I&T
M A G A Z I N E
News Review

Telematics for transport: Commission invited to act

In a resolution adopted in Brussels on 26 September 1994, the European Union ministers of transport stressed the importance of introducing telematics into transport systems, especially the railways, with all speed, by using the results of work on the «information society». The twelve Member States urged the Commission to prepare the measures required for putting in hand telematics systems in transport by means of an action plan.

Stressing that the use of telematics aims to make methods transport safer, more efficient, and more environmentally friendly, the Twelve defined their priorities for action in road, rail, air and maritime transport. They particularly underlined the necessity of ensuring compatibility in telematics systems for the railways sector. For this reason they invited the Commission to stress to the railway companies the importance of introducing a compatible European traffic monitoring system and to decide jointly on major trans-European international rail and road routes, putting in place telematic systems currently available as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Having received the Commission communication on satellite navigation the Council therefore asked the Commission and Member States to examine it as a matter of urgency and present their recommendations on it as soon as possible. In conclusion the Twelve called for the Commission to detail the measures necessary at Community level for setting up telematics systems in the transport sector and to support current standardisation activities in air traffic control, including R&D.

INTERNAL MARKET

Europe's way to the information society: an action plan.

On July 19 the European Commission approved a Communication entitled «Europe's way to the information society - an action plan», which presents an overview of the Commission's work on the information programme.

This communication is a response to the European Council's conclusions on «Europe and the global information society - recommendations to the European Council», the report of the High Level Group chaired by Commissioner Martin Bangemann which was discussed in Corfu on 24-25 June. The new communication constitutes an action framework within which a series of relevant policies will be articulated.

According to the Commission, a global, coherent and balanced approach of mutually-supportive measures is called for. The Community will assume its responsibilities for setting up the appropriate regulatory environment, states the Commission. At the same time, the private sector is invited to play an entrepreneurial role and to launch without delay firm initiatives for the prompt deployment of the information society. While a number of proposals are already under consideration, there is a need for new ones in a number of areas, four of them being identified as of major interest.

1- **regulatory and legal framework**, for which new proposals will be made, in particular concerning telecommunications infrastructure and services, on the protection of intellectual property rights and privacy, on media concentration, as well as the updating of the «rules of the game» for the free movement of TV broadcasting in the Community;

2 - **networks, basic services**, applications and information content, where there is a need to bring the parties concerned together in order to stimulate the development of applications in the areas proposed by the High Level Group and endorsed by the European Council;

3 - **social and cultural aspects**, including the linguistic and cultural dimensions of the information society stressed by the European Council;

4 - **promotion of the information society**, in order to increase public awareness and support.

THIS ISSUE

The information society: urgent need for a stable well-defined legal framework

At their meeting in Brussels on 28 September the EU ministers of industry and telecommunications congratulated the Commission on the speed with which it produced the action plan called «Towards the information society in Europe» (see separate article). They underlined the urgency of establishing effective information infrastructures (networks, services and applications) as well as a clearly defined and stable regulatory and legal framework. This development is indispensible for Europe, and needs to take place in a coherent, balanced and universal manner. Because of rapidly changing market conditions, the Council stressed that such a framework would enable commercial apparatus to prove their entrepreneurial spirit, investing and taking new initiatives in order to bring the information society into being. The Twelve were keen to legislate as soon as possible on these matters and were conscious of the need to activate existing Community legislation completely, efficiently, and within the due time-span.

The Council took note of the Commission's intention to present the first part of a Green Paper on the liberalisation of telecommunications infrastructures before 1 November 1994. This would enable the Council to implement legislation on the major lines of the issue and set a clear time-table. The second part of the Green paper would be presented prior to 1 January 1995.

The questions particularly stressed as urgent by the Council were:

★ detailing precise legal measures for ensuring the liberalisation of voice telephony, and for guaranteeing universal service;
★ speeding up of the European standardisation process in an international context;
★ protecting intellectual property rights in connection with the information society;
★ the security of information systems;

★ international activities (discussions on commercial issues, market access, interoperability, cooperation, GATT negotiations etc.);
★ improving European audiovisual and information industry competition on world markets (including the production side), with due regard to cultural diversity;
★ issues of personal privacy;
★ swift introduction of a permanent coordination instrument by the Member States, as detailed in the European Council meeting's conclusions at Corfu.

The Council further requested the Commission to set out in writing the methods for coordinating actions to develop new services and applications, especially in the context of the Fourth Framework Programme.
Finally, the Commission was invited to submit a report on the state of play in time for achievements to be evaluated at the European Council meeting in Essen on 9-10 December '94.

Council adopts specific research programmes

At a meeting held in Brussels on 29 September, the European Research Council adopted the specific programmes on telematics applications of general interest, measurements and testing and information technologies.

Telematics applications programme
Objectives: to improve the efficiency of telematics applications and ensure interoperability of telematics systems and networks through prenormative research, development activities and technical testing.

Budget: 843 million ecus divided as follows:
Telematics for services of public interest:
30.2%
   1. administrations : 5.9%
   2. transports : 24.3%
Telematics for knowledge: 17%
   3. telematics for research: 5.9%
   4. education and training : 7.8%
   5. libraries : 3.6%
Telematics for improving employment and
   the quality of life: 31.8%
   6. Urban and rural areas: 5.7%
   7. Health care: 16.0%
   8. Elderly and disabled people: 7.7%
   9. Exploratory actions on the
      environment: 2.4%

   10. Other exploratory actions: pm
Horizontal activities of RDT : 15.8%
   11. Telematics engineering: 1.8%
   12. Linguistic engineering: 9.6%
   13. Information engineering: 4.4%
Support actions : 4.9%

Measurements and testing
Objectives: research on new methods for measurements testing

Budget: 173 million ecus, divided as follows:
★ Measures for European products of quality : 40%
★ Research related to standards and technical support for trade: 35%
★ Measures for the public good for the welfare of society for society: 25%

Information technologies
Budget: 1,911 million ecus divided as follows:
★ Software technologies: 14%
★ Technologies for components: 25.5%
★ Multimedia systems: 8%
★ Long-term research : 10%
★ Open microprocessor systems initiative 9%
★ High performance computing and networking: 12.75%

★ Technologies for business processes: 8.75%
★ Integration in manufacturing: 12%

Formal adoption of these decisions will take place after the texts have been finalised.

The Council also approved the following programmes:
  – Marines sciences and technologies (228 million ecus)
  – Agriculture and fisheries (607 million ecus)
  – Cooperation with third countries and international organisations (540 million ecus)
  – Non-nuclear energy (967 million ecus).

The Council has decided to open four programmes to the participation of third countries research organisations:
  – measurements and testing,
  – marine sciences and technologies,
  – information technologies,
  – non-nuclear energy.

The Commission announced that accordingly it would prepare a report on the Community's scientific relations with third countries for the next meeting of the Council.

Competition and the information society: the role of Chambers of Commerce

« Every monopoly, whether public or private, is an obstacle to our progress towards the information society.» So said Martin Bangemann, European Commissioner for industrial policy, when he addressed the Cologne Chamber of Commerce on 6 September.

According to Mr Bangemann, one of the main tasks of the modern state is to ensure an open business environment fully geared to competition, since it is a company's competitive ability rather than size which determines its success internationally.

«Yet again we Europeans risk waking up too late and getting left behind on the way to the information society if we don't make a firm commitment to it now», he stated.

Setting up and extending trans-European information networks was indispensible for consolidating the competitive position of Europe, said Mr Bangemann. He also underlined the new job opportunities becoming available, especially in information and communication sectors, as well as the importance of defining coherent industrial and competitive policies.

Proposing a dialogue between Chambers of Commerce and the Commission on the social and cultural aspects as well as on the advantages and disadvantages of the information society, Mr Bangemann indicated that the Commission had decided to promote pilot projects to find the best way of effecting a harmonious transition to the global information society. A ground plan had been decided upon which would ensure close cooperation with the private sector, Member States, the regions and cities, to speed up the establishing of telematic networks between SMEs and large companies, and as the intermediaries in these networks the Chambers of Commerce would have a significant role to play.

