EUROPE DRIVES NEXT GENERATION INTERNET DEPLOYMENT

6NET and Euro6IX Consortia

Strategic Alliance to foster IPv6 deployment in Europe

Brussels, December 4, 2001 – Two large-scale Next Generation Internet projects, 6NET and Euro6IX, have completed negotiation with the European Commission. These two initiatives are driven by leading Internet vendors, National Research and Education Networks, major European telecommunications companies, solutions/software providers, research laboratories, universities and end-users. These two projects have also won support from leading partners in North America and the Asia-Pacific region.

IPv6, known as the Next Generation Internet Protocol, is the new protocol designed to solve the scaling issues of today's Internet. IPv6 supports new features and enhances others, including larger address space, end-to-end connectivity, "plug & play" auto-configuration, built-in security, mobility, multicast, anycast, larger data packets and renumbering.

"Internet for Everyone" and support for brand new applications were the premises behind the design of IPv6. Europe's leadership in GSM and the ramp-up of 3G-based Internet Infrastructure led to the mandating of IPv6 in release 5 of the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) for Internet multimedia services.

"The initiative of the European Commission under Commissioner Erkki Liikanen to create an IPv6 Task Force to define an IPv6 roadmap for Europe has led to an aggressive investment and funding programme in research and early deployment of an IPv6 infrastructure across the entire European landscape to advance forcefully knowledge and expertise in industry and research" states the Chairman of the IPv6 Task Force, Latif Ladid, VP Ericsson Telebit and Trustee, Internet Society (ISOC).

The IETF has developed IPv6 over the last decade as a replacement for the current protocol IPv4, and ensured that the transition from IPv4 networks is seamless and non-disruptive. IPv4 has been robust and resilient. However, the current Internet is reaching the end of its long life span and needs an overhaul to sustain its growth and address the new demands of the future applications requiring peer-to-peer communication and always-on services not achieved so far on the Internet.

The 6NET and Euro6IX projects will run over three years with a possible contribution of 17 M€ from the European Commission IST Programme, from a total budget of 33 M€ requiring nearly 2.500 person-months.

Both projects agreed on specific collaboration measures, in order to maximize the synergy and streamline the efforts through:

- Technology exchange (management tools, applications).
- Parallel deployment of advanced network services (MIPv6, multicast, QoS).
- Interconnection of both networks
- Interoperability testing.
- Openness of both projects
- Sharing of user groups.
- Common voice to external bodies (IETF and others).
- Events, workshops and trials.

For further information, please contact each specific project coordinating team or their websites:

6NET

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<u>Notes for the press on the projects. (Please see separate press release on each project)</u>

The 6NET network is a wide European backbone (initially 8 STM-1 links, increasing until 2.5Gbps), with collaborative-based management, at different layers. It will provide service to NRENs, oriented to "Campus-type" sites, where IPv6 technology will be validated through end-user applications. Some applications will be developed, including GRID components, and there is a special focus on transition strategies (for core, NRENs and sites).

Euro6IX network, on the other hand, will interconnect several Telco networks (starting with 9x34 Mbps. links), with independent network management (commercial oriented, with SLAs). It is oriented to end users, with peering, transit and IX arrangements for local traffic exchange, and handling Telco customer cases as ISP's, Campus and enterprise networks. Euro6IX network is open to new connected sites, mainly research institutions or labs from ISPs, where advanced network services and tools will be validated, including specific applications and access devices development. Euro6IX has a strong focus in the porting and development of tools and applications (for example a native IPv6 instant messaging application), and also in the legal aspects related to IPv6 security, privacy and liberty concerns, as well the data protection and personal data issues.

The first joint meeting between both projects will be held in Madrid, during the Global IPv6 Summit (www.ipv6-es.com), from 13th to 15th, March 2002, simultaneous to the Heads of States Meeting of the European Commission, under the Spanish Presidency, that will announce the official trends and recommendations toward the State Members. In this meeting, preliminary results could be presented, and further collaboration will be defined and elaborated. Three months later both projects will organize an open workshop that will be properly publicized, and every year similar events will be jointly organized as part of the strong collaboration.

6NET partners are Cisco Systems, Sony International (Europe), IBM France, NTT Communications Corporation, DANTE, TERENA, RENATER, UKERNA, NORDUnet, DFN-Verein, SURFnet, SWITCH, ACOnet, GRnet, INFN-GARR, UNINETT, FUNET, Université Libre de Bruxelles, University College London, University of Southampton, University of Lancaster, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Danmarks Tekniske Universitet, University of Oulu, Université Louis Pasteur, Oulu Polytechnic, Invenia Innovation, Telematica Instituut, Computer Technology Institute, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft and INRIA.

Euro6IX partners include several European countries: 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 links are being built with other projects, manufactures, researchers, Telcos, ISPs and universities from around the world to drive and foster commitments for the real deployment of IPv6, which indicated their interest in cooperation with the projects.