



6NET serves as catalyst for IPv6 deployments around the world

6NET, a European project supported by 35 partners from academia, research and industry, has successfully delivered on its charter to demonstrate the viability of Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) by developing IPv6 standards, providing tools and expertise for migrating from IPv4 to IPv6 networks and testing a range of IPv6 applications. These pioneering efforts, in conjunction with 6NET's operation of the world's first, large-scale IPv6 testbed, have contributed to the roll out of numerous IPv6 or dual IPv4/IPv6 networks around the world.

"The tremendous collaboration and commitment we've had from all 6NET partners has enabled 6NET to prove that IPv6 is highly relevant and ready for deployment," said Jane Butler, chair of 6NET's Project Management Committee and director of Corporate Consulting Engineering at Cisco Systems.

"As a result of 6NET's leadership, high-speed, IPv6-enabled networks now link up all of Europe's research centres and universities, supporting unprecedented collaboration and providing an important source of future growth and prosperity," said Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media. *"The results of 6NET are now widely deployed across the world, such as in the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia, Latin-America and in Africa allowing these regions to leapfrog several intermediary steps and to efficiently bridge the Digital Divide"* she added.

Among other technical accomplishments, 6NET has submitted over 40 specifications to global standards bodies to address missing standards such as multicast over IPv6 networks. Additionally, 6NET demonstrated the viability of key network services, such as QoS and MobileIPv6, as well as applications for IPv6 networks, including VoIPv6, audio/video conferencing and distributed GRID applications.

With the publication of *its IPv6 Deployment Book* in October 2005, a pragmatic handbook for deploying IPv6 on backbone, regional, campus and home networks, 6NET has successfully achieved its goals. Building on 6NET's efforts, a new consortium, 6DISS, has been formed to disseminate 6NET IPv6 knowledge and deployment experience worldwide.

6NET is a three-year European project to demonstrate that continued growth of the Internet can be met using new IPv6 technology. It also aims to help European research and industry play a leading role in defining and developing the next generation of networking technologies. Partial funding is provided by the European Commission under IST 5th Framework Programme (Contract No. IST-2001-32603).

More information is available from the 6NET website at <http://www.6net.org/>

For additional details on the 6DISS project, visit <http://www.6diss.org/>