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Next technology revolution will make the Internet pervasive

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A fourth technology revolution is underway, according to Jozef Cornu, the last chairman of MEDEA+, and the first chairman of its successor programme **CATRENE** (Cluster for Application and Technology Research in Europe on NanoElectronics).

The fourth technology revolution, after mainframe, PC and Internet is pervasive technology. "Not only do you not know where information is stored, you don't know where it's coming from", said Cornu, in his closing speech of the last MEDEA+ annual conference in Budapest yesterday, "it's a completely different society which needs different technologies."

The MEDEA+ directorate see Cornu as a thinker, a strategist, and the strategy he has come up with for CATRENE is to work on achieving leading positions for Europe in a number of key applications areas.

This is to be done by defining a number of headline projects, called 'Lighthouse Projects' which will require, for their successful accomplishment, the completion many subsidiary projects focused on particular technological targets.

The areas where CATRENE hopes to give Europe a leading position are, said Cornu: Communications, Security, Transportation, Healthcare, Energy and Environmental Protection, Entertainment and Infotainment.

For instance in the latter group, a lighthouse project will be for 3D television. In the healthcare group, there will be projects aimed at implanted hearing aids, artificial vision, pacemakers, artificial livers and insulin dispensers.

"We have to tell society and the public authorities that this is an industry which can make a big contribution to supporting them. So we structured the programme so it's driven by societal needs."

CATRENE is a four year programme extendable to eight years. "If successful, the R&D effort will increase. The first call for projects will be in Q1 2008, probably March", said Cornu, adding: "Let's move."