

Expanding the European Future Internet Community

In order to use the funding for European R&D activities on Future Internet in a more efficient way and to ensure that relevant and exploitable results will emerge from the significant investments it is necessary to establish a community that develops and supports a coordinated approach that can be shared by all relevant European stakeholders. Establishing this community is the main goal of the EX-FI project.

At A Glance: EX-FI

Expanding the European Future Internet Community



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Atos Origin (Spain)

France Telecom (France)

Siemens (Germany)

Thomson/Technicolor (France)

Duration: *May 2010 – April 2011*

Funding scheme: *CA*

Total Cost: *€ 0.4 m*

EC Contribution: *€ 0.3 m*

Contract Number: *INFISO-ICT- 257262*

Main Objectives

The enlargement of the European Future Internet community will be carried out with a view to influencing the scope and objectives as well as initial planning of a European PPP (Public Private Partnership) on Future Internet. Thus, work done and contributions made by the enlarged Future Internet community can be efficiently integrated within overall PPP activities. In particular the community should develop strategic documents presenting the major R&D areas to be addressed and how specific Future Internet calls and other instruments can support this.

The EX-FI project will establish a required membership scheme and facilitate discussions among the stakeholders, in order to specify challenges in collaboration with the usage areas and to prioritise the major R&D challenges. The initial usage areas in discussion are: Content delivery and production, eHealth, Smart energy grid, Utilities, environment, as well as Transport, mobility, and logistics.

The project objectives:

Identification of Future Internet usage areas

Definition of related R&D challenges

Strategy for implementation of testbeds related to the usage areas

Roadmap for creation of innovative Future Internet services

Enlarged European Future Internet Initiative community

The EX-FI project will devote some of the energy of the emerging community to actively support and participate in the Forthcoming Future Internet PPP calls. These calls have the same basic objective as the EX-FI community in that they will try to ensure strong European industrial inputs to the emerging Future Internet technologies and services to ensure the competitiveness of the European Industry and than the benefits impact European Society and Industry

Approach

The initial planning of the Future Internet PPP foresees the following three phases towards implementation of R&D activities related to the Future Internet and corresponding call for projects:

- 1) Establishment of a limited number of so-called usage areas, including definition and development of the requirements for respective service domain,
- 2) Implementation of testbeds related to the usage areas and realisation of corresponding large scale experiments, and
- 3) Development of innovative services by using infrastructure provided in phases 1 and 2.

First inputs from the usage areas tackled during the first phase are expected after 12 months (end of 2011, / beginning of 2012) in form of the specific requirements. Therefore, it is important to start immediately activities on defining the potential usage areas, including objectives to be addressed by the call for projects in the first PPP implementation phase, as well as preparation of the related European ICT industry for the upcoming call. To support these activities, the EX-FI project will establish a required

partnership scheme and facilitate necessary discussions among the stakeholders, in order to specify a number of usage areas and to identify major R&D challenges of the areas to be addressed by the PPP calls.

For the PPP second phase, it is expected that based on the inputs from the first phase a blueprint for a Future Internet reference service architecture to be used by each usage areas will be provided. Thus, the main achievements of the second phase will be the emergence of large scale experiments and testbeds in many locations across Europe. Based on the achievements regarding definitions of objectives for the considered usage areas, the EX-FI project will extend discussion related to the specific areas, in order to provide necessary inputs for specification of the second PPP phase and related call for projects.

The third phase of the PPP programme envisages a significant usage of the experimental networks, established during the second phase, with exciting and innovative services. Most of the funds at this

stage would go to applications developers which are expected to be mostly SMEs, but not exclusively. The target is to ensure development of the innovative Future Internet services and applications, based on the scientific and experimental infrastructure established during the phases 1 and 2. In order to support these activities, EX-FI project will establish a community of potential developers of the innovative services and facilitate their involvement in overall activities of the Future Internet PPP.

Expected Impact

Expected impact of the EX-FI project is inline with the expected impacts defined for FP7 objective ICT-2009.1.1 "The Network of the Future" of the FP7 Call 5, as listed below:

1) The PPP on Future Internet and activities of the EX-FI project on definition of the related usage areas and respective testbeds as well as development of innovative Future Internet services will clearly have a significant impact on positioning and strengthening of the European industry in the field.

2) The increased network efficiency including proper business models is an important issue for success of the Future Internet and related discussions will be facilitated by the project across all considered usage areas.

3) The EX-FI project does not directly address standardisation issues, but discussion on the specific Future Internet usage areas will include consideration of interoperability issues on different levels, as a global goal of the Future Internet activities, which necessarily lead to conclusions on future standardisation and regulation landscape.

4) In accordance with the project work plan, new market opportunities will be elaborated in respect to development of innovative Future Internet services, based on the infrastructure which will be established by the usage areas and corresponding testbeds.

5) In order to accelerate development and deployment of the next generation network and service infrastructure, EX-FI project will work on establishment of a coordinated approach and a roadmap for R&D activities in the area of Future Internet, which will serve as input for definition of the Future Internet PPP calls as well as for other R&D programmes on various levels.

