

## Commission Decision on the Implementation Phase for Multimedia Content Development Projects

On 5 November the European Commission announced the formal results of the Implementation Phase evaluation of INFO2000 multimedia content projects.

### Background

As a result of the call for proposals launched under the INFO2000 Programme on 21 June 1996, 80 proposals for Definition Phase projects were selected for initial EU support. Definition Phase projects commenced on 1 January 1997 for a six-month period. The Definition Phase contracts covered projects addressing the four sectors set out in the original INFO2000 call.

### Implementation Phase

As a result of the evaluation process twenty nine (29) projects were short listed. A total of 10.7 MECUs is the recommended funding for the 29 projects, during the Implementation Phase. The projects selected fell into the categories as follows: Economic exploitation of Europe's cultural heritage (13 projects); Business service for firms, in particular SMEs (7 projects); Geographic Information (5 projects); Scientific, technical and Medical Information (4 projects).

### Project content

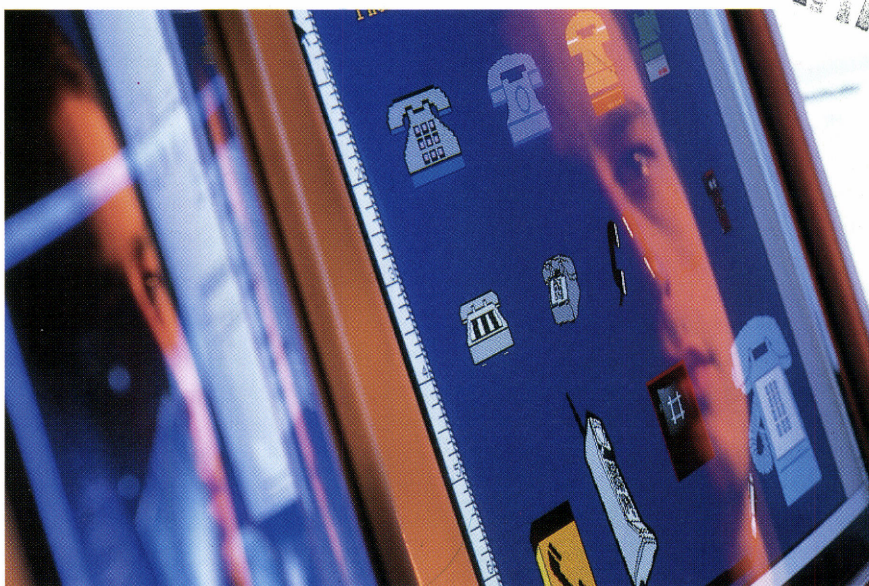
The various topics illustrate the far-reaching thematic possibilities the categories selected by the Commission offered. However, the category most represented by number of projects is that of "Economic exploitation of Europe's cultural heritage". Projects were also selected within the area of scientific, technical and medical Information.

### Further Information

The fact sheets, listed by project number, can be seen on the I\*M Europe server:  
<http://www.echo.lu/info2000/en/mm-projects/project-toc.html>

## New calls for proposals under INFO2000

LIBRARY



### Call for proposals to stimulate the development and use of multimedia information content - trading multimedia intellectual property rights

In the framework of the Council Decision of 20 May 1996 (OJ L 129/24 of 30.05.1996) adopting a multi annual Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society (INFO2000), the European Commission invites proposals for pilot or exploratory projects with the following object:

### To contribute to the enhancement of the current multimedia rights trading environment in the Union by increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of multimedia rights clearance processes between rightholders and multimedia product developers.

For the purposes of the Call, multimedia rights clearance is defined as the process whereby multimedia producers search for relevant components, assess the

legal status of these components and seek to obtain from the rightholders (or their representatives) the required rights for the intended reuse of components in a multimedia product.

Multimedia Rights Clearance Systems (MMRCS) are likely to provide the following functionality: digital storage of components and competent descriptions, identification and searchability of components, previewing of components, provision of reliable legal status and licensing information, support for various contractual schemes, secure delivery of components, support for multiple payment and security mechanisms, and integration with asset management, production and exploitation of environments.

Proposals may address one or more of the following areas: texts (books, magazines, newspapers, manuscripts,...), still images (photos, graphics, paintings, maps, architecture, sculptures,...), moving images (video, animation, special effects, pantomime, choreography, motion picture,...), and audio (music,

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sound effects, sound recordings, MIDI, narration, voice-overs in a motion picture, ...).

Proposals contributing to the integration and interoperation of distributed specialised clearance services at European level and proposals favouring the reuse of public sector controlled components at the European level will be particularly welcomed. Both sector integration approaches (e.g. integration of text-based component collections across Europe) and cross-sector integration approaches (e.g. integration of text, image, sound component collection across different Member States) may be proposed. Proposals should be supported by the relevant European federations or associations, show substantial user involvement and indicate their potential to contribute to the realisation of one or more of the information society policy objectives in terms of job creation, lifelong learning, efficient, transparent and response government, democracy, social cohesion, regional cohesion, and culture and linguistic diversity. Proposals contributing to the solution of specific problems of SMEs will be particularly welcomed.

Projects may cover feasibility studies, prototype development, standards development pilot system development and evaluation, awareness actions and other actions or a combination of these elements, depending on specific sector requirements and state of development.

The principal organisations considered to be able to participate are the various rightholders in the rights transmission, chain, both from the public and private sectors.

In order that interested organisations may make public their readiness to collaborate in such projects, the Commission is making available on its Internet site: <http://www.echo.lu/calls.html> an open space where potential projects may be sketched out. Interested organisations may also wish to consult information about EU RTD projects addressing electronic copyright management systems (ECMS), available on <http://www.cordis.lu/>

Community financial support is based on actual costs incurred, normally labour costs and travel costs over a two-year period. The support will be calculated at up to 50% of those costs, subject to a ceiling of 250.000 ECU per project. The Community financial contribution under the present programme may not be cumulated with a payment from any other European Community programme or source for the same project. An indicative budget for the support of actions from this call is 2.2 MECU.

