

Didier Colle received a Master's degree in electrotechnical engineering (option communication) from Ghent University in 1997. Since then, he has been working as a researcher at the same university in the Department of Information Technology (INTEC). In February 2002 he received a PhD degree.

His interests and work experiences are situated in the field of design and planning of SDH, WDM, and IP-MPLS networks, which has resulted in over 40 publications in international journals and proceedings of international conferences and workshops. Up to now, he has actively been involved in three IST projects (LION, OPTIMIST and DAVID) and in the COST-266 action.
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Ann Ackaert obtained her PhD degree from the University of Gent at the Department of Information Technology (INTEC) in 1990. Her field of research was the use of hetero-epitaxial growth techniques for the development of new opto-electronic components. At 1991 she joined the Alcatel Telecom research laboratory in Antwerpen Belgium, where she was responsible for the Advanced Laminate Substrates and Advanced Assembly Technologies research project for telecommunication equipment. In 1996 she joined INTEC where she has been actively involved within the broadband networks group since then. She currently is doing the day-to-day coordination of the IST OPTIMIST thematic network.

Christina (Tanya) Politi received the B.Sc degree in Physics from the University of Athens, Greece, in 1998 and the M.Sc. degree in the "Physics of Laser Communications" from the University of Essex in 2000. In 2000 she joined the Photonic Network Research Group at the department of Electronic Systems Engineering, University of Essex and has been involved in the IST-OPTIMIST project. She is also working towards the Ph.D. degree on all-optical wavelength conversion packet processing. Her research interests are optical packet switching and processing and wavelength conversion using semiconductor optical amplifiers.

Piet Demeester (Senior Member IEEE) received his PhD degree from the Ghent University at the Department of Information Technology (INTEC) in 1988. He became professor at the Ghent University where he is responsible for the research on communication networks. He was involved in several European COST, ESPRIT, RACE, ACTS and IST projects. He is member of the editorial board of several international journals and has been member of several technical program committees (ECOC, OFC, DRCN, ICCCN, IZS, ...). His current interests are related to broadband communication networks (IP, ATM, SDH, WDM, access, active, mobile) and include network planning, network and service management, telecom software, internetworking, network protocols for QoS support, etc. He published over 200 papers in this field.

Mike O'Mahony received in 1977 the PhD degree at the Essex University. In 1979 he joined the Optical Systems Research Division of British Telecom, where he became a Head of Section in 1988. In 1991 he joined the University of Essex as Professor of Communication Networks and Director of the Network Research Centre. He is also head of the Photonic Networks Laboratory. The main current areas of interest relate to optical packet switching and future high throughput networks involving optical processing. He is the author of over 150 papers relating to optical transmission, is a member of the IEE and a senior member of the IEEE.

Paul Lagasse became professor of electrical engineering at the University of Ghent in 1981, where he is now head of the department of Information Technology. In 1985 he became also director of the INTEC division of the Inter University Micro Electronics Centre in Leuven and since 1993 he is Secretary General of the International Union of Radio Science. He is mainly active in the fields of optoelectronics, high frequency technology and broadband telecommunications.

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