«Towards the information society»: at Sources d'Europe, Paris

At Sources d'Europe, the information centre of European Union at the Arche de la Défense in Paris, the European Commission's DG III (Industry) and DG XIII (Telecommunications, Information market and Exploitation of research) share a permanent stand and conference facility. The stand started its autumn programme with a conference entitled «Towards the information society in Europe: the Commission's action plan».

Held on 29 September, the conference focused on the communication of the Commission on the information society. It was introduced by Jack Metthey, Head of Unit and Assistant to the Director General (DG XIII) and Michel Catinat, Head of Unit at DG III.

Conference calendar for DG III and DG XIII stand at Sources d'Europe:

11 October:
The Fourth Framework Programme for research and development of the European Union
17 October:
Standardisation and certification in companies
24 October:
The industrial policy of the European Union:
«Panorama of European industry»
25 October:
Access to the community research databases for companies

9 November:
Information technologies: multimedia technologies; technologies for business processes
14 November:
Technologies for advanced communications and services:
the ACTS programme
15 November:
Liberalisation in the telecommunications sector
18 November:
Telematics applications of general interest:
the Telematics programme
8 December:
Information technologies:
networks of excellence and long-term research projects; best practices in software.

Participation in all conferences is free of charge (except on 25 October) but pre-registration is obligatory.

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An industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union

The European Commission proposes a «real policy of industrial competitiveness» for Europe. In a Communication approved on 14 September, the Commission defines four priorities for directing this policy towards markets likely to grow and create jobs: the promotion of intangible investment, the development of industrial cooperation, ensuring fair competition and the modernisation of the industrial role of public authorities.

Presenting this document, Martin Bangemann, Commissioner in charge of industrial policy, said that it constitutes an action programme for implementing the objectives expressed in the White Paper on «Growth, competitiveness and employment» and in the Bangemann Report on the global information society. The Commissioner stressed that industrial competitiveness can be strengthened notably by emphasising intangible competitive advantages such as: knowledge and human resources, quality and reliability of products, the ability to exploit with efficiency all kind of information (whose importance has been underlined by the Commission in its report on the information society), the improvement of trans-European networks, scientific experience, technology and innovation, the effective functioning of markets, the role of SMEs etc.

The Commission has already set up several proposals in its action plan adopted last July entitled «Towards the information society». With this new communication, it is calling upon all concerned to join forces in order to ensure rapid implementation of all action necessary, based on these priorities, that could boost the European industrial competitiveness.

Promoting intangible investment
The Commission will give greater priority to intangible investment in all its policies supporting investment. This will include improved vocational training, and promotion of human resources, reinforcement of Community legislation on intellectual property rights, a greater awarness of market needs in establishing a research policy (particularly through closer cooperation with the operator concerned), promotion of new forms of work organisation and the use of new technologies in SMEs.

Developing industrial cooperation
The objective of the Commission is to promote industrial cooperation both inside and outside the Union. It will take the measures necessary to facilitate such cooperation, i.e. support the organisation of industrial «round tables» enabling industrialists to identify and use their mutual interests; ensure that businesses can gain easier access to information and to development support mechanisms, exploring solutions, for instance partial

guarantees for investments, and appropriate technical expertise to assist operations of interest to the Community as a whole. The Commission also intends to submit specific proposals on industrial cooperation with some of the Union's partners, such as the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Latin-American and Mediterranean countries with which the Union has traditional ties and certain Asian countries.

Ensuring fair competition
Stressing that «fair trade» should be a corollary to «free trade», the Commission will continue efforts at international level to find solutions to those issues remaining unresolved by the Uruguay Round (i.e. aeronautics and steel). It will submit proposals for the development of international rules on competition to avoid any emergence of dominant positions on the world market and to improve the efficiency of the instruments of trade policy. The Commission will also establish a database on the obstacles to proper operation of the markets and an industrial assessment mechanism to identify the industrial problems encountered by European businesses in markets in third countries, and step up the fight against fraud.

At the internal level, the Commission reaffirms the need to reinforce the control on state aids as well as to simplify monitoring mechanisms for minor cases. It intends also to re-examine the

criteria for approval of aid and simplify the rules by reformulating certain texts. The Commission stresses the importance of opening markets which remain restricted (telecommunications, energy) and the need to reinforce coherence between Community and national policies.

Modernising the industrial role of public authorities
For the Commission, it is essential to modernise administrations and their means of intervention as companies are already doing. It will then support the working party on simplification of legislative and administrative procedures and continue its efforts to streamline procedures systematically and make them more transparent. It will redefine the aims of public service, and consider ways of improving decision-making structures. Commissioner Bangemann emphasized the importance of making administrative procedure «faster, more transparent and more practical». The Commission will also make better use of the opportunities offered by Community instruments (i.e. Structural Funds) to facilitate the development of competitive industrial activities in the Union, with emphasis on the SMEs, taking in account regional disparities. It will also encourage administrative cooperation between the Commission and Member States to overcome any difficulties encountered by business wishing to benefit from proper operation of the internal market.

PROGRAMMES IN ACTION

Advanced Communications Technologies and Services (ACTS): first announcement

Following the decision of the European Parliament and the Council adopting the Fourth Framework Programme of the European Community activities in the field of research and technological development and demonstration, (1994-1998, European Parliament and Council Decision 1110/94/EC of 26.4.1994 (O.J. N°L126 of 18.5.1994, p.l.) and the Council Decision concerning the specific programme of research, technological development and demonstration in the area of Advance Communications Technologies and Service - ACTS (1994-1998, Council

Decision 8217/94/EC of 27.7.1994), the European Commission is inviting proposals for research and technological development projects.

Pursuant to Article 5, paragraph 1, of the Council Decision on the specific programme, a work programme has been drawn up setting out the scientific and technological objectives and research tasks, the implementation schedule, the financial and managerial arrangements, the arrangements for coordination with other RTD activities and the arrangements for the dissemi-

nation, protection and exploitation of the results of the RTD activities carried out under this specific programme.

The objectives and topics for research and technological development covered by this call for proposals address the tasks identified in the work programme.

Consortia of organisations eligible to participate (see annex III to the Council Decision on the specific programme ACTS and the rules for participation as specified in the measures

envisaged in article 130j of the Treaty) in the ACTS programme are invited to submit proposals for projects to address the following areas:

1. Interactive digital multimedia services;
2. Photonic technologies;
3. High-speed networking;
4. Mobility and personal communications networks;
5. Intelligence in networks and service engineering;
6. Quality, security and safety of communication services and systems;
7. Horizontal actions.

The present announcement is published to give interested parties the time needed to prepare proposals. In order to permit co-ordination with other specific programmes not yet adopted by the Council, a final announcement of this call for proposals will be published on December 15 1994. **Proposals must arrive at the European Commission offices by 17.00 hrs, March 15th, 1995 at the latest**.

In accordance with Annex III of the Council Decision on the ACTS programme, the research and technological development tasks will be addressed, in general, in shared-cost projects as well as in appropriate measures for the ACTS programme, in particular, to facilitate the participation of SME's, preparatory, accompanying and support measures and concerted actions.

The rules for participation in the Community RTD activities, the information on the Community financial participation and the methods of the

determination and payment of that financial participation are available (see annex III to the Council Decision on the specific programme ACTS and the rules for participation as specified in the measures envisaged in article 130j of the Treaty) and are part of the supporting documentation issued with the call for proposals.

The work programme, the information about the procedures for the submission of proposals and the contract that will be established with the successful proposers are available from the services of the Commission on request. Descriptions of work undertaken in earlier and related programmes are also available on request.

All correspondence concerning this announcement should be sent to:

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N.B. We strongly recommend using electronic mail rather than the normal postal services if at all possible.