#### **Call for proposals for strategic projects to stimulate the development and use of multimedia information content / exploiting content resources in the public sector**

In the framework of the Council Decision of 20 May 1996 (OJ No. L 129/24 of 30.5.1996) adopting a multi-annual Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society (INFO2000), the European Commission invites proposals for strategic projects with the following aim:

#### **To make more readily available the information resources held by the public sector for exploitation in European multimedia content service.**

The projects should focus on specific types of information that have high value for Europe's business, industry, research and citizens. Relevant resources are principally those held by the public sector at regional national and transnational levels; where appropriate, however, projects will also integrate data from other sources in the private sector. A core activity of projects will be to establish public-private partnerships covering as many as possible of the countries of the European Economic Area, where data holders are allied with organisations, particularly those in the private sector, competent to add value and facilitate the pan-European exploitation of the resources concerned. The end objective shall be to make comprehensive European information accessible for multimedia exploita-

tion in commercial and other applications and an important part of the work will focus on the creation of inventories and directories to facilitate such access. It will also be generally necessary to set up adequate systems for integrating data across national boundaries and, where relevant, across neighbouring subject areas. End-user applications and prototypes may be developed, in the course of the project, to demonstrate strategies for multimedia delivery taking account of potential user needs, current research and technological development, and integration into systems for electronic commerce. Therefore, proposals with substantial involvement of the content industry, in particular SMEs, will be welcome.

In order to stimulate the exchange of information between organisations competent to collaborate in such projects, the Commission is making available on its Internet site:

<http://www.echo.lu/calls.html>

a space where potential initiatives may be sketched out. Organisations that possess or have access to relevant information resources of significant size or extent are invited to consult this page and to submit any commentaries or suggestions for projects.

Examples of public sector information qualifying for attention under this call are: geographic information, both topographical and thematic; statistical information; environmental, consumer and public health information; employment and social information, regulations and administrative dispositions, standards, scientific and technical data, public archives, information on the activities and organisation of public administrations. Projects will be expected to take full account of and contribute where possible to existing national and European initiatives in the relevant subject areas.

Community financial support is based on actual costs incurred, normally labour costs and travel costs over a two-year work period. The support will be calculated at up to 50% of those costs and may be up to 500 000 ECU per project. The Community financial contribution

under the present programme may not be cumulated with a payment from any other European Community programme or source for the same project. An indicative budget for the support actions resulting from this call is 7 000 000 ECU.

Both calls for proposals are open to entities, whether private or public, within the European Economic Area (EEA). All projects must be transnational in scope and include cooperation between independent partners across national borders.

All proposals responding to these calls must be addressed to the Commission at the address indicated in this notice and sent by registered post or by courier service by 17.00 on 17 April 1998 at the latest, the postmark or receipt by post office or courier service being proof of time of dispatch. Proposals may be delivered to one of the Commission's offices within the Community by the same date.

Further information on both calls and the conditions for submitting proposals may be obtained from the following address:

INFO2000 Central Office  
European Commission  
DG XIII-E, EUFO 1179  
L-2920 Luxembourg  
Fax +352-4301-32847  
E-mail: info2000@echo.lu

All related documentation may also be obtained by access to the World Wide Web server I\*M Europe  
<http://www.echo.lu/>

## INFO2000 Work Programme Overview

STIMULATING DEMAND AND RAISING AWARENESS - Creating New Markets by Raising Awareness at the European Level with Specific User Groups.

EXPLOITING EUROPE'S PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION - Developing Policies to Access and Exploit European Public Sector Information Action Line; Linking Directories of European Public Sector Information Action Line; Making Use of Content Resources in The Public Sector.

TRIGGERING EUROPEAN MULTIMEDIA POTENTIAL - Catalysing High-Quality European Multimedia Content; Trading Multimedia Intellectual Property Rights.

SUPPORT ACTIONS - Observing and Analysing the Multimedia Content Market; Spreading the use of multimedia content standards; Encouraging Skills Development at European Level.

### Supporting strategic planning in the content industry

Following a call for tender published in May 1997, a strategic study is currently under way on Content and Commerce-Driven Strategies in Global Networks. This study, to produce its final conclusions by October 1998, is expected to help both public authorities in policy formulation and industry actors to develop winning strategies for improved efficiency and competitiveness in the exploitation and use of Information Content, in the context of global networking and the electronic trading marketplace.

INFO2000 is also active in developing actions that are needed to advance regulatory aspects, which are a prerequisite to boosting growth in the content industry: it was closely involved in the organisation of the major Ministerial conference on Global Information Networks in Bonn in July 1997; it has prepared the Communication on Illegal and Harmful Content on the Internet and it is now proceeding in the definition of a new programme on Safe Use of the Internet.

A communication on Geographic Information called GI2000 is also being prepared and is expected to be adopted by the Commission shortly before being sent to other European Institutions.

All documentation, and further information on the INFO2000 programme can be obtained from the INFO2000 Central Office:

Tel.: +352-401162-222  
Fax: +352-4301-32847  
E-mail: info2000@echo.lu  
<http://www.echo.lu/>

## What is Information Engineering?

Information Engineering is one of thirteen Sectors of the Telematics Applications Programme, and is managed by Directorate General XIII/E, located in Luxembourg. Information Engineering aims to permit easier and more selective access and better usability of electronic information in all its forms through the application of Telematics based methods and systems. With a budget of nearly 40 MECU, the work covers the principal links in the information chain (electronic publishing, dissemination and retrieval along with payments and rights acknowledgement) and has specific focus on the usability of digital media and content. Information Engineering projects intend to experiment with new types of information and publishing services, which in many cases will stimulate job creation and provide improved services for the citizen. Projects funded under Information Engineering include those that deal with content areas and technologies such as geographic information, digital studio production, wireless Web, publishing "engines" and animation. Free studies are available on "Electronic Publishing in Europe", "The Content Challenge", "Interactive Digital Media" and a milestone report on the "Future of Content".

Further information can be obtained from:

European Commission  
DG XIII/E-4, EUFO 1295  
E-mail:  
Bernard.SMITH@LUX.DG13.CEC.BE



# The European Commission approves Action Plan on Promoting Safe Use of the Internet

An Action Plan on promoting safe use of the Internet was approved by the European Commission on 26 November 1997. The Action Plan is the follow up of earlier initiatives by the European Union, and refers directly to the 16 October 1996 Communication on Illegal and Harmful Content on the Internet and Green Paper on Protection of Minors and Human Dignity in Audiovisual and Information Services, and the Parliament resolutions of 24 April 1997 and 24 October 1997.

The Action Plan is closely linked with the Commission Communication and proposal for a Recommendation of 19 November 1997, which outlines political measures on protection of minors and human dignity in the audiovisual services. The two documents are proposed at the initiative of Martin Bangemann, Commissioner in charge of Industry, Information Technologies and Telecommunications, and Marcelino Oreja, Commissioner in charge of Cultural and Audiovisual Affairs. The documents are complementary as regards timing and scope. The Recommendation of 19 November outlines measures to be considered by Member States to establish Codes of Conduct in the audiovisual services as well as on the Internet. The Action Plan contains concrete actions that aims at ensuring user confidence, fostering an environment favourable to the growing European Internet industry and combating illegal and harmful content.

