

NEWS Letter

EDITORIAL

2006 has been a very active year for eMobility as well as within the communications sector as a whole. eMobility now has over 400 member organisations, a mature Strategic Research Agenda in its 5th Version, and active Working Groups. Through their many contributions to the Strategic Research Agenda, eMobility members have made a strong contribution to the development of an innovative workplan for Framework Programme 7 addressing the societal and economic challenges that are faced by Europe. Earlier this year, eMobility defined and promoted Simplicity, Efficiency and Trust (SET) as the most desired characteristics of future communications systems and has been promoting these priorities in presentations at numerous conferences and workshops during the year.

As you, our members, start your preparation for proposals for new projects in Framework Programme 7 of the European Union, providing you with networking possibilities is one of the eMobility objectives. eMobility is adding to the networking opportunities offered by the Working Group and General Assembly meetings by establishing a new wiki web site where our members can present their organisations and their interests in joining collaborative projects. We encourage all members to enter their interests on the site at <http://wiki.ist-embility.org> and to join our increasingly active and influential working groups. Working together, we can make the eMobility vision a reality.

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New version of the SRA

The Strategic Research Agenda Version 5 was published on the web page in August 2006.

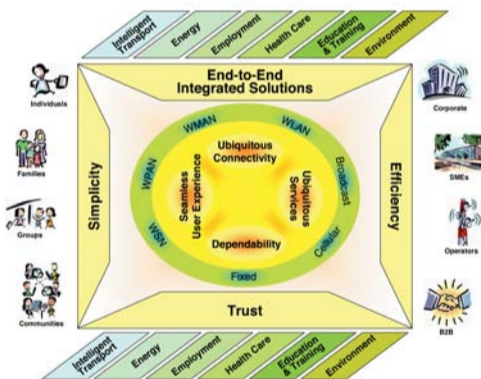
The newly developed concept of Simplicity, Efficiency and Trust (SET) is described in Version 5. The SET concept can be used to drive research in Europe as well to place emphasis on these strategically important technologies. The impact of proposed research on the three axis of SET can be evaluated as a tool in prioritising research topics.

Together with descriptions of newly identified technologies, a new chapter describes the expectations of other industry sectors on mobile and wireless technologies.

The biggest improvements of the SRA 5 are on the overall clarity, readability, richness and structure of the document.

Version 5 was provided to the European Commission as input to the first work plan for Framework Programme 7. Reactions to the document were very positive.

The next version of the Strategic Research Agenda will be published in May 2007. The eMobility general membership will be invited in an open call to contribute to the next document, as for the previous versions.



SRA Abstract

By the year 2020, mobile and wireless communications will play a central role in all aspects of European citizens' lives, not just telephony, and will be a major influence on Europe's economy, wirelessly enabling every conceivable business endeavour and personal lifestyle.

The following sentence articulates the essence of the future aims and vision:

"The improvement of the individual's quality of life, achieved through the availability of an environment for instant provision and access to meaningful, multi-sensory information and content".

Realisation of this vision demands a major shift from the current concept of "anywhere, anytime" to a new

paradigm of "any network, any device, with relevant content and context in a secure and trustworthy manner".

The future systems will be complex, consisting of a multitude of service and network types ranging across Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN), Personal Area, Local Area, Home Networks, Moving Networks to Wide Area Networks. The increasing dependency of society on such communication infrastructure requires new approaches and an emphasis in European research captured here in a new concept called the "SET Concept" that underscores the need for a 3-dimensional vision of research activities that will deliver Simplicity, Efficiency and Trust.



Over 160 participants attended the General Assembly in Heidelberg

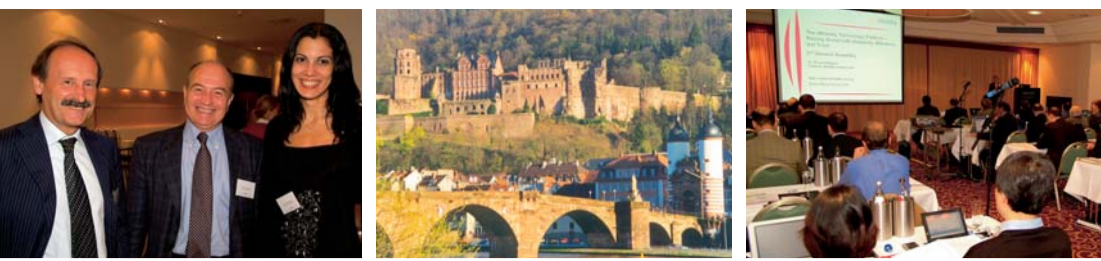
The Heidelberg weather might have been grey and wintry outside during the 2nd eMobility General Assembly on 14th November 2006, but in the warm, bright conference room, the buzz of participants talking to each other in the breaks between presentations showed that the objective of offering members an informative set of presentations as well as a good networking opportunity had been achieved. Over 160 participants attended the meeting, using the full capacity of the meeting room. Many planned to stay on for the co-located Wireless World Research Forum meeting taking place on the following three days.

