

GÉANT Monthly Bulletin | November 2014

Welcome to the GÉANT Monthly Bulletin. All monthly bulletins are archived on the [GÉANT Intranet](#) and the [Partner Portal](#).

In response to feedback for more information, this Bulletin supersedes and builds on the newsletter previously issued by GÉANT Partner Relations, and now includes updates on [Project Office](#), [Operations](#), [pan-European User Liaison](#), [Services](#), and [Outreach](#).

For queries on any of these areas, please contact the relevant bulletin team member at [further information](#).

Project Office

GN3plus Symposium in Athens February 23-26 2015

We are excited to announce the full programme is now online!

As deadlines are approaching, make sure to secure your hotel room and get your ticket while they are still reasonable priced.

[Book your hotel here](#) ; [Register here](#) ; [View the full programme](#)

GN3plus P1 cost claim

The GN3plus P1 cost claim was submitted at the end of October. There was a problem on the management limitation for max. EC funding and a new release of NEF was necessary to fix this problem. Unfortunately a large number of partners had submitted their forms C before this release of NEF, and they had to un-finalize and re-finalize their forms C. All these delays unfortunately will result in a late EC payment.

SA7 - Online cloud discussion sessions

SA7 is organising bi-weekly web conference meetings (every other week on 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.

See more: <https://intranet.geant.net/SA7/SitePages/Home.aspx>

SA5 -UKfed big day!

The UK switched their policy for eduGAIN from opt-in to opt-out. There are now over 1,000 IdPs and SPs available (ie. over 1,000 of each).

SA2 – GÉANT Testbeds Service

The GEANT Testbeds Service successfully presented several demonstrations this week to the research community at Supercomputing 2014 in New Orleans, and then again at the FIRE-GENI coordination workshop in Paris. The demonstrations showed network testbeds spanning Europe being established in a matter of minutes. These demos included support for JRA2-T1 demonstrating the NSI protocol provisioning OpenFlow switching layers in a multi-domain SDN environment. These demonstrations included PSNC and the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) in Europe, and the ExoGENI environment in the US, all bound together using the GTS services of GEANT. The FIRE GENI Coordinating workshop is an international effort to coordinate the various FI initiatives in Europe and US. The GEANT Testbeds Service "GTS" will be increasingly serving as a bonding service - providing experimental facilities that link labs and peering testbeds throughout the GEANT footprint.

Meetings

The STF Meeting, Autumn 2014, 12-13 November, hosted by SURFnet took place in Utrecht. The agenda included among other topics GÉANT Network Plans, EUMETSAT - Service Management, GÉANT Security, New Service Desk - First Impressions, Peering Service Update, Connecting Clouds to GÉANT via NREs, Service Matrix and Customer Survey, a GÉANT CDN, MD-VPN - AUP and OLA, and a CMON Demo.

More information here: <https://intranet.geant.net/SA1/APM/STF-Nov-14/SitePages/Home.aspx>

The GN3plus JRA1 and TERENA 3rd Network Architects Workshop hosted by NORDUnet, 10-13 November took place in Kastrup <http://www.terena.org/activities/netarch/ws3/agenda.html>

The SIC met on 17 November to finalise Strategy implementation document for Zagreb. The SIC will also provide a review of the GN4 Phase1 project and specific input before the SGA2 process is started.

A GN3plus Exec and a GN4WG VC meeting took place on Wednesday 19 November 2014. The Exec meeting discussed International Connectivity (Transatlantic, South – America, China, Russia), Cost Effectiveness, Cost Sharing, the Assembly agenda for Zagreb, updates from the PMO and the Advisory Boards, and other topics. The GN4WG meeting discussed budget status based on NREN input and AL selections and proposal preparation. According to the current status of the GN4 Phase 1 budget and the over provision of NRENs' manpower, we need more than €25m of funding even with the three current funding rates: Network 50%, GÉANT Association/ GEANT Limited manpower 100% + 25% overhead, NRENs manpower 75% + 25% overhead. Not all input was available for the meeting because the Activity Leaders were overwhelmed with the large number of applications, which make the preparation of the proposal for Zagreb really difficult. Alternative planning scenarios were discussed for the approval of the proposal after Zagreb, if necessary.

The **Cost Sharing Working Group (CSWG)** met on Thu 20 Nov to further discuss and incorporate feedback from the last GN3plus Assembly in preparation for the next GN3plus Assembly in Zagreb. Planning has started for the second phase of GN4 and a **GN4WG/PMT** workshop took place in Zurich on 24-25 November to discuss suggestions for subjects.

Operations

PerfSONAR

The first two converged perfSONAR toolkits have been deployed in Frankfurt and Amsterdam with 10G interfaces being designated for throughput measurements and 1G interfaces designated for latency tests. These are still in pilot phase with ongoing testing of the functionality.

Service and Technology Forum (STF)

The Autumn Service and Technology Forum, hosted by SURFnet, took place in Utrecht on 12th/13th November 2014. Topics covered were updates on the Peering, MD-VPN and CO-Mon Service, GEANT Security and EUMETSAT service Management. [All presentations can be accessed here](#). The next STF is planned to take place in March, further information will follow.

Bandwidth on Demand service

After extensive User Acceptance Testing, GEANT's Inter-Domain Management system has been upgraded to the latest version of AutoBAHN (v3.1), which is NSIv2 compatible.

Pan-European User Liaison

CONFINE Project

The University of Antwerp has joined the L3VPN service for the CONFINE project, thanks to the collaboration provided by Belnet. Now four sites and three NRENs (RedIRIS, DFN, Belnet) are part of the infrastructure.

