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OPERA CEBIT 2008
OPERA HALL 13- STAND C90

EU endorses OPERA 2 international standardization activities for Powerline Communications Proposal submitted to IEEE.

OPERA Project work receives EU top score for excellence

OPERA will present its PORTABLE SHOW ROOM in the CEBIT

About OPERA

OPERA stands for Open PLC Research Alliance and aims to develop a new generation PLC access standard to accelerate the adoption of low cost, high performance broadband access PLC. The second phase of the project (2007-2008) currently has 26 partners including electricity utilities, OEM manufacturers, technology providers, universities, engineering and consultancy companies and telecom operators. OPERA is co-financed by the European Union under the Sixth R&D Framework Program (FP6), and specifically addresses the theme "Broadband for all" which falls under the responsibility of the Information Society and Technologies Directorate General.

www.ist-opera.org

The European Commission has endorsed Opera 2 activities to develop a new generation PLC access standard. In a recent Review Meeting that took place in Lisbon to evaluate the work undertaken to date by the 26-partner consortium to promote the adoption of low cost, high performance broadband access PLC, **the European Commission stated that the work undertaken in Opera 2 is excellent.** The reviewers allocated the highest possible score for EU funded projects and were particularly impressed with the progress achieved, in particular the solid contribution to international standardization activities, excellent field trials deployed to demonstrate scalability of OPERA PLC technology and the quality of the deliverables.

Additionally, OPERA has jointly developed with the Universal Powerline Association (UPA) an Access Proposal that was submitted to the IEEE P1901 Group working on a "Draft Standard for Broadband over Power Line Networks. This group will develop an international, Medium Access Control and Physical Layer Specification which will be an openly defined standard for high speed communication devices via power lines. The joint proposal was part of the joint work detailed in the MOU signed between both parties.

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Three more Access Proposals was presented to the IEEE Group. OPERA proposal received 44 % of the votes, including the majority of the access companies, making OPERA one of the main stakeholders in access PLC. Homeplug/Panasonic's proposal obtained 56% of the votes, and so it becomes the basis for technical discussions. OPERA and UPA will continue to work together and with third parties to evolve the Access specification until a final standard is agreed. Additionally, a Coexistence Proposal was also submitted to IEEE P1901 by UPA and CEPCA, which counted on the active participation and support from OPERA.

OPERA will be represented at the next IEEE P1901 meeting to present the UPA-OPERA Access specification and to contribute to the debate towards developing a single open standard for Powerline communications technology.

OPERA NEXT STEPS

In coming months, OPERA 2 will intensify activities on developing prototypes (e.g. bare overhead line couplers, blocking filters, PLC signal splitters, channel emulators ...), **that will enable the application of PLC technology in real-world grids.** These are usually combined overhead and underground cable lines. This fact represents potential cause for many problems which could appear during operation. Therefore the preliminary results of the performed tests on Field Trial Installations will be upgraded and additional tests will be carried out to prove the reliability of the built-in equipment. The outcome of these activities will be comprehensive recommendations on the PLC network design and integration.

OPERA will remain focused on the relationship with the standardization bodies and will continue to be active on the field of standardization sustaining close cooperation in the IEEE and ETSI processes **to guarantee compatibility of OPERA technology with standardization efforts.**

On the other hand, special attention will be paid to security issues of the PLC network. A comprehensive security analysis will be elaborated. To be able to provide as many features of PLC network at the highest quality possible to each individual user, Service Provisioning System, that will be capable of forecasting the technological viability of services for individual customer, will also be developed.

New Business Models, focusing on integration with other technologies (Wi-Fi, WIMAX, Bluetooth etc.) will be prepared. This will provide the OPERA consortium a large variety of services that will form solid basis for successful marketing in the future. Also other new technologies, which were not covered in Phase 1, will be integrated. Worldwide market research, that will form the basis for creation of marketing strategies, is near completion.



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OPERA will continue and intensify its presence at conferences, fairs and media with the goal to bring PLC network technologies close to its potential users.

Therefore OPERA will be at the CEBIT, in HALL 13, STAND C86 in order to present its PORTABLE SHOW ROOM which is a tool to show the main aspects of the technology and the services it can provide to the final user.

List of Finished OPERA deliverables:

NUMBER	DELIVERABLE NAME
D2	Programmable Band Pass Filter
D8	EMC Measurement Report on Efficiency of EMC Mitigation Mechanisms
D11	Reference guide on the description of field trials and test procedures
D12	Preliminary results of the performed tests
D13	Reference Guide on the Design of an Integrated PLC Network, Including the adaptations to allow the Carriers' Carrier model
D14	PLC Field Trials. Deployment and Installation Issues
D20	Requirements on OPERA for Implementation of Multipurpose PLC networks including EMS
D23	Services Test Specification
D25	Whitepaper: Electricity Management Systems
D27	First draft of OPERA specification version 2
D38	Webpage: Permanent updates and maintenance
D42	Portable show room
D50	Brochures and posters
D51	White paper: OPERA technology
D52	White paper: Comparison of Access Technologies
D55	IPR guideline; Annex I Legal Protection
D56	Project Presentation