PRESS RELEASE

Ubiquitous IP-centric Government & Enterprise Next Generation Networks - Vision 2010 – u-2010 –
University of Luxembourg to coordinate an Integrated Research Proposal of the 5th Call of the 6th European Research Frame Program

Luxembourg, July 20th, 2006 - A European consortium, u-2010, led by the University of Luxembourg, including 16 partners from 8 European Countries, has been selected by the European Commission in the context of an integrated research proposal of the 5th Call of the 6th European Research Frame Program.

U-2010 stands for "ubiquitous IP centric Government & Enterprise Next Generation Networks Vision 2010" and its overall objective is to provide the most capable means of communication and the most effective access to information to everybody required to act in case of accident, incident, catastrophe or crisis, while using existing or future telecommunication infrastructures.

Recent large catastrophes and crisis situations like the Tsunami at the end of 2004 and the Katrina hurricane of September 2005 dramatically showed the importance of communication to prevent the deaths of thousands of people. The u-2010 project will address the public safety issues by researching new emergency and crisis management solutions investigating on innovative and state-of-the-art communication technologies based on the current and new Internet technologies (i.e. Internet Protocol version 6 – IPv6) that could be put to use and realize this vision.

The integrated research project is coordinated by the University of Luxembourg and constitutes the first ever integrated research project awarded to the young Luxembourg academic institution. This project shows the interest of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) community outside of Luxembourg to team up with Luxembourg based public and private ICT actors for joining them in an international research project.

U-2010 demonstrates well the potential for public private partnerships in Europe and in Luxembourg in a growing economic sector, namely the ICT sector and confirms the strategic priorities of the University of Luxembourg over the next years.

For further information, please contact: Prof. Dr Thomas ENGEL, Université du Luxembourg, Tel. (+352) 46 66 44 – 5263, e- mail: thomas.engel@uni.lu.

A press release by the University of Luxembourg

Melanie Reid
Service de Communication

CAMPUS LIMPERTSBERG
162a, avenue de la Faïencerie
L-1511 Luxembourg
Tél.: (+352) 46 66 44 - 6560
Fax : (+352) 46 66 44 - 6561
melanie.reid@uni.lu

About the u 2010 project:
Modern society has reached a high dependability on ubiquitous services and networks. Especially in crisis or emergency situations the availability of these services is crucial. Today, governmental and rescue entity communication services are characterized by a strong technical compartmentalization; the interworking and availability of crisis communication resources is not assured.

This project highlights and deploys concepts to enhance the availability of these services and the existing networks by leveraging redundant communication channels wherever possible and using automatic redirection in the case of network failures. In crisis situations, rescue teams have to be assembled fast and flexibly; mobile and ad-hoc networks are one possible solution. Additional research on these networks will be conducted in this project to fulfill the requirements of crisis intervention teams.

The problem of identification will be resolved using new research results in wireless and ad-hoc networks, where especially the integration of distributed knowledge of the current network environment (location information, RFID messages, recommended trust relations, etc.) into the protocols is a key issue for context adaptable recognition.

The project will take advantage of IPv6 features for many of the ICT aspects related to crisis scenarios. With Luxembourg as the first test bed and the Luxembourg Government as a partner in the project, there is an ideal possibility to show the feasibility and usability of the results in a real environment and provide the basis for all European countries. A transfer of the technology through a deployment in Slovenia is planned in the second phase of the project.

The results of this project will be usable not only for governments' risk- and crisis- management but will also become an integral part of enterprise and public networks, thereby fulfilling the vision of the consortium regarding a next generation for ubiquitous networks in 2010 - "u-2010".

The institutions and enterprises participating in the u 2010 project are:
Université du Luxembourg (L)
Ministère d'Etat – Centre de Communications du Gouvernement (L)
HITEC Luxembourg S.A (L)
Telindus S.A. (L)
University College London (UK)
Cisco Systems International BV (B)
France Telecom (F)
IABG (D)
SES ASTRA S.A. (L)
M-PLIFY (L)
Entreprise des Postes et Télécommunications, (L)
KORAK, (SK)
Siemens NV/SA (L)
Lancaster University (UK)
Helsinki University of Technology (FIN)
Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief of the Republic of Slovenia – Ministry of Defense (SLO)

The project starts May 1st, 2006 and ends April 30th, 2009.

About the University of Luxemburg: (www.uni.lu)

The University of Luxembourg was established on 12 August 2003 to carry out three principal activities: teaching, research and valorization, at the highest international level, as stipulated in its mission statement and in its strategic plan.

The University of Luxembourg model is that of a university led by research: in particular, courses for Masters and Doctorates are supported by an environment of solid research, comprising Research Units within its three faculties:

- The Faculty of Sciences, Technology and Communication ;
- The Faculty of Law, Economics and Finance ;
- The Faculty of Language and Literature, Humanities, Arts and Education.

Situated in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at the heart of Europe, the University of Luxembourg places particular emphasis on multilingualism within the scope of its activities in order to enable everyone involved - students, academic staff and administrative staff - to communicate in the country's many common languages: English, German, French and Luxembourgish.