

## **Special Session: Handovers for Ubiquitous and Optimal Broadband Connectivity among Cooperative Networking Environments**

For any IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem), pre-IMS, or combined network, the key enabling function for seamless mobility and service continuity among a variety of mobile/wireless access technologies supporting IP connectivity is the handover. HURRICANE focuses on the key research and technological development challenge to investigate, design, implement, validate and propose for standardisation, inter-system handover operations among various radio cooperative networking environments (3G, WLAN, WIMAX and DVB) that are going to formulate future/near future business cases for both broadcasters and telecom operators in the context of a Fixed-mobile convergence (FMC) communications environment. HURRICANE is going to assist various standardisation efforts to formulate an optimized handover operational framework towards the formulation of next generation networks where Europe has to obtain a key leadership role.

Emphasis is going to be given at the enhancements that are needed to the handover mobility management functions proposed by different standardization bodies in order to support technologies with uni-directional physical links in an optimized way and at the key building blocks that separate between media independent and media dependent handover functionalities. The software modules that will implement HURRICANE handover enhancements and building blocks are going to be deployed both at terminal and network sides and subsequently will be validated at actual testing sites. Concerning the terminal side, commercial multimodal terminals that offer open operating systems will be employed. For the network side, the appropriate servers that support the proposed HURRICANE handover operations are going to be deployed at selected network nodes for all the involved technologies. Appropriate business modelling tools will also be developed to demonstrate how HURRICANE handover advances could be exploited by telecom operators and broadcasters in the FMC market.