PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION IPv6 TASK FORCE RELEASES

IPv6 2005 ROADMAP RECOMMENDATIONS

"Internet for Everyone"

Brussels, January 29, 2002 – The IPv6 Task Force established by the European Commission, has released today its final reports on the IPv6 Roadmap recommendations in accordance with the schedule indicated in Commissioner Erkki Liikanen's opening IPv6 Task Force meeting where he declared:

> "*We have to look at other means to stimulate the emergence of Mobile Internet. We have to see that a new Internet Protocol – IPv6 – will be rolled out swiftly. We have to stimulate European content production. We have to see that sufficient research funding is available for future wireless technologies, as is foreseen in the Commission's proposal for the 6th Framework programme for Research.*

He further stated that:

> "*Our objective is to ensure that Europe's competitiveness in wireless technology is not jeopardised by the lack of a clear roadmap towards IPv6".*

Dr. Vint Cerf, " father of the Internet" and member of the Task Force stated,:

> "*The value of IPv6 can be realized only if the deployment effort is broadly based on a global scale."*

The Internet and its widespread use are central to the knowledge economy. However, the rapid and continued growth of the Internet now require new measures to ensure that it can continue to meet new requirements and retain its original benefits. By being at the forefront of this upgrade of the Internet's capabilities, Europe can meet its ambition to be the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010.

The present day corner stone technology of the Internet is known as Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4). Although this technology has been highly successful, the rapid depletion of the address space that is expected to become critical by 2005, the requirements to offer transparent and affordable Internet services to all citizens, to increase security in the networks, to sustain competitiveness of the Internet, coupled with the emerging convergence of wireless and Internet technologies, all together call for the adoption of a new Internet Protocol (IPv6).

This transition to IPv6 provides Europe with a unique opportunity to capitalise on its technology know-how, notably in mobile communications, to strengthen its competitive edge, to harness its educational excellence, to release its entrepreneurial potential, allowing the creation of novel applications and services on which new business opportunities can be built to the benefit to all players in the new Internet economy.

IPv6 is a technology that not only enables new and enhanced Internet features to be deployed, but it is also a technology that restores the simplicity of original Internet technology by removing current barriers and impediments born out of the IPv4 address shortage. It also unifies existing services in terms of a common delivery protocol. IPv6 is a major evolutionary step towards an enhanced next generation Internet infrastructure.

For new Internet enabled services to be deployed in a timely manner, it is however of key importance to structure, consolidate and integrate European efforts, and notably to develop the necessary base of skilled human resources, to fully harmonise, where needed, the policy approaches, to sustain the research effort, to accelerate the standards and specifications work and to ensure that all sectors of the new economy likely to be impacted by IPv6 are fully aware of potential benefits accruing from its adoption.

The European Commission, further to the conclusions of the Stockholm European Council, established an industrially led IPv6 Task Force, tasked with examining the current state of the development and deployment of IPv6 and recommending priority actions to be undertaken at European level. The report of the IPv6 Task Force now issued (http://www.ipv6-taskforce.org) puts forward a number of key recommendations addressed to Member States, the European Commission and Industry at large. Beyond the overall requirement to structure, consolidate and integrate European efforts on IPv6, the report calls notably for:

> Increased support towards IPv6 in public networks and services,

> Launching of educational programmes on IPv6,

> Promotion of IPv6 through awareness raising campaigns,

> Further stimulation of Internet across Europe,

> Creation of a stable and harmonised IPv6 policy environment,

> Strengthening of IPv6 activities in the 6th Framework Programme of R&D

> Strengthening of support towards the IPv6 enabling of national and European Research Networks,

> Acceleration of contributions towards IPv6 standards work,

> Integration of IPv6 in all strategic plans concerning the use of new Internet services.

Given the necessity for a concerted and timely effort to enable the overall competitiveness of Europe to be strengthened in this strategically important area, the report of the IPv6 Task Force, advocates that its recommendations be brought to the attention of the Spring European Council to take place in Barcelona, on 15th-16th March 2002, and thus set the deployment roadmap to be achieved by 2005.

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