

The EUROPEAN FUTURE INTERNET INITIATIVE

A European ICT industry call for action



Time for a European Future Internet Initiative

The European ICT industry calls for action

ICT - a most important sector....

Over the past ten years, a quarter of the EU GDP¹ growth and 50% of EU productivity growth² are due to ICT developments. The sector is making an increasingly large contribution to the European Union's economy and differences in economic performance of the industrialised countries are closely related to the level of ICT investment and use.

The ICT sector currently represents 12 million jobs in Europe and generates 6% of the EU GDP³. At EU-27 level, each worker in the sector contributes €105,000 to the economy each year. This is more than twice the EU average of €50,000⁴ across all sectors.

Thus the European ICT sector is a powerful driver of sustainable growth and employment. It plays a major role in boosting innovation, creativity and competitiveness across **all** industry and service sectors. Today the worldwide ICT market has reached € 2000bn and is still growing at 4% per year. Europe represents 34% of this market⁵ but its impact has to be increased and extended to other sectors.

The Internet must be seen as one of the major achievements of ICT. It has become the undisputed infrastructure that will provide the solutions to address key commercial and societal challenges. With over 1.5 billion users worldwide, the Internet is a great success that exceeded by far original expectations of an end-to-end, simple communication network. Daily life increasingly relies on the Internet in the developed world and is bringing development to emerging economies.

The need to act....

Information and communication technology is becoming smarter; smaller; faster; and society is progressively becoming more densely connected. As a result, Internet supported services are entering a new phase of mass deployment which brings a huge number of new opportunities but also new challenges in terms of scalability, capacity, throughput, mobility and trust.

Today, the Internet has become essential for a wide range of applications and services in areas such as health, ageing and inclusion, energy efficiency, environmental impact, transport, manufacturing, security and content. Networked collaborative enterprises are already a reality; e-business, digital manufacturing and social networks are developing fast. Our societies and culture are inevitably becoming digital. As we move towards a world where all the information exists in the digital domain it needs to be made accessible in ways that people want to access it. The infrastructure needs to adapt to the increasing demands made upon it.

The Future Internet needs to be tackled from a holistic perspective by taking into account all building blocks from users, services and applications down to the networks. This needs a multidisciplinary approach led by strong European industrial stakeholders, supported by academia and innovative SMEs, to develop the devices, interfaces, networks and services required to support the future networked society and economy.

Current EU programmes (like FP7) are seeking to develop new technologies that can be used to address societal and technology challenges in the mid to long term. In order to complement these important research activities we consider that it is also necessary to address those challenges required to transform Internet. The proposed Public Private Partnership (PPP) will enable Europe to consider the requirements (such as scale and user acceptability) of using known and emerging technologies; and, the identification of barriers caused by non-technical issues.

¹ EU press release Reference. Reference: MEMO/05/184

² Commission's annual report on the digital economy. IP/07/453, Brussels, 30 March 2007, http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=3303

³ EU press release Reference: IP/09/397 Date: 13/03/2009

⁴ CEBR report. "The changing economic impact of the telecommunications sector in the EU". Brussels Dec. 2008.

⁵ European Competitiveness Report 2006; EITO 2006

The Internet - new opportunities for Europe ...

Tomorrow the Internet will be the birth place of a renewed economy characterised by a wave of massively distributed creativity where individuals can bring a vast array of new applications to the market place. Entire sectors of human activity, which so far have existed outside of a networked economy, will rely on the Internet for their delivery and development.

The Internet is the natural vehicle to address key societal and economic challenges in areas such as health, ageing and inclusion, transport, energy efficiency, etc. and to get access to content and information. In this context it becomes important to address the increasing technological complexity of shaping the evolution towards a Future Internet which meets the requirements of all application areas.

The establishment of a Future Internet that can meet the needs of Europe will create a new ecosystem that can support future innovations and lead to a more dynamic economy.

Stand alone solutions developed in any one sector or country risks not providing the efficiency and productivity gains that a networked solution will be able to provide. A multidisciplinary approach, where massively distributed services and applications are run over large scale internet based infrastructures is the only means to deal with the increasing complexity of intertwined application and service requirements. Only coordinated and decisive action at the European level can enable the establishment of such a large scale multidisciplinary approach. Sustainable development in many sectors can then be based on the evolution of generic capabilities of the Future Internet that are available throughout Europe and avoid fragmentation.

The call for action....

This call from the major ICT industry in Europe is to establish a Future Internet pan-European coordinated partnership that will bring about clear benefits for Europe. Our aim is to reinforce and boost the competitiveness of enterprises and administrations, create new economic opportunities, while empowering innovators and citizens to benefit from the future Internet.

The scale of the challenge requires a Future Internet partnership that will bring the competence of the applications sectors and the ICT sector together to work out common solutions from an end-to-end perspective in a way that has never been possible before. Addressing these challenges will require cross-functional and cross-sectoral projects which can not be created by the current sector driven structure of calls for proposals. The PPP approach will provide the economies of scale that allow for exploitation at a pan-European and global level.

This partnership will stimulate the acquisition of competences and capabilities within Europe to address the challenges of security trust, mobility, capacity, throughput and scalability while considering the related issues of accessibility, availability, ecological impact, and interoperability. The partnership will accelerate the development of industrial technological expertise while shortening the time to market of innovative services and solutions. In effect, this initiative will enable whole new application sectors and increase European competitiveness through increased employment and GDP growth.

The efforts that are required, measured in terms of investment or skills, are not within the reach of a single company, a single sector, a single country. The complexity of the challenge largely exceeds the individual capabilities of today's European stakeholders (operators, vendors, IT providers, vertical and application markets, Public Authorities...).

We are proposing the creation of a large scale coordinated Public-Private Partnership initiative based on an estimated overall investment of 1B€ over 5 years to shape the Future Internet for Europe and make it an industrial, economic and societal success. Industry is prepared to contribute up to 50% of this investment.

With this call for action we are declaring the willingness of the industrial players to face the challenges of the networked society and we call on the European Community to consider the future of the Internet as a top priority for the renewed Lisbon agenda and to make a significant investment in partnership with us.