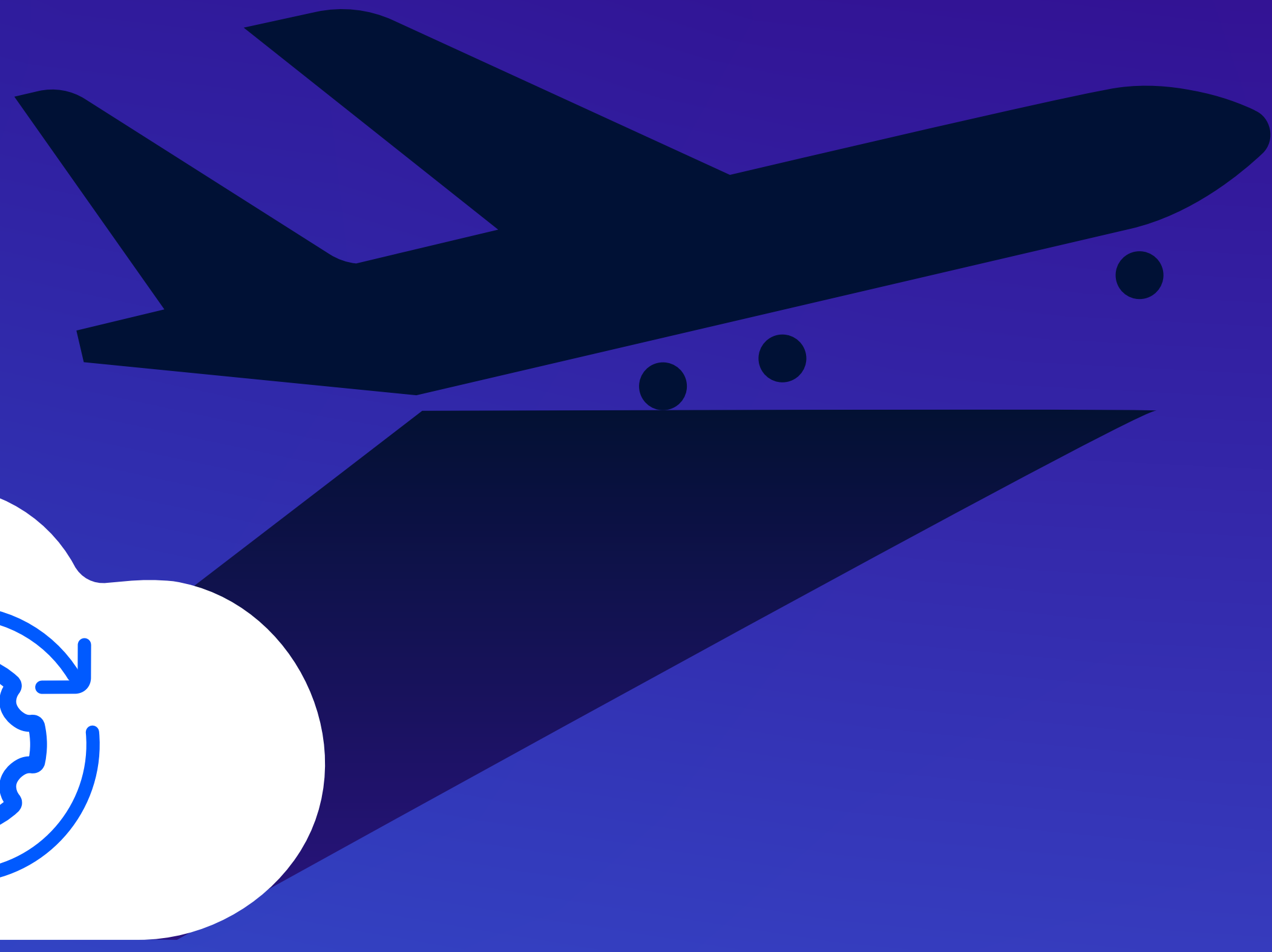
# Automation, IP-optical convergence and AI: The new era of cloud connectivity

Insights from a 2025 **Heavy Reading** study of cloud providers, commissioned by Nokia

