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## Capacity for Transformation

### The e-AGE18 Conference

Amman – Jordan, 2-3 December 2018



*Eighth International Platform on Integrating  
Arab e-Infrastructure in a Global Environment*

*Amman, Jordan  
2-3 December 2018*

**"CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION"**

Integrating Arab e-infrastructure in a Global Environment, e-AGE, is the annual international conference organized by the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN). Since the launch of ASREN in December 2010 at the League of Arab States, it was decided to organize e-AGE every year in one of the Arab countries. e-AGE goes in line with ASREN's major objectives that are related to dissemination and awareness, promotion of research collaboration and joint activities, and establishment of research networks in the Arab region and worldwide.

e-AGE conference had established itself as an important venue for networking among experts and scientists. This year, e-AGE18 will be held in Amman, Jordan December 2-3, 2018. In e-AGE18, we will focus on demonstrating successes in using the research and education e-Infrastructures, which led to more demand on capacities at national, regional and international levels. In short words e-AGE18 is coming with “CAPACITY FOR TRANSFORMATION” as the main theme of the conference.

Renowned speakers and experts will be invited to give presentations and participate in panel discussions on latest developments of e-Infrastructures and applications, different aspects of research and education networks, telecommunication technologies, and more. Researchers are also invited to submit papers on topics related to technology, e-Infrastructures, and national and regional RENs.

For more information, please contact: [info@asrenorg.net](mailto:info@asrenorg.net)

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## **West and Central Africa Connects to the Global R&E Network to Unleash its Potential**

CAMBRIDGE AND ACCRA- The EU-funded AfricaConnect2 project has just announced that, following the tender call to connect West and Central (W&C) Africa back in June 2016, GÉANT has awarded a 15-year contract to MainOne for connectivity services. By signing the contract through AfricaConnect2, WACREN, the regional Research and Education Network in West and Central Africa, will join the global Research and Education (R&E) networking community. In addition to that, a complementary contract was signed with XON Systems for the provision of equipment.

This comes at the time of an ever-widening digital divide. The slow and sporadic adoption

of ICT technologies in W&C Africa has led to one of the lowest Internet penetration rates in the world. In this light, the recent contract announcement will undoubtedly facilitate the digital economy and will allow WACREN to truly unleash its potential and work with its members to meet the needs of its users.

Welcoming the progress of the AfricaConnect2 project and underlining the importance of connecting the region to the global R&E network, Boubakar Barry, CEO of WACREN said: “The signing of the contracts with MainOne and XON is an important milestone in the journey WACREN has embarked on towards the provision of first-class network infrastructure for

the education and research community in West and Central Africa. When the first connections will be up in the first quarter of 2018, the big gap that currently exists in the global research and education networking map will finally be closed”.

Leveraging EU funding, AfricaConnect2 was able to secure a 15-year IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use) and pay an upfront circuit provisioning cost. This supports the EU objective of creating a sustainable, high-capacity data communications network that serves higher education and research institutions across the region.

Initially, the WACREN network will provide a 10Gbps link from Lagos, Nigeria to London, UK where it interconnects with the pan-European GÉANT network, thus providing access to R&E collaborations with over 50 million researchers, academics and students across Europe. As part of the contract, an additional link will go out from Lagos terminating in Accra, Ghana. The implementation of this contract will not only connect the first two countries in West and Central Africa but will also form the building block for the WACREN backbone in support of R&E communities across the entire Central and Western part of the African continent.

MainOne, the company which was awarded the contract for the provision of network connectivity services in the WACREN region after being successful in the highly competitive connectivity tender, is a leading provider of innovative telecom services and network solutions in West Africa.



Funke Opeke, Chief Executive Officer of MainOne, commended the commitment of WACREN to connect regional researchers to the global research and education communities across the world: “MainOne was born out of a passion to close the digital divide in West Africa and this agreement with WACREN leverages our capacity and provides us the opportunity to get all Research and Educational institutions in West Africa connected among themselves and to the rest of the world. We are delighted to have won this bid and believe we will add value to institutions in our region with our cost-effective and innovative connectivity solutions”.

On the other hand, the contract with XON Systems, an IP equipment provider, completes the first procurement cycle by introducing a 4-year framework agreement under which WACREN is able to purchase the IP Routing equipment required for setting up and running its regional network.

