

News from TERENA 126

TERENA creates Task Force on Academic Netcasting

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Today the TERENA Technical Committee agreed on the creation of a new task force to prepare the creation of a portal for live-streaming announcements and to investigate the possible extension of the portal to an academic channel for live streams and video-on-demand. The mandate of the task force, to be known as TF-Netcast, is for a period of one year from March 1st, 2003. The task force will be chaired by Dan Mønster of UNI•C, the Danish IT Centre for Education and Research. The task force secretariat will be provided by TERENA's Baiba Kaskina.

The aims of the task force will be:

- to conduct a survey of the state of national efforts in producing and delivering streaming-media content in academia in European countries, and of the (users') needs for an international effort in this area;
- to create an announcements portal, by developing metadata, portal software, policies etc. into a working prototype of such a portal;
- to promote the production of high-quality content;
- to study the feasibility of a project for setting up a live-streaming infrastructure;
- to develop a common metadata model and to study the feasibility of setting up a video-on-demand portal;
- to propose a model for an academic netcasting channel.

The plans for the Task Force on Academic Netcasting originate in the environment of TERENA's former Task Force on Real-Time Multimedia applications TF-STREAM and the work envisaged for TF-Netcast is a natural extension of the work started in TF-STREAM. The plans were elaborated during the year 2002, and on 11 February 2003 the kick-off meeting of the proposed task force took place in the TERENA offices in Amsterdam. Eventually, the intention of the group is to develop a European equivalent of the US Research Channel, a system that announces live-streaming events from research networks, universities and research institutes.

The task force will have meetings at approximately monthly intervals; most of the meetings will be conducted by videoconference.

Further information can be found on the TF-Netcast website:

<http://www.terena.nl/task-forces/tf-netcast/>

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