

## NEWS FROM TERENA (159)



### **LOBSTER project to deploy pilot European infrastructure for Internet traffic monitoring**

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Today the start was announced of the LOBSTER (Large Scale Monitoring of Broadband Internet Infrastructure) project, which aims to design and deploy a pilot European infrastructure for accurate Internet traffic monitoring. The project, which will continue until 31 December 2006, has a total budget of more than 2 million euro. The European Union will contribute a grant of more than 1.6 million euro to the project, which is a Specific Support Action in the European Union's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

Network monitoring and measurement is increasingly regarded as an essential function for developing and supporting high-quality network services, building and improving innovative networking technologies, analysing infrastructure trends and user behaviour, and improving the security of the cyber-infrastructure. Accurate network monitoring systems give rise to a wide variety of new applications, including provision of early warning for the detection of Internet worms as soon as they start to spread, early detection of distributed denial-of-service attacks, accurate traffic characterisation for applications that use dynamically generated ports such as peer-to-peer systems, and an accurate traffic weather service for Grid-enabled applications. However, current traffic monitoring systems in Europe do not provide the information that is needed to support applications like the ones mentioned above.

The LOBSTER project will design and deploy an advanced European infrastructure for accurate Internet traffic monitoring. It is based on the results of the SCAMPI (A Scaleable Monitoring Platform for the Internet) project in the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, which has designed and developed a passive network traffic monitoring system for speeds up to 10 Gb/s. Based on passive monitoring, and capitalising on the experience gained in the SCAMPI project, the LOBSTER infrastructure will be unique in Europe and among the only two similar infrastructures that exist in the world today.

The LOBSTER project is led by ICS-FORTH (Greece). The other project partners are the Vrije Universiteit (Netherlands), CESNET (Czech Republic), UNINETT (Norway), Endace Europe Ltd., Alcatel, FORTHnet (Greece), TNO Telecom (Netherlands) and TERENA. As the project partner with the main responsibility for the dissemination of information on the benefits of the LOBSTER infrastructure, TERENA will create and maintain a publicly accessible project website, organise LOBSTER dissemination workshops at the TERENA Networking Conferences in 2005 and 2006, promote LOBSTER through presentations and discussions at other international events such as the Internet2 Member Meetings, and provide a liaison between the project and relevant TERENA task forces.

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