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AVISTA Project
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EDITORIAL

The New FP6 Network Audio-Visual Systems and Home Platform (NAVSHP) era starts



As part of FP6, the European industry launched a set of projects on Networked Audio-visual Systems and Home Platforms. This puts Europe in a good position to develop leadership on the broadband multimedia networks, services and entertainment markets, provided that the necessary **technology innovation** is fostered and the **proper regulatory environment** is ensured. The global market for Audio-visual services is likely to reach 500 billion € by 2010. The Telecom services market will be worth 1700 billion € by then. **Three key high growth sectors** in this specific area have been identified where the economy can be boosted to its full market potentials.

Home platforms: Two visions are competing: the PC centric vision, and the CE / Set Top Box vision, simple and reliable, which is an **opportunity for the EU Consumer Electronics industry**. The home environment uses a plethora of ICT equipment for communications, DTV, Internet access, gaming, e-applications, personalisation and storage. The user will benefit from the **convergence of services** offered by **Telecom, Internet and Broadcast operators** through the home gateway.

Broadband AV networks and services: From the point of view of **Telecom manufacturers and operators**, some important bottlenecks are remaining, notably Quality of Services, billing, payment, content and Digital Rights Management.

Next generation services: New types of highly visual services such as 3D TV, realistic avatars, massive games and Mixed Reality technologies will appeal to the next generation of users, will be developed by **SMEs** and will contribute to fuelling the growth of the sector and creating **new markets**.

The key to success is a stronger industrial involvement using Integrated Projects. Two new support projects, AVISTA and BIP, will play a key role in this process, through effective support to concertation and communication and through the creation of a High Level Expert Group on Audio-visual Systems and Home Platforms: The **New Media Council**.

Augusto de Albuquerque

Head of Unit Networked AV Systems and Home Platforms – EUROPEAN COMMISSION



This commitment includes assistance for a fruitful and efficient Concertation mechanism supported by a Communication Plan (Website, Newsletter).

This Newsletter aims at serving as a meeting point of the NAVSHP projects, providing relevant news and information on the achievements of the NAVSHP Constituency.

AVISTA reports

AVISTA Project starts on December 1st, 2003 and its kick-off meeting was held on December 19th, 2003.

As part of the AVISTA goals, a High Level Expert Group on Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms (The New Media Council) is about to be launched.

The Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms Specific Support Action (AVISTA) is one of the two SSAs approved by the Commission. In particular, a close cooperation between AVISTA and BIP Projects is established in order to facilitate the implementation of NAVSHP Strategic Objective Work Programme.

AVISTA partners are ROSE, TELVIUM, IRT, PHILIPS and TDF assisted by EBU and Principal Strategic Advisors: Leonardo Chiariglione, Richard Nicol and Jean Gelissen.





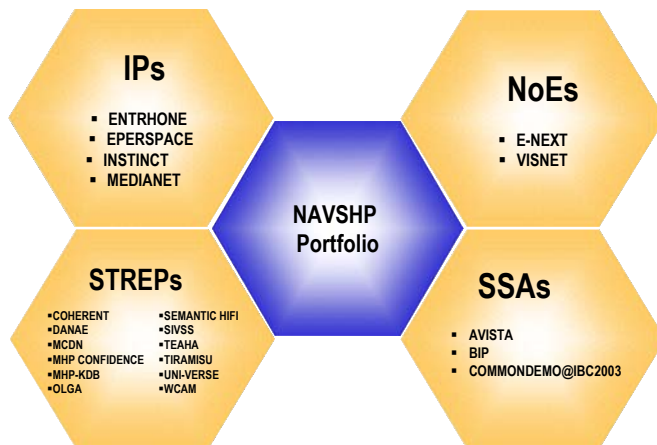
The AVISTA Kick-off



The AVISTA Kick-off meeting was held on December 19th, 2003 and made significant steps towards the New Concertation Process:

- New structure of the Concertation Meetings.
- Areas and topics of relevance for Coordination Groups/Clusters.
- Opportunities for NAVSHP Projects in conferences and exhibitions.
- Mission, Objectives and Working Procedures for The New Media Council.

All these ideas will be presented to the upcoming NAVSHP Concertation Meeting in 11th March, 2003.