RACE Advanced Communication Services Exhibition

A Technical Audit of the RACE projects was held in Brussels on 4-5 October 1994. As the programme comes to an end, and the new programme ACTS - Advanced Communications Technologies and Services - takes over, more prototypes of advanced communications services are becoming available which the projects sometimes demonstrate during the Audit as their achievements.

Taking into account the experience of the IBC Lab in supporting this kind of events, the projects were asked this year to open their demos to the general public including the Belgium participants in the field and the EU staff. 17 projects decided to take this opportunity to show their developments to a wider audience.

The projects made demonstrations of the following:

★ Applications in several domains like tourism, culture or finance;

★ Advanced services like multimedia mail or JVTOS (joint viewing and tele-operations);

★ Advanced transport protocols like XTP, providing user control QoS;

★ Network management and ATM technology.

3rd RACE Mobile Telecommunications Workshop

Organised by the RACE Mobile Project Line and hosted by Royal PTT Netherlands NV with the support of the European Commission, the 3rd RACE Mobile Telecommunications Workshop took place in Amsterdam from 17-19 May 1994.

The workshop, attended by more than 250 people, focused on the evolution from current mobile communication systems (2nd generation) to the 3rd generation of mobile systems (UMTS, FPLMTS or IMT 2000) and MBS

(Mobile Broadband Systems). Issues such as an interoperability, standardisation and the future of mobile communications R&D were also debated by representatives of all sector actors.

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European Supercomputer installed at CERN

A new scaleable parallel computer based on European High Performance Computing (HPC) technology has been installed in the CERN computing centre. The initiative to support the development of this new-style computer came from the European Union's Esprit (European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technology) Programme. CERN is the lead partner and coordinator of this project, called GPMIMD2 (General Purpose Multiple Instructions Multiple Data II). This is the first time that CERN has taken this role in a multimillion ECU Esprit project and illustrates the stronger links which are developing between the EU and CERN.

It is also the first time in thirty years that the most powerful single system computer in the CERN computer centre has been designed in Europe, which shows that European technology can compete with the best in the USA and Japan.

Massively Parallel Processing (MPP) is a new direction in Supercomputing technology, in which many (up to over 1000) processing elements, often of the same technology as personal workstations, are tightly coupled together to provide computing speeds and capabilities equal and even superior to traditional larger mainframe Supercomputers. The start-up of this new computer at CERN is a step forward in the development of High Performance Computing culture and know-how in the European scientific environment and will contribute to building up user confidence in the emerging and potentially strategic European MPP computing market.

The parallel computer installed at CERN as part of the project is a 32 node CS-2 produced by the British company Meiko Limited, based in Bristol, in collaboration with two other leading European supercomputer suppliers: Parsys (UK) and Telmat (F). This is so far the largest machine of this kind installed in Europe. It uses RISC Supersparc Technology coupled to a high performance (50 MB/sec) low latency (<10 usec) interconnect fabric developed by Meiko as part of other Esprit projects.

The computer is used at CERN for advanced High Energy Physics applications. Its potential has already been revealed by running physics simulation events for the NA48 experiment. This high-precision experiment, which is expected to start taking data at the end of 1995, will probe the continuing mystery of Nature's subtle disregard for invariance, under a combined particle-antiparticle switch and mirror reflection. In the past, many days of processing were needed to generate the same statistics, which are now produced in «quasi real-time». The CS-2 is already producing excellent results: 100,000 physics events per hour/processor are simulated on average, fulfilling the original goal of producing 16 million events per night.

As part of the same EU supercomputing initiative, a second Massively Parallel Processing computer equipped with powerful vector units is going to be installed at CERFACS (Centre Europeen de Recherche et Formation Avancee en Calcul Scientifique) in the south of France. This computer will be used to process the enormous quantities of data which have to be analysed for accurate meteorological and climate predictions.

Information Services

RARE has recently entered into contracts with INRIA to work on the integration of directory-service access with the World Wide Web. RARE is also contributing to the support and development of the World Wide Web project which is seen as a key element in the development of information services for researchers.

Looking to the future, RARE has launched its UPTURN initiative (Umbrella Proposal for Telematics for Users and Research Networks) to encourage participation in the European Commission's Fourth Framework Programme. The Fourth Framework offers the possibility of European funding to assist with collaborative projects between commerce and researchers which will result in the delivery of telematic services, adding to the productivity of industrial and academic researchers. RARE is providing information on the programme and assisting in the information exchange between potential participants via its UPTURN mailing list.

To join this list, send electronic mail to mailserver@rare.nl containing the text:

SUBSCRIBE UPTURN your-first-name your-last-name

replacing your-first-name and your-last-name as appropriate. Once you have joined the list, you can send mail to the other subscribers at the address upturn@rare.nl.

RARE is organising a 4th Framework & Telematics for Research (UPTURN) meeting on the afternoon of 30 November 1994 in London, immediately after EARN's Network Services Conference (28-30 November 1994). RARE Working Groups will meet at the same venue on 1st December.

Information about the UPTURN initiative, and about RARE's technical programme, can be obtained from:

- ftp.rare.nl (by anonymous FTP)

- gopher.rare.nl (by gopher)

- http://www.rare.nl/ (by World Wide Web)

RARE

The opportunities of open microprocessor systems

The potential of microprocessors for new business opportunities and employment is to be the subject of a special conference supported by the European Commission. Malahide, near Dublin, Ireland, will host the next OMI (Open Microprocessor systems Initiative) Conference. For three days from 7-9 November 1994, delegates from all the EU member states will attend discussion groups and listen to more than thirty presentations directed at describing the scope for future applications of embedded systems from motor cars to smart cards.

The 200 MECU OMI programme has grown to over forty projects and is just entering its third year. It has already registered several European successes such as the design of low power hardware, interchangeable software microkernels and other tools for system portability. These advances are opening up opportunities and applications, as well as improving the economies of system design. Some OMI participants have already entered the US market with their results and others are preparing to follow them.

The partners participating in the OMI programme include a mixture of European industrialists, research institutes and academics. An additional feature of OMI projects is the inclusion of the whole spectrum of industry from software to system design and from hardware vendors to system users. This encourages the establishment of vertical market relationships which could help Europe compete with the powerful commercial supplier-user links seen in the US microprocessor industry.

The first two days of the Malahide Conference are reserved for the participants in the research projects but the final day is open to industrialists and academics. Time has been set aside for revealing OMIs plans within Framework IV, the EU's next big industrial research programme which will be launched towards the end of the year. Apart from seeking further technological projects there will be a growing emphasis on applications and supporting measures for easing industrial implementation. This practical assistance could include the establishment of local skill centres and targeted primarily to small and medium-size companies. Ireland, with its reputation for computer software design, should have a part to play in this.

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IT users and suppliers report on future action

In the late 1993 and early 1994, five groups of IT users and suppliers were established to make recommendations for actions to be taken at Community level to ensure that European industry in general (both goods and services) was able to exploit the opportunities offered by high-performance computing and networking (HPCN).

The groups addressed: applications in general; high-performance networking; simulation and design; embedded systems and software and systems.

These groups have now presented their reports to the Commission and they are being used to prepare activities under the Fourth Framework Programme for Community Research and Technological Development.

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RARE Council of Administration Information

RARE members gathered in Darmstadt, courtesy of ESOC, on 19 and 20 May 1994. Meetings included a joint session with the EARN Board of Directors dedicated to the proposed merger between RARE and EARN, and subsequently the 29th meeting of the Council of Administration.

The joint meeting was felt to be very constructive. The Executive Committees of both organizations had provided the members with draft statutes, rules and regulations, a charter, a technical structure and a budget, encompassing proposals for membership fees and voting rights. The conclusion of the meeting was that the merger was feasible and should still take place during 1994; this event is scheduled to occur at the time of the next (and last) RARE Council of Administration meeting on 20 October 1994, in Amsterdam.

A call for a new name for the merged organization has been issued and several proposals are under investigation.

