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France Telecom continues proactive involvement in IPv6 deployment

In July 2000, France Telecom became one of the first carriers in Europe to obtain an IPv6 prefix for issuing addresses. This milestone reflects the pivotal role played by France Telecom's R&D center in IPv6 standardization work, in addition to the group's role as a major Internet operator.

Following its participation in deployment of experimental IPv6 networks and services — including collaboration in national projects and initiatives supported by the European Commission — France Telecom was naturally a founding member of the IPv6 France Task Force.

In addition to its participation in initiatives pursued by the European IPv6 Task Force, France Telecom has provided expertise and contributed to the work of IPv6 Task Force France on recommendations, as well as deployment of services and rollout of applications at the national level.

In 2000, France Telecom became one of the first European carriers to offer international IPv6 connectivity (OpenTransit V6). In 2001, France Telecom R&D deployed Europe's first campus WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) based on the Mobile IPv6 protocol, in collaboration with Strasbourg University. Buildout will continue in 2004 and 2005. Also in 2001, France Telecom R&D migrated its experimental Very High Speed Network (2.5 Gigabits per second) to IPv6, implementing a roadmap that will lead to general deployment in 2004 of the dual stack option across the entire network (core and access).

In addition to network migration, France Telecom R&D has deployed a suite of business cases. Some of them are based on an integrated services platform linking its labs in France, Tokyo, London, San Francisco and Beijing:

- Streaming very-high definition video (17 Mbps)
- Streaming audio/video on Mobile IPv6 network
- Interactive multicast videoconferencing on the M6Bone
- Home networking services for residential customers
- 6VPN service
- IPv6 E-Learning service
- IPv6 QoS measurement
- GPRS/WLAN seamless mobility.

France Telecom R&D chose these business cases to present as demonstrations during the three "Networld/Interop 2003" days in Paris.

"France Telecom is continually adapting its international IP transport network to address demand for IPv6 solutions," comments Xavier Maître, Head of Long Distance Networks Directorate. "Our proactive involvement in Europe's IPv6 Task Force and application of the recommendations issued constitute an integral part of our strategy. Thanks to the active support of its R&D Center, France Telecom will follow up its trials of new business cases for the coming two years, and try to increase its knowledge in IPv6 on international markets through its subsidiary Equant"



This commitment to moving towards concrete deployment is also reflected in France Telecom R&D's involvement in major IPv6 rollout initiatives in Europe (Euro6IX Project), in United States (MoonV6 Project of the US IPv6 Task Force) and in China (6TNet Project).

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About France Télécom

France Telecom is one of the world's leading telecommunications carriers, with 114,9 million customers on the five continents (220 countries and territories) and consolidated operating revenues of 46,6 billion euro for 2002 (34,5 billion euro at September 30th, 2003). Through its major international brands, including Orange, Wanadoo, Equant and GlobeCast, France Telecom provides businesses, consumers and other carriers with a complete portfolio of solutions that spans local, long-distance and international telephony, wireless, Internet, multimedia, data, broadcast and cable TV services. France Telecom is the second-largest wireless operator and Internet access provider in Europe, and a world leader in telecommunications solutions for multinational corporations. France Telecom (NYSE: FTE) is listed on the Paris and New York stock exchanges.

France Télécom R&D, a research and development center, provides the innovation thrust for France Télécom and its subsidiaries, in France and abroad. Its role is to anticipate revolutions in technology and customer use, providing innovation to offer customers the best from telecommunications, simultaneously imagining today the technologies which will be part of their daily life tomorrow. France Télécom R&D's results have put the Group in the lead position in Europe in terms of telecommunications research and development.
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