

UPPERSIDEWORLDCONGRESS

★ 24/26 MARCH 2026 PARIS



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Formerly MPLS Word Congress

**palais des congrès
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UPPERSIDE WORLD CONGRESS PARIS



SRv6, AI & DCI: Highlighting IP Networks Technical Evolutions

You have been familiar with the MPLS WC for over 25 years. As from next year the Congress branding will turn to Upperside World Congress.

Focus on Data Center Internetworking

The main session of the 2026 edition of the Congress will address data center interconnection technological issues and challenges.

From the observation that human error is the leading cause of downtime in modern data centers, the participants will demonstrate that it's time to take control of this issue and that a well-architected network built on robust hardware is essential.

Experts will discuss data center scaling challenges and technologies (compute, connecting between compute nodes power, cooling), topology and switching technologies and how photonics-based technologies help solve scaling challenges.

Leading hyperscalers and neocloud providers will come and share their insights and experiences in SRv6 in AI infrastructure, with particular emphasis on data center (DC) and data center interconnect (DCI) architectures.

AI Impact, SRv6 Deployments

Experts will discuss AI & ML impact on current infrastructures and services (Intelligent computing networks, digital twins, software engineering and automation aspects) and will explore the various high-capacity connectivity options and their corresponding technologies at the IP and optical layers.

During the SRv6 session, they will demonstrate how Segment Routing adoption continues at a rapid pace, addressing how to integrate next-generation transport technologies into existing networks.

Other sessions will be covering IP/Optical, Open RAN, Automation, Security and Energy Efficiency.

EANTC Multi-Vendor Interoperability Test

The testing of the EANTC Multi-Vendor MPLS & SDN Interoperability Event 2026 will take place in Berlin from January 26 to February 6, 2026.

The technical focus areas will include end-to-end validation of the latest innovations in Segment Routing (SR-MPLS, SRv6), EVPN, Orchestration and Automation, and Time Synchronization.

- Key topics covered will be:
- Segment routing with Flex-Algo and bi-directional policies
- vEnd-to-end network slicing
- Data center overlay automation
- Real-time telemetry
- Time synchronization over MACsec and DWDM
- EVPN services over SRv6/SR-MPLS
- SDN-controlled multicast
- Ethernet-based transport interoperability for AI/HPC workloads

Test results will be published and presented live at the Paris Congress, March 24- 26, 2026.



EUROPEAN ADVANCED NETWORKING TEST CENTER

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PLENARY SESSION / AUDITORIUM BORDEAUX

08.00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09.00 OPENING SESSION

09.00 Connectivity in an AI Era: What We Know and Don't



Roy Chua, Founder & Principal,
AvidThink

09.15 DCI and the Connectivity Boom from AI Workloads



Daniel Bar-Lev, Chief Product Officer,
Mplify Alliance

09.30 Perspectives on Quantum-Safe Network Strategies



Michael Baczyk, Investment Advisory,
Heartcore Capital

09.45 PANEL AI FOR SASE & ZTNA

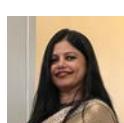
09.45 Adopt and Protect

Like many technologies, AI can be used by the “Good Guys” to build and enhance the products but it can also be used by the “Bad Guys” to orchestrate security attacks.

The panel will discuss the impact of AI on attacks: sophistication, diversity, and scale, as well as the adoption of AI by vendors and service providers to defend against these attacks.



Amir Zmora, CEO & Co-founder,
flexiWAN



Monika Singhvi, Senior Network & Systems Architect,
Colt Technology Services



Vrishi Sharma, Technical Product Manager SASE,
Deutsche Telekom



Sunil Khandekar, Chief Enterprise Development Officer,
Mplify Alliance



Sylvain Quartier, Chief Marketing & Strategy Officer,
Ekinops



Gail Smith, Director,
Cavell Group

10.30 Coffee/Exhibition/Networking

11.00 KEYNOTES SESSION

11.00



Jin Minwei, Chief Expert of Metro Router Solution,
Huawei

11.15



Michael Beesley, CTO SP Networking,
Cisco

11.30



Kireeti Kompella, HPE

11.45



Tim Pearson,
Vice President, Product Line Management,
Ciena

12.00



Ricardo Queiros, Head of Product Line Transport,
Ericsson

12.15



Wim Henderickx, CTO IP Division, Nokia

12.30 Lunch & Coffee

14.00 DATA CENTER INTERNETWORKING

14.00 Building Safer and Faster Data Center Networks

Discussing how a next-generation platform can shift network operations from risk-prone manual changes to trustworthy, automated assurance. Explaining how Kubernetes can be leveraged to automate the data center network, and how it can be augmented to ensure that the network is not left in an indeterministic state.



