

Black Sea Interconnectin (BSI)

“Researchers in South Caucasus countries get online”

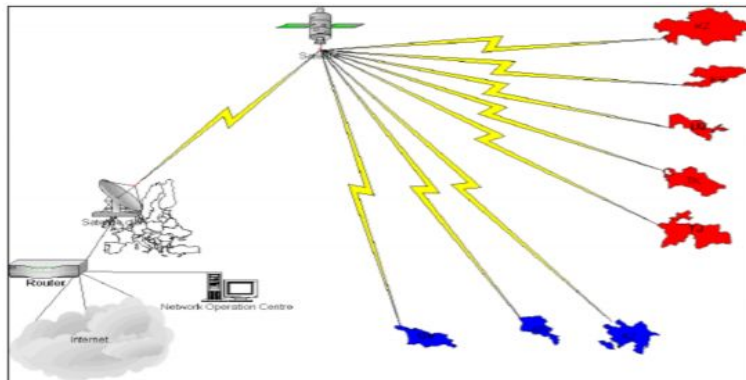
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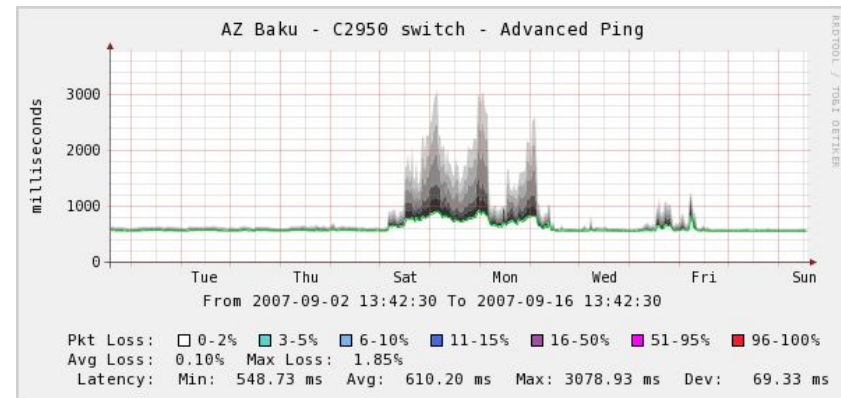
10.02.2009 Ankara

Current Connections NATO SILK Project

The NATO SILK project provides connectivity to GÉANT2 for the NRENs in **South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and Afghanistan** via satellite links.



However the SILK project can not fulfill increased demands of universities and research institutions of the beneficiary countries for international connectivity.



Memorandum of Understanding

September 2006

NATO workshop, May 2006: The need for high speed interconnections between Black Sea NRENs and connection to pan European Network

A Memorandum of Understanding Towards the “Development of Regional Research and Education Network In Black Sea Countries” was signed among ASNET-AM, AzRENA, CEENet, GRENA, GRNET, ISOC-AM, ICTF, NCIRT, PIONIER, RENAM, RoEduNet, RUNNet/RBNet, ULAKBIM and URAN



EU & BSEC

Both expressed interest on the issue

- EU policies is well illustrated by referring to the Co-operation initiative for the Black Sea region under the framework of the **European Neighbourhood Policy**
- “BSEC Action Plan on cooperation in S&T”, which has been adopted by the Ministers responsible for Research



November 2006

Available funds from EC 7th Framework Programme did not enabled “Big Projects” covering all Black Sea Region. Proposing “Small Regional Projects” for FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-2 was decided in November 2006.

Black Sea Interconnection

BSI

The Black Sea Interconnection (BSI) is submitted to the FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2007-2.

The existence of *interconnections between the South Caucasus* countries and *connection to GÉANT2* with ***reasonable capacities*** will enable introduction of new services to the region and will be an important step towards the *integration of the scientific potential* in the region with Europe.



BSI Details

Project participants:

TUBITAK ULAKBIM	TR
GRNET	GR
CEENET	AU
DANTE	UK
GRENA	GE
AZRENA	AZ
NAS RA	RA

Project type: **CSA-SA**

Start date: **01/03/2008**

Duration: **24 months**

Total budget: **1 861 908€**

Funding from the EC: **1 400 000 €**

Total funded pm: **118**



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BSI Objectives 1/3

Building a proper regional research and education network among South Caucasus and connecting it to GÉANT2

- BSI will offer *a minimum of 34 Mbps connection capacity for each beneficiary to the regional network backbone and a minimum of 100 Mbps capacity between the regional backbone and GÉANT2*

The need for stable operation and interoperability with GÉANT2 will emerge after building the regional network and the interconnections

BSI will supply a platform for the currently on going ICT projects in the region (SEE-GRID-SCI, e-learning e.t.c)

BSI Objectives 2/3

The project will contribute to the integration of South Caucasus scientific potential to Europe by successfully disseminating the infrastructure and promoting the ICT projects in South Caucasus countries.

- Promote the BSI infrastructure
- Disseminate FP7 and other funding resources for ICT based projects
- Assists in UNESCO, NATO, European Investment Bank resources for upgrading national infra

BSI Objectives 3/3

Foster collaboration between homogenous scientific communities

- BSI intends identify the involved communities in the region, capture their requirements and analyse the results
- Establish mechanisms for knowledge transfer

Current Situation

- BSI infrastructure will be operational at the end of February 2009.
- An Opening Ceremony will be held on 17th March 2009 in Tbilisi, Georgia with participation of:
 - **Ms Viviane Reding** (Commissioner for Information Society and Media)
 - **Mr. Jean-Francois Bureau** (Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy NATO)
 - **Mr. Thierry Bechet** (Adviser to the Deputy Director General on regional issues)
 - **Ambassador Leonidas Crrysanthopoulos** (Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization)
 - **Prof. Dr. Nüket Yetiş** (President of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey)
 - **Mr. Ali Abbasov** (Minister of Communications and Information Technologies of Azerbaijan)

Contact Information

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A quote...

(From BSI Kick-Off Press Release on 1th of March)

Not only integrating South Caucasus to Europe but extend the scope of BSI's achievements to *Central Asia and whole Black Sea Region*. This will transform the former "Silk Route" to the future's "e-Silk Route" by realizing a network endowed by high capacity connections. BSI2 or other projects...