



FITCE.BE

newsletter

Issue 14, October 2002

Editorial



Expect to find in your mail some time soon a copy of the proceedings of this year's FITCE congress in Genoa. This value for no additional money is gracefully offered to all our members to allow them access to this great source of information if they were not present at the conference. But please consider attending next time; the presentations are really only one - albeit important - part of the story as you can see in this newsletter.

You do not have to wait for next year's congress in Berlin to attend more interesting FITCE activities. We already had our first evening lecture on 3 October when Jean-François Noël of Siemens presented a market study of Agoria-Febeltel on Mobility Technology. In November we start with a new series of four lunch sessions and we shall conclude the season with another evening session in spring.

It is time again to think of renewing your membership. The board decided to keep the fees at the same level as last year. In a few weeks you will receive an invitation to pay your dues for 2003. We trust you will continue to give us your much appreciated support to enable us to prepare the FITCE congress 2004 in Ghent in full confidence.

Marc Lambert
Managing Editor

e-VRT

Evening Lecture



On June 20, 2002, Bert De Graeve, CEO of the VRT talked about **"VRT : Driver of the Media of Tomorrow – Concept of a Change Process"** for an audience of about 40.

When commercial television started in Flanders in 1988, VRT rapidly lost market share from 57.3% to less than 30%. In 1995 an absolute low was reached with 23%. Since then VRT has been constantly improving its position, reaching 33.3% in 2001.

The first part of Bert De Graeve's talk focussed on the story behind this success. The VRT in fact went through a complete re-engineering, turning an organization that was dominated by the idea that creativeness must be left pretty much to its own devices into a well managed modern company producing products according to set standards and procedures. This was done without sacrificing the creativity which is of course essential when dealing with cultural products. Core to the transformation was the creation of a management platform to provide an integrated tool to manage the total product life cycle from concept to distribution on different platforms with personalised interactivity facilities. The latest step in this process is the creation of an ASP platform through

which VRT has become an Application Service Provider with a specialisation in media technology and providing support for small creative enterprises and suppliers in the Flemish market.

The second part of the talk focussed on the **Digital Home Platform** which is an experiment running in 100 households in Merksem, Schoten and Brasschaat. The starting point is one of the missions which was given to the VRT by parliament "provide a platform against a dual information society". The platform consists essentially of a TV, Set Top Box and ADSL connection for interactive services. The purpose is to gather experience and information concerning technology and operations, usage of the services according to the profile of the user, content and applications. The project is funded by VRT, Belgacom and the Flemish Government.

eEurope 2005 : An information society for all



The European Commission has just launched a new ICT project.

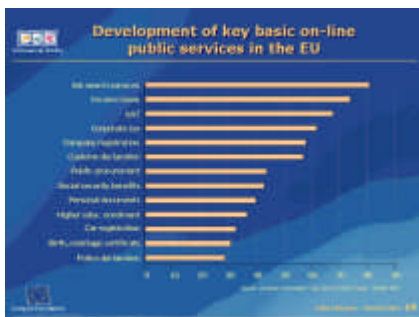
The objective of the **eEurope 2005 Action Plan** is to provide a favourable environment for private investment and for the creation of new jobs, to boost productivity, to modernise public services, and to give everyone the opportunity to participate in the global information society. eEurope 2005 therefore aims to stimulate secure services, applications and content based on a widely available broadband infrastructure.

Action is needed to stimulate services and infrastructure to create the dynamic where one side develops from the growth of the other. The eEurope 2005 Action Plan is a proposal to Member States to take some far-reaching commitments. It is also an invitation to the private sector to work with the Commission and Member States public authorities to realise the eEurope objectives.

The market provides most Information Society services. Developing new services and building infrastructures needs significant investment, most of it from the private sector. The eEurope Action Plan intends to create a favourable environment for private investment. This means not only developing an investment friendly legal framework but also taking action that stimulates demand and so reduces uncertainty to private investors. In this sense, eEurope 2005 applies a number of measures to address both sides of the equation simultaneously.

On the demand side, actions on e-government, e-health, e-learning and e-business are designed to foster the development of new services. In addition to providing both better and cheaper services to citizens, public authorities can use their purchasing power to aggregate demand and provide a crucial pull for new networks.

On the supply side, actions on broadband and security should advance the roll-out of infrastructure.



FITCE Congress 2002 in Genoa



The 41st European Telecommunications Congress in Genoa from 4 to 7 September 2002 is history. The venue in the Magazzini del Cotone in the Genoa Old Harbour welcomed 420 delegates and partners. For three days, the delegates were treated to a series of presentations covering a wide spectrum of issues under the conference motto "Evolving Networks – Service Opportunities and Market Realities". As a novelty this year, each day of the technical conference was dedicated to one theme which was introduced by a keynote speaker and ended with a round-table discussion. Although there is room for improvement, it is clear that this new format is likely to set a trend. Belgium was again well represented with four presentations.



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FITCE congresses traditionally get support in high places. The Italian Minister of Communications Maurizio Gasparri (on the right) did us the honor of addressing the delegates at the opening ceremony.



With the beautiful bay of Genoa as a backdrop, we all enjoyed the usual mix of technology, culture, pleasure and social interaction which we have come to associate with FITCE congresses. Here are just a few impressions.



Our president José Van Ooteghem addressed the crowd at the traditional gala dinner closing the technical conference. The next day, Saturday 7/9 in the morning, we had the General Assembly of FITCE Europe. José Van Ooteghem had some reasons for joy. The congress was once more a success with people present from 20 countries (while only 12 countries are affiliated to FITCE Europe). The downward trend in membership was reversed in 2002 with 3,007 members against 2,892 last year. The usual procedures of a GA were worked through without a glitch. Filip Geerts of Agoria-Febeltel, and a member of the board of FITCE Belgium, was confirmed by the meeting as secretary general, succeeding to Bert Maes who resigned a few months ago.



In the afternoon of the same day, we all enjoyed a boat trip from Genoa to Portofino, famous resort, and in the evening, a farewell drink with the Belgian delegates and partners.



See you next year in Berlin. The FITCE Europe website already invites you for a preview.

Lunch Sessions on Navigation, building block for new communication services



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 cooperation 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 four sessions :

- An introduction to radio navigation - November 6, 2002
- Past, present and future of satellite navigation - December 4, 2002
- Localisation in cellular networks - February 19, 2003
- Creating location based services - March 19, 2003

A separate mailing will give full information on this series of lectures. You can also visit our website www.fitce.be or that of SITEL www.sitel.org for information and on-line registration.

A new board for Agoria-Febeltel



Philippe Ysebaert of NextiraOne succeeds to Jacques Collignon of Siemens Atea as chairman of Agoria-Febeltel. This division of Agoria comprises the companies which are active in the construction and integration of voice and data communications networks for the enterprise market. Alexander Dewulf of Siemens Atea and Erwin Welleman of Muxum are elected as new vice-chairmen. Philippe Ysebaert has been active in ICT for more than 15 years and fulfilled various sales and marketing functions both nationally and internationally. Today, he is COO Belux of NextiraOne, earlier known as Alcatel e-Business Solutions.

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