

A new EU Project will pave the way for an improved Satellite & Terrestrial mobile network convergence.

Alcatel Space, a subsidiary of Alcatel, coordinator of an international consortium of 20 partners addressing the whole mobile multimedia value chain will cooperate on the MAESTRO project (Mobile Applications & sErVICES based on Satellite & Terrestrial inteRwOrking), to develop and implement an innovative Satellite Digital Multimedia Broadcast (SDMB) concept. Using the UMTS standard, the SDMB system will complement mobile networks with broadcast & multicast capabilities for spectrum- efficient delivery of multimedia services on mobile devices, without introducing constraints on the user terminal or the consumer itself.

“Our vision is to take advantage of the natural assets of satellite systems and ensure the envisaged SDMB system is fully interoperable with terrestrial UMTS standards in order to encourage multimedia usage adoption in Europe and contribute to the successful deployment of 3G ” explains MAESTRO project Coordinator Nicolas Chuberre from Alcatel Space

“MAESTRO is certainly in line with market opportunities for next generation mobile satellite systems identified within the ASMS (Advanced Satellite Mobile Systems) Task Force”, says Professor Giovanni E Corazza, from the University of Bologna and chairman of the ASMS- TF.

System studies with the European Space Agency and the French CNES have contributed to the emergence of the SDMB concept in Europe; other projects MODIS, SATIN and RELY in EU IST FP5 have demonstrated the overall feasibility of the proposed innovations, improved regulatory opportunities, and also assessed the potential market benefits.

Starting from this strong European knowledge base, MAESTRO will proceed to specify, implement and validate the critical features of an SDMB system architecture in a two year period. Based on a solid consortium that achieves a well balanced participation of mobile and satellite actors, the MAESTRO project will contribute to ensure wider adoption, broader availability of 3G and beyond 3G applications and services.

About MAESTRO

MAESTRO is an Integrated Project under EU Framework Program 6 for Research and Development. The project relevant with the thematic priority :“Information Society Technologies”, is in line with the strategic objective “Mobile & Wireless System Beyond 3G”. 20 partners from industry and academia are involved in the project, which has a duration of 2 years.

The project budget amounts to EUR 10.5 million, EUR 5.5 million of which is funded by the European Commission.

MAESTRO website: <http://ist-maestro.dyndns.org>

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| MAESTRO Participant name |
| Alcatel Space |
| Motorola Personal Communication Sector |
| LogicaCMG UK Limited |
| AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES BELGIUM S.A. |
| Ascom Systec AG |
| University College London |
| ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA |
| The University of Surrey |
| Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. |
| Udcast |
| SPACE HELLAS S.A. |
| ERCOM ENGINEERING RESEAUX COMMUNICATIONS |
| AWE COMMUNICATIONS GMBH |
| GFI CONSULTING |
| SES ASTRA |
| BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC |
| E- TF1 |
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| Alcatel CIT |
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