



IPv6 Task Force France Presents French Minister for Research and New Technologies, Claudie Haigneré, with Official Recommendation on IPv6 Deployment for France

Paris, 14 November, 2003 – In conjunction with the opening of Networld+Interop Paris 2003 on 19 November, the French IPv6 Task Force will present to Claudie Haigneré, Minister for the department of Research and New Technologies in the French Ministry for Finance, Economy and Industry, its official recommendations for establishing a strategic plan to develop and deploy IPv6 technologies for the country.

Aimed at both public administration and industrial leaders, the Task Force's recommendation paper underlines the importance of having concrete and coherent actions to ensure a smooth and gradual transition to the internet protocol version 6 (IPv6). In heightening the awareness on the social impact expected from the explosive use of the internet, it hopes to impress upon the different economic players, the need to empower innovation and development of new applications with IPv6.

« Our ministry completely supports the promotion of IPv6 in France, hence the financing as well of the French IPv6 Task Force activities. At the same time, our national university and research network, RENATER, is currently carrying out deployment and innovation on IPv6 at the national as well as European level. We are also heartened by the fact that several leading French companies have been the engines for initiating European research programs on IPv6. The Task Force's recommendations reinforces the guidelines I gave at CIGREF (meeting of the Information Technology Club of large French enterprises) 2002, calling for the progressive deployment of IPv6 to begin without delay. Therefore, we will certainly take into account the recommendations, to plan a migration of the State's public information services towards IPv6, » said Claudie Haigneré.

Patrick Cocquet, President of the IPv6 Task Force France and Chairman of internet solutions provider, 6WIND, believes that applying these recommendations would be a concrete step towards helping to position France in the forefront of technology advancement, enabling it to breathe new life into the dynamic growth of the country.

He said, « The recommendation paper stresses the collective effort and roles that can be played by the various stakeholders of the country's economy. Several of our members, from both the public and private sector, have largely been instrumental in raising the awareness of IPv6 and driving development projects for its implementation.

For example, AFNIC, the organisation responsible for the French domain name management, is a key actor in the deployment of the new internet protocol in France, providing since 2001, an official DNS (domain name server) that supports native IPv6 in the French cyber zone. From the private sector, 6WIND is a leader in developing a fully-integrated IPv4/IPv6 solutions for broadband access networks (DSL, cable, WiFi), making it a key reference for IPv6. It is an active driver in various development projects taking place at present in France, around Europe, in North America and in China (Euro6ix, Moonv6, CNGI).»

To complement this, Director of IPv6 Center of Competence, France Telecom R&D, Tayeb Ben Meriem, added that on the side of the operators, France Telecom was the first European operator to offer an operational service on an IPv6 international connectivity called OpenTransit since 2000. This involvement in IPv6 was further pursued in 2001 with participation equally in pilot projects such as

Europe's Euro6ix, North America's Moonv6 and China's 6Tnet. "Our involvement in the French IPv6 Task Force and the application of the recommendations are part of our strategy to drive a smooth transition towards the new generation internet, » Ben Meriem said.

The Task Force's recommendation paper comes at a timely moment when leading industrialised countries are broaching the subject and studying the importance of leveraging IPv6 advantages that will evidently benefit their economies and societies. The USA, for one, has just created an inter-governmental agency task force on the question of the internet evolution and related security issues. Japan was one of the pioneers in launching a state-wide initiative on IPv6 development and deployment. China has now followed suit with an implementation program that will impact its main network operators.

The IPv6 Task Force France will be present at the IPv6 Pavillion (stand J36) of Networkworld + Interop Paris 2003, to welcome interested professionals who wish to witness demonstration highlights on the IPv4-IPv6 transition and applications, as well as to be informed on deployment best practices.

About the IPv6 Task Force France

The IPv6 Task Force France represents both the French public and private sector, including organisations in research and development as well as the academic community. It's principal mission is to coordinate and streamline, at a national level, the development and deployment activities built around the new internet protocol, IPv6. The Task Force is therefore, actively involved in all efforts of education and promotion, highlighting new capabilities and richer applications the new generation internet can bring, while extending its lobbying efforts to represent the interest of its members and France at the international level.

A steering committee, comprising of leading industry players such as 6WIND, AFNIC, Alcatel, France Télécom R&D, G6, RENATER, Renault and civil societies, manages the coordination of activities driven by the Task Force. The committee is presided over by Patrick Cocquet, who is also the Vice-President of the international IPv6 Forum, the Vice-Chairman of the China IPv6 Council, and the Chairman of 6WIND.

The Task Force has today, 250 members and is open to all parties interested in proactively using IPv6 to effect an internet revolution that will impact positively on everyday life.

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