

Editorial



Dear friends,

Another year passed by in a moment. In the name of the Board of FITCE Belgium, I would like to send to you my best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful year 2005 for yourself and your family.

The passage from old to new is traditionally the time to reflect on the past year. We can happily observe that the dark period for the ICT sector is over and that the economy in general and ICT in particular is growing again, albeit more slowly than some people hoped for. At last there is room again for new initiatives, innovation and investments.

For our organisation, the year 2005 is an important milestone. FITCE Belgium, in its current modernised form, celebrates its fifth anniversary, a lustrum. I think that we can rightly state that over that time, FITCE has deserved its position in the Belgian ICT landscape.

It is therefore appropriate, first and foremost, to thank our members, individual colleagues as well as companies and organisations, for the continued support during the past years. It is gratifying to see that virtually all of the founding members from 1999 have remained faithful and that since then we have been fortunate to welcome many newcomers.

This is encouraging for all my colleagues on the Board who during all that time engaged themselves voluntarily, and who are willing to continue to do so for the benefit of FITCE. It must be said that the past year required extraordinary efforts as the organisation of the European FITCE congress was no sinecure.

This brings us to the highlight of 2004, our congress, an event which happens in our country only once in 10 to 15 years. We were fortunate that we could welcome some 350 guests who enjoyed a congress which was organised professionally with high quality content. And as befits FITCE congresses, thanks to the generous support of ten enthusiastic partners, we were able to offer an outstanding technical and social programme at a fairly reasonable congress fee. Feedback from participants confirmed our impression that this congress was indeed a great success. (Results of the survey can be found at [www.fitce.be/Questionnaire Ghent congress.ppt](http://www.fitce.be/Questionnaire_Ghent_congress.ppt).)

It is noteworthy that, with respect to previous FITCE congresses, we introduced a number of innovations. I like to mention the cooperation with FITCE Luxembourg, Agoria, the city of Ghent, the INTEC department of Ghent University, etcetera as well as a number of practical improvements concerning the organisation. Our European colleagues expressed their appreciation and will hopefully continue the trend.

At any rate, this achievement and your support is a strong stimulus for us to continue this way forward. In order to be able to even better satisfy

your expectations in the future, as usual we welcome your remarks and suggestions. Over the coming months and years, we shall continue our efforts to offer you an interesting programme and provide you, our Belgian ICT colleagues, with an enjoyable social network.

I sincerely hope to meet you at one of our future events and more particularly to see a great many of you at our General Assembly next month.

Kind regards,

José Van Ooteghem

FITCE Congress 2005 Vienna



Please note that the dates for the 44th FITCE congress in Vienna have changed. Another congress which had already been planned earlier could cause a shortage of hotel facilities. For this reason FITCE Austria chose to change the FITCE congress schedule. The congress is now scheduled for 1 to 3 September, 2005.

Your attention has been drawn earlier to the call for papers which is available at www.fitce.org/vienna/FITCE_Flyer_7_5.pdf. The deadline for submissions is 18 February, 2005.

E-Government : the approach of the Belgian federal administration



The previous newsletter contained so much material from the congress that there was no room to report on a memorable evening session. On June 17, Frank Robben, General Manager Crossroads Bank Social Security and Strategic Advisor Fedict. Mr Robben gave an excellent speech on "E-Government: The approach of the Belgian federal administration". He gave a thorough and clear exposé of the many aspects of e-government that he has been involved with. The vision behind it all goes well beyond the creation of a number of portals to allow citizens access to the administration. This is nothing less than re-engineering at a large scale with as objectives e.g. data integrity, integration of processes, one-time data entry and automation of service delivery. Cisco Systems, hosted the evening and graciously offered the reception where we could continue discussing this subject which concerns us all.

Lunch Sessions: New Trends in Home Networks

As has become holy tradition, this fall season again, FITCE Belgium initiated a new series of lunch sessions. This time, the theme is: New Trends in Home Networks.

Session 1 – 24/11/2004

Trends in Intelligent Building and Home Cabling

The first lunch session of the new series dealing with home networks drew some thirty people in spite of the late announcement. Mr Jeffrey Hollands, product specialist of ADC KRONE gave a good overview of both the requirements and the state of the art in Intelligent Buildings and Home Networks.