"Mobile communications will have a budget of 200 MEuro and the first Call for Proposals in this area will be published early next year" said Mr. Rainer Zimmerman, presenting the European Commission's perspective on the 7th Framework Programme during the morning session. Many eMobility members expect to be partners in proposals to be submitted to Calls 1 and 2 of the Framework Programme. "The eMobility concepts of Simplicity, Efficiency and Trust have to become key issues for all projects in

Framework Programme 7" said Prof. Rahim Tafazolli when presenting the 5th Version of the eMobility Strategic Research Agenda. Prof. Tafazolli proposed that members making proposals should describe the relationship of the work they propose to the SET concept in the introductory text in their proposals.

Presentations on the work of the platform in the past year by Fiona Williams and on the on-going work of the Post-IP and Broadband for Europe working groups by Prof. Tafazolli and Werner Mohr attracted a lot of questions to the presenters in the meeting breaks. Two newly formed working groups on "Advanced Applications" and "Roadmap for Beyond 3G" were presented by Prof. Correia and Didier Bourse and members are invited to join both the new and existing working groups. Information on how to join working groups as well as the copies of the slides shown during the General Assembly are available on the web site.

Please find the presented slides on the web page <http://www.embility.eu.org/GA2/GA2.html>



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Membership grows steadily

The eMobility Technology Platform membership gives all member organisations the possibility to influence where the research related to future communication systems in the area of mobile and wireless is going within the EU's Framework Programme 7, national and Eureka programmes. Members will receive up-to-date information at eMobility General Assemblies, Workshops and other events and can join the working groups. Members also have the opportunity to contribute and provide feedback to the Strategic Research Agenda.

The eMobility Technology Platform has currently (01 November 2006) 410 members from 30 EU countries.

In addition to the research, industry and SME members, there are liaison and observer members.

Research domain members:	160
Industry domain members:	98
SME domain members:	152
Liaison and observer members:	20

Janez Potocnik

(Commissioner Science & Research)

"I would strongly plead for the Technology Platforms to look at opportunities for investing in R&D and innovation in the context of the Structural Funds"



Aho-Report

"European technology platforms are needed to create and to take advantage of innovation-friendly markets"

New Working Groups

Post-IP in focus

A Working Group on "Roadmaps and milestones for Post-IP R & D" was established in September and held its first meeting in October. The objective of the group is to provide a common framework of milestones for proposers preparing project proposals early next year and to structure the activities in the domain on a voluntary basis.

- The Terms of reference are established in a draft form
- Contributions to the white paper should be sent to the Working Group Chairman, Prof. Rahim Tafazolli.

Broadband for Europe

A new Working Group was established to look into the potential of using Structural Funds in combination with FP 7 and other instruments to boost the development of Europe's broadband networks and services.

Objective is to enable the synergy effects within Europe of a coordinated introduction of broadband services and infrastructures to form a European Broadband Info structure.

First drafts of ideas have being put on paper. A first meeting took place on October 13, 2006. The group is chaired by Dr. Werner Mohr.

Liaisons

The eMobility Technology Platform aim is to reinforce Europe's leadership in mobile and wireless communications and services and to master the future development of this technology. One of the objectives of the platform is to create awareness at a national and international level of the potential of mobile and wireless systems and their applications to support social and economic advance.

The above mentioned objective liaisons with at least 12 national and European initiatives and organisations have been established.



ALIPRO is a Specific Support Action supported by the EC, aiming at supporting the alignment of the new Member States' national and regional research programmes with European IST research in the area of mobile technologies, applications, and services

Advanced Satellite Mobile Systems (ASMS) Task Force



CELTIC - Telecommunication Solutions through Collaborative Research



CISTRANA is a Specific Support Action supported by the EC, aiming at achieving coordination of national ICT programmes with each other and with European RTD programmes



DIMES is a joint industry activity to promote the success of Finnish ICT applications industry. It contributes to build up projects for EU research and development



EPISTEP is a FP6 project which aims at enhancing SME participation in IST European Technology Platforms (ETP).



ETSI - European Standards Organisation



ISOC Belgium - Internet Society representatives in Belgium



Mobile VCE - The members' subscriptions jointly fund a world class, long term, industry-defined & steered research programme which is undertaken by an integrated team from the UK's leading research universities in mobile comms. The Board of Directors includes Vodafone, Siemens, Nokia, France Telecom/ Orange & Lucent.



WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM - aiming at leading the web to its full potential through creating industry standards



Initiative launched by Telenor, SINTEF (largest research institute in Norway) and the Norwegian trade association „Abelia" - seems like a national version of eMobility



WWRF - Worldwide research forum on wireless communications