Michel Ploeg, Product Manager Data Center, Nokia

14.15 Designing AI-Ready Data Centers: Key Considerations and Best Practices on Network Architectures

Designing AI-ready data center networks requires rethinking traditional architectures. Exploring key considerations, including scalable topologies, congestion management, and sharing best practices for building agile, resilient, and efficient network infrastructures that support the evolving needs of AI-driven applications and large-scale model training and inference clusters.



Rajat Setia, Architect, Juniper Networks now part of HPE

14.30 Datacenter Interconnect: a Set of a Changing Network Landscape Deployments

Discussing the common elements and the fundamental differences we see in DCI network deployments as well as giving an outlook into the future of Datacenter Networking in a rapidly evolving network infrastructure.



Guillaume Crenn, Product Line and Marketing Director, Ekinops

14.45 Theory Meets Reality: AI Reference Architectures in the Wild

Introducing concrete reference architectures for Nvidia GPU-based clusters, guiding you through a hands-on exercise to generate your own RA topology, and sharing hard-won lessons from production: the cultural resistance, the compatibility surprises, and what actually matters when theory meets your constraints (and your network team).



Shelly Cadora, Distinguished Technical Marketing Engineer, Cisco

15.00 Enabling the Network-cloud Continuum with Data Center

Delving into the importance of data center interconnectivity (DCI) in connecting geographically dispersed data centers, AI infrastructures, and edge locations. Exploring the various high-capacity connectivity options and their corresponding technologies at the IP and optical layers.



Dom Schaeffer, Consulting Engineer IP, Nokia

15.15 SONiC in AI Front-End and Back-End Network - Evolution and Market Adoption

Focusing on two critical parts of AI Network running SONiC as operating system and uncovering most important technologies such as EVPN with IP data plane for AI Front-End together with DCI options as well as different load balancing techniques such as Flowlet, Packet Spray or static pinning with explicit path programming for AI Back-End which are necessary for optimal network utilization.



Jiri Chaloupka, Principal Engineer, Cisco

15.30 How AI Workloads are Redefining Data Center Networking

Exploring the evolving challenges faced by AI infrastructure builders, examining current solutions and techniques in use, and analyze their impact on today's data centers.



Shai Haim, Director of Product Marketing, DriveNets

15.45 Evolving Approaches to Scale Across Data Center Connectivity

Diving into novel, real-world DC-connectivity architectures and highlighting the latest photonic innovations that can be paired with Coherent Routing to keep AI and cloud connectivity scaling.



Rafael Francis, Senior Director, Product Line Management, Ciena

16.00 Coffee/Exhibition/Networking

16.30 Custom Network Analytics: Engineering Data

Discussing real-world practical examples starting from exploring available metrics produced by network equipments, gradually building data pipelines to extract insights relevant to your needs.



Mehdi Abdelouahab, Sr Product Manager, Juniper Networks now part of HPE

16.45 2026 INTEROPERABILITY TEST & SHOWCASE

16.45 High-light Talk about the 2026 EANTC Interoperability Test and Showcase



Carsten Rossenhoefel, Managing Director, EANTC

17.00 PANEL **SRv6/AI DATA CENTER INTERCONNECT**

17.00 **SRv6/AI Data Center Interconnect**

Leading hyperscalers and neocloud providers come and share their insights and experiences in SRv6 in AI infrastructure, with particular emphasis on data center (DC) and data center interconnect (DCI) architectures.

More information coming soon!