## Background

The Internet is currently revolutionising a number of economic sectors and is becoming a powerful element in social, educational and cultural fields. Never before has such vast amounts of information and services been available to the citizens. New forms of communication are developing and participation in interest groups is made available to everyone.

Europe is eager to realise the full potential of the Internet and will encourage the further development of the Internet for business use, educational use and private use. However, like any other communication technologies, the Internet can carry illegal or potentially harmful contents or be misused as a vehicle for criminal activities. Although, statistically a limited phenomenon, these aspects are too important to be ignored. If left unanswered they could become the object of strong resistance to Internet use, thus hampering a development which has the promise of extensive and varied benefits to all sectors of society.

As regards the distribution of illegal content on the Internet, it is clearly the responsibility of Member States to ensure the application of existing laws, for example criminal law, intellectual property legislation and protection of minors. However, the proper functioning of the Internal Market demands that there should be no distortions of competition, obstacles to the free circulation of these services, and a re-fragmentation of the Internal Market. Co-ordinated action against illegal content at EU-level is therefore required next to co-ordinated international action.

At the same time, Internet's technical features, world-wide extension and unlimited accessibility makes the application and enforcement of existing rules more difficult. Furthermore, nobody "owns" the Internet, which can be used by everybody all over the world. New legislation may therefore not be the best or the most efficient tool to fight harmful or illegal content.

Previous EU initiatives and consultation with the Internet industry, users and decision makers, have concluded that an important element in resolving these challenges, will be strengthening industry self control, the use of technical solutions such as rating systems and filtering software and awareness actions.

## The Action Plan

The Action Plan is specifically aimed at actions where financial support from the Community is necessary. It builds on the political consensus that has emerged in the past eighteen months and on the findings of the Internet Working Party (1). It aims to:

- Incite the actors (industry, users) to develop and implement adequate systems of self-regulation;
- pump prime developments by supporting demonstrations and stimulating application of technical solutions;
- alert and inform parents and teachers, in particular through their relevant associations;
- foster co-operation and exchange of experiences and best practices;
- promote co-ordination across Europe and between actors concerned;
- ensure compatibility between the approach taken in Europe and elsewhere.

The Action Plan sets forth a number of measures in four action lines:

### 1. Creating a safe environment

Acknowledging the important self regulatory initiatives undertaken by the European Internet industry, the Commission will build on existing hot-line initiatives and encourage further initiatives on self-regulation and Codes of Conduct. Hot-lines have proved to be an efficient tool to gather information on illegal content. Information gathered through the hot-lines will be of vital importance to prevent that content considered illegal under current law, shall be allowed to flourish on international networks. The Global nature of the Internet however, requires these initiatives to be

(1) The Working Party was organised in accordance with the conclusions of the Telecommunications Council of September 27, 1996, requesting the European Commission inter alia to reconvene the Working Party as necessary to monitor progress and take further initiatives if appropriate and to coordinate the efforts of groups working in all relevant fields.

pan-European and indeed international. Action will be taken to establish networks of hot-lines and improve liaison with law enforcement. Implementation of Codes of Conduct will be supported along the lines of the 19 November recommendation.

## 2. Developing filtering and rating systems

Various means filtering and rating will be thoroughly examined in a European context, aiming at providing users with a palette of different tools to protect themselves and their families against undesirable material. The action line will be putting its focus on validation of rating systems in relation to European content providers, integration of rating into the content creation process, benefits of these technical solutions and provision of third party rating systems. Again, for solutions to be effective, initiatives will be taken to facilitate international agreement on rating systems.

## 3. Encouraging awareness actions

Closely linked with the other action lines, this action line will prepare the ground for awareness action by identifying multiplier bodies and most appropriate channels, media and content to reach the target audience, preparing basic material, and adapt it for linguistic and cultural specificities. The encouragement of full-scale awareness actions will be made through a call for proposals for follow-up action in the Member States.

## 4. Support actions

As no single measure in itself will be sufficient to improve the users possibility to protect themselves and to achieve the objectives of the plan, additional action will be taken to evaluate the impact of Community measures, to assess legal implications and co-ordinate with similar international initiatives.

### Co-ordination with other initiatives

Actions will be closely co-ordinated with the proposed Council Recommendation and the promotion of common guidelines for the implementation, at national

level, of a self-regulation framework for the protection of minors and human dignity in audiovisual and on-line information services.

The Action Plan will be implemented in consultation with the Internet industry, users and Member States. As the Internet covers the whole world, contacts with multinational bodies, such as the G7, OECD, ITU, WTO, UN and others, will be continued to make international efforts coherent. The use of existing networks established under other programs will be used to disseminate information about technical legal and other solutions.

## Information Services and Sources Meeting



**We are pleased to invite you to the above meeting, which will take place on Wednesday 10 December 1997 at the Hilton Olympia, Tower Room, 380 Kensington High Street, London W14 8NL. This year information will also be provided on new Calls for Proposals due to be launched under the INFO2000 and MLIS programmes in December 1997. The provisional agenda is as follows:**

08.45 Registration and Continental buffet breakfast.

### Information Service News

09.30 Welcome and introduction by Mr A. Szauer (EC, DG XIII-E, Luxembourg)

- 09.40 EUR-OP, EU Databases commercially available, Mrs J. Lowery-Kingston (EUR-OP, Luxembourg)
- 09.55 CORDIS, Mr P. Finch (EC, DG XIII-D, Luxembourg)
- 10.10 Developments on I\*M-EUROPE and ECHO (European Commission Host Organisation), Mr R. Haber (Central Support Team, Luxembourg)
- 10.25 Eurostat, Mr M. Lupo, (Eurostat, Luxembourg)
- 10.40 Questions/Answers.

### Programme Information

#### European Action for Multimedia Content

- 11.00 INFO2000 and related initiatives, Mr A. Szauer (EC, DG XIII-E, Luxembourg)
- 11.30 MIDAS-NET - Highlights of 1997, Ms J. Pretty (Central Support Team, Luxembourg)
- 11.45 The MLIS programme, Mr K. Stroerup, (DG XIII-E, Luxembourg)
- 12.00 The 5th Framework Programme for RTD, Mr F. Mastroddi, (DG XIII/E, Luxembourg)
- 12.15 Questions/Answers.

We look forward to seeing you on the European Union Stand (nos. 114, 132, 144) at the National Hall and Olympia 2.

Please confirm your attendance at the meeting on 10 December 1997 by telephone, fax or e-mail by Friday 5 December 1997 at the latest.

