

ACRONYM : SABER

TITLE: Satellite Broadband for European Regions

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR: CSI-PIEMONTE

WORK PACKAGE 4 LEADER: Slì Nua

Work Shop 5 MEETING MINUTES

Toulouse, 23rd January 2014, 9:00 – 16:00.

IN ATTENDANCE:

1 – CSI-Piemonte, IT:	Vittorio Vallero; Mara Cocco;
2 – CNR-IREA, IT:	Mario Angelo Gomarasca, Laura Dossi, Roberto Nebuloni;
3 – Fundecyt-PCTEX, ES:	Kety Caceres, Gustavo Garcia;
4 – Lepida, IT:	Sandra Lotti;
5 – SIR, IT:	(ABSENT);
6 – WNRI, NO:	Guttorm Flatabo;
7 – BHV, NO:	Kjell Pedersen-Rise;
8 – NEM, UK:	Alex Roy;
9 – Nievre numerique, FR:	(ABSENT);
10 – ACREO, SE:	Marco Forzati;
11 – SWRA, IE:	John Forde, Eileen Crowley;
12 – MWRA, IE:	Fiona Mc Cormack;
13 – COI, PL:	(ABSENT);
14 – RDHOR, SI:	Davorin Rogina;
15 – MIT, RO:	Aristica Iagar;
16 – ETA-2U, RO:	Vlad Gogoci;
17 – eTRIKALA, GR:	Kalli Liatou;
18 – TOSP, IT:	Giacomo Bacci;
19 – INFOTER, HU:	Simon Gyongyvér, Sandor Mester, Melinda Rozgics, Attila Soltesz, Gabriella Soltesz- Nagy;

20 – DEVONCC, UK:	(ABSENT);
21 – RCITT, PL:	(ABSENT);
22 – SLINUA, IE:	Rosemary O'Connor, Patrick Sullivan;
23 – EUTELSAT, FR:	Stefano Agnelli, Pierre-François Griffiths;
24 – ASTRIUM, FR:	Agnes Salvatori, Bernard Laurent;
25 – SKYLOGIC, IT:	Luisella Ciani, Giorgio Tarchi;
26 – SBBS - SES, LU:	Christine Leurquin;.

Guests

27 – EC	Pertti Jauhiainen, Robert Henkel;
28 – ESOA	Laia Tomas;
29 – Space Hellas	Sokratu Noitimylon;
30 – Région Midi-Pyrénées	Viviane Artigalas;
31 – Avanti Communications	Simon Barrett, Pablo Burgos, Glyn Jones;
32 – CNES	Philippe Billast;
33 – MBI Group	Nicola Davini;
34 – TeleMax Inc.	Dimitar Dimitrov;
35 – Thales Alenia Space	Charles Doll;
36 – MIPAAF	Pasquale Giantomasi;
37 – Electronic Communications Department – Cyprus	Andronikos Kakkouras;
38 – ASDE-Ecoregions	Kristian Milenov;
39 – Regional Government Junta de Andalucia	Manuel Ortigosa;
40 – Hungaro DigiTel Pic.	Ferenc Toth;

Agenda:

MORNING SESSION

Welcome & Introduction

SABER coordinator - V. Vallero (CSI-Piemonte)

Broadband in the Midi Pyrénées Region

Vice Président - V. Artigalas (Region Midi-Pyrénées)

Presentation of the BRESAT Project

BRESAT Coordinator - Glyn Jones (Avanti PLC)

Questions & Answers, discussion

SABER results & impact up to now, next phase

Results & impact up to now – S.Agnelli (Eutelsat)

Next phase – R.O'Connor (Slí Nua Development)

EU Funding Instruments for Broadband 2014-2020

Connecting Europe Facility – R. Henkel (EC-CNECT)

ERDF & EARDF – P. Jahuiainnen (EC-CNECT)

Q&A, discussion

Satellite Broadband – Future Technology Roadmap

A.Salvatori, (Airbus Defence and Space)

Q&A, discussion

AFTERNOON SESSION

Working session on WP4 deliverables

Parallel Working Groups – Preparing Regional Guidelines

Objectives:

- To draw on the deployment experience of partners to deconstruct the steps involved in planning, procuring and deploying broadband

- To give the regional partners the opportunity to define the scope of the regional guidelines which will be developed in WP4.)