The FP6 NAVSHP Projects Portfolio (1/2)

The right-hand list gathers all projects involved in the NAVSHP portfolio classified by IST instruments: IP, NoE, STREP and SSA.

The following projects were briefly self-presented during October 29th Concertation Meeting:

ENTHRONE

Goal: generation, protection, distribution and usage of multimedia content and resources in geographically distributed environments. ENTHRONE will develop an Integrated Management Supervisor (IMS), based on MPEG-21.

Key aspects: MPEG-21 (standardization), data content protection, DRM, end-to end QoS, network convergence, management of content, network and terminal.

Contact information: Mr O. NEGRU, Thales Broadcast & Multimedia

E-mail: olimpiu.negru@thales-bm.com

EPERSPACE

Goal: increase users acceptance of audiovisual networks and systems.

Key aspects: users-oriented, personalized services, open architectures, systems interoperability, QoS handling, etc.

Contact information: Mr P.Y.DANET, France Telecom

E-mail: pierre Yves.danet@rd.francetelecom.com

FP6 NAVSHP Projects Portfolio

IP

(Integrated Projects)

- ENTHRONE
- EPERSPACE
- INSTINCT
- MEDIANET

NoE

(Networks of Excellence)

- E-NEXT
- VISNET

STREP

(Specific Targeted REsearch Projects)

- COHERENT
- DANAE
- MCDN
- MHP-CONFIDENCE
- MHP-KDB
- OLGA
- SEMANTIC HIFI
- SIVSS
- TEAHA
- TIRAMISU
- UNI-VERSE
- WCAM

SSA

(Specific Support Actions)

- AVISTA
- BIP
- COMMONDEMO@IBC2003



The FP6 NAVSHP Projects Portfolio (2/2)

INSTINCT

Goal: exploit the concept of wireless communication networks combined with terrestrial DVB broadcast and networks.

Key aspects: existing link with ENTHRON: QoS; DVB-T, UMTS, Brazilian partners involved, IP-based networks, services and terminals for converging systems, affordable solutions (e-Inclusion).

Contact information: Dr T. OWENS, Brunel University

E-mail: Thomas.Owens@brunel.ac.uk

MEDIANET

Mission: abolition of obstacles in Europe to the exchange of digital media and audiovisual goods.

Key aspects: end to end delivery, personal communication, home networking, media content delivery, advance AV streaming, personal devices.

Contact information: Mr T. SERGE, Thomson

E-mail: serge.travert@thomson.net

ENEXT

Research objectives: interworking, scalability, autoconfiguration.

"One stop shopping for research, training and technology transfer"

Key aspects (corresponding to the Technical Working Groups): scalable networking, content networking, self-aware networking, service-aware networking, mobile and ambient networking.

Contact information: prof. A. AZCORRA, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

E-mail: azcorra@it.uc3m.es

VISNET

Goal: create a sustainable world force of leading research groups in the field of networked audiovisual media technologies with a clear vision for integration.

Key aspects: audiovisual-oriented, creation coding of AV content for immersive platforms, storage and transport of AV information over heterogeneous network.

Contact information: Dr A. SADKA, University of Surrey (UNIS)

E-mail: a.sadka@eim.surrey.ac.uk

DANAÉ

Goal: dynamic and distributed digital multimedia content adaptation in a context of an environment conforming to the framework introduced by the MPEG-21 standard.

Key aspects: MPEG-21, integration with MPEG-4 and 7, standardization end to end QoS, personalization, DRM, DIA (Digital Item Adaptation), business impact on the market.

Contact information: Mr A. COTARMANACH, France Telecom (FTRD)

E-mail: alexandre.cotarmach@francetelecom.com

TEAHA

Goal: networked home controls applications and their complementarity with the audiovisual networked applications.

Key aspects: interworking across multi-networks and multi-sectors, confidentiality in the TX in home networks, RF, ultra-low cost power line, residential gateway end to end solution, standardization.

Contact information: Mr E. MENDUINA MARTIN, Telefonica Investigacion y Desarrollo (TID)

E-mail: efmm@tid.es

TIRAMISU

Goal: prototyping a full chain of hybrid multimedia content creation and presentation across heterogeneous hardware platforms, while removing the DRM barrier.