Tel.: (+352) 401162-200 / 222;  
Fax: (+352) 401162-234  
E-mail: user@echo.lu



# MIDAS-NET

## Mission Statements

This final issue of 1997 welcomes contributions from nodes in Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom. We look forward to bringing you more information on other nodes in the first issue of next year.

### Mission du Noeud MIDAS-NET en BELGIQUE

Le noeud belge MIDAS-NET est constitué d'un consortium d'organisations régionales impliquées dans la promotion des nouvelles technologies. Son but est de:

- sensibiliser les entreprises, les administrations et les citoyens aux possibilités offertes par les nouvelles technologies multimedia;
- leur prêter assistance pour l'introduction et l'utilisation de ces technologies dans leurs activités quotidiennes, par des actions ciblées d'information et de formation;
- promouvoir le développement et la dissémination de nouveaux produits et services d'information, correspondant à leurs besoins actuels et futurs.

### Taak van MIDAS-NET in BELGIË

Het Belgische MIDAS-NET knooppunt bestaat uit een consortium van gewestelijke organisaties betrokken bij de bevordering van nieuwe technologieën. Zijn doelstellingen zijn de volgende:

- ondernemingen, administraties en burgers bewust maken van de mogelijkheden van de nieuwe multimedia technologieën;
- hen begeleiden bij het gebruik van deze technologieën in hun dagelijkse activiteiten door middel van doelgerichte informatie en opleidingsacties;
- de ontwikkeling en de verspreiding van nieuwe multimedia diensten en producten bevorderen, welke aan hun huidige en toekomstige behoeften beantwoorden.

The URL for this country is:  
<http://www.midas.be/>

### Co-ordinator

Bruxelles Technopole "Technopol"  
Rue Gabrielle Petit, 4 bte 12  
B-1080 Brussels  
Contact: Mr. Ric Moonen  
Tel.: 32 2 422 00 20  
Fax: 32 2 422 00 43  
E-mail: rik.moonen@technopol.be

Activités: support au développement économique de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale à travers la stimulation de l'innovation dans les entreprises: information sur les nouvelles technologies, démonstration de résultats de recherche, collaboration avec les universités, transfert de technologies et mise en réseau transnational.

Activiteiten: ondersteuning van de economische ontwikkeling in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest door het stimuleren van innovatie in de ondernemingen: informatie over de nieuwe technologieën, demonstratie van onderzoeksresultaten, samenwerking met universiteiten, technologie-overdracht en transnationaal netwerken.

### Partners

DGTRE Gen. Dir. for Technology,  
Research and Energy  
Avenue Prince de Liège, 7  
B-5100 Namur  
Contact: Mr. Pierre Colle  
Tel.: 32 81 32 12 02  
Fax: 32 81 32 16 79  
E-mail: pierre.colle@mail.interpac.be

Activiteiten: bevordering en financiering van industrieel onderzoek en ontwikkeling in het Waals Gewest; bemiddelend organisme tussen Europese programma's en onderzoekspartners in het Gewest.

Activités: promotion et financement de la recherche et du développement industriels en Région Wallonne; relais entre les programmes européens et les

partenaires de la recherche dans la Région.

Flem. Institute for the Promotion of S&T  
Research IWT  
Bischoffsheimlaan, 25  
B-1000 Brussels  
Contact: Mr. Johan Bil  
Tel.: 32 2 223 00 33  
Fax: 32 2 223 11 81  
E-mail: jobi@iwt.be

Activités: promotion et financement de la recherche et du développement industriels en Région flamande; relais entre les programmes européens et les partenaires de la recherche dans la Région.

Activiteiten: bevordering en financiering van industrieel onderzoek en ontwikkeling in het Vlaams Gewest; bemiddelend organisme tussen Europese programma's en onderzoekspartners in het Gewest.

C.I.R.B. / C.I.B.G.  
Avenue des Arts, 20 – Bte 10  
B-1000 Brussels  
Contacts: Ms. Catherine Habig  
Tel.: 32 2 282 47 70  
Fax: 32 2 230 31 07  
E-mail: midas@cirb.irisnet.be

Activités: Organise, assure la promotion et soutient l'utilisation des technologies de l'information auprès des autorités locales et des différentes administrations régionales.

Activiteiten: Organiseert, promoot en ondersteunt het gebruik van informatietechnologieën door de plaatselijke overheden en de verschillende gewestelijke overheden.

TELEPORT BRUSSELS  
Buro & Design Center B4  
Esplanade du Heysel  
B-1020 Brussels  
Contact: Mr. Michel Weiler  
Tel.: 32 2 475 20 00  
Fax: 32 2 475 20 10  
E-mail: teleport@mail.interpac.be  
Activités: Formation des utilisateurs dans le cadre du projet pilote IRISnet; partici-

pants au projet EVENTS (Programme ADAPT), projet TERRICOM (Programme PACTE), prise de conscience et démonstration; organisation de déjeuners conférences pour les P.M.E. dans la Région de Bruxelles Capitale (p. ex. télébanking, Intranet, télémarketing,...). Teleport organise également des séminaires de formation pour des opérateurs de Call Centres.

Activiteiten: Gebruikersopleiding in het kader van het IRISnet pilootproject; deelname aan het EVENT Project (ADAPT Programma), TERRICOM Project (PACTE Programma), bewustmaking en demonstratie; organisatie van lunchvoordrachten voor KMO's in het Brussels Hoofdsedelijke Gewest (bv. Telebankieren, Intranet, telemarketing...). Teleport organiseert ook opleidingsseminaries voor Call Centre personeel.

Fédération nationale des chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de Belgique  
Nationale Federatie der Kamers voor Handel en Nijverheid van België  
Kunstlaan 1-2, B. 10,  
B-1210 Brussels  
Contact: Ms. Paula Palmans  
Tel.: 32 2 217 36 71  
Fax: 32 2 217 46 34  
E-mail: info@cci.be

Activités: La fédération nationale coordonne les activités des 28 chambres de commerce et d'industrie belges. Les chambres de commerce et d'industrie belges sont des organisations intersectorielles et comptent 30.000 membres. La diffusion d'informations auprès des P.M.E. est une de leurs activités principales.

Activiteiten: De Nationale Federatie coördineert de nationale activiteiten van de 28 Belgische Kamers voor Handel en Nijverheid. De Belgische Kamers voor Handel en Nijverheid zijn intersectorale organisaties en tellen samen 30.000 leden. Een van hun voornaamste activiteiten is het informeren van KMO's.

Netvision NV  
Parijsstraat 74  
B-3000 Leuven  
Contact: Ms. Karolien De Beul  
Tel.: 32 16 31 00 15  
Fax: 32 16 31 00 29  
E-mail: karo@netvision.be  
Activiteiten: Netvision is een internet-provider die beschikt over de

basiseenheden voor toegepaste technologie en het ontwerp van websites. Het bedrijf is opgesplitst in drie afdelingen; netwerken en infrastructuur, gegevensbanken en toepassingen, veiligheid.