Group A: Funding Models, State Aid & Building the Business Case for Satellite Broadband.

Group B: Satellite Technology Solutions & Deployment Models.

Feedback from Parallel Working Groups

Rapporteur reports from Groups A & B

Question and Answers, discussion.

SABER Project next steps

Coordinator– V.Vallero (CSI-Piemonte)

WP4 Coordinator – R.O'Connor (Slí Nua Development)

Workshop Close

Coordinator WP3 – S. Agnelli (Eutelsat)

Introduction

After an initial recall of the current pending activities and an update of the dissemination activities by SABER coordinator Madame Viviane Artigalas, Vice-President of the Midi-Pyrenees Region.

Madame Artigalas described the situation of the region underlining its characteristic mountainous geography. Because of this reason, digital infrastructures are a big challenge keeping in mind that most of the new e-services like health, education, etc. could need high amounts of bandwidth.

The Midi-Pyrénées region has thus initiated in 2003 a regional plan "Midi-Pyrénées Haut-Débit", in coordination with the national and departmental authorities.

In 2005, the region has turned its action towards the Digital Divide issue, through a call for projects addressing towns and aiming to deploy broadband access with the most adapted technology.

In parallel, the Region has supported projects managed by the departments with European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). The region has also supported 3 projects who benefited from EAFRD in the frame of a national call for projects.

The effect of the public efforts focused on digital divide areas, combined to the appearance of satellite offers technically and financially adapted to the need, has largely contributed to the improvement of the broadband deployment in Midi-Pyrénées.

However, the 2010 territorial survey still shows that 15% of the region households have only access to offers below 2 Mbps and that serious differences exists within the region.

Consequently, the local, regional and national authorities have elaborated in 2011 a regional digital deployment strategy aiming to accompany local bodies in their deployment projects including fibre deployment up to the end-user.

Midi Pyrénées region is convinced that the Digital divide will be closed if public authorities look for the right data rate for all, mix technologies and mobilise several sources of funding. If not addressed, the digital divide issue is sustainable condemning a large part of the territory to add numerical isolation to the already existing geographical physical isolation, thus excluding any possibility for a dynamic demography ad an economic development.

This introductory part saw then the presentation of the BRESAT project which workshop would have taken place the following day with the participation of SABER.

BRESAT is also a thematic network about satellite broadband funded by the CIP-PSP programme aiming at:

- Collect experiences & learn from previous broadband schemes.
- Identify key success criteria for schemes.
- Provide a template for cost-benefits.
- Develop a set of recommendations and best practice.
- Disseminate outputs across EU regions.
- Establish an information repository.

SABER results & impact up to now

Stefano Agnelli, WP3 coordinator, presented the main impacts and results with a particular attention to the broadband for all event in October during which Ms Kroes announced the reaching of the 2013 targets also thanks to satellite technology. SABER directly participated to the event having heavily contributed to the broadbandforall.eu website data set.

Another very important point is the recognition of the Voucher Scheme. Roberto Viola (DG CNECT Deputy Director General) asked to create a document on voucher scheme for the use of Regional and Rural Development Funds to subsidise satellite equipment and to implement a quick, simple and demand-side oriented scheme, compliant with EU funding rules.

It has been stressed that satellite broadband although not currently commonly available above 20 Mbps could still be eligible in 2014-2020 context if a predictable path towards 30 Mbps by 2020 is confirmed.

Later the main deliverables validation process has been illustrated underlining its effectiveness with the active involvement of the EC and other external stakeholders like NEREUS and Eurisy.

Another important point was the procurement and deployment models for satellite broadband which could greatly benefit from transnational aggregation schemes and centralised public policies.

