Celebrating the Launch of CAREN- a perspective from DANTE

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DANTE’s involvement in Regional development programmes

• DANTE’s has a long and successful record in managing Regional R&E network development programmes on behalf of the EC.
• However its the **beneficiaries** of these programmes that are the main priority for such projects
• DANTE sees its success in being able to assist such regional projects to
  – Establish a sustainable long term solution that
    • Helps researchers collaborate on a worldwide basis
    • Breaks down issues of ‘digital divide’
    • Brings communities together to leverage on the huge potential societal and scientific benefits that better e-infrastructure can bring
DANTE’s involvement in CAREN

- CAREN builds on the successful and pioneering work carried out by the Silk project backed by NATO
- Now a new phase has begun
  - Higher capacities and lower prices have been achieved
- The project team lead by David West (incl Robert, Istvan and Askar) has worked very hard to achieve this major first step for CAREN
  - Still much scope for improvement though!
    - Retendering for higher capacities and better pricing
    - Geographic inclusion of more NRENs
CAREN challenges

- Small number of NRENs connected
  - Difficult for long term financial stability
    - Eg GEANT now connects 34 NRENs directly – much less susceptible to impact from new joiners and leavers
  - Need consistent involvement of regional NRENs to act together for economies of scale in procurement
  - Cost sharing links requires NRENs to share the burden of different costs across the backbone for the collective benefit
- Suppliers need to understand the longer term benefits of providing low cost high capacities
  - Unlocks demand – increasing usage and increased investment in e-infrastructures
- Users need to become aware of the potential
  - Increasing demand will bring better value for money
CLARA: successful role model for CAREN

Started from small beginnings as AIDCO funded ‘ALICE’ project

Now very close group of NRENs working together with common objectives operating a very large network across Latin America
Summary

• DANTE is delighted to share this milestone with you
• Encouraged by all the support from the respective ministries and the EC
• Looking forward to a bigger faster cheaper network connecting more NRENs and their users