

PRESS RELEASE

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FLAVIA project set to build adaptability into the wireless Internet

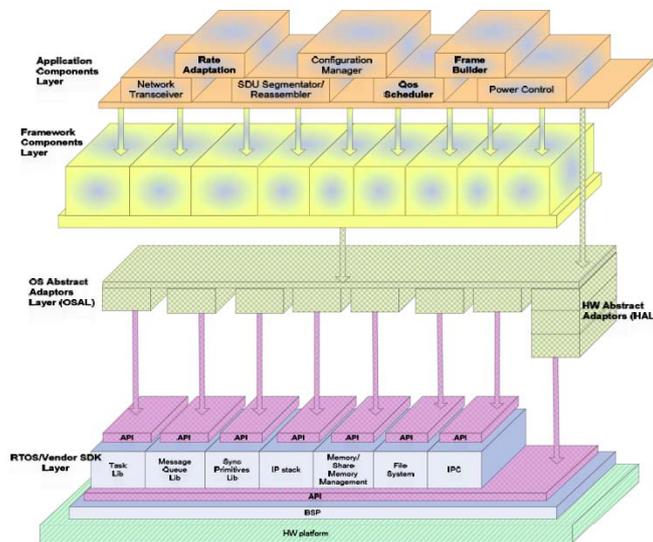
Institute IMDEA Networks is to participate in FLAVIA, a new project that aims to enable wireless networks to rapidly evolve to suit new demands.

The importance of wireless networking for the future of the Internet is growing at a fast pace as the spread of mobile devices accelerates. But today's wireless networks are unable to rapidly adapt to constantly changing contexts and service needs, principally due to their rigid architectural design—in particular the reliance on a layer-based abstraction model based on pre-designed link services. With this in mind, Institute IMDEA Networks, a research institute backed by the Madrid Regional Government, has announced its participation in the FLAVIA project (FLexible Architecture for Virtualizable wireless future Internet Access), which involves a paradigm shift from pre-designed link services to programmable link processors. FLAVIA aims to expose flexible programmable interfaces, enabling service customization and performance optimization through software-based exploitation of low-level operations and control primitives.

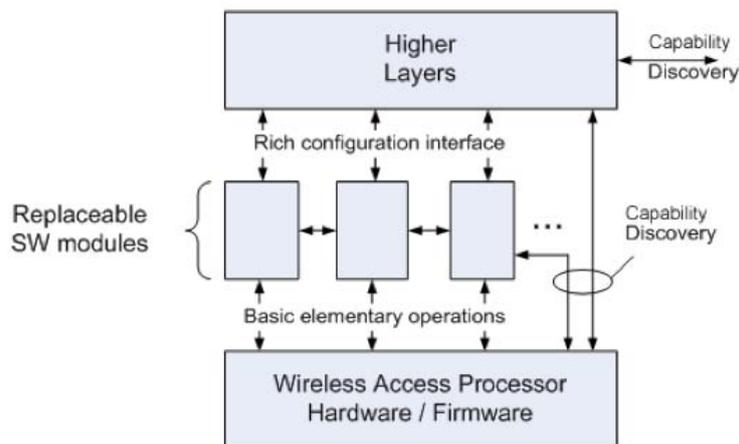
Institute IMDEA Networks' contribution, carried out jointly with University Carlos III of Madrid, will concentrate on MAC configuration and design, with a particular focus on the specification and prototyping of 802.11 modules and programming interfaces, and on developing innovative approaches for enhancing contention-based system performance. The Institute's work will draw on its current involvement in the CARMEN project, which aims to improve the cost-effectiveness of deploying heterogeneous wireless mesh networks. The Institute is also contributing to the development of video-transport mechanisms in the [recently announced](#) MEDIEVAL project, and these are to

be considered as examples of enhancements that could be implemented in the FLAVIA architecture.

FLAVIA's concept represents a significant improvement over the state-of-the-art, allowing operators, manufacturers, network designers, third-party solution developers and even end users to rapidly optimize and upgrade the network, prototype and test new protocols and adapt wireless access to new needs. The project, funded by the European Commission and planned for completion in June 2013, includes participation by a major operator, two wireless manufacturers, a mesh node manufacturer, two research centers and three academies.



A possible 802.16 architecture according to the FLAVIA vision



Wireless device modules in FLAVIA



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ABOUT INSTITUTE IMDEA NETWORKS

Institute IMDEA Networks is an international research institute supported by the Regional Government of Madrid and the European Union. The Institute brings together distinguished and young scientific researchers to develop cutting-edge science and technology in the field of networking. In order to ensure a truly international perspective, the Institute's working language is English. Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, the Madrid-based Institute works in partnership with leading businesses and scientists from around the globe. By generating new knowledge and understanding through its activities, the Institute supports the continued development of Madrid and Spain as a centre for international scientific and technological research.

www.networks.imdea.org

CONTACT INFORMATION – FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

We ask you kindly not to publish the following contact details. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you would like more information about this topic, please call or email:

Contact:

Rebeca De Miguel, Operations Support Manager

Tel: +34 91 481 6977

Email: rebeca.demiguel@imdea.org

INSTITUTE IMDEA NETWORKS

Avda del Mar Mediterraneo, 22

28918 – Leganés

Madrid (Spain)

General enquiries:

Tel: +34 91 481 6210

Email: info.networks@imdea.org

Madrid Institute for Advanced Studies in Networks

Avenida del Mar Mediterraneo, 22 – 28918 – Leganes (Madrid) – SPAIN

Tel: +34 91 481 6210 • Fax: +34 91 481 6965 • E-mail: info.networks@imdea.org •

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