During the Council of Administration meeting, the RARE accounts were presented in May, as is traditional, and the 1993 financial year was closed with the approval of the 1993 accounts by the Council. Two networking organizations were unanimously accepted as RARE full national members: UNICOM-B from Bulgaria and UNIBEL from the Republic of Belarus.

The Council of Administration has asked the Executive Committee to reorganize the RIPE NCC's management structure by the creation of a body to represent the whole customer base, in order to enhance involvement of the RIPE NCC's commercial customers. This management body will be involved in fund-raising for the RIPE NCC.

RARE

INET'94/JENC5

RARE's annual Joint European Networking Conference (JENC5) was held this year in Prague (Czech Republic), in conjunction with the Internet Society's (ISOC) annual INET conference. It proved to be a great success in every respect. The participants numbered around 1200 and came from over 100 different countries.

The Czech Technical University and the Czech Educational and Scientific NETwork (CESNET) were responsible for the local arrangements. They furnished the terminal room with over 70 workstations providing worldwide Internet connectivity. The technical staff also supported the connectivity in the demonstration area, where several highly advanced networking applications were presented to the public. With the support of various sponsors, leased lines with a total capacity of 2.5 Mbit/s connected the conference centre to the rest of the world. This connectivity allowed interactive MBONE broadcasts of the plenary sessions of the conference to hundreds of sites in many countries.

It also became apparent that the conference was a truly global event, with over 100 presentations and panel discussions in six different topical areas: user support and training, distributed applications, policy issues, regional issues, network engineering and network technology. The programme presented the developments in technology on ATM, multimedia, IPng, routing and addressing, network information tools, broadband technology, performance analysis, electronic documentation, networked simulation and virtual reality and future generations of Internet technology, to mention only a few of the subjects covered.

These new technological developments, and the exponential growth of networking in the last few years, are bringing past side issues to the foreground. Policy issues are becoming more and more important with the increasing number of active Internet users and its broader scale. Furthermore, new user communities are emerging every day, and each of them has its own specific demands with regard to service, support and training. The conference proved a good discussion platform for all of these important issues.

A full set of proceedings was distributed at the conference, and a number of selected papers of high quality are being prepared for publication in a special issue of Computer Networks and ISDN Systems.

Preceding the conference, there was a one-day tutorial on ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode), organized and sponsored by Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC).

In addition, during the week prior to the conference, the workshop for Technologically Emerging Countries took place at the Czech Technical University. A selected number of participants (approx. 170) from around 80 countries had the unique opportunity of learning how to access and use worldwide Internet resources, as well as how to build and manage national networks in their own countries. The Soros Foundations funded the participation of many Eastern European and CIS attendees. RARE, with the financial support of NATO, took direct responsibility for the Network Navigation and Services Track.

RARE Technical Programme

The most recent main event for the RARE Technical Programme was the INET'94/JENC5 conference, organized by RARE and the Internet Society (ISOC), which took place in Prague in mid-June. All the RARE working groups took the opportunity to meet at the conference and were able to present their work to visitors from across the world.

The Working Group on Network Operations (WG-NOP) was relaunched under its new convenor, Manfred Bogen. The new convenors of the Working Group on Information Services and User Support (WG-ISUS), Dave Hartland, and the Working Group on Network Security (WG-SEC), Rudiger Grimm, were able to introduce themselves in person.

The final stages of two RARE projects were also reported on at the conference. The task force on Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT-TF) presented plans for a European coordination centre for liaison between the front-line support organizations dealing with network security incidents. This is now being developed into a business plan (which will be the subject of a call for tender) for approval by the Council of Administration on 20 October 1994. The C3 project of the Working Group on Character Sets, which is developing software for conversion between a wide variety of coded character sets, was presented at the conference in the form of a live demonstration of the conversion program.

New RARE Technical reports

Two new RARE Technical Reports are in the course of production. RTR12 on Writing O/R Names is a revision of the guidelines of the Working Group on Mail and Messaging (WG-MSG) which takes into account recent international standards in this area. RTR13 is a Status Report on Network Information Retrieval, a regularly updated report which gives an overview of the «state of the art» in this field.

RTR8, 9, 10 and 11 are currently available in printed form and can be ordered from the RARE Secretariat.

RTR8   RFC 1614 – Network Access to Multimedia Information. May 1994

RTR9   RFC 1615 – Migrating from X.400(84) to X.400(88). May 1994

RTR10 RFC 1616 – X.400(88) for the Research and Development Community in Europe. May 1994

RTR11 RFC 1617 – Naming and Structuring Guidelines for X.500 Directory Pilots. May 1994

RARE

JENC6: «Bringing the world to the desktop»

With the Prague event still fresh in mind, preparations are already under way for next year's conference which will take place in the new Dan Panorama Convention Center in Tel Aviv, Israel from 15-18 May 1995. The Programme Committee, under the leadership of Jose Barbera (FUNDESCO, Spain), has already prepared a Call for Papers which is available from jenc6-sec@rare.nl.

The conference theme, «Bringing the World to the Desktop», may be looked upon as a metaphor for two major changes underway:

★ the increasing penetration of daily research/educational work and practices by networks and networking technology

★ the new set of requirements that desktop networking implies for the underlying technology and the structures of service provision.

The goal of this conference is to survey the current situation in networking, to explore major unresolved issues and technologies, but most of all to stimulate discussion on possible future directions.

The local arrangements are being taken care of by ILAN.

RARE

For more information about RARE contact:

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TELEMATICS NEWS

Telematics Applications Programme: invitation to send expressions of interest

The Telematics Applications programme (1994-1998) was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 29 September 1994 (see separate article). The programme will make available about 843 Mecu to consortia of users and suppliers for projects concerning the application of telecommunications and of information technology in areas of importance to the economic and social development of the European Union. This notice requests organisations who may wish to participate in the programme to notify their interest, especially if they are not yet recorded in an appropriate database (such as CORDIS).

Responses would be particularly welcome from users or people who are considering the use of telematics systems, and from organisations who have not yet participated in an EU R&D programme in IT or Telecommunications before.

Organisations who notify their interest will receive further information and may request assistance in finding partners for proposals.

The first call for proposals is expected for December 15, 1994 with a closing date of March 15, 1995.

The Telematics programme covers the following sectors:

Telematics for services of public interest:
directed at public administrations, and at transport operators in air, sea, rail and road transport.

Telematics for knowledge:
directed at libraries, research network organisations, universities, education and training organisations.

Telematics for improving employment and the quality of life:
directed at health care organisation including hospitals and general practitioners, health care administrations and social security administrations; at providers of assistive technology for elderly or disabled people; providers of services and user organisations in urban and rural areas and at administrations in these areas; at organisations for the protection of the environment.

These areas will be supported by work on methods and tools for design, development and operation of Telematics systems (Telematics engineering), in language engineering and in information engineering including the handling of information assets.

Proposals which address more than one sector are especially welcome.

The following criteria will be applied in the selection of proposals:

Projects should:
★ solve an important application problem in the sector or sectors in which they are proposed and not only produce progress in technology;
★ start from user requirements and aim at cost-effective solutions;
★ involve or be user-led from the beginning and at every stage;
★ devote the greater part of the effort to validation in the user environment;
★ lead to an increase in the innovation ability of users.

The programme is therefore of interest to user organisations who may in the past not have considered participating in a Community R&D programme.

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Telematics for Education and Training (DELTA) Conference

The Telematics for Education and Training Conference, due to be held in Düsseldorf, Germany, from 24-26 November 1994, will provide an overview of the 'state of the art' of the most advanced telematics systems for learning, in terms of both technological and pedagogic innovation, in a European and world-wide context.

The conference is organised by Deutsche Bundespost Telekom and FIM-Psychologie, Universität Erlangen, with the support of the DELTA and VALUE programmes.

Its objectives are:

★ To present the results of projects on the use of telematics for open and distance learning supported by the European Programme «Telematic network and services applied to flexible distance learning (DELTA)».

★ To present the Workplan of the Fourth Framework Programme (in particular the sub-programme on Telematics for Education and Training) in the broader context of other Commission initiatives in this area (TFHR programmes, SOCRATES and LEONARDO, socio-economic research).

