GÉANT Monthly Bulletin | March 2015

Welcome to the GÉANT Monthly Bulletin. All monthly bulletins are archived on the GÉANT Intranet and the Partner Portal.

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For queries on any of these areas, please contact the relevant bulletin team member at further information.

Project Office

Although submitted at the end of last year (three months before the end of GN3plus) the 3rd amendment for the one-month extension of the project is still not approved by the EC.
On Wednesday 11 March, we collected all electronic signatures of the participants' declarations of honour for the GÉANT2020 Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA). The Commission foresees proceeding with the signature of the FPA as soon as possible before the deadline of 14/4/2015.

A number of meetings took place in Vienna in March:
- A **CSWG** meeting took place on Wednesday 11 March to discuss options for 2016. Continue with the present model (with some minor refinements), use the "Unlimited capacity" model (subscription fee should be based on GDP, link connection cost and cost of the ports but not on the bandwidth subscribed), use a model based on annual average traffic, use some other possible models. CSWG will investigate the second option in more detail and findings will be reported to GÉANT Assembly in Porto.
- An **NRENPC** meeting took place on Wednesday 11 March to approve the GN4-1 proposal and the GÉANT Consortium Agreement. The NREN PC gave a mandate to the Board to oversee finalisation of the preparation of the SGA1 proposal for submission to the EC. The CA will be amended based on the discussion in the NREN PC and after new circulation and new comments, it will be ready for use with SGA1.
- A **GN3plus Assembly** meeting took place on Thursday 12 March to discuss GN3plus progress, Open Call projects, IUAC – EAC update and CSWG progress.
- A **GÉANT Association Assembly** meeting took place on Thursday 12 March to discuss strategy and governance, news from the recruitment committee, endorse the decision of the NRENPC for the Consortium Agreement, and discuss a possible revised voting scheme and transatlantic connectivity.

GN3plus Review
Planning for the GN3plus Y2 Review is well underway and ALs are working on presentation planning for the rehearsal which will be held 19-21 May at the GÉANT Cambridge office. The final review will take place on 30 June-2 July, kindly hosted by BELNET in Brussels.

Online cloud discussion sessions
- SA7 is organising bi-weekly web conference meetings (every other week on a Friday morning), to have informal, low key online chats about clouds and SA7. Part of the SA7 core team is present, and others from the community can join, to meet and discuss this topic.
- Each week, we will have one item to explore in detail, but there should be time to discuss whatever is convenient.
- https://intranet.geant.net/SA7/SitePages/Home.aspx

Happy Birthday SAML 2.0!
Mid-March 2005 the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) protocol was officially announced as an OASIS Standard. In these 10 years SAML has become the de-facto standard protocol for academic identity federations and eduGAIN. Being a very flexible but also complex XML-based protocol SAML is also used in the commercial world. While new standards like OpenID Connect are frequently seen as alternative or even successor, SAML most likely will continue to be the predominant protocol for federated identity management in higher education in the few years.

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology organised the consultation workshop "**From platform operators to service providers**" in Brussels at Avenue de Beaulieu 25 (room 0/S1) on 25 March. The e-infrastructures part of the Research Infrastructures draft Work programme 2016-17 is structured around the concepts of service provision and service innovation. The purpose of the workshop was to **bring the European e-infrastructure knowhow together in free but well-structured conversations** in order to create a common understanding of the implied changes. The workshop focused on finding together the next steps forward, on identifying the related challenges and on find solutions to them within the time frame of 2016-2020.

Operations

Service and Technology Forum @ DFN
The STF Meeting took place in the Berlin office of DFN on 24-25 March.
https://intranet.geant.net/SA1/APM/March2015/SitePages/Home.aspx
The agenda included: GN4 SA1 Plans, DFN-NeMo - Analysing DDoS attacks by making netflows usable, perfSONAR News, Connectivity options for DWS, SA7 Clouds Update, Satisfaction Survey and Service Matrix, MD-VPN Update, Current Security Tools, Firewall on Demand demo and nfQuery - a GÉANT extension to nfsen.