Activités: Netvision est un fournisseur d'accès à Internet qui dispose des unités technologiques de base suivantes; l'ingénierie et la conception de sites Web. Le département ingénierie est lui-même subdivisé en 3 sous-unités; réseau et infrastructure, base de données et applications, sécurité.

CEDITI  
Centre de Diffusion des Technologies de l'information  
Avenue Georges Lemaître, 21  
B-6041 Charleroi  
Contact: Mr. Guy Vanden Bemden  
Tel.: 32 71 259 404  
Fax: 32 71 372 064  
E-mail: midas@cediti.be

Activités: CEDITI favorise l'utilisation efficace des technologies de l'information dans l'économie régionale, et particulièrement l'utilisation d'Internet et du multimédia.

Activiteiten: CEDITI promoot het efficiënt gebruik van IT in de regionale economie, in het bijzonder voor internet-en multimedietoepassingen.

GEI des CEI  
Centre d'Entreprises et d'Innovation wallon  
Avenue Général Michel, 1E  
B-6000 Charleroi  
Contact: Mr. Philippe Cherremont  
Tel.: 32 71 270 311  
Fax: 32 71 316 735  
E-mail: heracles@heracles.be

Activiteiten: Opsstellen en begeleiden van innovatieprojecten in de dienstensector en in de industrie.

Activités: Conception et encadrement de projets novateurs dans les secteurs industriels et des services.

#### **Mission of the MIDAS-NET node in IRELAND**

The mission of MIDAS-NET Ireland is to be the independent proactive advisory centre for networked multimedia: creating awareness and raising interest in the use of multimedia, particularly among

SMEs; demonstrating new products for business and industry; promoting champions in the user community for networked multimedia solutions; fostering the growth, within Ireland, of a strong market for multimedia products; and acting as the gateway, both from Ireland to the rest of Europe, and from Europe to Ireland, for multimedia products.  
The URL for this country is:  
<http://www.midas.ie/>

#### **Co-ordinator**

BTIS University of Limerick  
Business & Technical Information Service Limited  
IRL- Limerick  
Contact: Ms. Martina Flynn  
Tel.: 353 61 202428  
Fax: 353 61 202572  
E-mail: martina.flynn@ul.ie

Sonraí: Is é ról BTIS ná margadh le haghaidh eolais a spreagadh, ach go háirithe i measc fiontar beag & meánach in Éirinn. Gné eile ná freastal ar an margadh seo. Tá os cionn 300 custamaeir ag BTIS a bhaineann feidhm as an eagras mar aon-fhoinsé amháin eolais, cuid mhaith díobh ina gceannródaithe teicneolaíochta.

Description: The role of BTIS is to stimulate and serve the market for Information, primarily for small and medium sized enterprises in Ireland. BTIS has more than 300 customers, many involved in leading edge technology, who use BTIS as their sole source of information.

#### **Partners**

ARTHOUSE Multimedia Centre for the Arts  
Curved Street, Temple Bar  
IRL- Dublin  
Contact: Mr. Garry Cleere  
Tel.: 353 1 605 6800  
Fax: 353 1 605 6801  
E-mail: gcleere@arthouse.ie

Sonraí: Baineann ARTHOUSE leas as teicneolaíocht nua le healaíon a chumadh, a scaipeadh agus a spreagadh. Gníomhaíonn ARTHOUSE le dearbhú go mbaineann an earnáil ealaíne an leas is fearr as teicneolaíocht nua trí raon seirbhísí ealaíne, oidis agus eolais.

Description: ARTHOUSE, a Centre for the Arts, uses new technology as a means of making, disseminating and

promoting art. ARTHOUSE seeks to ensure that new technologies are used to the best advantage by the cultural sector, through artistic and training programmes and information services.

Irish Interactive Multimedia Association  
c/o Digital Media Centre, Aungier Street  
IRL- Dublin D2  
Contact: Mr Charlie Pritchard  
Tel.: 353 1 402 3047  
Fax: 353 1 402 3293  
E-mail: jmhoey@dit.ie

Sonraí: Bunaíodh an Chomhaltas mar eagrais ionadach don tionscal ilmheáin in Éirinn. Is Grúpa Sainshuime é agus soláithraíonn sé dáil do lucht forbartha, soláthair agus úsáide ilmheáin agus cothaíonn sé an earnáil.

Description: The Irish Interactive Multimedia Association, set up in 1994, is the representative body for the Irish multimedia industry. It is the national Special Interest Group and provides a forum for developers, providers and users of multimedia to foster and grow the multimedia sector.

Multimedia Technologies Ireland Ltd.  
National Technological Park, Plassey  
IRL- Limerick  
Contact: Mr. Seamus Gallen  
Tel.: 353 61 335301  
Fax: 353 61 202738  
E-mail: mti@ul.ie

Sonraí: Comhlacht i dteangmháil le meáin digiteacha é MTI a cheapann feidhmeanna don earnáil ghnó. Tá réitigh nua le haghaidh margáochta agus scaipeadh eolais theicniúil san áireamh. Cuireann MTI an-bhéim ar eolas sa mhargadh.

Description: MTI is a digital media communication company which creates multimedia applications for the business sector. This includes developing innovative multimedia solutions for marketing and technical information dissemination. To achieve this, MTI emphasise raising market awareness.

NUA  
Westland Court, South Cumberland  
Street  
IRL- Dublin D2  
Contact: Mr. Gerry McGovern  
Tel.: 353 1 676 8996  
Fax: 353 1 661 3932  
E-mail: gerry@nua.ie

Sonraí: Is príomhchomhairleoireacht mhargaíochta ar an Idirlíon í Nua, maraon le forbairtheoir ionad líonra, Cuirtear béim ar bhealaí nua practiciúla leis an Idirlíon a úsáid. Bhronn an tAE gradam an Rath Uilíoch is Suntasai ar Ghnó ar an Idirlíon i 1996 ar NUA.

Description: NUA is a premier Internet marketing consultancy and web site developer, which focusses on making the Internet working in innovative and practical ways for its clients. In 1996, NUA was presented with the Best Overall World Wide Web Business Achievement award by the EC.

Shannon Development  
IRL- Shannon, Co Clare  
Contact: Mr. John King  
Tel.: 353 61 361555  
Fax: 353 61 361903  
E-mail: kingj@shannon-dev.ie

Sonraí: Is é gnó an chomhlachta ná forbairt eacnamúil réigiúnda. Is é an cuspoir ná "Forbairt dlúth chomhtháthach leanúnach a spreagadh agus a chothú ar fud Limistéar na Sionainne". Raon imeachtaí atá i bhfeidhm le seo a bhaint amach.