★ To present key 'state of the art' projects outside the DELTA domain (both within and outside the EU).

★ To invite speakers to address the question of future directions of research and implementation according to key themes.

This will essentially be a scientific R&D based conference. While the main goal is of a general nature, there will be strong emphasis on technical and concrete presentations of the results obtained under the Framework Programme and of the main telematics for learning services offered by organisation outside the DELTA community. The conference will also show the trends for the future in the field of telematics for education and training both within and outside Europe.

The aim of the conference will be to demonstrate to user groups the benefits (in terms of quality of teaching, training, competitiveness and employment) of using telematics in education and training and to disseminate the results of the current phase of the programme. It is therefore desirable that all DELTA projects present their results and give practical demonstrations. In addition demonstrations by projects, services and companies outside the DELTA domain are very welcome.

There will be both plenary and theme-based sessions focusing on: systems and applications; implementation issues; pilot experiments and delivery services. Continual demonstrations in a stand area plus specific demonstrations during presentations will take place.

A broad audience of c.600 participants is anticipated, including:

★ Producers and distributors of telematics for education and training (publishers, broadcasters, etc.)

★ Users (educational institutions, teachers and tutors, training departments of companies)

★ National, regional and local decision-makers in the education and training field.

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Delta: The Tribune project's publications

Launched with the aim of disseminating the results of the Delta programme, the Tribune project has published several documents on behalf of this programme. These are known as the Tribune Collection and include the following titles:

Who is Who - People and organisations in the DELTA programme 1992-1995 (this has recently been updated and version 2 is now available, price 20 ECU)

Open to Learn - Organisational Issues in Technology Based Training (September 1993, price 10 ECU)

DELTA at Work - Progress in the European Research and Development Projects - A Snapshot (February 1994, Price 20 ECU)

A new volume, 'DELTA Perspectives', which will give an overview of achievements under this phase of the programme, is currently under production.

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AIM'94 Final Conference: Health in the new communications age

The European Union's 3rd Framework Programme for research and technological development is coming to an end. So is AIM 1990-94, now called «Health Telematics», as part of the Telematics programme. **An AIM Final Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from 6-10 December 1994.**

Organised by the Portuguese Health Authorities in collaboration with DG XIII and Telecom-Portugal, the conference will be attended by representatives from local, regional and international health authorities as well as health professionals - the end users - providing them with information on how telematics can support and ease their daily work and might improve the quality of care for patients. The conference aims to disseminate the results of the work of AIM from 1990 to 1994, providing a forum for industry and telecommunications operators to exhibit and discuss their products and prepare development strategies. It will demonstrate synergies between work carried out in the AIM programme and other development programmes at national and European levels.

On the morning of the first day, parallel workshops will be held, including a meeting of CEN TC251 (CEN technical committee for standardisation in the medical informatics domain).

A conference brochure is available.

The Health Telematics Programme will also be presented at the **MEDICA, in Düsseldorf, from 16-19 November 1994.**

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Health care telematics AIM - new publications

Additional brochures have been recently published by the AIM programme describing projects on various topics in health telematics:

- ISAAC: Integration System Architecture for Advanced Primary Care;

- EPIC: a prototype for integrated care mainly focussed on elderly people

- OPENLABS: an open system architecture addressed to laboratories

- KAVAS: a software package for structuring expert knowledge

- DIABCARD: Improved Communication in Diabetes Care with Chip Card Technology

- SEISMED: Security Questions in Medical Information Systems

Exploratory actions in multimedia publishing

The Bangemann Report on Europe and the Global Information Society presented to the European Council in Corfu highlighted the potential future demand for innovative content-based products and services that will exploit the information infrastructure soon to be created throughout Europe.

A Call for Proposals for exploratory actions in multimedia publishing was published in the Official Journal of 15 March 1994, with a closing date of 15 June 1994. This action by DG XIII/E is part of its preparation for RTD activity in the area of «information engineering» within the Fourth Framework Programme.

The Call invited proposals for feasibility projects aimed at improving the usability of information through better methods for the design, creation, dissemination and access to integrated multimedia information services. Projects will be supported that test the feasibility of pilot applications built around identified user requirements, and will address research objectives in the areas of electronic publishing,

information dissemination and information retrieval.

A total of 405 proposals were received from all the European Union and European Economic Area countries. More than 1,600 participant companies were represented, including strong involvement by large European companies as well as many SMEs. The evaluation process by 22 independent evaluators (from most EU Member States and two EEA countries) took place during the second half of June. Twenty-two projects (plus three reserves) have been selected, in which the partnership mix is broad and represents the majority of Member States plus Austria, Sweden and Norway. A Commission decision on these projects is expected in September, and they will run for a 6-month period from September 1994 to April 1995.

The proposals covered a wide range of issues applicable to the various areas to be addressed by future «information engineering» activities within the Fourth Framework Programme. The

selected projects address the following issues: four cover electronic newspapers and magazines; seven cover technical service and documentation (two of which also involve GIS and corporate memory); seven cover asset trading (two of which also involve multimedia catalogues); two cover STM (scientific, technical and medical) publishing; and two cover multimedia catalogues.

Other preparatory activities for «information engineering» include the awarding of a contract for a feasibility study on a European network of research centres supporting media-related activities. A Call for Tenders was also published in the Official Journal on 8 June 1994 for studies on information engineering (identifying the influential technologies and their impact) and corporate publishing.

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Libraries programme PEA initiative proves successful

One of the aims of the Libraries Programme (under Action Line 4) is to encourage the development of a market for new library products and services. Calls for proposals in 1991 and 1992 had disappointing results, under Action Line 4, with a low number of good quality proposals submitted. It was concluded that SMEs, who constitute the majority of library-supplier companies and who could usefully participate in this area, often have problems devoting time, effort and financial resources to proposal preparation. To offset these difficulties, a Proposal Expansion Award (PEA) scheme (based on the Brite-Euram CRAFT initiative) was introduced for the third Call for Proposals in 1993. This scheme provided up to 10,000 Ecu for travel, partner-finding and consultancy.

Following an advance notice of the PEA conditions in the context of the call in the Official Journal on 5 August 93, 72 applications were received, 48 of which qualified for an expansion award. The subsequent Call for Proposals, published on 16 November 1993, attracted considerably more proposals under Action Line 4 than earlier calls. In this area, 63 proposals (involving 317 partners) were submitted, 35 of which originated as PEA applications. Of the 22 Action Line 4 proposals retained, a large majority (15) had benefitted from participation in the initiative.

The PEA scheme was considered a success in attracting more proposals and enhancing their quality. There was a clear improvement in the level of collaboration between SMEs and libraries, paving the way for fruitful RTD in the library products market.

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Meeting the Legal Challenges of a European Information Market

A leaflet with the above title, and available in all official EU languages, has been prepared to increase awareness of the activities and publications of the Commission's Legal Advisory Board (LAB). After an introduction to some of the legal challenges facing the creation of a European information market, the composition of the LAB is explained. The LAB concentrates its monitoring and advisory work on the following priority areas: intellectual property, access to information, data protection, consumer protection, rules of evidence, and legal aspects of security and encryption.

A number of surveys, studies and discussion papers on these issues are available, the titles of which are listed in the new leaflet. These documents may be obtained free of charge.

For further information about LAB activities and to request a copy of the leaflet, please contact the address below.

IMPACT

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ECHO hosts new IDEA database

In the second half of 1994 a new database will be launched by Eur-OP (Office for Official Publications) and hosted experimentally on ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation). IDEA (Inter-institutional Directory of European Administrations) contains the directories of the following European institutions: the European Investment Bank, the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the Economic and Social Committee. When new EU institutions are added at a later stage, these will also be included.

Information provided will include name and title, institution and function, languages spoken and contact details. Additional information on Members of the European Parliament will cover date and place of birth, region represented and date of nomination, supplemented by a brief biography. The database will be accessed by menu and the content will be available in all official languages of the European Union. The cost of accessing the database will be Ecu 30 per hour.