After defining the concept of **Intelligent Building** as covering three main



Session 2 – 02/03/2005

goals: building management, space management and business management, Mr Hollands went on to describe the components of an Intelligent Building and its requirements. He then explained some of the downsides like e.g. the increased electrical power consumption per unit area and finally indicated the future directions.

As for the **Smart Home**, the second part of the exposé, Mr Hollands clearly indicated that the central concept is 'convergence', the combining of personal computers, telecommunications and television into a user experience that is accessible to everyone. It is about introducing automation, which has so successfully conquered industry, into the home. There is a generally shared view that the home will be intelligent, connected and wireless although the way this will be achieved, and how the home will be networked is still a matter of debate between Television-centric and PC-centric factions.

Future home networks: shape, challenges and (killer) applications

The second session will be a presentation by Ms Mary Francia, Senior Director Operator Business Innovation - Philips Consumer Electronics. She will defend the thesis that "It is not about technology, it is about the consumer."

All practical details and registration can be found on http://www.fitce.be/lunch_sessions_home_networks_2.html.

Session 3 – 17/03/2005

Social impact of the new home network technologies

The third session is an innovation as well from the point of view of the subject treated and because it will consist out of two presentations by Prof. Dr. Jo Pierson, Lic. Wendy van den Broeck and Drs. Richard Tee, Researchers at the VUB, SMIT-IBBT and TNO.

Domestication: a social science view on IST use and innovation in the home

Jo Pierson (SMIT-IBBT) & Wendy van den Broeck (SMIT-IBBT)

Within the social sciences the (home) user of media technology has been a subject of research since some time. Different theoretical strands have examined the user behaviour of Information Society Technologies (communication studies, sociology, information studies, usability studies etc.). First the presentation gives an overview of these different user approaches. Next the presentation focuses on a particular school of thought that has generated many fruitful insights in the use and innovation of IST: the domestication approach. In order to illustrate the latter, examples from recent studies on new media devices (like digital television) are elaborated.

Public-private initiatives in broadband services

Richard Tee (SMIT-TNO)

The second presentation will discuss the role of public and private initiatives in the area of broadband services. In particular, it will focus on the way public organisations (such as local, regional or national governments, but also parties such as public broadcasting companies).

All practical details and registration can be found on http://www.fitce.be/lunch_sessions_home_networks_3.html.

General Assembly

Brussels–12/02/2005



This year's General Assembly takes place in Brussels and we want to make it something out of the ordinary, discover little known aspects of our Capital. The vzw Polymnia to which we have entrusted the entertainment part has acquired a solid reputation in more than 20 years of activity. Under the stimulating leadership of Sonja De Smedt, arts and philosophy teacher and founder of Polymnia, the concept of city guided tours has been revolutionised. But as you expect, we shall of course also exercise other faculties of mind and body, and all 'à la sauce Bruxelloise'.

Here is the program

- 15.00 Registration – coffee and typical snack
- 15.30 Walk through the Marollen
- 17.30 General Assembly (Partners relax together or can go for shopping in the Marollen and Zavel/Sablon)
- 18.30 Apéritif
- 19.00 Brussels dining with typical music

We sincerely hope that this original program will attract a great many of you. You will as yet receive a separate invitation with more extensive information but you can already mark the date and time in your calendar.

Streetlight: Innovation on the Street



On December 1, 2004, Prof. Dr. Ir. Nico Baken, one of the most notable speakers at the recent FITCE congress in Ghent, spoke about Streetlight, Integrated Network- and Service Node in Converged Fixed-Mobile Next Generation Networks. Combining ICT with streetlights is an innovative concept. The Streetlight Consortium (KPN, Lucent Technologies, Tyco International) in 2004 has developed a demonstrator which shows a multitude of applications based from a streetlight. Automatic parking space recognition, publicity with moving images, wireless fast internet, talking-pole and information kiosk are only some of the many 'street-services' which are possible. Depending on which services are selected and on the chosen roll-out scenario, interesting business cases are possible. The next step is a market pilot in The Netherlands.

Coming up Next

Calendar

On Thursday, April 14, ASTRID will be the focus of our next evening lecture. The speaker will be Marc De Buyser, director-general, accompanied by Daniel Haché, director external relations, and Yves Delvaux, operation manager.

All the planned activities in a nutshell:

- 12/02 General Assembly
- 02/03 Home Networks lunch session 2
- 17/03 Home Networks lunch session 3
- 14/04 ASTRID
- 01-03/09 Congress in Vienna