

## NEWS FROM TERENA (164)



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Today the TERENA Technical Committee adopted the revised Terms of Reference of TF-NGN, the Task Force on Next-Generation Networking. The mandate of TF-NGN was renewed for a further two years, until 1 November 2006. As before, the attention of TF-NGN will focus on lower-layer technologies; in general the activities will be restricted to technologies that operate at layers 1-4 of the OSI reference model.

The new Terms of Reference list eight activity areas on which TF-NGN's work will concentrate:

- Improvement of current multicast services
- IPv6
- IP routing
- MPLS (Multi-Protocol Label Switching) for Virtual Private Networks at layers 2-3 and VPLS (Virtual Private LAN Service)
- Intelligent control plane architectures
- Transport protocols
- Optical networking
- Hands-on evaluation of new router and switching hardware.

TF-NGN will have a new relationship with the research and development work carried out in the project that co-finances the European backbone research networking infrastructure GÉANT. In the earlier GN1 project, TF-NGN contributed to the technical roadmap of the project and actually produced some of the project's deliverables. By contrast, the new GN2 project funds itself a number of Joint Research Activities in which such work is carried out. However, TF-NGN will still have an important relationship with the GN2 project, acting as a sounding board and providing feedback from a wider community to some of the activities in GN2, in particular those that focus on: tools for network monitoring and flow measurement; definition, testing, implementation and monitoring of differentiated IP services; AAA (Authentication, Authorisation and Accounting) developments; and the creation of a Performance Enhancement Response Team.

More information is available from the task force's website at <http://www.terena.nl/tech/task-forces/tf-ngn/>

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