This new inter-institutional database will contribute considerably towards improving the transparency of the work of the EU, as it will enable users to locate the official they need in order to obtain information on a particular area of European policy. It is expected to be particularly popular with interest groups, consultants, press agencies and journalists.

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Implementation phase of GIS projects now underway

IMPACT

Following a Call for Proposals for shared-cost projects to develop information services based on geographical information systems (GIS) technology, 28 projects were selected for funding during a 6-month definition phase aimed at demonstrating their viability. After evaluation of these projects in January 1994, 8 projects were assessed as being eligible for funding during a further 18-month implementation phase which will bring the products to market readiness. Following a favourable Commission decision on 1 July 1994 regarding support for these projects, the negotiation of the contracts was finalised and the implementation phase is now underway.

The subject areas addressed include metadata, data collection and provision, education, tourism and real estate. The projects utilise readily available technology platforms (e.g., CD-ROM, online systems) including portable devices.

The titles of the successful projects (and countries of the partners) are as follows:

★ OMEGA - Object Metadata for European Geographic Analysis (UK, FR, ES)
★ EURIPIDES - European Information Project involving Demographic and Economic Statistics (UK, FR, DE, NL, IR)
★ ERGIS - European Seabed Resource Geographical Information Service (UK, NL)
★ ENVIDUCATION - Multimedia GIS for elementary environmental education (DK, IR, GR)
★ VITAL - Visitors Information on Transport and Locations (DE, NL, PT, BE)
★ TITAN - Tourist Information and Travel Assistance Network (UK, NL, IR)
★ EXPLORER - The Space Explorer (NL, GR, PT, UK)
★ MAGIS - Map supported Area information service based on GIS (DK, IR, GR, NL, FIN).

For further details and to obtain project fact sheets, please contact the numbers below:

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Workshop focuses on quality of information products and services

IMPACT

A Workshop on Specifying and Measuring the Quality of Information Products and Services was organised by DG XIII/E within the framework of the IMPACT programme and held in Luxembourg on 8 June 1994. Participants came from six Member States of the European Union, as well as Iceland, Finland and Sweden.

«Quality» in this context was taken to mean: satisfying the customers' requirements at an economic cost. While some companies in the information industry have implemented formal quality management systems, many have not and there is a largely unsatisfied demand by end-users for a suitable response from both information producers and distributors.

The aims of the workshop were: to raise awareness in the information industry of the benefits of quality assurance and how it can be achieved; to present the results of recent studies carried out for the Commission; to provide a forum for discussion involving major players in the information industry; and to make proposals to the Commission for further actions.

In its welcome, the Commission stressed the importance of this issue as a prerequisite for achieving success in the global market. The keynote address focused on why a quality approach is necessary, showing how the satisfaction of users means control of the working environment, the equipment, the method of work, the raw material and particularly staff competence. In a review of users' needs, it was emphasised that there are several customer-supplier relationships along the information chain, and the requirements for quality assurance are not confined to the end-user.

Results of three recent studies were presented, two of which were supported by the Commission. These covered a methodology for customer evaluation of information systems; the importance of specifications, showing how existing international standards for quality assurance could be applied to the information industry; and an illustration of how the costs of not having a quality management system can reach between 20% and 40% of turnover.

Presentations from three sectors of the industry highlighted their particular problems and illustrated the successful procedures which the leaders in quality management are adopting.

Among the 14 recommendations for actions by both industry and the Commission were that:

★ the information industry should implement existing solutions and not spend more time studying the problem;
★ large purchasers of information and services should require quality assurance from their suppliers;
★ the Commission should continue to promote awareness of quality assurance in this sector and bring together database producers for further discussions on these issues;
★ actions on quality needed to be coordinated on an international basis;
★ European standards should be developed where sectors of the industry could see the benefit for their particular sector.

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EUROGI Workplan defined at First General Assembly

IMPACT

To develop a unified European approach to geographical information services (GIS), the Commission supported a study team of independent experts to help the GIS community create a European Umbrella Organisation for Geographical Information (EUROGI). At an inaugural meeting on 25-26 November 1993, EUROGI was established as a private organisation comprising members from interdisciplinary national GI organisations and European organisations for GI.

On 19-20 May 1994 the first general assembly of EUROGI was held in Luxembourg to legalise the status of the organisation. The executive committee reported on the activities undertaken since the inaugural meeting. Enthusiastic support for EUROGI was demonstrated, both in the scale of the national representations, their willingness to pay subscriptions and the lively debate on the work plan.

An ambitious work plan has been developed and adopted, subject to availability of funds. Key components include activity in the following areas:

★ Legal issues: copyright, costs and data availability
★ Standardisation
★ Information: newsletters, conference coordination
★ Eastern Europe: projects and information activities
★ Directories of GI data, research, training and support schemes. Technical multilingual dictionary.

It was agreed that the Commission would host the next Executive Committee meeting in Luxembourg on 22 July and that the next General Board meeting would take place in the last week of March 1995, in conjunction with the Joint European Conference and Exhibition on Geographical Information in The Hague.

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National Awareness Partners network widens its European impact

Under the IMPACT programme, a network of National Awareness Partners (NAPs) was created to extend awareness of electronic information services and the benefits of using such services throughout the Member States of the European Union (EU). Awareness activities in this sector will contribute to improving the level of computer literacy in the EU. In the conclusions of the Corfu Summit in June, this was recognised as essential for strengthening Europe's position in the «global information society».

The NAP network became operational in September 1992, initially comprising 16 organisations supported by a Central Support Team located in Luxembourg. The success of the decentralised activities performed by the NAPs became clear from the 100% increase in awareness events in 1993 compared with 1992. In line with the recommendations of the IMPACT Midterm Evaluation Report, the IMPACT 2 work programme for 1994 acknowledged the need to expand the awareness activities with a larger number of partners. In addition, the Commission decided to extend the network to the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA).

The network now comprises 29 organisations. Additional NAPs were appointed in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Spain. From the EEA countries, a total of seven new NAPs were appointed - in Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. These organisations, with a detailed knowledge of the needs of their national or regional information market, have joined the existing NAPs to carry out dedicated programmes of awareness activities such as seminars, workshops, participation in relevant conferences and exhibitions. The NAPs can also provide documentation and up-to-date information about IMPACT and related activities.

Details of your local NAP can be obtained from the address below.

Contact:

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IMO working papers and case studies reflect status of information market developments

The Information Market Observatory (IMO) of DG XIII/E announces details of working papers published during the first half of 1994.

The first paper is entitled *«ISDN in the European Union: Implications for the Information Services Sector»* (94/1). This provides an overview of the progress in ISDN development throughout the EU and its implications for the information services sector. Areas covered include new information applications, implications for users, for the information environment, for service providers, and the impact of developments on current services.

The second paper (94/2) called *«Mergers and Acquisitions in the Electronic Information Industry»*, reflects the changes in the corporate structure of the information industry brought about by the transition to an «information society». This paper gives an overview of merger and acquisition activity since 1992 and the strategic orientation of the players in informa-

tion content-oriented sectors such as telecommunications and cable operations, film, music and television, database and information services, and computer software and systems.

Copies of IMO working papers are available through the IMO's network of dissemination agents. Details of your local agent are available from the contact below.

The IMO has also carried out case studies analysing the role of information and its impact on competitiveness in five specific industry sectors - transport, insurance, biotechnology, steel and robotics/automation. Free-of-charge summaries of these studies may be obtained by contacting the numbers below.

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IMPACT action aims at better information for business and industry

On 15 September 1994 the IMPACT programme published a call for proposals that it expects will lead to the development of improved electronic information services for trade and industry, and in particular for small businesses. This action follows a preliminary call for declarations of intent published last year, which resulted in over 450 project ideas being received from all the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA). 65% of the responses target industrial or business information. They help to confirm that the supply of strategic, financial, market, supplies and other information in this area can be improved and that such information is a key resource for firms that mean to stay competitive in today's rapidly changing environment.

