

Press Release

For Release 17 September 1998

The Trans-European Network at 155 Mbps

TEN-155

"Europe Moves into the Fast Lane!"

The European Research Community is the first to benefit from the liberalisation of the European telecommunications market. After years of monopolistic prices in conjunction with small available bandwidth capacities for pan-European connectivity, the new European research network, TEN-155, will be the first pan-European network to close the gap between bandwidth available and affordable nationally and internationally!

TEN-155 will provide European researchers with a core network at 155 Mbps based on SDH technology with nodes in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia and Spain will be connected to the core at 34/45 Mbps. There will be 10 Mbps links to Luxembourg and Portugal. The design of the TEN-155 network also provides for extension of the service to the USA and other Continents.

The increasing dependence on Internet services for cooperative research at institutions and universities across Europe leads to ever increasing requirements for research network bandwidth. The national research networks (i.e. the national organisations providing universities and research institutions with Internet connectivity which is independent of the commercial Internet) have in the past years responded by increasing their bandwidth capacities to 155 Mbps on a national scale. On a pan-European scale this sort of bandwidth was neither available nor affordable before 1 January 1998.

TEN-155 broke the monopolistic price barrier and the bandwidth rationing which existed in pre-liberalised Europe. The new research network will combine the best from both IP and ATM technology and will offer guaranteed Quality of Service using ATM technology in addition to a 'best efforts' IP service. A development programme will test advanced IP and ATM technology in a Wide Area and International environment with a view to implementing the results at a later stage. Consequently, the TEN-155 network will meet the requirements of the European research community for more bandwidth and guaranteed Quality of Service to facilitate international communication and co-operation.

Migration from the current European research network TEN-34 to the new TEN-155 network will commence in autumn this year.

TEN-155 has been organised and will be implemented by a Consortium of all European research

networks with DANTE as the Coordinating Partner. DANTE is a not-for-profit company founded in 1993 to organise and manage the provision of pan-European Internet connectivity for the European research community.

The contract for the supply of the bulk of circuit capacity and the Managed Bandwidth Service has been awarded to Unisource Belgium. Contracts with other European Telecom Operators are still being negotiated.

The TEN-155 network will be co-funded by the European Commission under the Fourth Framework Programme.

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