PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN IPv6 INTERNET EXCHANGES (Euro6IX)

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FORGES

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

"Third Generation Internet" Begins Real Deployment

MADRID, December 4, 2001 – The European Commission has launched Euro6IX, a coordinated initiative of major European Telecom companies, equipment manufacturers, Solutions/software providers, research laboratories, Universities and end-users. The 20 M€ project includes also sponsorships from North America and the Pacific Rim. The prime objective of the Euro6IX project is to research appropriate architecture, design, develop, deploy and validate the first Pan-European pre-commercial IPv6 Internet Exchanges Network, connecting several regional and strategic neutral IPv6 Internet Exchange points across Europe, and achieve higher levels of robustness and service quality than currently offered by IPv4 Internet Exchange Networks.

"We have got great expectations out of this project and we will focus on its success", indicated José Luis GARCÍA, Head of Multimedia Data and Services in Telefónica I+D. "Indeed after seeing big interest in Telefonica to support his Research and Development branch (Telefonica I+D) we decided some months ago to accept the leadership of Euro6IX, which will be jointly coordinated with CONSULINTEL. Right now we are in the phase of starting the technical activities, scheduling the work and moving ahead with the project. Euro6IX is a unique space where the European leading ISPs get together and deploy IPv6 in pre-commercial conditions and validate the technical and business case for IPv6", state Mr. GARCIA.

"Euro6IX will definitively challenge the 'chicken and egg' issue with the IPv6 deployment situation, and as a direct consequence, Europe will lead the support for the native IPv6 Internet, strongly liaised with other projects and the rest of the world. This cooperative team will work to research next generation services and applications that will be applied into real trials, with real user groups, towards successful commercial IPv6 services deployment, offering end-to-end connectivity, mobility and security", emphasized Jordi PALET, Consulintel CEO/CTO, who coordinates Euro6IX project along with Carlos RALLI from Telefónica I+D. Mr. PALET also indicated "It's indeed the result of the IPv6 Forum hard work, that will bring IPv6, at last, in our daily life, offering **Internet for Everyone**".

"Internet ubiquity and end-to-end transparency are an investment in a better future for the next generation applications that were not even imaginable 20 years ago," stresses Latif LADID, President of the IPv6 Forum and VP at Ericsson Telebit, " and Ericsson is again very keen to provide its research skills in the next generation technologies to make this project a success".

"Based on the considerable amount of work already made around IPv6, the Euro6IX project is uniquely positioned to make the next step in the evolution of the Internet a reality for all citizens in Europe. Successful work on the IPv6 Internet Exchanges proposed by Euro6IX will be a major contribution to further strengthening the European position in this important sector," says Frans de Bruïne, Director in the Information Society Technologies Programme of the European Commission.

The Euro6IX consortium will closely cooperate with the 6NET consortium.

Euro6IX partners cover most of the European territory: Spain (Airtel-Vodafone, Consulintel, Écija & Asociados Abogados, novaGnet systems, Univ. of Murcia, Univ. Polytechnic of Madrid, Telefónica I+D), UK (BT Exact, Univ. of Southampton), Italy (Telecom Italia Lab), Denmark (Ericsson Telebit), France (6Wind, France Telecom RD), Germany (T-Systems Nova), Portugal (Portugal Telecom Inovação), Belgium (Eurocontrol) and Switzerland (Telscom). Strong interest and cooperation have been registered from manufactures, researchers, Telco's, ISP's and Universities from around the world to drive and foster commitments in real deployment of IPv6.

Further information is available on the project Web Site (www.euro6ix.net). Also the project coordinating team can be contacted at info@euro6ix.net or directly through the Project Coordinators:

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