



COST Action 272

“Packet-Oriented Service Delivery via Satellite”

**Minutes of the Sixth Management Committee Meeting
CNIT-Naples, 3-4 November 2003**

COST272 secretariat

Opening of the meeting – Day one

Meeting starts at 14:10

Presentation of CNIT

Administrative matters

Discussion about the next meeting, the next meeting is confirmed to be held on March 25-26 in Toulouse.

Discussion about the budget: the shift from EC to ESF has been recently signed. It is expected that the grant for next year is about 50Keuros.

Discussion about the final report: table of contents to be defined for March.

Technical presentations

Presentation from Dusan Kocur « The Microstatistic Multi-user Receiver : Basic Principles and Preliminary Results » (TD-03-008)

Presentation from Miha Mohorcic « Oscillation Supression Link Cost Function for Adaptive Routing in Packet Switched ISL Network» (TD-03-002)

Presentation from Markus Werner « On Routing and Traffic Engineering in Dynamic Satellite Constellations » (TD-03-003)

Presentation from Agne Nordbotten « Broadband Multimedia Provision via Satellite : Status, Possibilities and Challenges » (TD-03-004)

SatNEx discussion

Current status of SatNEx: a negotiation meeting has been held in Brussels. A lot of issues were raised regarding what is integrated research and budget aspects. This calls for additional inputs from the consortium.

Things still to be done: (a) rephrase the objectives, (b) integrate inputs from the consortium about the mapping between partners and which contribution they might bring into the network of excellence (this is not straightforward !).

Note about the SatNEx NoE and the Marie Curie research training network: the two instruments may be combined, which is indeed interesting in the case of SatNEx considering that the NoE funding cannot be allocated to a single PhD activity whereas longer-term mobility funding for PhD students and postdocs is just a key target of research training networks.

An important issue raised during the negotiation phase is whether the EC will fund labour costs. Other NoE in negotiation phase are also facing the same difficulties.

SatNEx initially applied for a 5 year duration, it is now reduced to 2 years (this yields a poor return on investment) with a possible extension if the network proves to be successful. There is currently no agreement on what a successful network is and what are the performance indicators.

Opening of the meeting – Day two

Meeting starts at 09:17

Technical presentations (second round)

Presentation from Luca S. Ronga « Software Radio Satellite Terminal : an Experimental Test bed » (TD-03-005)

Presentation from Tommaso Percorella “Predictive Bandwidth Control for GEO Satellite Networks” (TD-03-006)

Presentation from Giacomo Morabito “CNIT Experiences on Transport Protocols in Satellite Networks”(TD-03-007)

Final report discussion

ACTION #1 (all working group leaders) : maintain a list of documents produced in each working group in order to keep track of the activities. This will ease the task of setting up the final report.

Suggestion for Luca S. Ronga: could we group contributions by categories to identify whether the critical mass is reached for the final report ?

ACTION #2 (Laurent Franck): create an excel sheet grouping all documents produced in the field of the COST272 action. This will help the working group leaders to sort out the papers according to the categories that are identified.

COST272 vs SatNEx discussion

Fact: we will have to produce a statement for the continuation of the COST action. (Note: new cost actions have been approved during the last TCT meeting, this is considered as a positive hint). Question to the audience: what position between NOE and cost actions ?

Erina Ferro: NoEs and COST actions are both important because (a) the outcome of NOEs unknown and (b) COST actions are a simple way to meet and discuss and foster new activities (additionally, it is cheap).

Haitham Cruickshank: COST actions and NoEs are different (although there is some overlap). Eg: NOE are closed while COST actions are open (invited speakers, invited observers).

Laurent Franck: COST is an excellent mean to identify to possible fields of cooperation among people, it is a sort of preliminary work to NOEs.

Erina Ferro: we will have to present to the EC why COST272 is important for us. This is the purpose of this discussion.

Markus Werner: all COST actions should provide arguments to strengthen a joint backing for COST as an instrument in European research in the future. Also, COST actions are self organised which makes it possible to quickly adapt to technological changes or group interests .

Erina Ferro: letter from Prof. Fedi asking for collaboration in the restoration of COST activities. 30 Meuros to spend by the end of next year. Plan for workshop and dissemination actions (dissemination financial support is not included in the 30 Meuros). About the next TCT vote, Prof Fedi is likely to leave the TCT chair. Looking for candidates.

Action #3 (all of us): gather ideas about why cost actions are important and send them to the chairman and secretariat.

Haitham Cruikshank: NoEs make it difficult to organise joint workshop. COST actions are an opportunity for this type of activities.

Action #4 (Laurent Franck): contact Mike Willis and see about the possibilities of organising a final workshop and possibly invite him to our next meeting.

Markus Werner: we could contact our national delegates in order to give them feedback about what is the feeling about COST actions and what are the advantages.

Maryan Vazquez Castro: asking for a discussion about the technical aims of SatNEx vs COST272.

Erina Ferro: For the moment there is an important technical overlap between cost272 and SatNEx. However, regarding the present implementation of SatNEx we still don't know how it is going to evolve.

Markus Werner: OK for trying to specify the technical aims of both activities but ... it is not obvious because of the two approaches. COST is “contents oriented” and NoEs are more oriented towards the ways & methods to achieve integrated research.

Miha Mohorcic: COST is work that you do on your own and present to everybody while NoEs are jointly made research (integrated research).

Agne Nordbotten: the EC speaks about research integration. There are many ways to integrate research, but the commission has not yet identified the “right” way to integrate research and is then looking about the different ways.

Action #5 (All of us): think about short term missions.

Vote for the new chairman

Prof. Gérard Maral, chairman of action COST272 wishes to resign from his chairing activity.

Dr Erina Ferro is elected as new chairman of COST272

Dr Haitham Cruickshank is elected as vice chairperson

Dr Maryan Vazquez Castro takes the lead of Working Group III (User and Service Provider Aspects)

14:36 Closing of the 6th Management Committee Meeting

Attendance list – Day one

Agne Nordbotten	Telenor
Dusan Kocur	TUKE
Erina Ferro	ISTI/CNR
Franco Davoli	CNIT
Haitham Cruickshank	University of Surrey
Laurent Franck	LAAS-CNRS
Luca S. Ronga	CNIT
Markus Werner	DLR
Marta Pasi	CNIT
Maryan Vazquez Castro	University Carlos III
Mihael Mohorcic	Jozef Stefan Institute
Sergey Raber	Fraunhofer – Fokus
Stanislav Marchevsky	TUKE
Tommaso Pecorella	CNIT
Tsigkas Orestis	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Attendance list – Day two

Agne Nordbotten	Telenor
Dusan Kocur	TUKE
Erina Ferro	ISTI/CNR
Franco Davoli	CNIT
Giacomo Morabito	CNIT

Haitham Cruickshank	University of Surrey
Laurent Franck	LAAS-CNRS
Luca S. Ronga	CNIT
Markus Werner	DLR
Maryan Vazquez Castro	University Carlos III
Mihael Mohorcic	Jozef Stefan Institut
Sergey Raber	Fraunhofer – Fokus
Stanislav Marchevsky	TUKE
Tommaso Pecorella	CNIT
Tsigkas Orestis	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki