



Level 3 Signs Network Agreement With DANTE

- UK-Based Research Network Operator Buys Dark Fiber and Colocation Services from Level 3
- Infrastructure Will Support GEANT2 Research Network Initiative

LONDON, September 14, 2005 – Level 3 Communications, Inc. (Nasdaq:LVL3) today announced it has signed a new agreement to provide network services across Western Europe to DANTE, a UK-based operator of large academic research networks.

Under the terms of the three-year agreement, DANTE will purchase inter-city dark fibre from Level 3 connecting the cities of London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris. DANTE is also leasing colocation space in Level 3 data centres in London, Brussels and Düsseldorf as part of the transaction.

DANTE (Delivery of Advanced Network Technology to Europe) is a non-profit organisation established in 1993 to plan, build and operate high-bandwidth networks for universities and other academic organizations. DANTE is currently building a next-generation European research network known as GÉANT2, which will service more than 3 million users across 34 countries. The Level 3 fibre and colocation space will be used to support the GEANT2 project, which is co-funded by the European Commission and Europe's leading research and educational institutions.

"We're delighted to have been selected by DANTE as a network services supplier for this important research initiative," said Brady Rafuse, president of Level 3's European operations. "The research and academic market is of strategic importance to Level 3 both in Europe and the U.S.; as such, we very much look forward to providing DANTE with high-quality network infrastructure to support GÉANT2 and its end users."

"Advanced networking facilities are considered essential to research activities, where collaboration is required on a pan-European and increasingly, a global scale," said Dai Davies, General Manager at DANTE. "GÉANT2 will allow Europe's researchers and academics to collaborate, combining their expertise and knowledge to keep Europe at the forefront of global research. High-quality network infrastructure is imperative to our success – and one of the key reasons we have chosen Level 3, which has industry-leading experience as a provider of dark fibre and colocation services. We look forward to working closely with Level 3 during the project."

Infrastructure services from Level 3 provide academic and research communities with the facilities required to operate and maintain advanced fibre-optic research networks that can serve highly specialized, bandwidth-intensive applications now and into the future. The services include optical fibre cable, fibre-based network

extensions, colocation and running line facility space, power, and operation and maintenance of the network.

Level 3's network spans more than 19,000 intercity route miles in the United States connecting more than 150 cities, and an approximately 3,600 mile in Western Europe. Level 3's network utilizes high fibre counts, the latest generation of optical fibre, and carrier-neutral colocation facilities.

Currently under construction, GÉANT2 is designed to serve as Europe's next-generation research network backbone. It will provide efficient access to data processing and storage facilities, creating "virtual laboratories" across Europe and, increasingly, on a global scale. The network will also deliver substantial connectivity to other world regions, enabling researchers around the world to participate alongside their European colleagues in international research activities.

About Level 3 Communications

Level 3 (Nasdaq:LVL3) is an international communications and information services company. The company operates one of the largest Internet backbones in the world, is one of the largest providers of wholesale dial-up service to ISPs in North America and is the primary provider of Internet connectivity for millions of broadband subscribers, through its cable and DSL partners. The company offers a wide range of communications services over its 23,000-mile broadband fiber optic network including Internet Protocol (IP) services, broadband transport and infrastructure services, colocation services, and patented softswitch managed modem and voice services. Its Web address is www.Level3.com.

The company offers information services through its subsidiaries, Software Spectrum and (i)Structure. For additional information, visit their respective Web sites at www.softwarespectrum.com and www.i-structure.com.

The Level 3 logo is a registered service mark of Level 3 Communications, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries. Level 3 provides services through its wholly-owned operating subsidiaries.

About DANTE

DANTE is a non-profit organisation whose primary mission is to plan, build and manage research and education networks on behalf of Europe's National Research and Education Networks. Established in 1993, DANTE has been fundamental to the success of pan-European research and education networking. DANTE is currently building GÉANT2, which will upgrade the GÉANT network and will continue to provide the data communications infrastructure essential to the success of many research projects in Europe.

DANTE is involved in initiatives worldwide to interconnect countries in other regions to one another and to GÉANT2. DANTE is currently managing initiatives focused on the Mediterranean, Latin American and Asia-Pacific regions through the EUMEDCONNECT, ALICE and TEIN2 projects respectively. For more information please visit: www.dante.net

About GÉANT2

GÉANT2 delivers the next generation research and education network for Europe. With over 3 million users in 34 countries across the continent, GÉANT2 offers unrivalled geographical coverage, high bandwidth, innovative hybrid networking technology and a range of user-focused services. Its extensive geographical reach interconnects with other world regions, enabling global research collaboration. GÉANT2's comprehensive programme of research and service development keeps Europe at the forefront of global research.

GÉANT2 is co-funded by the European Commission under the Sixth Research and Development Framework Programme. The project partners are 32 European National Research and Education Networks (NRENs), TERENA and DANTE. It is co-ordinated by DANTE, the research networking organisation that plans, manages and builds research networks all over the world. For more information, please go to www.geant2.net