The production of high-quality information services stretching across national boundaries is nevertheless an operation of high risk. For this reason, the Commission has decided to call for proposals for a limited number of pilot information services that will exert a significant impact on the growth of the market for such services. The call is in line with the recommendations of the Bangemann report on Europe and the Global Information Society considered by the European Council on 24-25 June 1994.

This action falls within the scope of the IMPACT Action Line «Supporting strategic information initiatives». It follows two previous calls for proposals that concentrated on the use of the techniques of interactive multimedia and geographical information systems to facilitate the production and dissemination of information and make its access more attractive and efficient. The new call focuses on the information content itself. The information needed by enterprises must be reliable, up-to-date and complete. This implies the use of data networks connecting information holders, distributors and end-users.

The information services sought should ultimately target the entire European Economic Area, which is henceforth to be considered the home market for all European businesses. The action particularly emphasises the information needs of small companies, recognising the critical role they are expected to play in producing the awaited growth in the European economy.

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VALUE – The European Innovation Convention
Stuttgart, 11-12 October 1994.

New environment technologies and rational production procedures and recycling were the main themes for the European Innovation Convention (EIC) that took place in Stuttgart on the 11 and 12 of October. This truly European Convention was a joint effort from five regions from five different countries in the Community under the sponsorship of the European Commission, through the programmes VALUE and INTERPRISE.

The organisation of the event was the main responsibility of the Association for International Economic Cooperation of Baden-Württemberg in collaboration with the Steinbeis Europa Zentrum of Stuttgart and four associations from four partner-regions of the Baden-Württemberg region:

★ The Welsh Development Agency, from Wales.
★ The Enterprise Rhône-Alpes International, from the French region of Rhône-Alpes.
★ The Consorcio de Promocio Comercial de Catalunya, from Catalunya, Spain.
★ La Giunta, from the Italian region of Lombardia.

The Convention aimed at European Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that possess a technological profile and are aware of environmental problems and opportunities. Its objectives were to present innovation products in the field of environmental technologies to new users and to promote technology transfer between companies in different regions of Europe. In order to reach them it counted on the interactive support of DG XIII's VALUE and DG XXIII's INTERPRISE programmes.

The VALUE programme aims to ensure that European research is used effectively to make European companies (mainly SMEs) and institutions more competitive. It does this by promoting dissemination and exploitation of research results through a dedicated network of proactive advisory centres - the VALUE Relay Centres. The Steinbeis Europa Zentrum and the Welsh Development Agency are the VALUE Relay Centres for Southern Germany and for Wales, respectively.

The INTERPRISE programme is an initiative to promote partnerships between European industries and services to work on the field of environment.

The EIC programme was divided into four workshops each one committed to a specific field of environment technologies:

★ Industrial emissions screening

★ Environment technologies in metal production industry

★ Environmental technologies in Plastic Industry

★ Environmental technologies in textile and paper industries.

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VALUE Relay service – Fuzzy technologies in industrial applications: concepts and potential, products, sales and support -
Mülheim an der Ruhr, 3 November 1994

The German VALUE Relay Centre ZENIT, in collaboration with MIT - Management of Intelligent Techniques, from Aachen, Germany, will organise a Technology Transfer event called «Fuzzy technologies in industrial applications», in Mülheim an der Ruhr on 3 November 1994.

Intelligent systems are the main topic of the symposium on Fuzzy Technology applications and products. The principles, problems and potential of fuzzy technology will be described and answers provided to the following questions:

★ How do fuzzy systems operate?
★ What are the advantages of applications on fuzzy technologies?
★ How can projects be organised efficiently?
★ What are the benefits of successful projects?

During the symposium numerous possibilities for applications will be discussed on the basis of examples from national and European industry and research project operation. Parallel workshops will be held during the event, dealing with examples of inspection, diagnostic and control systems, giving attendees the possibilities to extend their knowledge and to discuss questions about applications and products.

Technology Transfer events regularly organised by the Network of Value Relay Centres on all research fields with the aim of bringing together industry and research results under the auspices of VALUE.

This German event will be one of the two to be held in Europe this year (the other one is in Lille, France, on the 30 November 1994) dedicated to the high technological field of Fuzzy Technologies. At the event coordinators and contractors of ongoing or recently completed Community-funded research projects on the field will present their RTD results, meet with representatives of local industry in order to exchange ideas in the context of new scientific developments, and consider ways in which future collaborations and technology transfer might take place to the benefit of both German and European industries.

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VALUE Relay service – Flanders meet the Candidate Member States
Antwerp, Belgium, 26 October 1994

Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway may all soon join the European Union. They will then participate as fully-fledged partners in the Fourth Framework Programme in the field of Research, Technological Development (RTD) and Demonstration.

A possible partner for these countries in this regard could be the Flanders region. It is on this basis that the Flemish VALUE Relay Centre is organising a meeting with the candidates Member States in Antwerp on the 26 October 1994.

The seminar, called «Flanders meets the Candidate Member States», is the first incentive to provide partners with better information about the possibilities of collaboration. Mutual knowledge about policy priorities, the organisation of science policy and the present scientific and technological potential is a primary requirement. Personal contact between policy makers is equally important.

This seminar aims to bring together people in administrations, universities, research institutes, company federations, major enterprises, and VALUE Relay Centres who are responsible at various levels for the conception, implementation and evaluation of science and technology policies and for the distribution of information.

During this event, the four Candidate Member States as well as the Flanders region will present an overview of their RTD potential and of their strong points with regard to science policy. Special attention will be given to the research community's involvement in the European Union RTD programmes.

The general policy framework, policy instruments (valorisation, partner search, support mechanisms) as well as sectorial policies will be highlighted.

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VALUE Relay Centre Network - Calendar of Events

A considerable number of events is being organised all around Europe by the Network of VALUE Relay Centres in their mission of bringing Community's RTD close to the organisations that may benefit from it, either by promoting the dissemination and exploitation of results generated by EC RTD programmes or by facilitating participation in the programmes themselves.

The events of the first type are usually designated as Technology Transfer days or VACRO days, where «VACRO» is short for Value Crossroads, which symbolises the purpose of such events, i.e.; to bring together industry and research results in all fields under the auspices of VALUE.

The promotion of participation in EC RTD programmes usually takes the form of Information Days. In some events in specific fields both activities are explored.
The most important events programme up until the end of this year are:

BELGIUM:
★ European Workshop on Chemical Sensors - Mol, 8-9 December, organised by the Flemish VRC.

FRANCE:
★ Presentation of RTD results of the Measurement & Testing programme - Paris, 14 and 15 November, organised by ARIST.

NETHERLANDS:
★ Technology Transfer day on Surface Treatment - Utrecht, 2-3 November, organised by the Dutch VRC.

PORTUGAL:
★ Technology Transfer Day on CIM Technologies - Lisbon, 26 October, organised by the Portuguese VRC.

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VALUE – Enlargement of the VALUE Relay Centre Network to EEA countries

The VALUE Relay Centre network of proactive advisory centres, with the task of bringing the Community RTD close to its clients, will soon be enlarged. From the initial 27 centres in the twelve Member States of the Community that started with the project in 1993, the network is now expected to reach 32 by including 5 new centres in 5 EEA countries: Austria, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Iceland.

The scientific authorities of these countries have indicated the organisations considered the most suitable for hosting the VALUE Relay Centres, which already received a favourable opinion from the VALUE II Management Committee at its last meeting. The process is now entering into its final phase, which is the approval by the Commission and the start of activities in the second half of 1994.

The enlargement of the VALUE Relay Centre Network includes countries in which an important number of companies are participating already in the Community's RTD specific programmes. This is expected to be another step towards VALUE's stated aim of ensuring that Community research is used effectively to make European organisations more competitive.