18.15 End of the Conference Day One

PLENARY SESSION / AUDITORIUM BORDEAUX

08.00 Registration & Welcome Coffee

09.00 AI IMPACT ON NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURES SESSION



Morning Chairman
Carsten Rossenhoefel,
Managing Director,
EANTC

09.00 Designing Efficient Data Center Fabrics for AI Workloads

Delving into the challenges of designing efficient data center fabrics for AI workloads, focusing on the key performance metrics that impact job completion time and inference performance. Exploring the importance of parallelism, GPU-to-GPU traffic, and congestion control in AI fabric design.



Siegfried Droogmans,
IP Consulting System Engineer, Nokia

09.15 AI-Reconstructed Metro Networks Face New Opportunities and Challenges

AI agent technology is rapidly driving the reconstruction of underlying network technologies and traffic value, bringing new growth opportunities and innovations to metro networks. Highlighting the technological evolution trends of next-generation intelligent metro networks and emerging industry opportunities, including user-level big traffic data mining and value operation, as well as application-level routing at the IGW layer.



Zhang Yabo,
Senior Architect, Huawei

09.30 AI Networking Test Drive

Discussing practical knowledge and real-world techniques to enhance data center's performance. Stepping into the future of AI networking with confidence—gain hands-on experience, expert insights, and actionable skills to optimize the systems for the most demanding AI workloads.



Meghan Kachhi,
Technical Leader,
Cisco

09.45 From Break-Fix to Self-Heal: Agentic Routing for AI Workloads

Exploring an Agentic AI framework showcasing distributed router intelligence and showing how it enables end-to-end self-healing, giving operators a practical path to meeting the SLAs required to monetize AI offerings.



Juan Luis Esteban,
Head of Agentic AI, Product Line Management,
Ciena

10.00 Securely Integrating AI with Network Infrastructure: Bridging Innovation and Control

Exploring how MCP (Model Context Protocol) significantly transforms the way operators engage with network infrastructure, streamlining workflows and reducing complexity. Examining the associated risks and outlining the security mechanisms designed to ensure safe and controlled deployment of AI-driven interactions.



Nilesh Simaria,
Principal Engineer, HPE

10.15 Coffee/Exhibition/Networking

10.45 The Value of AI Analytics and Automation in Fronthaul and Backhaul Networks

Explaining the benefits that stem from AI's ability to monitor network traffic in real time, anticipate congestion, detect and diagnose faults and network anomalies, and reconfigure resources automatically — ensuring low latency, quicker problem resolution, high capacity, and stable connectivity across fronthaul and backhaul.



Jari Augustin,
Head of Transport Automation, Ericsson

11.00 Turkcell: AI WAN Solutions within an IP Backbone Network

Turkcell has been conducting pilot tests of AI WAN solutions within its IP backbone network, focusing on readiness for 5G Advanced services. These tests are aimed at enhancing network agility, reducing operational overhead, and improving service quality through predictive insights and autonomous control.



Mehmet Durmus,
IP Network Associate Director, Core Network Capabilities,
Turkcell

11.15 Agentic AI Driven Network Management Migration Challenges

Starting with an overview of the highly order autonomous networking architecture with three layer full AI stack and its evolution path, examining use cases and challenges for AI driven network management and then sharing experience of building 3 network management AI Agents for multi-Agent Collaboration operation.



Wu Qin,
Network Architect,
Huawei

11.30 RAN ARCHITECTURE SESSION

11.30 RAN Architecture Insights

Specific RAN needs synchronization quality, diverse interfaces, increased resilience, and reduced footprint. Focusing on how innovations in transport technologies are addressing these key challenges, enabling efficient and agile RAN operations to support network development and scalability.



Massi Tornar,
Product Sales Manager, Ericsson

11.45 Towards AI-RAN: Lessons learned from the rise and fall of Open RAN

Examining the lessons learned from the Open RAN experiment; how it heavily influenced the Edge RAN architecture and paved the path towards AI-driven RAN transformation. Exploring how telcos adopting AI-RAN today are applying those lessons to take a more measured approach, avoiding the pitfalls that impeded Open RAN to deliver on its bold vision.



Kashif Islam,
Principal Telco Architect, Red Hat

12.00 IPv6 in RAN Transport: A Real-World Journey – Lessons, Challenges, and the Road Ahead

Sharing a real-world case study from an operator transitioning its RAN transport to IPv6. Outlining the key technical and operational drivers, architecture and design considerations, challenges faced during planning and rollout, and proven practices for a smooth migration.



