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INTERNET2 AND DANTE CONNECT ADVANCED R&E NETWORKS

New York, NY, Cambridge, United Kingdom - October 8, 1999 - DANTE and Internet2(tm) today connected high-performance research and education backbone networks across the Atlantic Ocean. Peering between Abilene, an Internet2 backbone network, and TEN-155, the pan-European research network, will enable collaboration among researchers and educators in the US and in Europe in ways not possible on today's commercial Internet. The interconnection will operate at 45 megabits per second, or nearly 1,000 times faster than a typical modem.

"Interoperable next generation Internet technologies and tools will enable collaborations between researchers in the US and researchers in Europe across research networks today, and will promote the rapid transfer of these new capabilities to the commercial Internet. The relationship between Internet2 and DANTE and the interconnection of our networks will help ensure that interoperability," said Douglas E. Van Houweling, President and CEO of UCAID, home of the Internet2 and Abilene projects.

"Today's collaborative research applications require high-performance networks. These networks exist in Europe and in the US. Connecting the networks is a major step forward for the cooperation between researchers on the two continents", said Dai Davies, General Manager of DANTE.

Today's interconnection between Abilene and TEN-155 builds on the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID) has signed with DANTE and a number of its European partners, such as the national research networks of Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

Germany and Italy together with France and the United Kingdom were signatories to an earlier MoU

The MoU between DANTE and UCAID provides for the use of the interconnection by European research networks which use DANTE's Europe US service. The MoU also encourages collaboration between member institutions, promotion of technology transfer from the joint endeavors to industry, and collaboration in developing common standards and technical implementations. It will enable European and US institutions to work closely together to address network application issues of common interest.

About TEN-155
The pan-European research network TEN-155 interconnects the research networks of 21 European countries. The TEN-155 network is co-funded by the European Commission and is the direct result of

the Quantum project. In addition to the provision of a 'best efforts' IP service, TEN-155 provides the European research community with an end-to-end Managed Bandwidth Service, giving researchers across Europe dedicated connectivity for advanced application developments. TEN-155 also supports the Quantum Test Programme which experiments with and validates future networking technologies. More information about **TEN-155**.

The TEN-155 network is planned, built and organised by Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe (DANTE), a not-for-profit company which has a number of European research networks as its shareholders. More information about **DANTE**.

About Internet2(tm)
The Internet2 project is being led by over 160 leading US universities, working with industry and government, to enable and facilitate the advanced network applications necessary to meet emerging needs in higher education. Internet2 participants are developing the broadband applications, engineering and network management tools for research and education. More information on **Internet2**, a project of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID).

About Abilene
The Abilene network is a project of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID), home of the Internet2 project. In partnership with Qwest Communications, Cisco Systems, Nortel Networks and Indiana University, UCAID is deploying Abilene as the most advanced and far-reaching research and education network in the United States. A primary goal of Abilene is to support the efforts of the Internet2 project. Operations began in February 1999, with over 70 Internet2 institutions planning to connect by the end of 1999. More information on **Abilene**.

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