“XON have worked closely with GÉANT in the past on the AfricaConnect projects and we are honoured and privileged to have been selected as the IP-routing equipment supplier of choice

to help build the AfricaConnect2 project for the WACREN network”, said Sub-Saharan Sales Manager Dewalt Uys. “By leveraging our vast experience of providing equipment and services to Tier-1 service providers across the continent, we can bring our vendor partnerships, engineering competency and logistics expertise as we help WACREN embark on this formidable and exciting journey.”

Celebrating this achievement, Cathrin Stöver, GÉANT’s Chief Collaboration Officer and the project manager of AfricaConnect2, said: “The global R&E community has just become stronger and more enriched. I congratulate WACREN on this milestone and invite its users to make the most of the unlimited opportunities that this sort of connectivity brings.”

*Source: <http://www.wacren.net/en/news/press-release-west-and-central-africa-connects-global-re-network-unleash-its-potential>*

## Join TNC18: Shape the Future of Research and Education!



This year, the title of the leading conference for research and education in Europe is ‘Intelligent networks, cool edges?’. TNC18 will be held from the 10th to 14th June 2018 in Trondheim, Norway, organized by GÉANT and hosted by the Norwegian research network UNINETT.

### **TNC18 - Intelligent networks, cool edges?**

Trondheim is the tech capital of Norway and we believe it offers the ideal backdrop for TNC’s stimulating theme this year. It has been 25 years since the community last met in Trondheim for a European networking conference. How far has the digital transformation come since then?

TNC is the community event where the research and education networks come together to share, demonstrate, discuss and explore all possible networking challenges. The conference will also focus on a variety of thought-provoking sub-themes such as the power of the Internet, the responsibility of sustainability and delivery, the power of data analytics, the creation of intelligent complexity, and networking at the speed of science. Expectations are high for an event that will deliver another astounding success for our community.

You are invited to propose ideas for workshops, demonstrations, discussions and presentations about building a better Internet for research and education, giving special consideration to the power and responsibility that comes with open, intelligent and global networks.

For any further questions and information on other ways to participate, please contact:  
[tnc18@lists.geant.org](mailto:tnc18@lists.geant.org)

### **About TNC**

TNC is the largest and most prestigious annual networking conference for higher education and research in Europe, with around 700 participants. TNC brings together decision makers, CIOs, managers, networking and collaboration specialists, and identity and access management experts from all major European networking and research organisations, universities, worldwide sister institutions, as well as industry. Through keynote speeches by renowned specialists, parallel sessions, demonstrations and presentations, TNC offers participants a unique overview of the latest developments in research and education networking, both in the technical field and in the area of application and management.

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## **Alberto Pérez Gómez Named as New Director of Rediris at Red.es**

The Red.es Board of Directors has appointed Alberto Pérez Gómez as the new Director of RedIRIS, the Spanish academic and research network.

This appointment will reinforce the organizational structure of RedIRIS, thus resulting in the achievement of the objectives of Red.es, the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and the Digital Agenda, and the Secretary of State for Information Society and Digital Agenda.

Since 2002, Dr Alberto Pérez has been working at Red.es, the public entity responsible for promoting the Information Society in Spain.

He joined the entity to work on the “.es” Domain Register, and has since collaborated in representing Red.es internationally at forums such as ICANN or CENTR (Council of European National Top-level Domain Registries).

In 2004, he took on the role of Deputy Director of RedIRIS, dealing with financial management, personnel, service portfolio and projects, which included working on the deployment of RedIRIS-NOVA. He also represents RedIRIS at the GÉANT General Assembly.



Before joining Red.es, Alberto worked at the Telecommunications Market Commission from 1999 to 2002, and, from 1994 to 1999, as a professor in Constitutional and EU Law at the University of Alcalá, where he also graduated. Alberto completed his doctoral thesis on communications regulation, has published two books and various articles on ICT sector policies, has consulted with European institutions and governments as part of his collaboration with the European Audiovisual Observatory and with the University of Oxford, as well as speaking at many sector courses and conferences. He also studied an Executive MBA at the IE Business School, and is a Sworn English and French Translator-Interpreter recognized by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his role as Deputy Director of RedIRIS, Alberto was one of the good supporters to ASREN developments and he contributed and participated in several activities in this regard. ASREN congratulates Alberto on his appointment and looks forward to continued fruitful collaboration!

*Source: [https://www.geant.org/News\\_and\\_Events/CONNECT/Documents/CONNECT27\\_web.pdf](https://www.geant.org/News_and_Events/CONNECT/Documents/CONNECT27_web.pdf)*

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