Converged perfSONAR
You may recall that perfSONAR MDM and perfSONAR PS, two different implementations of an original shared idea, were last year integrated into one platform offering many benefits to users. The resulting convergence of the platforms is now even more flexible, robust and sustainable in supporting its users; from local campus networks to international projects. It removes scope for confusion, fragmentation and issues with interoperability, increasing efficiency for all. The first operational prototype of converged perfSONAR was successfully demonstrated at TNC2014. It included four measurement points, two in the US, Washington and New York, and two in Europe, Frankfurt and Amsterdam. We are pleased to report that ALL GÉANT perfSONAR measurement points have now been upgraded to 'Converged perfSONAR' status.

Improved Border Gateway Protocol Community Scheme
A new Border Gateway Protocol Community scheme has been proposed to NRENs – this scheme will enable NRENs to very precisely control the routing of their traffic to GÉANT public peers. This has been discussed within the GÉANT-APM mailing lists, and improved with feedback from various NRENs. For more information, contact toby.rodwell@dante.net

Services

GTS website
The GÉANT Testbeds Service website has been launched. Anyone interested in finding out more about the GTS should visit services.geant.net/gts

eduPKI website

eduPKI's website has been updated and re-launched. eduPKI supports GÉANT services in defining their requirements for digital certificates. It helps coordinate the provision of these on a pan-European basis and enables existing Certification Authorities to issue certificates for GÉANT services. Visit edupki.geant.net for more information.

International News

Transatlantic 100G

Work is ongoing between the GÉANT and I2 Ops teams for configuration, with testing phase w/c April 6 and a provisional go-live date one week later.

ORIENTplus Final Review

The ORIENTplus project received a 'good' rating at the Final review in February with key objectives met. The EC reviewers welcomed in particular the efforts to ensure that the EU-China link will be continuing and long-term connectivity with CERNET will be achieved.

AfricaConnect Final Meetings

The final AfricaConnect meetings took place in the w/c 23 March in Lilongwe, Malawi. Hosted by the UbuntuNet Alliance and their new CEO, Dr. Pascal Hoba, the meetings were attended by the African NREN representatives and a warm welcome was given to the latest NREN member from Burundi. The meetings were followed by a monitoring review for the project carried out by two EC external experts. The AfricaConnect project will terminate in May 2015 and will be succeeded by AfricaConnect2. The African partners honoured Dr Francis Tusubira as outgoing CEO of the Alliance as well as Cathrin Stöver as project manager of AfricaConnect.

Communications and Events

TNC15 – 15-18 June, Porto, Portugal

If you haven't registered for TNC15 yet, discounts are still available for a limited time via the TNC15 home page. Please also note the **Call for Posters** proposal, deadline for which is 15 April. **Lightning Talks** also offer a great way to get across your area of work, submission deadline is also 15 April. For more information on this and all other areas of TNC15, please visit the event website!

Marketing and communications task forces and training

On 16-19 March, the Task Force on Communications and Public Relations (TF-CPR) met in Amsterdam back-to-back with a meeting of the Task Force on Management of Service Portfolios (TF-MSP) and a marketing training workshop provided for these groups. Task force participants share experiences and best practices: TF-CPR heard updates on the GN3plus project and discussed potential areas for further collaboration when it re-charters later this year; TF-MSP focused on procurement issues. If you're interested in joining future meetings, more information is available on www.terena.org/tf-cpr and www.terena.org/tf-msp.

Blogs!

Are you a regular blogger? Are you an Activity Leader, Task Leader or just an expert with something to say? We are in the process of incorporating blogs into the GÉANT communications mix, so if you want to submit a blog please let the Project Communications task know. All blogs will be subject to review before being published within the project channels.

Social media

The GÉANT project is on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Issuu](#) – take a look and join the conversations.

CONNECT magazine
Issue #19 is underway, to be produced in time for the TNC2015. Contributions are welcome, please contact connect@geant.net to discuss your articles, and to get deadline dates.

Further Information

For more information on each of the areas covered, please contact:
Network Operations, Procurement, Pan-European User Liaison – [Beatrix Weber](#) (Partner Relations)
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