



PRESS RELEASE

IPv6, QoS and Power Line Integration (6POWER)

Major European Project Launched:

Working towards the joint success of PLC and IPv6 technologies

VALENCIA, November 4, 2002 – The European Commission has launched 6POWER, an initiative of major European research institutions of both PLC (Power Line Communications) and IPv6 technologies, together with equipment manufacturers and electricity providers. The 5 M€ project will also include sponsors from all around the world.

The main goal of the project is to contribute to ensuring affordable broadband access and the deployment of IPv6 in Europe, as stated in the conclusion of the Presidency from the Barcelona European Summit. To reach this objective, the project will research the native support and deployment of IPv6, QoS and other advanced services, like multicast, over Power Line Communication networks.

The ubiquity of the low-voltage power grid, with more than 3 billion electricity users worldwide — a penetration level orders of magnitude higher than that of twisted-pair telephone lines — provides a perfect last-mile solution for network operators and service providers.

6POWER is jointly coordinated by fab-less semiconductor designer DS2 and technology consultant and system integrator Consulintel.

“Integrating IPv6 with our existing broadband PLC technology is a strategic step for DS2. We believe that PLC will be a key technology that will accelerate the deployment of next generation broadband networks, so for us it is very important to make sure that both IPv6 and PLC are seamlessly integrated so that our customers can exploit the synergies created by the combination of both technologies. Thanks to the benefits provided by IPv6, our customers will be able to design and manufacture PLC equipment that will satisfy the requirements of Electricity Utilities and Telecom Operators for next generation broadband networks”, stated Jorge Blasco, CEO of DS2.

"6POWER will allow a quicker deployment of IPv6, and advanced features that Internet could offer, like QoS and multicast, but today are not being widely implemented. PLC technology is a very good business case for IPv6, and vice-versa. Both technologies have incredible potential of large scale deployment, and together will make a major step in bridging the digital divide. PLC and IPv6 will be easily deployed in large countries with large populations, that lack even copper wires for traditional telephony services. Industrial and home networking, interactive TV, or even control of vending machines, will be major applications for these technologies”, emphasized Jordi Palet, Consulintel CTO.



6POWER is already in the phase of starting technical activities, and the first deliverables have already been published, showing new areas that were not considered during the initial project preparation.

The 6POWER consortium will closely cooperate with the Euro6IX, 6NET, Eurov6 and 6QM projects, among others, and is actively participating in the IPv6 Cluster activities.

6POWER partners cover key European regions: France (6WIND), Spain (ASSA, Consulintel, DS2, Endesa NetFactory, Univ. of Murcia), Switzerland (MCL) and UK (PACE). Strong interest and cooperation have been registered from manufactures, researchers, Telco's, ISP's and Universities from around the world to drive and foster commitments in real deployment of IPv6. Further information is available on the project Web Site (www.6power.org). Also the project coordinating team can be contacted directly through:

Mayte Bacete – DS2
mayte.bacete@ds2.es
(+34) 96 136 60 04
Charles Robert Darwin, 2
Parque Tecnológico de Paterna
46980 – Paterna (Valencia) – SPAIN

Jordi Palet Martínez - Consulintel
jordi.palet@consulintel.es
(+34) 91 151 81 99
San José Artesano, 1
28108 – Alcobendas (Madrid) – SPAIN