

Editorial



Browse through this second newsletter for a good overview of the many activities of FITCE and their added value; even while I postponed discussing our participation to Telecom cTy to the next newsletter.

One last local event, on June 16, separates us from the yearly European main event, the congress which this year will bring a dedicated crowd to beautiful Vienna. And as they waltz through a few tens of excellent presentations they will once more strengthen the ties that closely knit together the world of telecom professionals. Servus.

Marc Lambert

The Future of GRID in Belgium

Evening Lecture

Grid computing or distributed computing is a technique based on the worldwide linking of computers for processing large quantities of data. The general principle of grid computing is to build networks that combine a geographically distributed computing capacity with storage capacity and make the result accessible for various user groups. The equipment required for this can be owned and managed by a great variety of organisations.

Grid computing is not yet a standard product in the ICT market. Computer companies have recently started developing grid software. In most European countries, and in the European context, grid projects have been started, most frequently in the world of research. These projects generally develop the software they need to plan and build a grid, the so-called grid test beds.

This and more you can read on the website of BELNET www.belnet.be under the item 'Advanced Technologies'. BELNET has taken the lead in the area of building a Belgian computing/data grid, by offering a platform for stimulating grid initiatives in Belgium. Making sure that the Belgian research community disposes of state of the art tools is certainly a worthwhile undertaking and it is therefore a pleasure for FITCE Belgium to offer a platform to the leader of the Grid project at BELNET, Ms. Rosette Vandembroucke. On June 16, at 18.00, she will give a lecture entitled: "The Future of GRID Applications and Infrastructure in Belgium". The venue is the Salons Romrée in Grimbergen. For registration, please visit www.fitce.be/pamphlet050616

FITCE Congress 2005 Vienna



Time to think of registering for the FITCE congress. Since our previous newsletter, the program has been completely established and we trust this year's congress will again provide good value for money. And of course, Vienna is one of the most charming cities of Europe.



There are three Belgian papers:

Beyond Marketing. Applying Qualitative User Experience Research Techniques on Social Media Applications, Ellen Van Rompaey, K.U.Leuven – CEPO (Centre for Audience Research)

Success in Home Service Deployment: zero-touch or chaos, Bart Dhoedt - Ghent University – INTEC (Department of Information Technology)

Combining Individualized Communication Services with Privacy-Friendly Identity Management, Jos Dumortier, K.U.Leuven – ICRI (Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and IT)

Please visit <http://congress2005.fitce.at/> for information, registration and hotel reservation. You are of course entirely free to choose whichever hotel you prefer but if you select [Austria Trend Hotel Lassalle](#) you will be sure to meet other Belgian delegates.

ASTRID ready for the next challenge

Evening Lecture



On April 20, Mr. Marc De Buyser, Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Yves Delvaux, Chief Operations Officer, ASTRID, spoke on 'ASTRID is ready for the next challenge'. The venue was the 'Salons De Romrée' in Grimbergen.

All-round (National) Semi-cellular Trunking (Dynamic frequency allocation) Radio communication network with Integrated Dispatching is quite a mouthful and not surprisingly we all prefer to speak about ASTRID. This telecom operator which provides exclusively emergency and safety services is known by name to all but by content to few. This is why this evening lecture was of particular interest to many. The speakers did an excellent job at pointing out the many charms of ASTRID, which took rather more time than anticipated, which in turn prevented a number of guests from enjoying the otherwise excellent reception afterwards.

ASTRID was established in 1998 but the project was initiated by the Belgian government in 1992. The shareholders are the Belgian State for 61% and the Municipalities for 39%. The company has 70 employees.

The mission of ASTRID is 'The development, maintenance, operation and expansion of radio communications, paging, dispatching and other services in order to support the domestic safety policy of the Belgian state'.

The speakers elaborated all aspects of ASTRID's mission and gave many details on the technical infrastructure, the customers (all public services, like the police, fire services, civil protection etcetera) and their perception of the network and service.

Finally, such future challenges were addressed like the network and service extension both in coverage and functionality, the possible serving of customers from outside the traditional public safety market like from public transportation, private ambulances, hospitals etcetera.

Mr. Marc De Buyser summed it all up by saying that ASTRID had reached the maturity phase and now read its own initials as **A**ttention for the client, **S**olving problems, **T**eamwork, **R**eady to improve, **I**ntegrity and **D**edication.

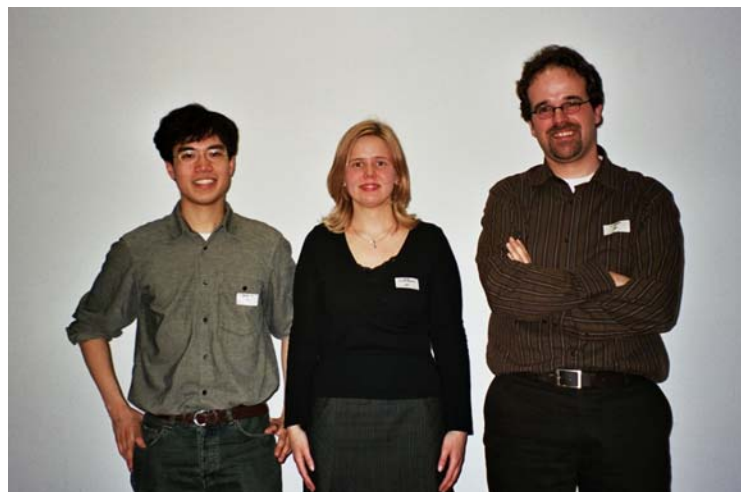
Lunch Sessions: New Trends in Home Networks



In the second session, Ms. Mary Francia (left), Senior Director Operator Business Innovation of Philips Consumer Electronics, gave a broad view of the 'Philips Connected Planet' program in her lecture entitled 'Future home networks – Shape, challenges and (killer) applications.'



In the third and final session, Professor Dr. Jo Pierson of the VUB and two of his doctoral students, M.A. Wendy Van den Broeck and M.A. Richard Tee (below) gave us some insight into the kind of research performed at the VUB and various other academic institutions around the world in the area of 'societal and economic implications of ICT'.



As has become tradition, Professor Dr. Ir. Leo Van Biesen (above) will produce a synthesis of the three lunch sessions.

General Assembly



On February 12, FITCE Belgium organised its annual General Assembly. We started with a walk through the 'Marolles', the most famous quarter of Brussels, guided by Sonja De Smedt, authentic child of the quarter and fluent speaker of the local tongue. All along the trip, she read poems, sang songs and let us taste some of the popular specialities like Faro and caracolles. Truly a most original guided tour.

These new members of the board were voted in:

Piet Demeester (UGent)
Jos Dumortier (K.U.Leuven)
Marc Vancoppenolle (Alcatel Bell)



While the partners continued browsing through the streets, the members convened for the formal session in a rather unconventional setting.



And we ended the day with a dinner in the clubhouse of the venerable guild of archers 'Ancien Grand Serment Royal et Noble des Arbalétriers de Notre Dame au Sablon'.

Honorary Member of the Board

Paul Waeben was part of the small group of people who gave the Belgian chapter of FITCE a facelift to adapt it to the new realities of the telecom world, back in 1999. Paul retired some time ago from his function as CEO of SEBA Services (now led by his son Kurt). He also wished to end his involvement with the board of FITCE Belgium. The board thanks him for the many services rendered to our association and the long years of friendship. He has unanimously been accepted as an honorary member for life.

