



FITCE.BE

newsletter

Issue 18, December 2003

Editorial



Dear FITCE Colleagues,

It has been four years already that we founded the renewed branch of FITCE Belgium with the support of many of you.

During the many activities that we organised over that time, and during the yearly European congress, hundreds of colleagues met in a friendly atmosphere, conducive to relaxed knowledge gathering. Our association has clearly won itself a place as an independent forum for the Belgian ICT community. Also at the European level, FITCE has been changing lately and a new trend has been set to which we unmistakeably made an important contribution.

As of the foundation of FITCE Belgium it has been clear that Belgium, after the successful event in Antwerp in 1993, would again be hosting the international FITCE congress in 2004. In the meantime, that date is not so far away anymore. Next summer, we expect to see hundreds of our colleagues from all over Europe during the prestigious four-day congress in Ghent.

Of course, back then, no one had expected that the economy would go through such a crisis, in particular in our own sector. Fortunately we can conclude now that the worst is behind us. We notice some positive trends and confidence is being restored.

The board is proud that it can already announce that a great number of important partners will organise the congress with us and that we receive much support, not only from the ICT industry, but also from the scientific and political world. We are particularly pleased that the congress will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Philippe.

With all this we should not forget that our club exists by the grace of your ongoing support and the efforts of our enthusiastic board members, who in many cases combine an intense job with their voluntary work in FITCE. In this way, we too like to make a modest contribution to the development and success of the fascinating ICT endeavour.

May I, at the end of this year 2003, wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New-Year 2004 for you and your loved ones.

Kind greetings and see you soon,

José VAN OOTEGHEM, President

Ghent 43rd Congress

European Telecommunications



Call for Papers

We are happy to report that we have already signed up a significant number of partners for the congress in Ghent next year. The list is not closed as other parties are on the verge of signing. This is the list as it stands :

Alcatel Bell
Belgacom
Entreprise des P&T together with Satlynx, both from Luxembourg
Ghent University - Department of Information Technology (INTEC)
Marconi Corporation
Network Economy
Siemens-Atea
Tyco Electronics

The Call for Papers has been published on the congress website <http://www.fitce.org/Ghent> and is sent to you together with this newsletter. Thank you for taking prompt action on this either by submitting a proposal yourself or contacting other people in your company that may be interested in delivering a speech at the congress. Next to the call for papers itself, other files contain a matrix of suggested topics and the instructions for authors and presenters.

Lunch Sessions on Hotspots

Lunch sessions

By now, two of the three lunch sessions on Hotspots are behind us. In the third and last session, Mr Robert Lavigne, Director Provinciale Limburgse Hogeschool, will address practical issues in **Campus community Hotspot: a case study** (11/02/2004). For full details and registration visit : http://www.fitce.be/lunch_sessions_hotspots

In session 1: **Hotspots: Hype or business need ?** (12/11/2003), Mr Jeroen Meens, Marketing Manager of Sinfilo, gave an excellent overview of the emerging market for hotspots in Belgium. Sinfilo is the largest player on the hotspots market in Belgium and was recently acquired by Telenet.





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Cont'd

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In session 2: **Hotspots and a mobile operator: a happy marriage?** (03/12/2003), Mr Philippe Ribonnet, Director Strategy Proximus, discussed the challenges and opportunities PWLAN brings to the Cellular Operators, amongst others the threat from charge-free services endangering the development of a healthy business.

Coming Up Next

Calendar

Beyond the last of this season's **Hotspots** lunch sessions on February 11, we already have other activities that you should note in your calendar.

On Saturday March 6, we gather for the **General Assembly** in Lier. This will be an event with partners invited as there will be a social programme next to the official GA.

In the spring there will be an evening session devoted to **Broadband developments in Wallonia**.

On June 17 follows an evening session with Frank Robben, General Manager 'Kruispuntbank Sociale Zekerheid' and Strategic Advisor Fedict. Mr Robben will speak on **E-Government : the approach of the Belgian federal administration**.

On September 8-11, of course we have the **congress in Ghent**, not to be missed, and later that month an evening session on **Interactive TV**.

Brussels - Berlin and Back

Evening Lecture

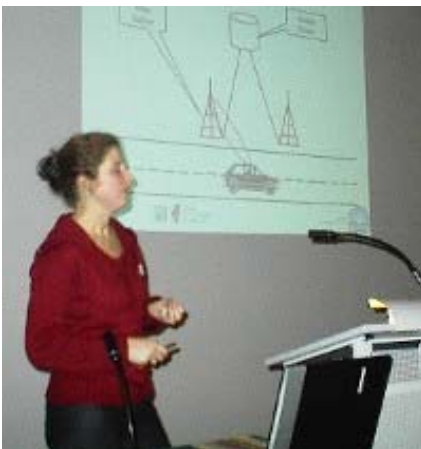


The evening session on December 9, a special evening session devoted to the presentations given by Belgians at the Berlin congress, deserved a larger audience.

Professor Piet Demeester, host for the evening, introduced us to the many and diverse activities of the Information Technology department of Ghent University. You can visit <http://www.intec.rug.ac.be> to find a wealth of information re INTEC.

The floor was then given to professor Ingrid Moerman, Ghent University-INTEC and IMEC, who talked about **Broadband Wireless Communication in Vehicles**.

Caroline Dessauvages, Alcatel Research & Innovation, presented **Evaluation of a DWDM-Upgraded Passive Optical Network (PON) for FTTBusiness**.



And finally, Dieter Vandenberghe, Damovo Belgium, did as good a job as Bart Frison, whom he replaced, did in Berlin with **Evolution or Revolution—Which Flavour of IP Telephony is good for You?**

The evening ended with an excellent reception, graciously offered by the host.