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VALUE Relay service Symposium on intelligent techniques in a emerging Europe - Lille, 30 November, 1994

The French VALUE Relay Centre ARIST, in collaboration with MIT - Management of Intelligent Techniques, from Aachen, Germany, is organising a Technology Transfer event called «Symposium on intelligent techniques in a emerging Europe», in Lille, France, 30 November 1994.

This French event will be one of the two to be held in Europe this year dedicated to the high technological field of Fuzzy Technologies; the other one will be in Mülheim, Germany, on 3 November. At Lille coordinators and contractors of ongoing or recently completed Community-funded research projects in the field will be present their RTD results and meet representatives of local industry to exchange ideas in the context of new scientific developments, and consider ways in which future collaborations and technology transfer could take place to the benefit of both French and European industries.

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ETSI resolves to terminate IPR dispute by November

At its 20th General Assembly in Mandelieu, France, on 22 July, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute resolved to terminate a long-standing intellectual Property Rights (IPR) dispute by November 1994.

Efforts to mediate between European and North American interests came to a halt when the Special Committee established in April this year presented solutions for two out of four contentious issues. The Special Committee was the ETSI membership's last attempt to widen consensus for its IPR policy and undertaking which was approved by and 88% majority in April 1993 but had not yet been implemented.

Implementing the approved policy as it stands today would imply losing a number of Members who have sustained their minority viewpoint', declared Antonio Castillo, Chairman of the ETSI General Assembly. 'The principle of openness and wide market participation cannot be upheld if we close the doors on any member'.

In effect, ETSI's four year dispute over the creation of an innovative IPR Policy aiming to strike a balance between the rights of the IPR holder and the need for an efficient and speedy standardisation process hinges on four issues: the mechanisms for dispute settlement, licensing compensation, IPR withholding and the area of application of the policy undertaking.

Efforts to find compromise solutions in these areas were lengthy and resulted in complex situations. The special committee at the end of its mandate managed to resolve the issues of dispute settlement and IPR withholding', observed Antonio Castillo.

'Our Members decided to favour a solution that will lead to a rapid resolution of the IPR file, because the market is reticent about considering ETSI standards as long as the IPR issue is unresolved'.

Members are currently being asked to vote by mail ballot on the future of the approved but not yet implemented policy and undertaking, by expressing whether they wish to abandon the undertaking and implement a simplified policy.

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ICT Standardisation policy workshop 1994

A three-day session on ICT standardisation policy is being organised by the European Commission with the logistic support of the European Workshop for Open Systems on 28-30 November 1994, in Genval (Belgium).

The global information society needs an information infrastructure, a set of interconnected networks carrying services and applications that can work with each other. For this, interconnection of networks and interoperability of systems and applications should be primary objectives of the European Union. In order to achieve these goals and to plan the work necessary, a review of the European standardisation process if recommended in order to increase its speed and responsiveness to market needs.

On the first day, the ICT Standardisation Policy Workshop will focus on the main issues which affect the world standardisation community:

★ the efficiency of the standardisation process;
★ how to use standards in public and private procurement;
★ testing and certification policy;
★ the contribution of R&D to standards and visa versa.

Through out these presentations, interoperability will be considered the primary objective. The conclusions of this first session will be into the next day's parallel four workshops devoted to the following items: planning and prioritisation, building consensus, developing standards.

The final debate should lead to conclusions and recommendations for the review and clarification of standardisation policy.

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PUBLICATIONS

The European VSAT Handbook

Publication details: The European VSAT Handbook, by Dr Michael Grant and Peter Kantner with Tim Hills - July 1994 - Analysys Publications, 138 pages, price £695. ISBN 1 871953 16 2.

Corporate networking using VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals) satellite technology is set to take off, thanks to a new breed of competitive service providers prepared to market satellite technology as a business solution instead of an esoteric networking technology. This development will have major implications for telecoms operators (TOs), whose concerns so far have been to restrict the encroachment of VSATs into their terrestrial network revenues. The findings are published in a new report released by Analysys: «The European VSAT Handbook».

The surge towards VSATs has been brought about by regulation changes, lower costs and technological improvements, prompting a more positive marketing strategy by operators and service providers. The European Commission is pushing ahead with a liberalisation programme for the VSAT market faster than for any other sector of telecommunications. With implementation planned for the end of this year, the Commission's programme will create markets for both infrastructure and services in Europe.

The Analysys report examines the developing roles of VSATs in European corporate networking, showing why customer are adopting VSAT solutions.

The comprehensive study explains:

★ how European regulations are becoming less restrictive
★ how the costs of utilising VSAT are changing
★ why VSATs will be considered for pan-European networks
★ how service providers are exploiting competitive opportunities.

The handbook also profiles more than 40 of the leading VSAT vendors, service providers and operators, giving details of their services, products and business strategies.

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The CD-ROM Directory 1994

The 11th edition of this international guide to all CD-ROM and multimedia CD titles published in the world, plus all companies involved in the industry, contains full details on nearly 6000 CD-ROM & multimedia CD titles and 3800 company profiles. It includes information on all platforms (MPC, Mac, CD-ROM XA, CD-I, 3DO, CD32, CDTV, VIS, MMCD, EB), hardware-drives, towers, jukebox, software-development tools, retrieval softwares, conferences & exhibitions, journals and books.

This edition, published as a book in December 1993, is updated every six months on a CD-ROM format. The CD-ROM 12th edition was published in June 1994 and will be updated again in December 1994.

The guide is available in Italian, French, Spanish, German and English.

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Interoperability in Broadband Networks Heterogeneity and Interoperability

Edited by: S. Rao, 1994
ISBN: 90 5199 160 6,
Price: NLC 220, £78

This work provides the reader with a state of the art knowledge of heterogeneous networking in a multivendor environment. The contributed chapters cover strategical issues concerning the models, network and service interworking, Internet protocols over ATM networks, heterogeneous network management issues and the practical experience with multimedia in broadband network testbeds. Furthermore, feasible solutions towards further research activities for cost-effective and high-performance interoperable networks are put forward.

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AGENDA

1995 IEEE Workshop on Non-linear Signal and Image Processing Call for Papers

Sponsored by IEEE, Esprit III BRA/NAT, EURASIP, and the ARISTOTLE University of Thessaloniki, the IEEE Workshop on Nonlinear Signal and Image Processing is the second in a series of inter-national workshops presenting leading edge work in nonlinear digital signal and image processing and computer vision.

Held in Tampere, Finland, in 1993 it moves to Halkidiki, Greece on 20-22 June 1995. The workshop will consist of sessions with both invited and contributed papers. Proceedings will be published and distributed to participants.

Solicited topics include: median and order statistics related methods; nonlinear processing of multivariate signals; morphological signal/image processing and analysis; Volterra and general polynomial filters; homomorphic processing; neural network techniques; fuzzy techniques; chaotic systems; higher order statistics applied to detection and estimation; nonlinear methods in systems estimation; nonlinear methods in pattern recognition and computer vision; nonlinear methods in coding and detection; application-specific nonlinearities; implementation of nonlinear systems; applications e.g. biomedical, speech, image and image sequence processing; and parallel algorithms.

Authors' Schedule:

★ Submission of an extended abstract
November 1, 1994

★ Notification of Acceptance

January 10, 1995

★ Receipt of camera-ready paper
March 1, 1995

Prospective authors are invited to submit 3 copies of an extended summary of no more than 3 pages.

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Global Policy and Multimedia Telecommunications

Countries make decisions which balance the right of an individual to communicate against the right of the government to regulate telecommunications in form and in content.

Global policy and multimedia will be the focus of the Royal Institute of International Affairs telecommunications conference, to be held in London, on 7-8 November, 1994. Topics to be covered will be: integration of economic growth and political change through communications, demands of sophisticated users as the initial driving force, and the promise of technology to overcome the traditions of regulation. The meeting will close with a look to the future.

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DG XIII participation in technology exhibitions

| ATT/IVHS | (DRIVE) | Paris | Nov 30-Dec 2 |
| AIM | (AIM) | Lisbon | Dec 7-10 |