



FITCE.BE

newsletter

Issue 15, January 2003

Editorial



Dear FITCE members and colleagues,

On behalf of the board members of FITCE Belgium, I wish you all the best in 2003, success in business and happiness in your personal life, a good health to you and your family.

Time goes by very quickly. Indeed, our Belgian branch of FITCE - new style, has now been operating since 3 years.

Your support enabled us to organise various events, providing ICT-professionals access to up-to-date information as well as giving them the opportunity to establish interesting contacts.

Once more, our annual European congress in Genoa was very successful and could count on an important Belgian contribution and a high number of attendants.

Our enthusiastic Board will continue to organise unique activities with plenty of opportunities for networking. A lot of additional work is awaiting us as we proceed with the preparations for the 2004 Congress. As you know, FITCE Belgium will host this prestigious event in Ghent.

In these difficult times, with a lot of insecurity regarding the overall economical situation especially in the technology sector, Ghent 2004 will be an opportunity for the Belgian ICT sector to demonstrate the role that telecommunications can play in the future.

I am convinced I can count on your continued support and gladly express my sincere appreciation. Looking forward to meeting you at a future FITCE.BE event,

Best regards,

José Van Ooteghem, FITCE President

Belgian Annual Telecoms Summit 2003



IIR organises its eight conference, in which all matters telecom in Belgium are reviewed, on April 1 and 2. FITCE Belgium members enjoy a 10% discount on the fees for this conference. A separate mailing will be sent to all members. Our website contains the folder for this conference.

Lunch Sessions on Navigation, building block for new communication services



Unforeseen circumstances forced us first to shift all dates by about a month and then to cancel the first lunch session that had been rescheduled to December 4. Therefore, you again find herewith a description of the several sessions with the new dates in the hope that with the new year you also have new budget and renewed determination to extend your knowledge and contacts. To compensate for the cancelled first session, the next session on February 19 will start with a short technical introduction.

Navigation, or localisation, is one of the most exciting components for new value-added telecommunication services. With navigation, it will be possible to rapidly localise persons in case of an emergency, to trace objects any time and anywhere, and to send targeted information to persons at certain locations.

Over the last decade, the methods for navigation have improved rapidly. Civilian satellite navigation techniques have become more accurate and localisation methods in cellular networks have matured. In addition, the cost of implementing these techniques has dropped to such a level that navigation support can be included in portable consumer devices. Several lawmakers have recognised these trends and passed legislation to enforce the inclusion of navigation support in cellular phones.

In Cupertino with SITEL, FITCE Belgium offers you a unique opportunity to keep up to date with the latest evolutions and telecom applications of navigation. We have decided not to change the winning team of last season's lunch sessions. We are therefore working with SITEL again, and this time too, professor Leo Van Biesen will be the moderator and author of a synthesis of all sessions. The full title of the series of conferences is "**Navigation, building block for new telecom services**".

These are the sessions :

- Past, present and future of satellite navigation - February 19, 2003
- Localisation in cellular networks - March 19, 2003
- Creating location based services - April 9, 2003

You can visit our website www.fitce.be or that of SITEL www.sitel.org for more information and on-line registration.

Unified Communication Services

Evening Lecture

On March 25, 2003 at 18:00h Mr Gery Pollet, Managing Partner at Aquanta Networks, will speak about Unified Communication Services, an integration of traditional telecommunication services like telephone, fax and SMS with the internet and related applications and services. Please book the date in your calendar. More details will follow in a separate mailing.



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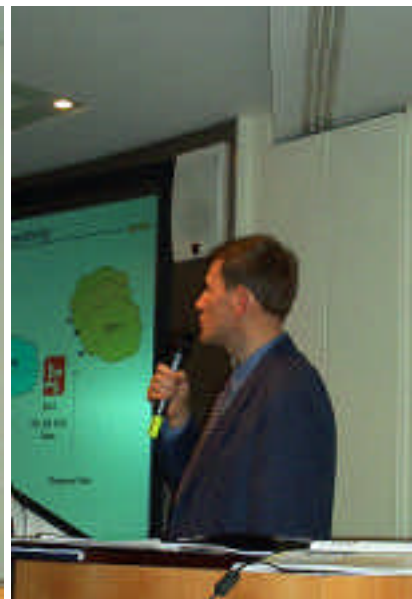
From Genoa to Brussels

Evening Lecture



On December 12, 2002, over 80 people gathered in the Belgacom Towers to attend the special evening lecture organised to present the Belgian contributions to the Genoa conference. Herewith a pictorial of the event. The four speakers from top right and bottom left to right:

- Mr. François Duthilleul (Product Manager at Alcatel)**
- Mr. Walter Cuypers (New Technology Manager at KPN Belgium)**
- Mr. Quentin Toussaint (Solutions Consultant at Equant)**
- Mr. Marc Van Diest (Electro-Technical Engineer at Belgacom)**



FITCE Congress 2003 in Berlin



Call for Papers



The 42nd European Telecommunications Congress will be held in Berlin from 4 to 6 September. **We like to solicit your special attention to this call for papers.** If you yourself do not want to deliver a speech maybe your company would be interested in introducing and presenting a paper. Thank you for transmitting the call for papers to others in your company who make those decisions.

