

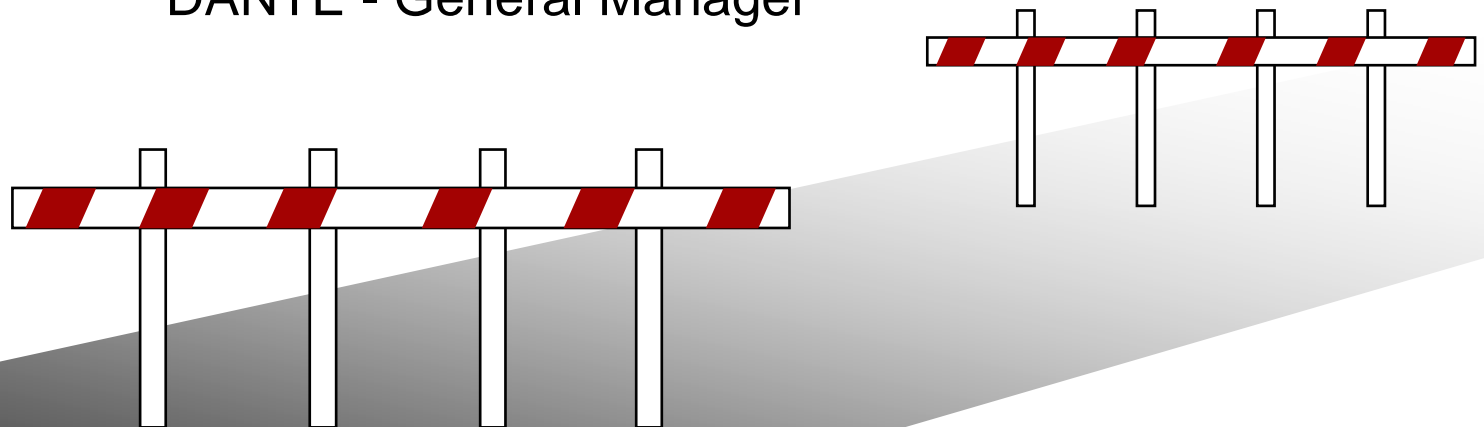


# Roadblocks on the Information Superhighway

## The Need for a Policy on Research Networking

**Dai Davies**

DANTE - General Manager





# What is DANTE ?

- **not-for-profit SME established in 1993**
- **set up and owned by national university networks**
- **to complement national services at a European level**
- **turnover 1995: 14 MECU**

# The role of the research networks

- **Pioneers of the European Internet**
- **Developing and piloting multi-media applications**
- **Providers of advanced services to users**
- **Pool of networking experience and expertise**



- **EuropaNET - *the* pan-European research Internet**
- **TEN-34 - implementing the next generation high speed network**
- **FLOWservices - value-added services: mail, directories, security**

# Research Internet: Europe vs US

## Europe

*Nationally* **34-155** Mbit/s is becoming routine

*Pan-European*, EuropaNET, maximum line speed is **8** Mbit/s

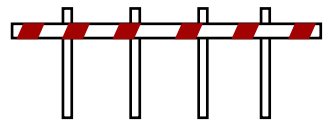
## US

**155** Mbit/s is routine, **622** Mbit/s is being implemented

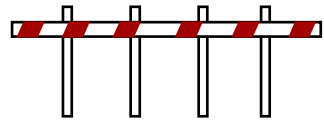
# TEN-34: a step forward

- **12 MECU contract from EC**
- **Consortium of all (western) European research networks and major telecom operators**
- **DANTE coordinating partner**
- **Objective: pan-European 34 Mbps network as soon as possible**
- **Planning horizon: 15 months**

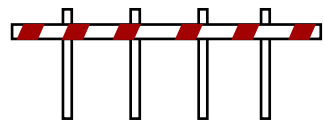
# Roadblocks on the European Information Superhighway



**No Policy for Research Networking**



**No integration with industrial policy**



**No Europe-wide pro-active telecoms regulation**

## **The missing policy**

- **US Internet: guided (and funded) by long term government policy**
- **European Internet: no long term strategy, ad-hoc approach**
- **Result: no high quality infrastructure for researchers in Europe**

# **No integration of research networking with industrial policy**

## **Results from US approach:**

- **Spin-off from research to industry**
- **Creation of high value employment**
- **Creation of a new industry**
- **Commercial successes**

## **Lack of pro-active Europe-wide telecommunications regulation**

- **A set of national markets**
- **Very expensive cross-border services**
- **Availability of cross-border services limited**
- **ONP is a step in the right direction but is nationally focussed**

## **DANTE has a dream...**

- **One, agreed, long-term EC policy for research networking**
- **Closely integrated with industrial policy**
- **Dedicated policy body to supervise it**
- **Stable funding mechanism to support it**
- **Based on user requirements**

