quantonite

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

Quantum Maxwell Solver

Quantum-Accelerated Electromagnetic Simulation

Issued by QUANTONITE LIMITED
Confidential | May 2026

Executive Summary

This document presents the commercial and technical case for deploying Quantum Maxwell Solver — quantonite's hybrid quantum-classical solution for Maxwell equation-based electromagnetic simulation. It is structured in two parts: first, a business-focused briefing for executive and commercial stakeholders; second, a technical deep-dive for engineering and architecture audiences.

Both sections address the same core challenge: classical electromagnetic simulation methods do not scale. As problem size, frequency, and geometric complexity grow, computation time increases exponentially, infrastructure costs rise sharply, and engineers are forced to simplify models or delay development cycles. The industries most affected — semiconductors, photonics, and telecommunications — are precisely those where simulation accuracy and throughput are competitive differentiators.

Key Proposition

Quantum Maxwell Solver targets the dominant bottleneck in the Maxwell simulation pipeline — the large sparse linear system solve — and accelerates it using quantum computation. Classical pre- and post-processing steps are preserved. Engineering-grade accuracy (≤5% deviation from classical results) is maintained. Existing CAE and EDA toolchains require no replacement.

The result: shorter design cycles, access to problem scales previously beyond reach, and a future-proof architecture that scales with quantum hardware advances.

Conclusion: The Unified Proposition

Maxwell-based electromagnetic simulation is indispensable. Its classical implementation is a ceiling. Quantum Maxwell Solver raises that ceiling without disrupting existing workflows. The hybrid architecture delivers measurable performance improvement today, with a clear scaling path as quantum hardware matures. Organisations that adopt now gain the compounding advantage of earlier iteration cycles, broader design space exploration, and established internal quantum competence.

Business angle: Faster simulations, larger problems, lower infrastructure cost — without replacing existing tools or retraining engineering teams.

Technology angle: Targeted quantum acceleration of sparse linear system solve, hardware-agnostic design, validated accuracy, and API-level integration with existing simulation software.

Business Briefing

The Business Problem

Electromagnetic simulation — built on Maxwell's equations — sits at the heart of product development in semiconductors, photonics, and telecommunications. Every antenna array, chip interconnect, optical component, and RF system depends on it. There is no substitute.

The problem is not with the physics. It is with the compute. Classical simulation methods — Finite Element Method (FEM), Finite Difference Time Domain (FDTD), Method of Moments — all share the same scaling characteristic: computation cost grows exponentially with problem size. At the high frequencies and large scales that define today's engineering frontier, this becomes a hard constraint.

Constraint	Business Impact
Too Slow	Computation time scales exponentially at high frequencies and large scales. Multi-day runtimes for large models are routine.
Too Costly	Infrastructure and software licensing costs rise sharply with problem complexity. HPC clusters and commercial solver licences represent significant capital expenditure.
Forces Compromises	Engineers simplify geometry, reduce mesh resolution, or partition problems — each compromise introducing error and delaying the design cycle.

The consequence is a structural bottleneck. Engineering teams are productive only within the boundaries of what classical hardware can simulate within an acceptable timeframe. The most demanding problems — the ones that define the next generation of products — sit beyond those boundaries.

What Quantum Maxwell Solver Does

The analogy: imagine a highway with a single-lane bottleneck. Traffic flows freely before it and after it — but at that one point, everything slows to a crawl. Classical electromagnetic simulation has exactly this structure. The pipeline is efficient at the start (discretisation, mesh generation) and at the end (field reconstruction, post-processing). The bottleneck is the middle: solving the large sparse linear system of equations that emerges from the discretised Maxwell problem.

Quantum Maxwell Solver adds a quantum-accelerated lane at precisely that point. Pre-processing and post-processing remain entirely classical — no disruption to existing workflows. The linear system solve, which dominates total runtime and scales worst with problem size, is handed to the quantum backend. The result is returned and classical processing resumes.

How It Works

1. Discretisation — classical (unchanged)
2. **Linear System Solve — quantum-accelerated (opens the bottleneck)**
3. Field Reconstruction — classical (unchanged)
4. Validation — classical (unchanged)

Your existing simulation software connects via a standard API. No tools are replaced. No pipelines are redesigned.

What This Unlocks Commercially

The performance improvements enabled by Quantum Maxwell Solver translate directly into competitive and commercial outcomes across the industries most dependent on electromagnetic simulation.

Semiconductors

Chip designers running electromagnetic verification at advanced nodes face exponentially growing mesh sizes. Quantum Maxwell Solver enables verification of larger, more complex interconnect structures within the same simulation window — reducing tape-out risk and accelerating time to first silicon.