Finally, non-technological roadblocks were discussed, notably: current lack of broadband mapping standards and processes, cost-effectiveness analysis and on-the spot checks for user side satellite installations.

EU Funding Instruments for Broadband 2014-2020

Robert Henkel presented the status of the Connecting Europe Facilities (CEF) proposal with member states and the importance and the potential impact of a European coordinated broadband program.

Pertti Jauhiainen, SABER project officer, then briefly presented the current

developments on broadband financing in the EU and notably: European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF), Connecting Europe Facilities (CEF), a projects bonds pilot and an increased EIB lending activity. Moreover the new state aid guidelines were presented followed by the Cohesion policy 2104-2020.

Satellite Broadband – Future Technology Roadmap

The morning was then closed by Agnes Salvatori with Airbus Defence and Space, who presented the evolutionary roadmap of satellite future technologies towards the Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 targets.

The challenge has two main aspects:

1. technology, needing to evolve platform and payload technologies to reduce cost of bit-per-second while increasing throughput;
2. market environment and public frameworks must encourage operators investment

These two aspects call for European public support and accompanying measures on both fronts, as done outside Europe.

Performance-wise the calendar to reach the 2020 objectives has already been defined with two major steps. A 50 Mbps consumer offer by 2017 and a 100 Mbps consumer offer by 2020.

The main features of High Throughput satellite (Terabit) were described. A better use of frequencies, spectrum must be attained in order to reach these targets.

This presentation will be the base of deliverable 4.5 Report on future roadmap for satellite technology and 5.3 Report of likely future technology developments.

As a matter of fact the two deliverables could be seen as one.

Preparing Regional Guidelines

The afternoon was dedicated to work on the main work package deliverables and therefore organised in two parallel working sessions: one about funding models, state aid and building the business case for satellite broadband and the second about satellite technology solutions and deployment models.

Sli-Nua, WP4 leader, coordinated the activities with the objective to deconstruct the steps involved in addressing state aid, developing funding models, building the business case and define the scope of the Regional Guidelines.

Regarding funding the lack of a single digital market was stressed as a major limiting factor so that it becomes very important to understand local requirements and available funds complementarity.

State aid might not be an issue if voucher scheme are used.

It is crucial to define strategic objectives and set up an evaluation system as well as targeting the right messages and involve the stakeholders.

Regarding the business case three main areas are underlined: market research, social and economic duties and benchmarking.

The afternoon was closed by a brief recall of the project next steps.

Conclusions

While a number of competitive internet via satellite solutions exist, they are less well-known than their terrestrial broadband counterparts. Moreover, they are hindered by consumers having to purchase an antenna. SABER is helping to make the best use of public funding support for broadband network deployment. These were originally written to fit the architecture of classical terrestrial solutions and the eligibility of satellite solutions – typically to subsidise the purchase of hardware such as antennas – is often very ambiguous.

SABER is conducting workshops across Europe to disseminate its findings (e.g. guides for satellite services procurement aimed at public authorities) and enable a broad cross-section of participants to discuss how current stumbling-blocks can be overcome. During this recent workshop, an Airbus Defence and Space satellite cleanroom visit spoke volumes on the quality of space sector deliverables and viability of the solutions it offers.

The workshop was introduced by Mrs Artigalas, Vice President of the Midi-Pyrénées region in which Airbus Defence and Space's Toulouse site is located. She concurred with SABER recommendations by stressing the importance of developing a strategy combining all means of internet connectivity – attaining the right data rate for all, mixing technologies and calling for multiple financing sources – as the only way of breaking the digital divide.

Agnes Salvatori, gave an overview of the technology roadmap which will dramatically improve current High Throughput Satellite performance by around 2020, with transfer of very high speed broadband services to provision via satellite.

Following the event, the European Commission invited Airbus Defence and Space to attend an internal workshop to discuss current and future broadband technologies – a clear illustration of the positive impact

SABER is having for the space sector.