

# LU-CIX LAUNCH IS "TURNING POINT"

Luxembourg's first cross-industries initiative to develop the internet has been unveiled.



LU-CIX will provide Luxembourg with an additional advantage, says Jean-Louis Schiltz

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Based on the model of major international centres such as LINX (London) and DE-CIX (Frankfurt), Luxembourg Commercial Internet Exchange Point is divided into two key entities. LU-CIX asbl, headed up by Marco Houwen from Datacenter Luxembourg, will be used to promote the new structure as a major Internet platform. LU-CIX GIE, an Economic Interest Group whose CEO is Claude Demuth from the P&T, will run the technical backend of the operation. Both will be run in the same spirit of openness and neutrality as other well-established internet exchanges. It was Demuth and Houwen who last year came up with the idea of a Luxembourg commercial internet exchange. They have successfully recruited other companies such as LuxConnect, Cegecom, Global Media Systems, root eSolutions and inextio to join the project. LU-CIX will complement important investments made in recent years to develop national and inter-

national bandwidth connectivity and to connect Luxembourg to key European centres. The presence of Minister for Communications Jean-Louis Schiltz at the launch underlines the significance of LU-CIX to the government's continued strategy of improving Luxembourg's competitiveness as an e-commerce centre. Schiltz says the initiative will provide Luxembourg with an additional advantage in what is one of the most promising sectors for the future development of the country.

"The creation of LU-CIX is a turning point: it is the first cross-industries initiative with a common aim of developing the Internet in Luxembourg," says Demuth. Marco Houwen says the coming months will be dedicated to setting up the administrative and technical infrastructures as well as promoting LU-CIX on the international scene. "And more especially discussing the opening of such a project to other potential partners." ● D.R.