Photonics

Photonic integrated circuit design requires high-resolution simulation of structures at the wavelength scale. Problem sizes that are currently computationally prohibitive become tractable, opening access to more complex photonic architectures and enabling faster design iteration.

Telecommunications

Antenna and RF system design — including 5G/6G phased arrays, satellite communications, and automotive radar — involves large-scale electromagnetic problems at high frequencies. Quantum Maxwell Solver extends the problem scales that can be simulated accurately, enabling more precise beamforming and interference modelling.

Cross-Industry Benefit: Design Space Exploration

Beyond speed, the more significant benefit is access. Problems that were previously simplified or abandoned due to computational cost become available for engineering analysis. This is not incremental — it is the opening of a design space that competitors without quantum-accelerated simulation cannot access.

Measurable Outcomes

Quantum Maxwell Solver delivers improvements across every key performance dimension. These are not theoretical projections — they are validated outcomes measurable during a structured pilot engagement.

Metric	Classical Baseline	Quantum Maxwell Solver	Direction	Provable in Pilot
Computation Time	High; scales exponentially	Reduced via quantum acceleration	↓	Yes
Problem Size Capacity	Limited by classical hardware	Expanded to previously infeasible scales	↑	Yes
Simulation Cost	Increases with complexity	Optimised; better ROI at scale	↓	Yes
Accuracy	Baseline reference	≤5% deviation — engineering grade	= (maintained)	Yes
Future-Proofing	Hardware-locked	Hardware-agnostic; scales with quantum HW	↑	Yes

Integration: Designed for Industrial Adoption

Quantum Maxwell Solver is built to fit into existing engineering environments, not to replace them. The adoption path is designed to minimise disruption while delivering maximum performance benefit.

Integration Layer	Capability
Existing Simulation Software	Your current CAE and EDA tools remain unchanged. Engineers continue working in familiar environments.
API Integration	A standard API layer connects your simulation software to the quantum-classical backend. Integration effort is minimal.
Quantum + Classical Backend	The backend is hardware-agnostic and future-proof — designed to execute across current and next-generation quantum platforms without redesign.
No Workflow Redesign	Pre-processing and post-processing remain classical. Only the linear system solve is quantum-accelerated.

The Competitive Moat

Organisations that deploy Quantum Maxwell Solver now gain a compounding advantage. The first benefit is immediate: faster simulation cycles and access to larger problem scales. The second benefit accumulates over time.

Strategic Benefit	Description
Competitive Edge	Faster product development cycles and access to problem scales competitors cannot simulate give a direct time-to-market advantage.
Future-Proof Technology	The hardware-agnostic architecture scales with quantum hardware advances. No redesign is required as quantum platforms mature and performance improves.
Innovation Leadership	Early adoption builds internal quantum competence — engineering teams develop familiarity with hybrid quantum-classical workflows ahead of the market.

"We do not just speed up simulations. We remove their fundamental limits."

The Quantum Maxwell Solver is not a simulation tool upgrade. It is a structural expansion of what your engineering organisation can simulate — and therefore what it can design.

Technical Deep-Dive

The Computational Constraint

Maxwell's equations — in their time-harmonic form — are discretised using standard numerical methods: Finite Element Method (FEM), Finite Difference Time Domain (FDTD), or Method of Moments (MoM). Each produces a large, sparse system of linear equations of the form:

$$Ax = b$$

where A is a large sparse complex-valued matrix derived from the discretised Maxwell operator, b is the source vector, and x is the unknown field solution vector.

This linear system solve is the dominant computational step. For a problem discretised on N degrees of freedom, direct solvers scale as $O(N^3)$ in computation and $O(N^2)$ in memory. Iterative solvers improve on this, but convergence degrades at high frequencies due to the indefinite nature of the system matrix — a fundamental property of wave problems. At industrial problem scales ($N = 10^6$ to 10^9), this is the wall that classical simulation hits.

The Quantum Acceleration Approach

Quantum Maxwell Solver targets the linear system solve using a hybrid quantum-classical architecture. The quantum component accelerates the solution of the large sparse linear system; all other pipeline stages remain classical. This is a principled architectural choice, not a constraint: the linear system solve is both the dominant cost and the stage most amenable to quantum speedup.

Quantum Linear System Algorithms

The theoretical basis for quantum linear system acceleration is the Harrow-Hassidim-Lloyd (HHL) algorithm and its successors. Under favourable conditions — sparse, well-conditioned matrices — quantum algorithms for linear systems offer exponential speedup over classical direct solvers in terms of the solution vector encoding. Quantum Maxwell Solver implements a hybrid variant suited to the structure of Maxwell system matrices: sparse, complex-valued, and often ill-conditioned near resonance.