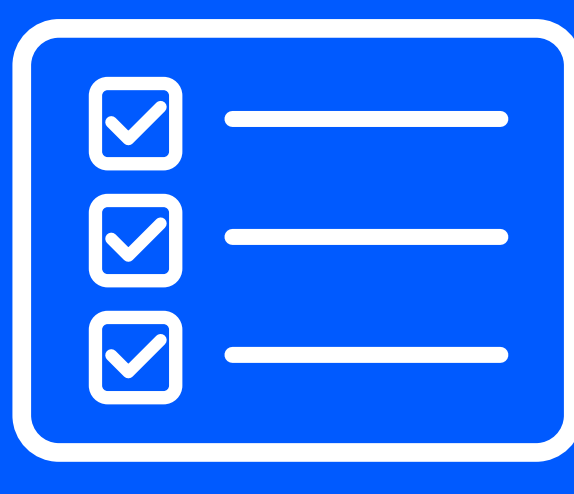
## Skyrocketing growth with automation

100%

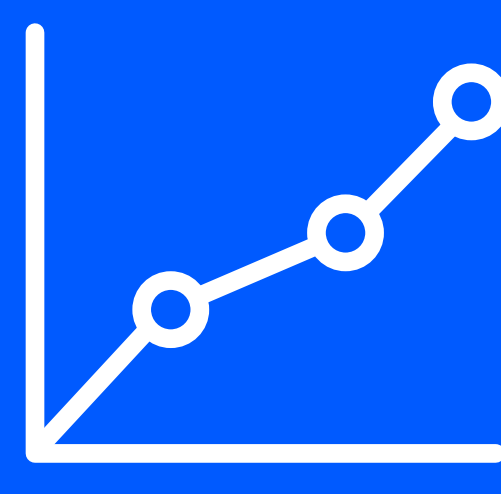
of cloud providers see automation as an essential driver for new revenue and operational efficiency



