VISITING THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY

The dust has settled after the New Year’s celebrations as everyone is getting back to work in earnest for 2018 and for the space industry this is no different. Every year in the third week of January, the Annual Conference on European Space Policy takes place in Brussels. Here, around 1,000 industry representatives and high level invited guests set out their stalls to the European Commission and the world. This is the conference that sets the tone in the European space industry for the year. Given the disruption that the UK Referendum could cause and the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) being worked on by the EC and the European Council, this year’s conference had a funding theme weaving its way through the vast majority of the speeches.

But why was GÉANT there?

Strategically, the data derived from space is one of the important growth areas for GÉANT. Both in terms of the network traffic passing over the backbone, but also the trust and identity services that allow researchers and students access to this data more easily. Last year, over 13 TB of data per day passed across the GÉANT network for the Copernicus programme alone. And with ESA planning to launch 28 earth observation satellites over the next few years, it is expected that this stream of data will increase at an exponential rate. As such, space organisations are one of the focus areas for the research engagement and support team within the GN4-2 project (NA3 T2).

Two of GÉANT’s biggest non-NREN users, ESA and EUMETSAT, account for the vast majority of the current space-derived traffic on the GÉANT network. Their presence at the conference offered the perfect opportunity to gain a good understanding of where this industry is heading and to make contact with people in this sector.

I had the privilege to meet the new ESA Astronaut Head of crew office, Tim Peake; the ESA director of the Galileo programme, Paul Verhoef; Martin Ditte, policy officer for DG GROW specializing in space data (Copernicus); and Cristina Martinez, deputy head of unit at e-infrastructures and open science cloud from DG-CNECT. The event offered also an opportunity to talk about the European Open Science Cloud and the OCRE project focusing on the Earth Observation industry.

Key messages from the conference were that 5G is now a big focus for the space telecoms side of the industry as well as quantum computing and communications from and to satellites.

Defence research is a new focus area along with the announcement that a new space policy is to be developed for the EU over the next few years with dedicated funding from the EC.

Working with NRENs to meet data protection regulation requirements

The objective of TF-DPR is to gather information, discuss and develop tools and best practices to be able deal with the requirements of data protection regulation, with a focus on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) and GÉANT’s shared services can prepare for its introduction.

The Task Force aims at collaborating on the implementation of the GDPR and other privacy regulations in the following ways:

- To build up a trusted forum with members who actively participate and are involved in the results of the Task Force.
- To provide a platform to promote the sharing of best practices, tools and policies related to data protection and privacy regulations.
- To discuss, share ideas and give feedback that lead to a better understanding of the privacy regulations. Shared opinions can result into policies that provide guidance.

The Task Force aims to gather individuals, within the GÉANT community, such as legal privacy experts and privacy officers who are working on data protection regulation within their organisations. The outcomes of this Task Force will be shared with the wider GÉANT community.

NEWS FROM THE GÉANT COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

GÉANT welcomes the new Task Force-Data Protection Regulation (TF-DPR)

Visitors to the conference were given the opportunity to see the latest developments in the European space industry. One of the highlights was the presentation of the new Task Force-Data Protection Regulation (TF-DPR), which is focused on helping GÉANT and its members to meet the requirements of data protection regulation, with a focus on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The objective of TF-DPR is to gather information, discuss and develop tools and best practices to be able deal with the requirements of data protection regulation, with a focus on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) and GÉANT’s shared services can prepare for its introduction.

The Task Force aims at collaborating on the implementation of the GDPR and other privacy regulations in the following ways:

- To build up a trusted forum with members who actively participate and are involved in the results of the Task Force.
- To provide a platform to promote the sharing of best practices, tools and policies related to data protection and privacy regulations.
- To discuss, share ideas and give feedback that lead to a better understanding of the privacy regulations. Shared opinions can result into policies that provide guidance.

The Task Force aims to gather individuals, within the GÉANT community, such as legal privacy experts and privacy officers who are working on data protection regulation within their organisations. The outcomes of this Task Force will be shared with the wider GÉANT community.

Steering Committee

Chair: Morten Eeg Ejrnæs Nielsen – DeiC

Members:
- Evelin Jeunink – SURFnet
- Andrew Cormack – Jisc
- David Foster – CERN
- Pål Axelsson – SUNET

Secretary:
Charlie van Genuchten – GÉANT
Charlie.vanGenuchten@geant.org

Mailing lists:
- tf-dpr@lists.geant.org
- ta-legal@lists.geant.org

Words

Chris Atherton, Research Engagement Officer, GÉANT

European Space Policy Conference

Two of GÉANT’s biggest non-NREN users, ESA and EUMETSAT, account for the vast majority of the current space-derived traffic on the GÉANT network. Their presence at the conference offered the perfect opportunity to gain a good understanding of where this industry is heading and to make contact with people in this sector.

I had the privilege to meet the new ESA Astronaut Head of crew office, Tim Peake; the ESA director of the Galileo programme, Paul Verhoef; Martin Ditte, policy officer for DG GROW specializing in space data (Copernicus); and Cristina Martinez, deputy head of unit at e-infrastructures and open science cloud from DG-CNECT. The event offered also an opportunity to talk about the European Open Science Cloud and the OCRE project focusing on the Earth Observation industry.

Key messages from the conference were that 5G is now a big focus for the space telecoms side of the industry as well as quantum computing and communications from and to satellites.

Defence research is a new focus area along with the announcement that a new space policy is to be developed for the EU over the next few years with dedicated funding from the EC.

Working with NRENs to meet data protection regulation requirements

The objective of TF-DPR is to gather information, discuss and develop tools and best practices to be able deal with the requirements of data protection regulation, with a focus on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) and GÉANT’s shared services can prepare for its introduction.

The Task Force aims at collaborating on the implementation of the GDPR and other privacy regulations in the following ways:

- To build up a trusted forum with members who actively participate and are involved in the results of the Task Force.
- To provide a platform to promote the sharing of best practices, tools and policies related to data protection and privacy regulations.
- To discuss, share ideas and give feedback that lead to a better understanding of the privacy regulations. Shared opinions can result into policies that provide guidance.

The Task Force aims to gather individuals, within the GÉANT community, such as legal privacy experts and privacy officers who are working on data protection regulation within their organisations. The outcomes of this Task Force will be shared with the wider GÉANT community.