Description: Shannon Development's business is regional economic development. Its mission is 'To initiate and support integrated development that will achieve sustained economic growth in and throughout the Shannon Region'. The Company achieves this by a series of approaches.

#### **Mission du noeud MIDAS-NET au LUXEMBOURG**

Le noeud MIDAS-NET Luxembourg a comme objectifs:

- de sensibiliser le public aux technologies multimédia au Luxembourg;
- de proposer de l'aide aux PME et aux groupes d'utilisateurs intéressés pour l'introduction de technologies multimédia;
- de mettre une plate-forme de présentation à la disposition des sociétés, des groupes d'utilisateurs et des projets-pilotes dans le domaine du multimédia.

Afin de remplir cette mission, MIDAS-NET Luxembourg offrira les services suivants:

- un bureau d'informations desservi par une personne désignée, ainsi qu'une adresse électronique;
- la création et la mise à jour du serveur [www.midas.lu](http://www.midas.lu);
- l'organisation d'activités, de campagnes de sensibilisation et de forums de discussion destinés aux PME et au grand public.

Afin d'assurer une mise à disposition d'informations transfrontalières, MIDAS-NET Luxembourg prévoit d'entretenir une coopération avec les noeuds MIDAS-NET des autres pays.

L'adresse URL pour le Luxembourg est: <http://www.midas.lu/>

#### **Mission of the MIDAS-NET node in LUXEMBOURG**

The MIDAS-NET node in Luxembourg has the aim to:

- raise general awareness concerning multimedia technologies in Luxembourg;
- offer assistance in the introduction of Multimedia technologies to interested SMEs and user - groups;
- offer a presentation platform for Multimedia companies, user-groups and pilot-projects.

In order to fulfil this mission MIDAS-NET Luxembourg will provide the following services:

- a human and electronic help-desk;
- the set-up and maintenance of the WWW server "[www.midas.lu](http://www.midas.lu)";
- organisation of events, awareness actions and discussion groups targeted at SMEs and the broad public.

For the provision of cross border information MIDAS-NET

Luxembourg will co-operate with the MIDAS-NET nodes in the other countries.

#### **Co-ordinator**

Centre de Recherche Public Henri Tudor  
Centre de Ressources Multimedia  
6, Rue Coudenhove Kalergi  
L-1359 Luxembourg  
Contact: Mr. Guy Kerger  
Tel.: 352 42 30 13 1  
Fax: 352 42 59 91 275  
E-mail: [info@midas.lu](mailto:info@midas.lu)



Description: Le CRP Henri Tudor travaille dans le domaine de l'innovation industrielle et du transfert de technologie. Le département multimédia est un centre de compétences. Il organise des actions de sensibilisation, de formation et de consultance et travaille en étroite collaboration avec l'industrie au développement du marché.

Description: The CRP Henri Tudor works in the field of Industrial Innovation and Technology Transfer. The multimedia department acts as a competence centre. It organises awareness actions, training and consulting, and co-operates with industry in the development of the market.

#### Partners

Chambre de Commerce  
7, Rue Alcide Gasperi  
L-2981 Luxembourg  
Contact: Mr. Paul Emering  
Tel.: 352 42 39 39 300  
Fax: 352 43 83 26  
E-mail: direction@cc.lu

Description: La Chambre de Commerce est une institution publique, qui représente les intérêts de tous les secteurs économiques, exceptés ceux de l'agriculture et de l'artisanat. La Chambre offre plusieurs services tels que la promotion professionnelle, l'assistance technique au niveau financier, légal et administratif, ainsi que l'accès aux bases de données, etc.

Description: The Chamber of Commerce is a public institution representing the interests of all economic sectors, except agriculture and handicrafts. The chamber offers various services, e.g. professional promotion and technical assistance in financial, legal and administrative fields, access to databases, etc.

CMLUX Chambre des Métiers  
2, Circuit de la Foire, BP 1604  
L-1016 Luxembourg  
Contact: Ms. Danièle Menster  
Tel.: 352 42 67 67 1  
Fax: 352 42 67 87  
E-mail: danièle.menster@batel.lu

Description: La Chambre des Métiers du Grand Duché de Luxembourg est une Chambre professionnelle de droit public. Elle assure une représentation nationale et transrégionale. Sa mission consiste en une sensibilisation, information et assis-

tance-conseil d'ordre économique, juridique et technique. La Chambre des Métiers dispose en outre d'un Centre de Formation et de Qualification et offre une vaste gamme de cours de formation professionnelle et continue.

Description: The Chambre des Métiers is a professional Chamber, which ensures regional and transregional representation. Its purpose is to raise awareness, and to provide information and assistance. The chamber offers many different services, including consultancy and training sessions.

Fondation Promomédia  
5, Rue Large  
L-1917 Luxembourg  
Contact: Mr Marco Sgreccia  
Tel.: 352 478 21 75  
Fax: 352 47 56 62  
E-mail: msgrec@pt.lu

Description: Promomédia dirige la promotion des activités dans le secteur de l'audio-visuel. Promomédia réalise le Media Desk Luxembourg, qui est une initiative de la CE, dont l'objectif est d'informer les professionnels de l'audio-visuel sur les potentialités du programme communautaire "Media".

Description: Promomédia is in charge of the promotion of activities in the audio-visual sector. Promomédia manages the Media Desk Luxembourg, which is an initiative of the EC, aimed at informing the professionals in the audio-visual sector about all opportunities arising from the media program.

#### SCOTLAND and NORTHERN IRELAND

The URL for Scotland and Northern Ireland is:  
<http://www.midas-net.org.uk/>

#### Co-ordinator

Scottish Enterprise  
120 Bothwell Street  
UK-G2 7JP Glasgow  
Contact: Ms. Lorna Cullen  
Tel.: 44 141 228 2423  
Fax: 44 141 228 2882  
E-mail: lorna.cullen@midas-net.org.uk

Description: Scottish Enterprise (SE), a National Economic Development Agency, coordinates and participates in the MIDAS-NET activities for Scotland and N. Ireland. Currently active in the

area of multimedia and Information Society related developments, SE has a long history of creating and delivering awareness and support activities for the business and SME communities. It also liaises with an Advisory Group of relevant multiplier organisations to maximise the effect of the MIDAS-NET awareness campaign in this region.