András Hámori,
Solution Designer,
Deutsche Telekom

12.15 The Role of Transport Standardization for Ecosystem Value Creation

- Relationship between key optical and packet transport networking technologies relevant to RAN requirements
- Inter-Standards Development Organization (SDO)
- Value of the ecosystem as a whole, including the latest activities and challenges that need to be addressed to support 6G and Open RAN



David Sinicropi,
Director – Standardization,
Ericsson

12.30 Lunch & Coffee

14.00 PANEL RAN ARCHITECTURES



Afternoon Chairman
Amir Zmora,
CEO & Co-founder, flexiWAN

14.00 RAN Architectures Evolution

RAN networks are becoming more diverse and flexible. Examining the building blocks and architectures for RAN, their evolution, and opportunities for increased performance and resilience.

- What are the challenges and opportunities?
- Where is open RAN today and which elements are most relevant
- AI/ML optimization (what we see so far and where do we expect success)



Moderator
Roy Chua,
Founder and Principal, AvidThink

14.45 SR & SRV6 SESSION

14.45 SRV6 Transition, Theory and Practice

Exploring the theory and practice of the transition to SRv6. Focusing on the MPLS to SRv6 transition through the co-existence approach as planned for the KPN network infrastructure, starting in the core and metro but extending in other domains as well, such as the datacenter infrastructure.



Eduard Metz,
Network Architect, Transformation & Architecture,
KPN

15.00 AI Agent for Simplifying SRV6 Deployment

Preliminary tests have shown that LLMs can often perform better than human engineers in answering SRV6-related questions. Moving forward, LLMs can help to generate network configurations and answer operational questions, and thus help to accelerate the adoption and smooth deployment of SRV6 networks.



Xipeng Xiao,
Head of European Datacom SID, Huawei

15.15 Advancing Segment Routing: New Use Cases, New Value

Taking a fresh look at innovative SR-MPLS use cases co-designed with a lead customer. Introducing the concept of a Transport Selection Profile—a powerful capability that enhances SR-MPLS and SRv6 coexistence and interworking, intelligently maps services to the most suitable transport paths, and ultimately simplifies migration.



Jahanzeb Baqai,
Director, Product Line Management, Ciena

15.30 Building the Future CSP Edge with SRv6 and Native Encryption

Introducing a new architectural approach: deploying SRv6 end-to-end, including in access network devices such as Ethernet NIDs for commercial services and Cell Site Routers (CSRs) for mobile transport. By embedding SRv6, operators can instantiate per-service and per-flow policies directly on the customer premises-enabling precise traffic steering, SLA enforcement, and seamless service termination anywhere on- or off-premise.



Juan P Rodriguez,
Head of IP Networks, North America CSPs, Nokia

15.45 SRv6 uSID Addressing Design

Exploring the concept of SRv6 micro-SID (uSID) addressing, a scalable and efficient approach to Segment Routing over IPv6. By leveraging compressed SID encoding within a single IPv6 address. Covering the architecture, encoding formats, operational considerations, and deployment models of SRv6 uSID, with a focus on practical use cases and benefits for modern network fabrics and service provider cores.



Jakub Horn,
Principal Technical Marketing Engineer, Cisco

16.00 Coffee/Exhibition/Networking

16.30 Service Function Chaining - Why with SRv6?

Discussing a Service Function Chaining architecture based on SRv6. It includes explanation of different operational models (SR aware, SR agnostic, SR unaware), including advantages and disadvantages of each mode. Depending on the SFC operational mode, different challenges for service function operations or SR operations must be resolved.



Krzysztof Szarkowicz,
AWAN PLM, Solutions Architect, Juniper Networks now
part of HPE

16.45 IPv6+3.0 Key Technologies and Innovations

IPv6+3.0 in the computing/application-driven network era introduces key innovations including SRv6 BE bandwidth pooling for congestion control, intent-driven routing for multi-vendor networking, and SRv6 reliability protection, delivering benefits like optimized resource utilization, simplified operations, and enhanced network resilience.



