The IPv6 Forum Worldwide Chapters' Leaders & Experts call for Swifter Move to IPv6

For Internet Sustained growth and Future Innovation

WATERFORD, IRELAND 4th February 2011.

"The Irish IPv6 Task Force joins its affiliate organisations in the IPv6 Forum to call on the ICT industry to respond to the networking needs of the future. Our contribution towards the required migration to IPv6 is the set of online resources we have created, including two sets of videos of summits that provide detailed advice background context, see http://www.ipv6.ie/" says Dr Mícheál Ó Foghlú, Chair Irish IPv6 Task Force and Executive Director Research TSSG, Waterford IT.

The IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority- www.**iana**.org) has allocated the last IP address blocks from the global IPv4 central address pool, ending all debates over when this would happen. Several months remain before Regional Registries consume all their remaining regional IPv4 address pools, with recent trends suggesting that Asia, Europe, and North America will exhaust in that order within a month or two on either side of July 1, 2011.

"The Internet has become the global communication network, now is the time to sustain its growth and stability by integrating IPv6. IPv6 adds great value to IPv4" states Dr. Vint Cerf, Honorary Chair, IPv6 Forum.

"The Internet is for Everyone. IPv6 represents the next stage of the Internet's evolution and will help make this vision a reality," states Lynn St. Amour, President & CEO, Internet Society.

The eventuality of this day was foreseen by the IETF almost 20 years ago, and a replacement was developed. In 1999 the IPv6 Forum was established by the IETF IPv6 Task Force with the mission to educate and promote the new protocol, and now that we have reached the end of the IPv4 free pool, that mission is more urgent than ever. The IPv4 based Internet will not stop working, but it will stop growing, while the IPv6 based Internet is designed to grow for generations to come.

In our daily lives, failure of the Internet infrastructure or restrictions on its capabilities to add new users or support the worldwide economy are no longer acceptable. Therefore, the IPv6 Forum recommends to all people involved in ICT, that now is the time to leverage 2011 and 2012 for planning and rolling out the new version of the Internet Protocol. Enabling IPv6 in

all ICT environment is not the end game but is now a critical requirement for continuity in all Internet business and services going forward. Production quality deployments will take time, Starting late and accelerating the process will compromise quality and significantly raise the costs. The last thing that everyone should avoid is to have to rapidly deploy an unnecessarily costly IPv6 infrastructure to sustain growth and communicate with customers, suppliers, and partners.

Transition planning and adoption of IPv6 is now critical to the on-going stability and growth of Internet Protocol based ICT, not only in the public Internet but in every facet of your office, home and mobile electronic existence where TCP/IP and other IP protocols are used. Training, management, support, billing, security and applications development need to be engaged to allow you to be IPv6 ready.

This call is more critical to developing nations that strive to modernize their critical Internet infrastructure making it future proof and protecting their investments.

"The time is now! And resistance is futile," states Latif Ladid, IPv6 Forum President Senior Researcher at University of Luxembourg, Security and Trust (SnT) Center. Emeritus Trustee, Internet Society.

"Attempting to predict this date has been an interesting challenge over the years, given the chaotic nature of global Internet growth. The challenge ahead for the larger community will be to move past denial, mourning, and grief, and get on with the task of IPv6 deployment," states Tony Hain, IPv6 Forum Fellow, Technical Director, North American IPv6 Task Force.

"If you think you can ignore IPv6, think again. As new IPv4 addresses cannot be acquired the industry will be faced with customers / partners / suppliers who can only be reached via IPv6. Our industry will need to face the "balkanization" of the Internet. It is time to act and to deploy IPv6 now," states Yanick Pouffary, NAv6TF Technology Director, IPv6 Forum Fellow and IPv6 Forum (Ready & Enabled) Logo Programs Chairperson.

To test your IPv6 connection and see if the globe is spinning for you, click on this link: http://ipv6forum.org/test_ipv6.php or this link http://test-ipv6.com/

About the Irish IPv6 Task Force

The Irish IPv6 Task Force was established by the Waterford Institute of Technology, HEAnet and the Department of Communications, in 2004. Its membership is drawn from the leading networking and public policy expertise in Ireland including the public sector and academic networks, telecommunications companies, online services companies and general enterprise. Since it was formed it has promoted within Ireland the issues relating to IPv4 depletion and IPv6 migration, including organising two successful IPv6 Summits in 2009 and 2010, the videos and presentations are available online http://www.ipv6.ie/summit2010 and summit2009. The Task Force encourages companies to plan for IPv6 deployment as a matter of urgency, and has provided freely reusable online training materials to help with this engagement.

About the IPv6 Forum

The IPv6 Forum is a world-wide consortium of leading vendors, Internet service vendors, National research & Education Networks (NRENs) and international ISPs, with a clear mission to promote IPv6 by improving market and user awareness, creating a quality and secure Next Generation Internet and allowing world-wide equitable access to knowledge and technology. The key focus of the IPv6 Forum today is to provide technical guidance for the deployment of interoperability thru its IPv6 Ready & Enabled Logo Programs : www.ipv6ready.org & http://www.ipv6forum.com/ipv6_enabled/ http://www.ipv6forum.com

For further information, please contact:

Dr Mícheál Ó Foghlú,
Chair, Irish IPv6 Task Force
Executive Director Research, TSSG, Waterford IT
Tel: + 353 51- 302963
mofoghlu@tssg.org