**Vorwort:** The road to the global village

**Autor:** Gysling, Hannes
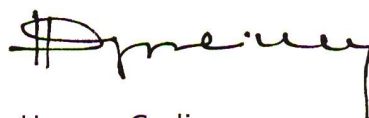
# THE ROAD TO THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

With buzzwords like «Information Highway», «Multimedia», and «Computer Assisted Co-operative Work» The American Clinton/Gore administration has launched the «National Information Initiative». A corresponding European «Technology Initiative» was triggered by the white book of the European Union (EU) and the so-called «Bangemann paper».

In the coming years profound changes in the structure and capabilities of the information technology and telecommunications networks can be expected. These changes are driven by growing competition, the liberalisation and globalisation of the markets, the technical progress in the telecommunications and information processing technology, as well as by the growing demand for communications and information services.

All these developments and activities are closely linked to a new technology, the Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM). Not only is the concept of ATM fascinating from a technical viewpoint, it is also highly important for network operators, service providers and users. With ATM it will be possible for the first time in the history of telecommunications to implement the telecommunications network as a neutral transport platform that remains independent of the applications and can satisfy almost any service.

ATM is considered to be one of the most interesting network technologies of our time. ATM supports not only high bandwidth and scaleability of the networks, but also time-critical applications such as audio and video transmissions. In addition, flexible bandwidth allocation is possible. In other words: Everybody receives at his place of work the transmission capacity he needs.

This new network technology is the focal point of this ComTec 8 edition. It gives a comprehensive overview of the current state of the ATM technology, its perspectives and opportunities. Telecom PTT's world-wide leading role in the field of ATM is documented by the successfully installed application (page …). Based on the ATM pilot network considerable know-how has already been created at Telecom PTT and the users. With this experience Telecom PTT were able to introduce on August 1, 1995, a family of new services based on an ATM network that has been expanded for commercial applications. Telecom PTT endeavour to develop an attractive range of services tailored to customer requirements. In this way the customers can migrate their existing applications to the Super Data Highway already today which means that the investment is fully protected.

Hannes Gysling