DRM solution must be: transparent, robust, inexpensive, interoperable, be able to work across different channel (protecting the content, not the channel).

Key aspects: DRM, Interoperability.

Contact information: Mr Z. LIFSHITZ, Optibase Ltd - OPTI

E-mail: zvil@optibase.com

COMMISSION COLUMN

The NAVSHP Roadmap

The audiovisual and home platform arena is nowadays at a crossroad. Fierce worldwide competition is at present threatening the European traditional strengths in these areas. More than never, a well coordinated approach is needed combining all potential European contributors into a converging and positive way. The challenge for Europe and for the Community, through the Networked Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms (NAVSHP) Strategic Objective (SO), consists on achieving successful development of technologies for end-to-end interoperable audiovisual and in-home networks, services and applications.

The Concertation Process should aim at defining a technological and strategic roadmap for the NAVSHP Strategic Objective. The Concertation as a whole together with the New Media Council should aim at capitalizing on European strengths bearing in mind the overall worldwide context. Some initiatives have been already launched, addressing convergence with an integrated approach and giving guidelines for market deployment. Among other relevant initiatives are:

The Application Home Initiative (TAHI) - <http://www.theapplicationhome.com> - is all about using the new technologies and developments which our ever increasing rate of technological change are creating and how they can bring new services to everyone. TAHI was launched in September 2001 and now 40 organisations are Members of the initiative.

The Digital Home Working Group (DHWG) - <http://www.dhwg.org> - is focused on delivering an interoperability framework of design guidelines based on open industry standards to complete the cross-industry digital convergence. Members of DHWG share a vision of a wired and wireless interoperable network of Personal Computers (PC), Consumer Electronics (CE) and mobile devices in the home.

The Digital Media Manifesto (DMM) - <http://www.chiariglione.org/manifesto/> - identifies the need for coordinated policy and technical actions needed to achieve a fuller realisation of Digital Media. The policy actions include reviewing the Digital Media standardisation process. The technical actions require the development of specifications for interoperable Digital Rights Management (DRM) platforms and the development of recommended practices for end-to-end conformance assessment.

The SMARTHOUSE initiative - <http://www.cenelec.org/Cenelec/CENELEC+in+action/Horizontal+areas/ICT/Smart+House.htm> - The overall objective of this proposal is to grow and sustain convergence and interoperability of systems, services and devices for the Smart House that will provide the European Citizen with access to increased functionality, accessibility, reliability and security that a Smart House, with common and open architectures, will deliver in an expanding broadband infrastructure throughout Europe.

Eric Badiqué & Thierry Devars

D2 Unit

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



The BIP Project

The BIP Project is a FP6 support action focusing on home networks and platforms, and developed by Home Research (<http://www.homega-research.com>) in close liaison with the AVISTA project and the D2 Unit of the European Commission.

Three main activities are planned by the BIP project over the project lifetime (October 2003 – September 2005):

- Support to the IST projects and the D2 Unit in their involvement in 3 major events: Net-atHome2003, Net-atHome2004 and a workshop in Beijing in April 2004. For Net-atHome, an annual industry event focusing on home networks & gateways, connected appliances and integrated services, BIP will support the D2 Unit, and the IST Projects the Unit is managing, to ensure the highest possible visibility in the conference and the exhibition parts of the event. For the Beijing event, it will enhance the existing cooperation framework between the European Union and China in the IT field (see <http://www.eurochina-it.org>) and will be organised in such a way as to optimise networking opportunities for IST projects (technical visits of local key sites, workshop presentations and "get together" meetings).
- Support to the D2 Concertation mechanism, in liaison with the AVISTA IST Project. More specifically, BIP will organise, and play a role in moderating, the Concertation meetings of those IST projects addressing the field of Home Networks and Platforms. BIP will also prepare a Portfolio analysis supporting the overall documentation expected as an output of the Concertation mechanism.
- Development of active marketing and dissemination activities to promote the project and therefore maximise its interest and impact, and widely disseminate its outcomes.