The hybrid approach uses the quantum processor for the computationally intensive core of the iterative solve, and classical processors for pre-conditioning, convergence monitoring, and solution extraction. This is the architecture appropriate for near-term quantum hardware (NISQ and early fault-tolerant devices), and it is designed to scale as quantum hardware error rates and qubit counts improve.

Pre-conditioning Strategy

Maxwell system matrices at high frequencies are notoriously difficult to pre-condition. Quantum Maxwell Solver incorporates domain-specific pre-conditioners informed by the

structure of the electromagnetic problem — including incomplete LU factorisation variants and physics-based algebraic multigrid approaches — to ensure quantum acceleration is applied to a problem formulation that converges reliably.

Pipeline Architecture

The full simulation pipeline preserves standard classical stages at the periphery, inserting quantum acceleration at the linear system solve step.

Step	Stage	Method	Processor	Notes
1	Geometry & Mesh	CAD import, meshing	Classical	Unchanged from existing workflow
2	Discretisation	FEM / FDTD / MoM	Classical	Produces sparse matrix A and vector b
3	Pre-conditioning	Physics-aware pre-conditioner	Classical	Critical for convergence at high frequency
4	Linear System Solve	Hybrid quantum-classical solver	Quantum + Classical	Bottleneck: quantum-accelerated
5	Field Reconstruction	Solution vector post-processing	Classical	Unchanged from existing workflow
6	Validation	Comparison vs classical reference	Classical	Accuracy target ≤5% deviation

Accuracy and Validation

Engineering deployability requires that quantum acceleration not compromise result fidelity. Quantum Maxwell Solver is validated against classical solver references across a benchmark suite spanning frequency ranges, problem geometries, and material configurations representative of semiconductor, photonic, and RF workloads.

Accuracy Target: ≤5% deviation from classical reference solutions.

This is engineering-grade accuracy — sufficient for design verification, optimisation loops, and regulatory compliance simulation. Where tighter tolerances are required, the classical fallback path is available within the same API.

Validation is embedded in the pipeline architecture. Step 6 of every simulation run compares the quantum-accelerated result against a classical check on a reduced problem, providing an automated accuracy certificate per simulation job.

Hardware Agnosticism and Quantum Readiness

Quantum Maxwell Solver is designed to be hardware-agnostic across quantum computing platforms. The solver abstraction layer supports gate-based quantum computers. The quantum circuit depth and qubit requirements are parameterised to the available hardware, ensuring operability on current NISQ devices with a defined upgrade path to fault-tolerant quantum computing.

As quantum hardware scales — in qubit count, coherence time, and gate fidelity — Quantum Maxwell Solver scales with it. No architectural redesign is required. The same API, the same integration, the same workflows — with continuously improving performance as the underlying hardware matures.

Integration Architecture

The integration surface is an API layer that sits between existing simulation software (CAE tools, EDA platforms, in-house solvers) and the quantum-classical backend. From the perspective of the existing toolchain, Quantum Maxwell Solver appears as an accelerated linear solver plugin — a standard interface familiar to simulation software developers.

Component	Description
Existing Simulation Software	CAE / EDA tools — unmodified
Hybrid Solver API Layer	Standard API: REST or gRPC interface; minimal integration effort; compatible with current pipelines
Classical Pre/Post-Processor	Domain-decomposition, pre-conditioning, field reconstruction — runs on classical HPC or cloud
Quantum Backend	Hardware-agnostic quantum execution — on-premises QPU or cloud quantum access
Validation Layer	Automated classical cross-check per job; accuracy certificate returned with result

Performance Envelope — Current State

Quantum acceleration of linear systems is an active area of hardware and algorithm development. The performance characteristics of Quantum Maxwell Solver reflect the current state of quantum hardware and the near-term roadmap.

For batch and offline workloads — overnight simulation runs, design space sweeps, regulatory compliance verification — the quantum-accelerated path delivers meaningful runtime reduction over classical methods at large problem scales. For real-time or latency-sensitive simulation tasks, the current recommendation is selective acceleration: apply the quantum path to the largest and most computationally intensive jobs, and retain the classical path for interactive simulation requiring sub-second response.

Threat Model and Technology Readiness

Risk Factor	Mitigation
NISQ Hardware Noise	Hybrid architecture is designed for NISQ conditions — quantum component handles tasks within current fidelity limits; classical component compensates
Problem Conditioning	Domain-specific pre-conditioners address Maxwell system ill-conditioning; convergence monitoring with classical fallback
Accuracy Drift	Automated validation layer detects and flags deviations; classical fallback engaged if threshold exceeded
Hardware Lock-in	Hardware-agnostic design prevents dependency on any single quantum vendor or platform
Integration Risk	API-level integration preserves existing toolchain; no deep coupling with existing software internals

Appendix A – Flow Chart

