

Madrid, Spain, February 10, 2017

How standards are born: the 1st ETSI NFV Interoperability Plugtests™

ICT standards are born after a complex process involving proposals, drafting, testing, reviews and evaluations, trials and errors, and much decision-making, all focused on building consensus across the board. **Plugtests events** are an essential part of this process. Revolving around a certain standard, Plugtests events allow designers of electronic equipment or software to test the interoperability of their products or designs with those of other manufacturers: a key step to finding the common ground necessary to achieve better product quality, increased safety, lower costs and happy customers.

The **5TONIC Laboratory**, which is headquartered at **IMDEA Networks Institute**, in Madrid (Spain), has hosted two weeks of intense and rewarding plugtest sessions on the interoperability of the **Network Functions Virtualization (NFV) standard**, organized by **ETSI**, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute, and counting with the technical backing of **Telefonica**.

The **1st ETSI NFV Interoperability event** was a challenging enterprise in terms of the maturity of the technology used and of the complexity of the pre-testing phase, combined with an extensive, dynamic and proactive number of **on-site participants** (up to **64** on the days of maximum attendance) and of remote connections.

The event unraveled as follows: after the pre-testing and remote integration phase launched in November 2016, came the on-site infrastructure deployment in late January 2017, followed by seven and a half days of interoperability test sessions among local and remote NFV components, concluding on February 3rd.

The **30 companies** that took part on these sessions performed a variety of tests combining Virtualized Network Functions (**VNFs**), Management and Orchestration (**MANO**) solutions and **NFV Platforms**. ETSI is now analyzing the overall results and shall feed back to the participants, a unique opportunity to stimulate synergy and alignment across the NFV ecosystem.

The **list of participant companies** at this event included: A10 Networks, ADVA Optical Networking, Anritsu A/S, Canonical USA Inc., Cisco Systems, EANTC, Ericsson, F5 Networks, Fortinet, Fraunhofer FOKUS, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, Huawei, Intel, Italtel, Ixia, Keynetec Technologies, Lenovo, Mahindra Comviva, Netrounds, Openet, Palo Alto Networks, Radware, Red Hat, RIFT.io, Sandvine, Sonus Networks, Spirent, Telefonica, Universidad del País Vasco (UPV/EHU), VMware y Wind River.

5TONIC wishes to acknowledge the contribution of HPE España to the success of this event.

Event participants outside the IMDEA Networks building.

Source(s): IMDEA Networks Institute, 5TONIC
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Traducción al español:

[/noticias/2017/como-nacen-estandares-1er-evento-etsi-plugtestsr-sobre-interoperabilidad](#)

Original source:

[/news/2017/how-standards-are-born-1st-etsi-nfv-interoperability-plugteststm](#)

About Us

IMDEA Networks Institute is a **research organization on computer and communication networks** whose multinational team is engaged in cutting-edge fundamental science and technology. As a growing, English-speaking institute located in Madrid, Spain, IMDEA Networks offers a unique opportunity for pioneering scientists to develop their ideas. IMDEA Networks has established itself internationally at the forefront in the **development of future network principles and technologies**. Our **team** of highly-reputed researchers is designing and creating today the networks of tomorrow.

***Some keywords that define us:** 5G, Big Data, blockchains and distributed ledgers, cloud computing, content-delivery networks, data analytics, energy-efficient networks, fog and edge computing, indoor positioning, Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, millimeter-wave communication, mobile computing, network economics, network measurements, network security, networked systems, network protocols and algorithms, network virtualization (software defined networks – SDN and network function virtualization – NFV), privacy, social networks, underwater networks, vehicular networks, wireless networks and more...*

IMDEA Networks Institute

+34 91 481 6210

28918 Leganés (Madrid) Spain

mediarelations.networks@imdea.org

Avda. del Mar Mediterráneo, 22

www.networks.imdea.org

Twitter: [@IMDEA_Networks](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#)
