



FITCE.BE

newsletter

Issue 13, May 2002

Editorial



You probably wonder what the belfry of Ghent is doing in such a conspicuous place in our newsletter? The 41st congress of FITCE in Genoa has definitively taken shape and you will find more on this in this newsletter. We are counting on your massive presence there. The 42nd congress in 2003 will be held in Berlin and – here it comes - the congress in 2004 will be held in Ghent. The board has gone public with its choice and has started planning activities.

FITCE Belgium clearly is a restless lot. After concluding the UMTS lunch-sessions, we had an evening lecture on what the government is preparing for our virtual happiness and another evening lecture is already planned where we will again have the pleasure of meeting a prominent figure from the Media, Bert De Graeve, CEO of the Flemish Public Broadcasting Institution, VRT. And of course, there was the General Assembly.

Marc Lambert
Managing Editor

e-VRT

Evening Lecture

On June 20, 2002, Bert De Graeve, CEO of the VRT will talk about “**VRT : Driver of the Media of Tomorrow – Concept of a Change Process**”. The venue will be the Agoria Diamant Building. The presentation (in English) will address the issue that in recent years, the revolution within the VRT was not limited to what we see on screen. Indeed, dramatic efforts were made in the IT domain to internally provide state-of-the-art IT solutions and also to develop a platform. In the years ahead, this platform should allow the Flemish media community to use a vast range of new technologies to face up to the international media forces. A pamphlet with all details for registration has been put on the website and will also be e-mailed in the near future.

e-Government

Evening Lecture

For the evening lecture of March 14, 2002, FITCE enjoyed the hospitality of KPN Belgium. Some forty of us convened in the prestigious building of KPN in Vilvoorde to hear Joost Laga, advisor at the cabinet of Minister Daems. Mr. Laga gave an overview and history of the efforts of the government in bringing about e-Government. Thanks to those efforts, the opening of a portal site of the federal government is envisaged for

the second half of 2002; expectations are high.
The lecture was followed by a reception, as always an excellent opportunity for social interaction.

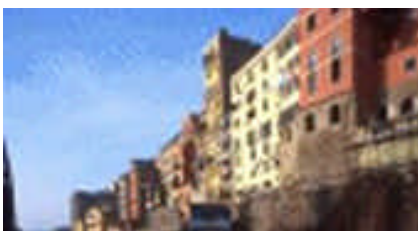
General Assembly

FITCE Belgium organised its second General Assembly on Thursday March 21 right after a regular board meeting. Our president José Van Ooteghem gave an overview of the year's activities and the status of the association. He announced that Ghent had been selected by the board as the venue of the 2004 congress in Belgium. The other board members then reported each according to his responsibility. The two new board members, Filip Geerts of Agoria-ICT and Marc Verbruggen of KPN-Belgium, who had already been acting as observers for some time were confirmed in their future function by applause. They will strengthen the team that organises the events. We welcome them again and wish them a successful tenure. For three board members, Gérard De Catelle, Joannes De Wilde and Paul Waeben, the GA marked the end of their current mandate. All three were candidate for re-election and were likewise confirmed by applause. We thank them here for their excellent work in the two past years and wish them a successful continuation. Finally, Jan Van Hoecke, who audited the financials together with Pierre Henin, reported on his findings and discharged the treasurer. Pierre Henin wished to be replaced for next year's audit. Paul Devoldere of Hyphen was named by the GA as new auditor together with Jan Van Hoecke. To both of them and to Pierre Henin sincere thanks and congratulations.

Very few members showed up for this meeting which deprived the board of useful feedback. For next year's General Assembly we will try to find another formula which will attract more members into attending the meeting.

Any member who wishes to get the report of the GA can address a request to our secretary georges.devroey@skynet.be.

FITCE Congress 2002 in Genoa



The 41st European Telecommunications Congress will be held in Genoa from 4 to 7 September 2002 as you all must know by now. The venue is the Magazzini del Cotone in the Genoa Old Harbour. The motto is "Evolving Networks – Service Opportunities and Market Realities". Once again telecom experts from all over Europe and even some from the US will gather for an occasion which has traditionally been highly stimulating both technically and socially. The FITCE Europe website <http://www.fitce.org> contains the full programme of the congress with all the presentations and other planned events. Do visit the site and see for yourself the value of joining us in Genoa.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the congress has been given a stronger profile by dedicating each of the three days to a particular theme introduced by a keynote speaker. For the day dedicated to UMTS, the president of DoCoMo has accepted to be the keynote speaker. Very few details are given on the website concerning the partners' programme. Do not let this discourage you or your partner. Our Italian colleagues promise that it will be excellent. Those who were there in Barcelona last year, know what to expect.