And of course, come September, we hope to see many of you 'Unter den Linden' for another exciting congress in a city transformed over recent years by numerous world-famous architects.

Do visit www.fitce.org for a preview of the programme and a lot of additional information.

Contributors are invited to address the theme

'Evolving Communications: Making Human Dreams Real'

Papers are invited for the 42nd European Telecommunications Congress of FITCE.

We are keen to have papers from across Europe as well as other countries which cover one or more of the themes outlined below. Papers which address the commercial and marketing aspects will be particularly welcome, as are papers highlighting operational experiences. Authors of papers which consider predominantly technical issues are asked to conclude with the business and customer services impact.

Themes:

A) Mobile Services and Applications

- Market situation and business cases
- Status
- Experiences of field trials
- New applications
- Managing customer expectations

B) Competition in the European Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector

- An assessment of the benefit to business and residential customers
- European Commission and national regulators' perspective
- Incumbents' perspective
- Competitors' and new players' perspective

C) Broadband Experiences

- Economic and technical restrictions and opportunities for broadband access
- Applications for business customers
- Applications for consumers
- Business opportunities for providing broadband services

D) Future Developments and Dreams

- Technical developments
- Market related points of view
- New commercial models (value chain)

Key messages from the previous congress in Genoa were:

UMTS will be profitable.

The change-over to the next-generation networks will take more than 10 years.

Local Loop Unbundling did not bring the expected increase in competition.

Fibre to the home is not expected to be viable for the coming 5 to 10 years and lacks standards.

Interoperability between the new mobile systems is not solved yet.

No killer application was identified for new mobile and data services.



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But are these conclusions still valid?

Your contributions to the themes should help us to generate a new set of messages for 2003 in the evolving world of communications!

Submissions are invited as follows:

- Abstracts of 200 words.
- A brief biography of the author(s) to accompany the abstract.
- Include the name of your national association (FITCE Belgium).
- Include your full contact details including email, telephone number and address.
- Send the abstracts and the other relevant information to: Hans Otto Ehmke at FITCE.Ehmke@T-Mobile.de, and please copy the e-mail to k.schenke@telekom.de and mverbruggen@fitce.be.

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Deadline for receiving abstracts is Monday, 17th February 2003.

- The papers will be selected on relevance, content and originality and authors will be advised of the outcome by the end of March 2003.
- The full text of the selected papers, in English, is required by Friday, **30th May 2003.**

The presentations will be strictly time limited to 20 minutes and there may be time for questions. All contributors selected are requested to follow "Instructions For Authors And Speakers".

Awards will be presented at the congress for quality of presentation and for the best written paper.

General Assembly

This year's General Assembly will take place on February 22. Details on the programme of this event, which will be attractive to both members and their partners, will be sent by separate mailing some time soon. In the meantime, please book the date in your calendar.

Electronic Communications Market in Europe

State of play

The full report can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/information_society/topics/telecoms/implementation/annual_report/8threport/index_en.htm



Since the start of the liberalisation process in Europe in 1998 the Commission has reported its evolution on a yearly basis. The European Commission has recently released the 8th implementation report.

This report provides a balance sheet of market development after four and a half years of liberalisation and examines the current status of the main regulatory obligations forming the basis for the transition to the new regulatory environment, with indicators of best practice where appropriate. The report also gives a brief assessment of the state of preparation by Member States for the transposition of the new regulation into national law.

Overall, despite the difficult financial situation in the market, there are positive indicators of continued demand for services and of competitive activity in the market. While there has been a slight reduction in the number of new entrant operators authorised to provide networks and services, the number of direct (infrastructure-based) and indirect access providers has increased. Overall, new entrants continued to increase their market share in terms of revenue.

For consumers, prices charged by incumbents for national and international calls have continued to fall, with new entrants' prices in many cases at levels considerably below those. Per capita expenditure has, at least during 2001, continued to rise as the number of mobile and Internet subscriptions continues upwards. After four and a half years of liberalisation of telecom services, the regulation put in place at the national level is very substantially compliant with the EU framework. Licensing and interconnection regimes have permitted large-scale market entry, complemented by carrier pre-selection and number portability; delivery times for leased lines have continued to fall; progress has been made in developing appropriate costing methodologies for the enforcement of EU tariff principles. The work done in this regard represents a substantial achievement by national regulatory authorities.

Nonetheless, there are areas where work remains to be done, in particular in relation to pricing and access issues surrounding local loop unbundling. Full implementation both of cost-orientation and non-discrimination principles are essential in this regard, and should extend to interconnection and the provision of leased lines, including interconnection leased lines.

The largely positive balance is confirmed by reference to the infringement proceedings currently open, which indicate two areas, cost accounting and universal directory services, where full compliance needs to be ensured in more than a few Member States. For the rest, the cases still pending represent clarification of points of relative detail, although the Commission will examine the need for further proceedings in the event of lack of further progress in relation to the substantive issues referred to above.

Finally, governments can, in the prevailing financial situation, assist in the roll-out of electronic communications services by examining a number of additional burdens on the sector in the form of specific taxes on telecommunications services, disproportionate fees for the placing of infrastructure, including mobile antennas, on public land, and radio emission restrictions going considerably beyond those recommended at the European level.