Zhang Ka,
SRv6 Protocol Technology Senior Expert, Huawei

17.00 From MPLS/GRE Tunnels to Cloud-Native SRv6

Describing a planned transition to an SRv6-based architecture using AWS native IPv6 routing to eliminate tunnel complexity, simplify operations, and enable full path control in the cloud—paving the way for a more scalable and efficient transport solution.



Federico Luzzi,
Principal Network Engineer, Boost Mobile

17:15 OPTICAL SESSION

17.15 Real-World Progress and Emerging Use Cases in IP/Optical Convergence

Taking a snapshot of industry progress in Coherent Routing adoption and sharing insights from real-world use cases, both existing and emerging, from metro aggregation to AI-driven DCI. Highlighting the operational transformation and economic benefits that network operators are realizing from their deployments.



Rafael Francis,
Senior Director, Product Line Management, Ciena

17.30 Synchronization for High-performing Networks

Requirements for precise phase and time synchronization have developed alongside radio access technologies and are now well understood within the industry for backhaul and fronthaul networks. The convergence of IP and optical networks presents new challenges, both in standardisation and implementation.



Richard Gough,
Head of Transport Strategy and Portfolio EMEA,
Ericsson

17.45 IP/Optical Networking Revisited

Exploring the next wave of enablers for converged networks, including the role of emerging technologies like Flexible Ethernet (FlexE), thin coherent transponders, and the evolution to 800ZR+ and beyond. These innovations promise new levels of modularity, performance, and integration—pushing convergence deeper into metro and aggregation layers.



Bruno De Troch,
Director of EMEA PLM IP Routing, Nokia

18.00 Packet Fronthaul: Enabling Efficient and Scalable RAN Architectures

The evolution of mobile networks towards 5G and beyond opens the door to highly flexible Radio Access Network (RAN) architectures. Packet fronthaul becomes a key enabler, providing an alternative to traditional point-to-point fronthaul solutions. Examining the principles of packet-based fronthaul, its role in supporting various RAN architectures, and its effect on network efficiency, resilience, and scalability.



Robert Laczko,
5G Transport Evolution Lead, Ericsson

18.15 Dynamic Agentic AI Workflows for IP/Optical Operations

Describing an Agentic AI framework that orchestrates specialized AI Agents to dynamically perform operational workflows: planning, configuration, assurance, optimization, and automation. This approach strengthens autonomous decision-making, reduces operational complexity, and enhances both the performance and reliability of IP/Optical networks.



Reza Rokui,
Senior Director, SDN Application Architecture, Ciena

18.30 End of the Conference Day 2

PLENARY SESSION / AUDITORIUM BORDEAUX

08.15 Registration & Welcome Coffee



Morning Chairman
Roland Thienpont,
Director IP Division Product Marketing, Nokia

10.15 From SNMP to YANG: Accelerating Network Analytics with Push Messaging

Highlighting the collaboration on YANG-Push Messaging Integration, led by Swisscom with contributions from Blue Planet and other industry partners. By shifting network management from SNMP to YANG, operators can reduce time to subscribe and consume new metrics from weeks to minutes.



Bill Kaufmann,
Director of Product Management, Analytics and Network Assurance Solutions, Blue Planet

10.30 Computing Era: High-efficiency Training Practice of Large Models Across Wide Areas

Describing the successful deployment of cross-domain training of big models, based on the effective decision-making power of cloud-edge collaboration and the traffic learning of routers.



Dhruv Dhody,
Internet Standardization Specialist, Huawei

09.15 AUTOMATION SESSION

09.15 Network Automation: a Critical Foundation when Introducing New Technologies and Unlocking Revenues

Describing a next-generation orchestration stack to manage a global network, built on principles of reliability, scalability, and automation. Providing a blueprint for large-scale network automation, highlighting architectural foundations, design choices, and testing strategies.



Dr. Thomas King,
Chief Technology Officer, Member of the Board, DE-CIX

09.30 Implementing Self-healing Networks with Agentic AI based Approach in Controllers

SDN Network Controllers are becoming common to manage networks. While closed loop automation has been available in Controllers using rule-based approaches, with the availability of agenticAI, new more elegant solutions to implement self-healing networks are possible. Discussing the new agenticAI based closed loop automation for implementing self-healing networks using industry leading SDN controller.



