

TEN-155 - High bandwidth for European Research at last!

Press release

Cambridge, 19 February 1999 - The new pan-European research network TEN-155 will be officially demonstrated during the startconference of the 5 Framework Programme of the EU in Essen on 25 February 1999. The German Minister for Science and Education, Frau Edelgard Bulmahn, will visit the TEN-155 exhibition stand and will witness a demonstration by the MECCANO project and the new research network in action.

TEN-155 interconnects the national research and education networks (such as for example the high-speed network of DFN in Germany) of all EU Member States as well as the national university networks of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Slovenia and Switzerland at speeds of up to 155 Mbps. TEN-155 provides European scientists with a world class backbone which offers the bandwidth and Quality of Service necessary to keep European research and development activities at the level they need to compete successfully on a world stage.

The European Commission named 'Research Networking', i.e. the building of a pan-European network to interconnect the national research and education networks, as one of the main targets of the 5 Framework IST Programme. TEN-155, being a project within the 4 Framework Programme, is the basis of these developments. Within the next 2 years TEN-155 will be upgraded to 622 Mbit/s, thus getting closer to the target of a Gigabit network for European research. TEN-155 offers bandwidth reservation which for the first time optimally supports multimedia, realtime and other broadband applications. These applications are used for example by scientists in meteorology, bioinformatics or high-energy physics as well as by several EC co-funded projects. TEN-155 represents the beginning of support for the 'virtual lab' and the 'virtual institutes' in Europe! Already today the network offers direct connectivity to the United States, Israel and Japan. TEN-155 created a new dimension of research co-operation in Europe.

TEN-155 is the direct result of the liberalisation of the European telecommunications market which started in January 1998. Prices dropped and international bandwidth was for the first time both available and affordable. European scientists and students at universities and research institutions benefited from an increase in capacity for their pan-European communication by a factor of at least 7 at almost unchanged costs! For the first time international bandwidth is the same as bandwidth available on the national services used by the European academic and research community. The budgeted annual running costs of the TEN-155 network are 46 MEuro.

TEN-155 is planned, built and managed by DANTE, the company organising advanced networking services for the European research community and is currently co-funded with 20 MEuro for the first 18 months of its 3 year life-span under the Telematics Applications, Esprit and ACTS Programmes of the European Commission.

The visit by Frau Bulmahn will take place on 25 February 1999 during the official opening of the Exhibition starting at 12noon. The TEN-155 stand is located in Hall 10/11 (stand no.2).

For more information, please contact:

DANTE

Tel: +44 1223 302992

Fax: +44 1223 303005

dante@dante.org.uk

<http://www.dante.net/>