

# The Closing of the Swedish Copper Network

How it is done and experiences we have made

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# Agenda

- Background
- Cornerstones for the work
- The copper shutdown journey
- Lessons learned
- Decommissioning






# Background


- Sweden is sparsely populated 25,5 persons/km<sup>2</sup>
- Copper network
  - 6 million active lines when largest
  - 2,5 million poles
  - 340 000 km copper lines
  - Telephony, xDSL and ISDN
  - 9 500 small stations, concentrators
  - 150 local exchanges
  - Customer decline ~1000 customers/day, 2009 - 2019
- Early interest and buildout of fibre networks
- Mobile network
  - 99,9% 5G population coverage



# Cornerstones for the work



Regulation  
Telia was regulated  
until 2023



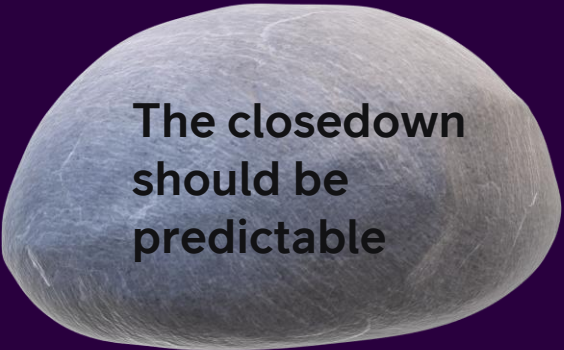
Continuous  
dialogue with the  
NTA (PTS)




Equal treatment of  
operators



All operators can  
provide new solutions  
to customers



The closedown  
should be  
predictable

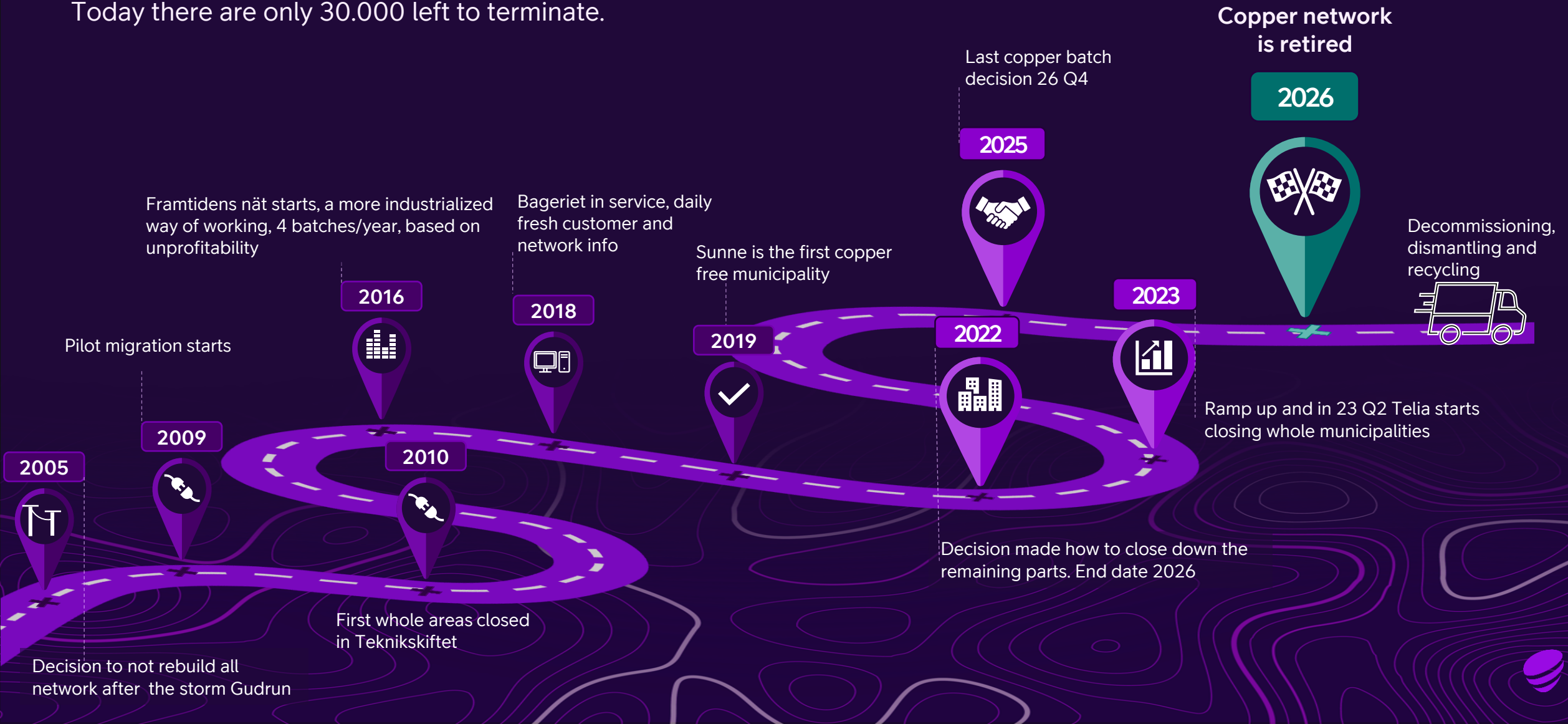


Exemptions are  
possible but comes  
with a cost



# The Copper Shutdown Journey

At most, Telia had **6 million** active copper subscriptions.  
Today there are only 30.000 left to terminate.





# Lessons learned

- Closing down is easy – migration is more difficult
- Make sure top management are involved in decisions and progress
- Secure commitment across the whole organisation/company
- Understand how your customers are using the copper network and services
- Use as much ordinary products and processes as possible
- Use modern tools
- Information, information, information



# Decommissioning

## So far

- 2 million poles decommissioned
  - Incineration in controlled facilities due to creosote
- 280 000 km copper wire
- All materials are sorted and recycled
- 4 700 small stations decommissioned and houses sold or demolished
- Active equipment
  - Power off – so far 200 GWh/year
  - Decommissioning and recycling

## When we finalized

- 125 000 poles left after 2028
- Active equipment recycled 2030
- Less than 10% floor space needed



# Thank you!