Registration

Registration must be made before June 28, 2002, by sending the congress registration form, duly filled-in, together with payment to our treasurer:



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Gérard DE CATELLE, Neren-aard 6, 2550 Kontich, gerard.decatelle@skynet.be, Tel 03 457 2821. Please also e-mail a copy to: fertini@iicgenova.it. The form is available on <http://www.fitce.org>. Hotel reservation is per separate form and payment. For your convenience, you are receiving a few files from the website together with the delivery of this newsletter. Included are the programme, congress registration form, hotel registration form and hotel map.

Selected Papers

On March 8, 2002, the technical committee of this year's congress convened to evaluate the contributions and to select the papers which will be presented. Belgium again scored very high. Four out of six papers submitted will be presented and one is held in reserve. The total number of submissions was 88 of which 43 were selected. These are the Belgian papers:

From Circuit-Switched to IP-based Networks: Risks and Opportunities

by Quentin Toussaint of CISCO Systems

KPN Belgium Case Study: BTS Backhaul over SHDSL, Last Meters over GPRS or UMTS

by Walter Cuypers of KPN Telecom

IP QoS Services on an xDSL-based Next Generation Network

by Marc Van Diest of Belgacom

Next Generation Passive Optical Networks – Leveraging the future-proof broadband access platform

by François Duthilleul of Alcatel

and in reserve

Delivering Multimedia Services in a Next Generation Network Architecture

by Mr. de Bilde of Siemens Atea

Lunch Sessions on UMTS



Since the previous newsletter, the second series of lunch-sessions has come to an end with an even greater success than the first one dealing with The Local Loop and Unbundling. Organised together with Sitel this time, UMTS was examined from many different vantage points. Professor Dr. Ir. Leo Van Biesen produced an excellent synthesis of the whole series which can be found on <http://www.fitce.be>. An abridged version of the report will be published in one of the future FORUM newsletters. Here follows an excerpt from the report with an overview of all the lectures.

In the first lecture an accurate and well-balanced technical 'Introduction to UMTS' was presented by ir. J-P Pirlot of the BIPT (Belgian Institute for Postal services and Telecommunications). He sketched the technical

definitions and gave details on the implementation in the distinct technologies. Comparisons with the current GSM 900 and 1800, GPRS and EDGE were addressed. The speaker drew special attention on the regulatory aspects, rules and legislation. Some indications of the state of deployment in Belgium, Europe and world-wide, were also given. Many questions were asked by the audience with respect to license agreements in Belgium and about starting dates and possible delays for operations in Belgium.



During the second session, Mr. M. Recinella shared the views of an '*UMTS Integrator*'. From his experiences at Telindus, he addressed the successive steps in the resources to build or to migrate to UMTS. The different problems to be tackled were analysed; i.e. the radio planning problem, the business planning view and the network planning. It was shown that planning requires an integrated approach between the Marketing, Engineering and Finance departments. Special attention was also given towards the site acquisition and site sharing problems and the current status in Belgium of the sites.

The third session undoubtedly was the meeting with the highest expectations from the attendees. During a Panel Discussion, the 3 licensed operators in Belgium had the opportunity to answer some general but also very specific questions about the current state of deployment of the operations, their preferences or choices with respect to hardware manufacturers and about their testing facilities and testing experiences. The Panel Discussion was preceded by keynote presentations by the representatives of the Belgian operators.

Ir. O. Vandenbulck represented Mobistar and addressed some views on changes which will have their impact on all stakeholders when migrating from 2G or 2.5G towards 3G operations in Mobile Communications. He clearly addressed the problem of revenues and explained the difference in billing schemes between actual services and UMTS.

Ir. L. Claus, director of Engineering & Operations at Proximus (Belgacom Mobile), gave a detailed and well-structured overview of GPRS. He clearly indicated how GPRS paves the way towards UMTS.

Finally, ir. E. Rijks, CTO at KPN Orange (now Base), discussed some operational issues with respect to UMTS. He documented his contribution with some interesting data on the current testing of hardware in his company.

During the final lunch session the organisers aimed to receive some views of content and media contributors to stress some problems with respect to how to use UMTS as a new medium, to share some forecasts on new interactive media and to inform on copyright issues.

First, B. Tuyteleers, Key Account Manager Benelux for Tele Atlas, analysed briefly how his company as a content provider is preparing the future. He gave a clear overview of Location Based Services and addressed (car) navigation facilities in particular.

Finally, ir. M. Lauwers gave an excellent presentation and slide show with movie animations on the views of Siemens on the 3G in Mobile Communications and Services. Some Mobile applications of Siemens were introduced; e.g. the Personal Information Management approach (Mobile Portal and Mobile Office) and Xpressions450.