For further information, please visit the project dedicated web site (<http://www.IST-BIP.org>) or contact the BIP project coordinator:

Ms Karine Valin
General Manager, Home Research
email: info@ist-bip.org

Launching The New Media Council

AVISTA Project is creating and supporting a High Level Expert Group on Network Audiovisual System and Home Platforms: the New Media Council. It consists of a group of key personalities and leaders of industry, representing a cross section of scientific, industrial and strategic interests relating to the theme of activities of the Strategic Objective "Network Audio visual systems and Home Platforms", as currently described in the Work Programme of the IST Priority of the 6th Framework Programme of R&D.

The main purpose is to set-up a consulting and advisory body to the NAVSHP Constituency and to the Commission in the field of the audiovisual and Home platforms strategic objective.

The objectives will be achieved by bringing together a senior industry consultative committee that includes opinion formers and key senior individuals also associated with standards and policy bodies who will interact with the Concertation process. The committee will specifically aim at:

1. Supporting domain integration and contributing to exploitation of results.

- Providing a forum for discussion of key R&D, industrial and standardisation issues.
- Providing advice on work progress and plans to on-going FP6 projects.
- Articulating the work carried out within the R&D projects at EU level.
- Bridging the gap between R&D work and the industrial requirements for open standards and interoperability.

2. Contributing to the definition of future research priorities.

- Conducting a reflection on the requirements for change of focus or direction at programme level, of the 2003-2004 Work Programme of the 6th FP.
- Setting the scene of the R&D activities in the domain within the 7th Framework Programme, with a long term perspective.

The New Media Council will hold its preparatory meeting in Brussels on March 12th, 2004, the day after the Concertation Meeting.

Mr. David Wood from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) will act as the NMC Chairman. Strategic Advisors related to the industry, standardization and policy fields are invited to join to this European Council.

The NMC will meet approximately every 9 months.

New Media Council Structure

- **Chairman:** Mr. David Wood
- **Secretariat:** AVISTA and BIP
- **Principal Strategic Advisors:**
 - Leonardo Chiariglione
 - Richard Nicol
 - Jean Gelissen
- **Strategic Advisors:** a number of relevant individuals related to the industry, standardization and policy fields.





Relevant Events and Conferences (1/2)

The following events and conferences have been identified as relevant to the Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms Strategic Objective:

- DVB World 2004.
Dublin, Ireland
March 3-5, 2004
<http://www.dvb.org/>
- European Conference on Visual Media Production (CVMP).
London, United Kingdom
March 15-16, 2004
<http://conferences.iee.org/cvmp/>
- CeBIT 2004.
Hannover, Germany
March 18-24, 2004
<http://www.cebit.de/homepage>
- EuroIndia 2004.
New Delhi, India
March 24-26, 2004
<http://www.euroindia2004.org>
- NAB.
Las Vegas, USA
April 17-22, 2004
<http://www.nab.org/>
- Connected Home
London, UK
April 21-22, 2004
<http://www.the-connected-home.co.uk>
- EU-China Workshop on in-home Networks and platforms
Beijing, China
April 27, 2004
<http://www.eurochina-IT.org>
- Connections 2004
Dallas, USA
May 5-7, 2004
<http://www.connectionsconference.com>

CONCERTATION (1/2)



1. October 2003 Concertation Meeting – Cannes.

A Concertation Meeting, organized by BIP Project, was held in Cannes on October 29th within the Net-at-Home 2003 event.

Although this concertation meeting was mainly based on FP5 projects, FP6 projects were also invited to attend. AVISTA and BIP projects were introduced as well as a number of FP6 projects.

The meeting was chaired by David Wood (EBU). The main goals pursued with this first NAVSHP Concertation meeting were the following:

- Presentation of the European Commission view on the new Concertation Process
- Presentation of some newly selected FP6 projects' scope: IPs (EPERSPACE, MEDIANET, ENTHRONE, INSTINCT), NOEs (VISNET, ENEXT) and some STREPS (TEAHA, TIRAMISU, DANAE), in order to preliminary exchanged some ideas on each project goals and possibilities for cooperation between projects.
- Presentation of the proposed Concertation Plan, based on contributions from AVISTA and BIP (SSA projects).
- Collecting FP projects' views on the Concertation Plan: Areas for Concertation (layer model, specific thematic areas), Involvement of active FP5 projects.
- Defining next steps for launching and implementing the Concertation Process.