#### Partners

aBaCus Partnership  
Rivers Edge  
15 Ravenhill Road  
UK-BT6 8DN Belfast  
Contact: Dr. Robert Bunn  
Tel.: 44 1232 461533  
Fax: 44 1232 461534  
E-mail: robert.bunn@midas-net.org.uk

Description: aBaCus Partnership is a private consultancy enterprise with a science and technology focus. It can draw on many years' experience in providing advice and project management skills for local and European programmes. aBaCus targets multiplier organisations, the public sector, citizens via libraries, the press, and SMEs in a personal capacity, thereby complementing the activities carried out in N. Ireland by its MIDAS-NET partner, IRTU.

IRTU The Industrial Research and Technology Unit  
The Information Superhighway Centre - Industrial Science Centre  
17 Antrim Road  
UK-BT28 3AL Lisburn, Co. Antrim  
Contact: Mrs. Rosie Goodwin  
Tel.: 44 1846 623138  
Fax: 44 1846 676054  
E-mail: superhighway.irtu@midas-net.org.uk

Description: The Industrial Research and Technology Unit (IRTU) is an Executive Agency within the Department of Economic Development. Under the Information Society Initiative Programme for Business, IRTU operates a Superhighway Centre offering expert guidance and hands-on demonstrations of popular multimedia applications. To highlight the opportunities associated with multimedia technology, the Centre provides impartial advice through seminars, personal demonstrations and good practice guides. IRTU coordinates the MIDAS-NET Help Desk for the Scotland/Northern Ireland node.

Pharos Scientific Limited  
Gateway East  
Technology Park  
UK-DD2 1SW Dundee  
Contact: Dr. Richard Callison  
Tel.: 44 1382 429000  
Fax: 44 1382 429001  
E-mail: richard.callison@midas-net.org.uk

Description: Pharos Scientific, through its partner Scotland Online, operates as an Internet Services Provider, and has worked with all types of organisations including SMEs, local government bodies, city and rural councils, and chambers of commerce. In conjunction with the University of Dundee, Pharos set up, and is responsible for maintaining the node's Web site, as well as providing expertise in electronic information provision.

University of Dundee Department of Medical Physics  
Ninewells Hospital & Medical School  
UK-DD1 9SY Dundee  
Contact: Dr. Ian Chapman  
Tel.: 44 1382 632604  
Fax: 44 1382 640177  
E-mail: ian.chapman@midas-net.org.uk

Description: The University of Dundee, through the Department of Medical Physics, contributes to presentations at seminars and workshops, organised on behalf of the Scotland/Northern Ireland node. When required, it makes its computer facilities available for demonstrations of popular multimedia content materials. It co-manages the node Web Site, including frequent updating, and contributes to the node Newsletters. The Department provides demonstrations at exhibitions and conferences pertinent to MIDAS-NET objectives.

#### ENGLAND and WALES

The URL for England & Wales is:  
<http://www.magnet.org/ukmmsig/midasnet.htm>

#### Co-ordinator

UK MM-SIG LTD  
The Old Office Block  
Elmtree Road  
UK-TW11 8ST Teddington, Middx  
Contact: Mr. Neil Sandford  
Tel.: 44 181 977 7670  
Fax: 44 181 943 3377  
E-mail: mmsig-admin@ukerna.ac.uk

Description: UK MM-SIG will co-ordinate, project-manage and provide centralised support to participants in the MIDAS-NET node. This will include formal liaison with the Department of Trade and Industry at a national level and with DGXIII. It will participate primarily in the information and promotional aspects of the work to be done.

#### Partners

Coventry University Enterprises Ltd  
Priory Street  
UK-CV1 5FB Coventry  
Contact: Mr. Keith Goodall  
Tel.: 44 1203 838143  
Fax: 44 1203 221396  
E-mail: mirc@coventry.ac.uk

Description: MIRC will expand existing services of the Midlands IRC to promote uptake of multimedia information/content applications in the region, especially among SMEs. MIRC will participate in all work packages: collecting and distributing information, promoting meetings, providing demonstration facilities and promoting the group locally.

Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Technology Network  
Batley Business & Technology Centre,  
Grange Road  
UK-WF17 6ER Batley, W. Yorkshire  
Contact: Mr. Steven Napier  
Tel.: 44 1924 423430  
Fax: 44 1924 445059  
E-mail: rtn@bbtc.org.uk

Description: RTN will expand the existing services of the Northern IRC to promote uptake of multimedia information/content applications in the region, especially among SMEs. RTN will participate in all work packages; collecting and distributing information, promoting meetings, providing demonstration facilities and promoting the group locally.

Information & Communication Industries Association  
c/o TLI, Bulldog House, London Road  
UK-RG10 9HD Twyford, Berks  
Contact: Ms. Jackie Drake  
Tel.: 44 1189 321674  
Fax: 44 1189 321676  
E-mail: icia@hypertrails.com

Description: ICIA and its members will support other MIDAS-NET partners through its particular expertise in the information and communication indus-

tries, including WWW and HelpLine development, providing training and support for staff in the IRCs, participating in meetings and demonstrations and gathering sectoral information.

The International Visual Communication Association  
Bolsover House, 5/6 Clipstone Street  
UK-W1P 8LD London  
Contact: Mr. Nick Gardiner  
Tel.: 44 171 580 0962  
Fax: 44 171 436 2606  
E-mail: 100434.1005@compuserve.com

Description: IVCA and its members provide specific expertise in the corporate communications and audio-visual sectors. It will collate information from these sectors, provide support for regional demonstrations and meetings and co-ordinate promotional activities at a national level. IVCA will also target the many SME producers among its membership.

Open Learning Foundation Ltd  
3, Devonshire Street  
UK-W1N 2BA London  
Contact: Mr. Tony Dick  
Tel.: 44 171 636 4186  
Fax: 44 171 636 2163  
E-mail: volnet@cityscape.co.uk

Description: VOLNET will develop its existing multimedia demonstration and support services, especially targeting SMEs in the London/South East region, and supporting regional IRCs through its experience of running its existing services. VOLNET will assist other London-based partners in promotion and information gathering/dissemination.

Welsh Development Agency (WDA)  
Principality House, The Friary  
UK-CF1 4AE Cardiff  
Contact: Ms. Julia Nicholls  
Tel.: 44 1222 828858  
Fax: 44 1222 640030  
E-mail: 100065.3127@compuserve.com

Description: WDA will expand the existing services of the Wales IRC to promote uptake of multimedia information/content applications in the region, especially among SMEs. WDA will participate in all work packages: collecting and distributing information, promoting meetings, providing demonstration facilities and promoting the group locally.

