Annual Report IPP / RZG / Multimedia

6.1 Video Conferencing

MPG and HGF have signed addenda to the general GWiN contracts with the DFN-Verein for using the DFN VideoConferencing Service (DFNVC). This service is available for IPP and all other institutes of the MPG and HGF from December 2003 on.

The IPP videoconferencing (VC) infrastructure consists of 3 Tandberg (T) 6000, 3 x T 880, 5 T 500, 2 T 1000 and 25 desktop systems Polycom ViaVideo. All systems are operable over IP, i.e. the GWiN, alternatively ISDN lines are used for backup of the larger systems. Multipoint conferences are run mostly on the MCUs operated by the DFNVC. The open H.323 GNU gatekeeper and proxy on a dedicated Linux PC are running stable (165 days since last restart, the number of conferences per day is around 20, 5 of them connecting to external gatekeeper zones from all over the world. The current data throughput is ~150 GByte per month. A dedicated PC has be installed in RZGs DMZ and will replace the current system). All internal VC systems of IPP (~40) are registered on the gatekeeper with individual E.164 numbers which are used instead of the IP addresses which stay hidden behind the firewall. The global dialling system (GDS), based on E.164 numbers is used, allowing standardized world-wide connections. TMS (Tandberg Management System) has been installed for scheduling and administration.

AUG is holding regular meetings based on H.323 with European partners in the EFDA. A decision for using H.323 throughout EFDA and possibly ITER is still pending. About 15 EFDA H.323 systems are currently registered with the IPP gatekeeper.

MPGs General Administration is running 5 desktop systems and a videoconferencing room. Another 15 systems have been installed in MPIs of the biological medical section of MPG. The BAR installed 7 room systems in central MPIs to push the acceptance and distribution of H.323 based videoconferencing. The latter systems are registered with the DFNVC gatekeeper and supported by DFNVC and IPPs video group.

Members of the videogroup:

Wolfgang Harwardt (Greifswald), Paul Pflüger, Ulrich Schwenn, Henning Soenke, Kewin Stöckigt (Auckland, Neuseeland), Thomas von Weber (Greifswald)).

Publications 2003

U. Schwenn, K. Stoeckigt: Videoconferencing New Zealand - Germany: Experiences in Collaborative Research and Work for the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Presentation Megaconference V, Dec. 2003, Internet 2

U. Schwenn: Video over IP - Videoconferencing Infrastructure, Video over IP, Videoconferencing Infrastructure, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft & IPP, Seminar KFKI RMKI, Nov. 2003, Budapest

U. Schwenn: Videokonferenzen in der MPG und dem IPP - DFNVC Service des DFN, 20. DV Treffen der MPG, Nov. 2003, Göttingen

U. Schwenn: Videokonferenzszenarien: RZG - IPP - MPG, VIKTAS-Tag, IPP, 2003, Berlin, Dresden, Essen, Garching

U. Schwenn: Trends in Videoconferencing in Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Seminar DRFC Salle Gravier, CEA , May 2003, Cadarache

U. Schwenn: Video over IP – Establishing an H.323 Videoconferencing Infrastructure for the German Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, IMTC/Wainhouse Research European Forum 2003, May 2003, Geneva

K. Stoeckigt: Gatekeepers in general - A short introduction, Seminar via VC RZG, 2003 Auckland

K. Stoeckigt: Advantages of GnuGK, MPG-HGF VC Meeting, Seminar RZG, April 2003, Garching