2. The March 11th, 2004 Concertation Meeting - Brussels.

The next Concertation Meeting will be held in Brussels on March, 11th. This meeting is organized by AVISTA project with the support of the BIP project, under the overall guidance from the Commission. All FP5 and FP6 projects have been invited to the Concertation Meeting. The main activities planned to be addressd during this meeting can be summarized as follows:

- Election of Concertation process chairmanship and secretariat.
- Presentation of remaining FP6 projects (COHERENT, MCDN, MHP-CONFIDENCE, MHP-KDB, OLGA, SEMANTIC HIFI, SIVSS, UNIVERSE, WCAM)
- Presentation of the NAVSHP projects portfolio by AVISTA.
- Presentation of the NAVSHP projects on In-Home Networks profile by BIP.
- News from the European Commission on NAVSHP by EC officers.
- Presentation of the new Concertation structure.
- Definition of Coordination Groups and election of their chairmanships.
- First meetings for the Coordination Groups.
- Definition of the workplan for further Concertation work.



Relevant Events and Conferences (2/2)

- MEDIACAST 2004.
London, United Kingdom
May 25-27, 2004
<http://www.mediacast.co.uk>
- e-Next Summer School.
Tampere, Finland
June 14-16, 2004
<http://www.ist-e-next.net/>
- Broadcast Asia.
Singapore
June 15-18, 2004
<http://www.broadcast-asia.com/>
- IFA 2005.
Berlin, Germany
September 2-7, 2005
<http://www.ifa-berlin.de>
- IBC 2004/5.
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
September 9-14, 2004
<http://www.ibc.org/>
- Net-atHome 2004: your gateways to the markets
Nice, France
November 30 – December 3, 2004
<http://www.Net-atHome.com>
- MIPS 2004 – International Workshop on Multimedia Interactive Protocols and Systems.
Grenoble, France
November 16-19, 2004
<http://mips2004.imag.fr/>

All projects interested in participating as exhibitors in some of these events (or any other one not included here) please contact to AVISTA project in order to select the most appropriate events as well as to coordinate their exhibitions as far as possible.

CONCERTATION (2/2)

3. Coordination Groups for Concertation.

In order to contribute to the Concertation process in an efficient and fruitful manner, several common interest groups gathering a few FP6 projects are proposed. They are called 'Coordination Groups'. Projects within a Coordination Group have common topics under their respective work plans. Specific and highly focused meetings about these specific topics will be held taking benefit of the concertation meetings, aiming at sharing results, discussing approaches and finding synergies among projects efforts.

The 3 first Coordination Groups identified are as follows:

- Digital Rights Management
- Quality of Service
- In-Home Networks

Coordination Groups meetings will be held during the March 11th Concertation Meeting.

Of interest to NAVSHP

The SMARTHOUSE Project

Initiated by ICTSB (ETSI, CEN, CENELEC, ANEC...) and executed by CENELEC under contract from the European Commission, this project aims to deliver clarity and understanding of the SMARTHOUSE concept; for industry, the consumer and the regulator through the production of a SMARTHOUSE Code of Practice.

The SMARTHOUSE concept is understood very differently by parts of industry, such as telecommunications, digital TV, home networks and the services sector.

To the average consumer, installer or developer it is a maze of conflicting viewpoints and advice. Code of Practice will cover all the elements and influences for the SMARTHOUSE ranging from the requirements of the Service Provider to the needs of the consumer and all the convergent equipment, networks and systems between them in clear, simple to understand documentation and references. Work is starting in January 2004 and is scheduled to complete by September 2005.

<http://www.cenelec.org/Cenelec/CE/NELEC+in+action/Horizontal+areas/ICT/Smart+House.htm>

Contributions to NAVSHP Newsletter

This is the very first issue of the Networked Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms (NAVSHP) Newsletter, produced by AVISTA project and supported by BIP project. We hope you like its structure, content and look. Please, bear in mind that it has been elaborated as a meeting point for the NAVSHP Constituency; therefore your feedback is crucial and of paramount importance to us.

Please, be sure that the success of your project is our sincere goal. Feel free to bring your news, ideas and any suggestions about the Newsletter.

Do not hesitate to contact us.

We would be delighted to serve you.

Dr. Julián Seseña on behalf of the AVISTA project team.

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