# CORDIS

## End of the Year Overview and New Challenges for 1998

Fifty-eight thousand active monthly users (September figures) know CORDIS as the leading R&D information service in Europe. This is confirmed by an in-depth recent survey, which shows that CORDIS has established itself as THE successful R&D information service, and has no major competition. The only alternative when finding suitable partners and EU-funded projects is the use of personal contacts.

"I consider myself to be a representative of the majority of users; I consider that, roughly speaking, CORDIS is a success," comments Michel Lacave Professor at the University of Montpellier and Associate Consultant with Lacave, Allemand & Associés.

"Users appear to be very committed to CORDIS," was the overall impression of Jill Goulder, Researcher with Wirthlin-Europe. By introducing a number of new, user-friendly features, CORDIS has come a long way in the past year, in terms of improving upon quality and usability.

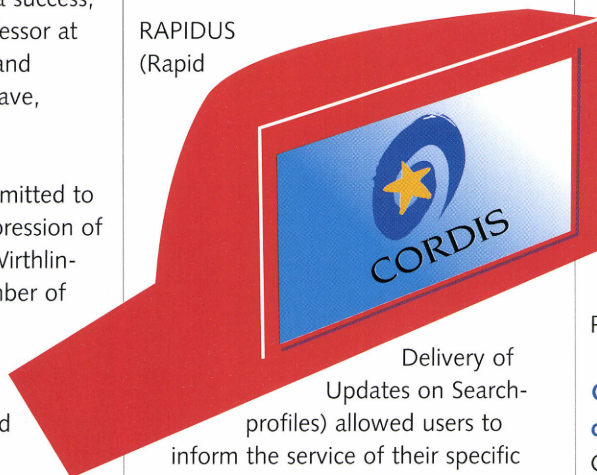
Since February, CORDIS Focus, the European Community RTD news bulletin, previously distributed only in print form, has become widely available via the Internet. In October, its language coverage expanded to include Italian and Spanish.

Most favourite among users is the News Database, which was enhanced in May, to also include Spanish and Italian along with the already existing three European languages (English, French and German). The CORDIS CD-ROM, produced on a quarterly basis and using "Watch-CORDIS" interface designed for a Windows environment, is another medium praised by users.

When information on the on-going Dutch Presidency was made available on the web via a new homepage launched in January 1997, users welcomed the idea. The feature was continued by the addition of a Luxembourg Presidency homepage in July and will be extended to include data on the British Presidency this coming January.

### Two new, time-saving features were launched in the months of September and October:

RAPIDUS  
(Rapid



Delivery of Updates on Search-profiles) allowed users to inform the service of their specific search interest and receive automatic notification each time new data pertaining to their specified search-profile is added to the CORDIS database. Utilising new "push" technology, RAPIDUS was cited by CORDIS users as "a great threshold to a real improvement" (Juergen Wuest, Forschungszentrum, Karlsruhe, Germany). During the first month of its launch, RAPIDUS users reached 324; the number of search-profiles stored amounted to a total of 617. A new, searchable Document library was another improvement, which allowed users to perform searches faster.

"Both as an academic and as a consultant, I am especially interested in the Document Library," comments Michel

Lacave, "and, of course, as you can well imagine, I am especially happy with RAPIDUS – it corresponds to what I was expecting."

To reach out to its current and potential clientele, CORDIS is present at a number of events throughout Europe on a regular basis. This year, for example, the service had representation in 58 events covering the majority of European countries.

Further enhancements to the service are currently underway as CORDIS strives to achieve a new, reorganized look and to provide tools for easier navigation. Future directions for CORDIS, in view of the upcoming 5th Framework Programme, were recently discussed at a Panel Discussion held in Brussels on 22 October. The modification and expansion of the service to better suit user needs (i.e. time-saving features, navigation tools, etc) and to serve as a means of communication among European organisations seems to be a necessity. As the central source of R&D information in Europe, CORDIS has a significant role to play under the new Framework Programme commencing in 1998.

Please Note:

### Contact details for CORDIS have changed!

CORDIS Customer Service  
2, rue Pletzer  
L-8080 Helfent-Bertrange  
Luxembourg  
Tel.: (+352) 44 10 12 2240  
Fax: (+352) 44 10 12 2248  
E-mail: helpdesk@cordis.lu



## I\*M-Europe goes virtual

I\*M-Europe launched recently a 3D Virtual Reality (VR) application (<http://www.echo.lu/ime-virtual.html>). The main purpose of this application is to assess the role of interactive 3D as a means of providing an easy to use, intuitive interface to the existing documentation of I\*M-Europe. The 3D application of I\*M-Europe gives you a fascinating interface which is rich in dynamic features to the news services of the site.

In I\*M-Europe's 3D VR environment you are greeted by a virtual receptionist who can answer preliminary questions and direct you towards the appropriate section. By navigating around in the environment you get news, calls for proposals/tenders, events and latest documents of I\*M-Europe. Furthermore you can search the whole content in I\*M-Europe.

The site is populated with virtual humans who, when approached, provide information on their specific programme and news flashes.

To use the 3D VR application you need to have installed at least Netscape 3.0 or higher, Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0 or higher or browsers with similar capabilities. Furthermore you need the Viscape 3D VR browser, which can be downloaded from Superscape's web site (<http://www.superscape.com>).

### Video broadcasting via I\*M-Europe at the Frankfurt Book Fair

I\*M-Europe engaged in video broadcasting at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 1997. This was a new departure for the EU server and represents the ever hastening convergence of computer, telecommunications, publishing, video and broadcasting technologies.

I\*M-Europe demonstrated successful multimedia content creation using a selected range of the latest state-of-the-

art multimedia technologies on the Internet.

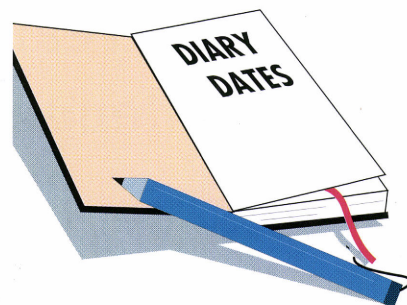
The technologies in use are live broadcasting, streaming audio and video, photos (still and animated), advanced authoring tools (Macromedia, Adobe Photoshop etc.) and other broadcasting techniques and tools.

In essence this means that interviews with leading policy makers, and industrial representatives which took place at the fair were placed on the Internet for broadcast (download) across the globe in real time. Thus viewers could acquire the look and feel of the Frankfurt Book Fair across the world simultaneously.



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ECHO will be represented at the following events:

London	On-line 97 09-11/12/97
Cannes	Milia 08-11/02/98
Frankfurt	INFOBASE 12-14/05/98
Lisbon	Expo '98 22/05-30/09/98
Paris	IDT '98 09-11/06/98



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