

News from TERENA 127

Mandate of Task Force on Next Generation Networking renewed



14 March 2003

Today the TERENA Technical Committee agreed on the renewal of the mandate of TF-NGN, the Task Force on Next Generation Networking. TF-NGN has the remit to investigate the suitability of advanced networking technologies for future implementation in research and education networks in Europe. The task force aims to provide a forum for exchanging experience and knowledge, to promote development and testing of new networking technologies and to define, develop and test new networking services, which can subsequently be introduced by national research and education networks and/or in the European research networking backbone infrastructure GÉANT. TF-NGN's activities are generally restricted to technologies that operate up to the network layer. The activities include the piloting of new services on the GÉANT backbone as part of the project that provides the European Union's co-funding for GÉANT. TF-NGN is chaired by Roberto Sabatino of DANTE, and the task force secretariat is provided by TERENA's Valentino Cavalli and Kevin Meynell.

The task force was originally created for a two-year period from 1 November 2000. As the task force still has a substantial portfolio of work and sufficient manpower is available for its activities, the TERENA Technical Committee has decided to approve the continuation of TF-NGN as a TERENA task force for another two years, until the end of October 2004.

Many of the original targets of the task force have been achieved in the past two years and new challenges have presented themselves. During the year 2002, TF-NGN therefore discussed a revised list of its work items. In the revised Terms of Reference of the task force it is stated that TF-NGN will focus on the following activities:

- Less-than-Best-Efforts Premium IP Service Specification
- Improvement of current multicast services
- IPv6
- Tools for network monitoring and flow measurement
- MPLS (Multi Protocol Label Switching) testing
- Definition, testing, implementation and monitoring of Differentiated IP Services
- Optical networking
- New pilot services as defined in the GÉANT Technical Roadmap
- AAA (Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting) development
- Development of Performance Enhancement Response Teams (PERTs)
- Support from GÉANT and national research and education networks for special projects.

Further information can be found on the TF-NGN website:
<http://www.terena.nl/task-forces/tf-ngn/>

For further press information, please contact:
TERENA Secretariat
Singel 468 D
1017 AW Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 530 4488
Fax: +31 20 530 4499
e-mail: pr@terena.nl