COPERNICUS

Work with Copernicus is progressing well. Discussions between DFN and T-systems on requirements for the technical setup in Frankfurt to ensure connectivity via GÉANT/DFN are ongoing.

EU agencies

Work is ongoing with a group of EU agencies connecting them to the GEANT/NREN network. EU agencies are distinct bodies from the EU institutions located across Europe working in a wide variety of areas such as health, environment, security or IT. Jointly working on IT matters via the ICTAC group the approached GEANT with the interest to use the GEANT network for Reciprocal Disaster Recovery and access to cloud services. As of 40 agencies only few are already connected a survey has been carried out with the result that 25 of 40 agencies wish to connect within the next 3 years.

EUMETSAT

We have received confirmation from EUMETSAT that the receiving stations have been distributed to the production pilot end sites. The site should be in contact with their NREN partners to work on their multicast connectivity to their network. They will use their standard communication channel.

Earth Science User– e-infrastructures workshop, 22 – 23 January at CWI in Amsterdam

A workshop targeting at specific requirements of users from Earth Sciences is being organised with support from EUDAT, EGI and PRACE. The aim is to start a co-ordinated dialogue between earth sciences and e-Infrastructures to better understand how scientist in their respective field work and how e-Infrastructures can support them best. The workshops targets a handful of user groups from Seismology, Geodesy and Climatology. In dedicated sessions specified use cases will be discussed covering topics such as connectivity Services and performance monitoring , AAI, Computing needs and types of computing, Cloud services, On-demand provisioning virtual research environments. The workshop will take place from 22 – 23 January at CWI in Amsterdam.

GEO – Global Report on Data Sharing for Earth Observations

As a result of GEANTs contribution to GEO – the Group on Earth observations a report on Global Data Sharing for Earth Observations through Research and Education Networks has been published. The report aims to provide comprehensive and practical information on how GEANT and NRENs worldwide support the Earth Observations sector with connectivity and services. The report covers R&E networking structure, GEANT services, Global connectivity and NRENs connected to GEANT. The report can be downloaded from <http://www.geant.net/>

Services

eduGAIN

The new eduGAIN website is now live – edugain.geant.net

Outreach

News stories in November

[The power of networks to empower communities](#)

[eduGAIN gains more than 1400 institutions and services through UK federation](#)

[Q&A with Chiara Mariotti, CERN](#)

[GÉANT project partner ARNES recognised by President of the Republic of Slovenia](#)

[GÉANT exhibiting at SuperComputing 2014 – HPC matters](#)

[ARES – a GÉANT Open Call project aims to address urgent genome data set challenges](#)

The GÉANT Project attended SuperComputing (SC14) with the SKA team – [SC14 attendance – see story in Appendix](#)

CONNECT magazine

Issue #17 was published in November and distributed at SC14, and hard copies have been shipped. It features articles on SKA (cover story to coincide with joint exhibiting at SC14), CERN 60 year anniversary, GÉANT services, Q&A with Dorte Olesen and many other interesting articles. As usual, copies will be shipped to NRENs. Input is now being gathered for the next issue, to coincide with the GÉANT Symposium. Contact connect@geant.net to discuss your articles!

Further Information

For more information on each of the areas covered, please contact:

Network Operations, Procurement, Pan-European User Liaison – [Beatrix Weber](#) (Partner Relations)

Services – [Karl Meyer](#) (NA2 T2 – Product Marketing & Promotion)

International News – [Tom Fryer](#) (NA4 T1 – International Liaison)

Project Office – [Tryfon Chiotis](#) (Project Management Office)

Communications – [Paul Maurice](#) (NA2 T1 – Project Communications)

APPENDIX

GÉANT and the Square Kilometre Array at SC14

The GÉANT project secured an exhibition booth in the research area of the SC14 conference for high performance computing, networking, storage and analysis delegates. Held in New Orleans, USA the conference attracts over 10,000 attendees.

With the GÉANT project providing high-speed connectivity and services to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) via its 500Gbps pan-European network and truly global reach, it seemed an opportune time to explain to an enthusiastic New Orleans crowd the current status and future plans to manage the vast amount of data soon to be generated by SKA.

The GÉANT Association is a member of the SADT consortium which designs the data transport networks between the elements of SKA. The consortium is helping to design the high capacity network that supports the large data generated.

The main demo was compered from the SC14 exhibition floor by Dr *Keith Grainge* who leads the Science and Data Transport consortium. Keith introduced via live link to a different presenter each day; Dr John Reynolds, Dr Lisa Harvey Smith and Dr Aidan Hotan all took their turn to talk to the audience from the CSIRO's Astronomy and Space Science division in *Sydney*, Australia. They remotely drove the telescopes at the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory (MRO) in Western Australia to the delight of passing delegates. The viewers were then shown the incoming data in real time as it appeared. Questions from the floor ranged from people wanting to know to how many telescopes will eventually be in position in the Australian desert to one seeking a definition of dark matter all were answered with good humour. At one point the crowd was larger watching the demo than it was for the neighbouring booth offering free beer so the popularity speaks for itself.

In the hours of darkness in Australia we viewed live images of the Mullard Radio Astronomy Observatory in Cambridge, England. Keith was able to control the roboticized telescope via email, creating an interesting talking point to those also drawn to the booth by the presence of decommissioned radio receiver that we had on loan from *Jodrell Bank*.

The presentations were superb but we fully acknowledge that the behind the scenes work involved in making live demos work is no mean feat. Big thanks to Shaun Amy and his team for battling huge time differences and uncooperative firewalls and yet making it all look seamless to the audience.