Enable new services like NaaS and AI exchanges



Reduce human errors and simplify operations

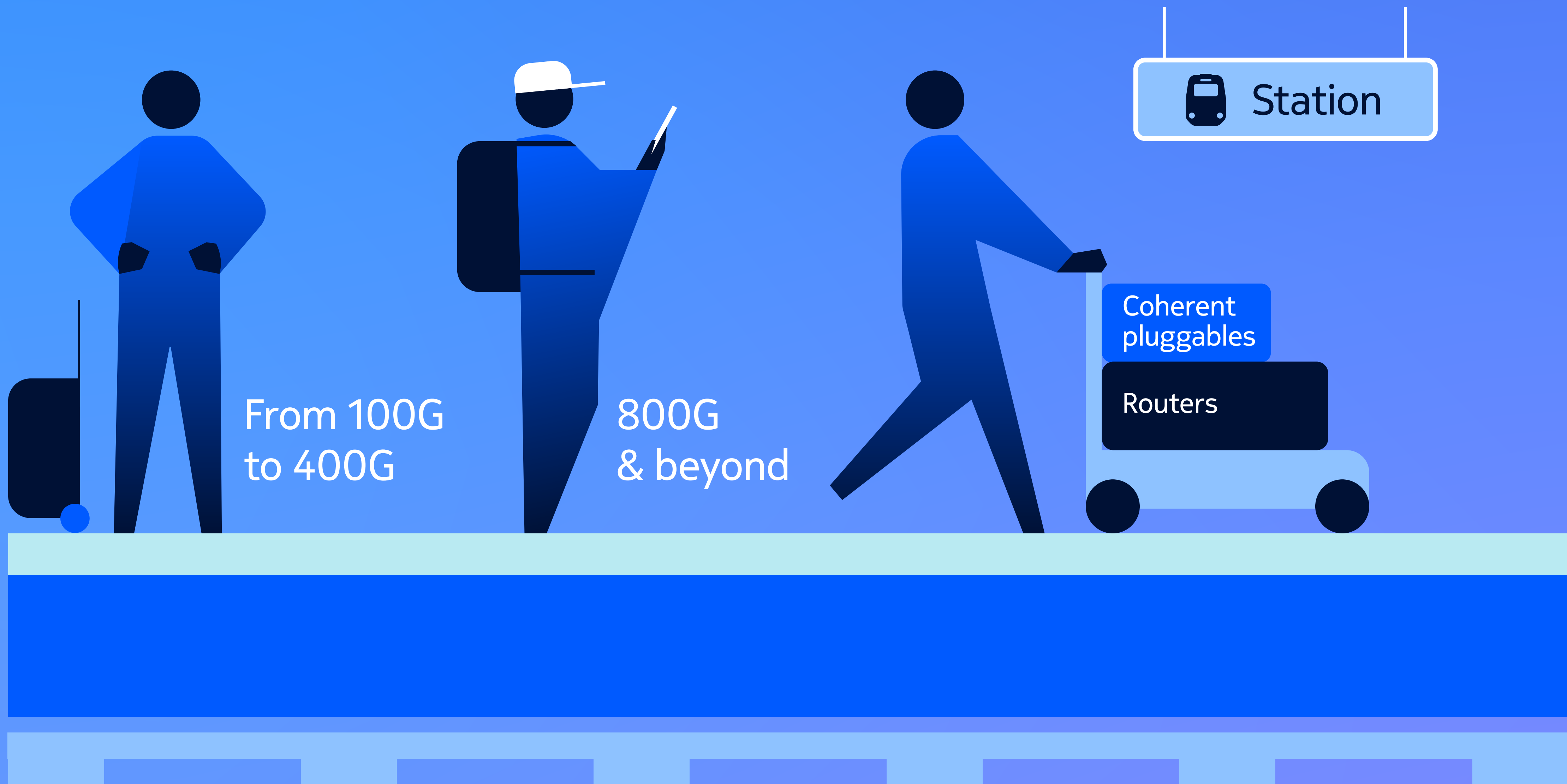


Accelerate revenue growth and improve customer experience

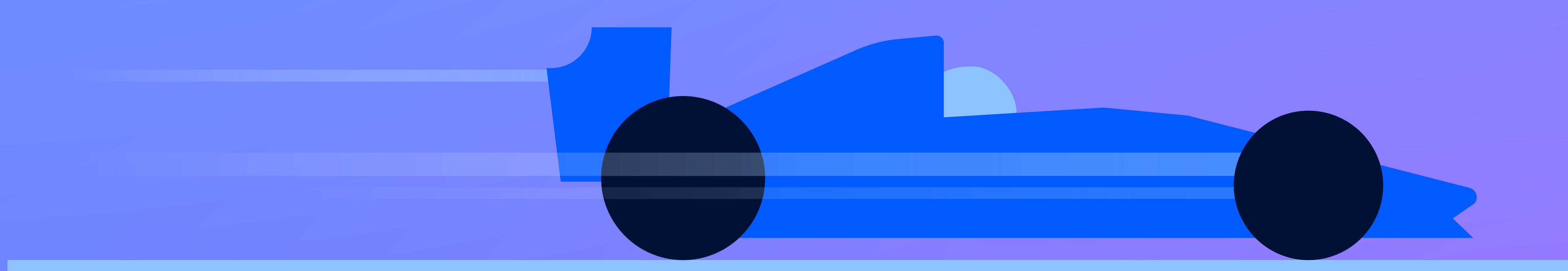
## IP-optical convergence: On track for transformation

Cloud providers steam past CSPs in adopting IPoDWDM architectures

- Most cloud providers are moving from 100G to 400G connections today
- Many are preparing for 800G and beyond
- Some are deploying disaggregated routers with white box hardware and coherent pluggable optics



## Accelerating AI and ML potential



### How are cloud providers shifting gears with AI/ML?

- Network troubleshooting and root-cause analysis
- Network optimization and traffic engineering
- Predictive analytics and health analysis
- Network performance monitoring
- Capacity and service provisioning

### What's driving this?

- Cloud providers are in the "education and evaluation" stage
- Security and data sovereignty are top concerns
- Open standardization and vendor interoperability

## Cloud providers are saying

"Automation enables the NaaS business model. Without it, offering self-service provisioning in seconds wouldn't be possible."

**Thomas King** CTO, DE-CIX

"A single-vendor AI solution isn't enough. It needs to work across an open network, aggregating data from multiple vendors in a meaningful way."

**Scott Brookshire** CTO, OpenColo

"It's all about new products and services and how we expose them to customers. Our goal is to add value on top of these basic offerings to maintain or even increase pricing. Automation is a big part of this product development strategy."

**Michał Szczęsny** Director of Architecture and Network Planning, EXATEL



## Want more insights?

Download the full Heavy Reading report to see how top cloud providers are transforming their networks for the AI era.