Krishnan Thirukonda,
Principal Engineer, Cisco

09.45 LLM-based Conversational Assistants in Networking

Describing how an LLM can be used to enable a user to interact with a network controller via a chat interface, in order to monitor and troubleshoot the network. Including examples related to protocol-level troubleshooting and hardware-level fault-finding.



Julian Lucek,
Senior Distinguished Systems Engineer, Juniper Networks now part of HPE

10.00 Drive Operational Efficiencies with AI-powered Automation

Exploring how large-scale network data collection, combined with AI, enables faster decision-making, proactive maintenance, fewer site visits, and more reliable service delivery.



Jari Augustin,
Head of Transport Automation, Ericsson

10.45 Coffee/Exhibition/Network

11.15 How to Scale Automation with Next-Generation Autonomous Agents

Exploring the transformative potential of Generative AI and agentic workflows in network operations. Delving into the challenges and use cases where agentic AI assistance proves most effective and sharing hands-on experience in data organization and curation.



Fatima AlDaghar,
Director - Transport Network Planning Infra Technology Planning, du

11.30 Inter-domain Traffic Engineering: Practical Aspects

Examining the main approaches to inter-domain TE, including path computation directly on routing nodes and computation assisted by a centralized controller. Our focus is on practical considerations: operational challenges, convergence behavior, and the implications for both the control and forwarding planes.



Anton Elita,
Technical Solutions Architect in Routing and Automation, Juniper Networks now part of HPE

11.45 From Automation to Autonomy: Identifying High Value Opportunities in Network AI

As networks evolve toward autonomous operation, selecting the right starting points for automation is critical. Providing a technical evaluation of low-complexity, high-value workflows that can be accelerated using agentic AI, including intent interpretation, fault triage, service provisioning, and closed-loop remediation.



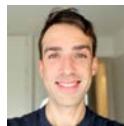
Daniele Ceccarelli,
Principal Product Manager, Cisco

12.00 Lunch & Coffee

14.00 SECURITY SESSION

14.00 From Blind Spot to Sweet Spot: Router-based Layer-7 Security

Demonstrating how, by combining edge-router telemetry with adaptive control-plane actions, operators can intercept sophisticated layer-7 campaigns before they propagate inward—shrinking the attack surface > and the mitigation window in one move.



Jérôme Meyer,
Security Researcher, Nokia

14.15 Router Security Resilience Architecture and Key Technologies

Router and network device security risk trend and reliability and resilience requirements, Huawei router network security architecture, ultimate resilience and reliability, and key technologies.



Li Zhi,
Solution Architect, Huawei

14.30 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN IP BACKBONES SESSION

14.30 Energy-Saving Digital Twins: From Network Energy Saving to Sustainability for Entire Connected Ecosystem

Introducing energy-saving digital twins—virtual replicas of physical network environments spanning RAN, transport, core, and data centers. These twins enable real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and intelligent optimization to detect inefficiencies and forecast energy usage.



Subhankar Pal,
Global Innovation Leader – Intelligent Networks,
Capgemini

14.45 Energy and Space Optimization in IP Gateway Infrastructure

- Implementing and validating autonomous network functions in live environments
- Driving operational efficiency through intelligent automation
- Reducing energy consumption and supporting environmental sustainability
- Establishing a model for future intelligent and green networks



Mehmet Durmus,
IP Network Associate Director,
Turkcell

15.00 Integrated Green Energy Efficiency Solution

To save network power consumption and reduce carbon emissions, we deliver a 3-layers (network/device/chip) energy-saving architecture with dynamic optimization and ms-fast startup, reducing device power consumption, and promoting eco-packaging/recycling.



Xu Xiaodong,
Huawei

15.15 End of the Conference

16.30 End of the Exhibition

UPPERSIDE WORLD CONGRESS PARIS



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Upperside Conferences

9 rue Elisa Lemonnier

75012 Paris France

contact@uppersideconferences.com

www.uppersideconferences.com

Telephone: ++33 (0)1 53 46 63 80

VAT ID: FR12 399 004 068

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