

The First Phase of the i2CAT Project

The first phase of the i2CAT project, as a component of the 'Catalunya en Xarxa' Strategic Plan, recently came to a close. It will continue, though, to form part of an international community of research groups dedicated to developing second generation Internet. This group of projects, initiated in the United States in the 1990s, now entails a global research community of over 20 countries. This community of groups is involved in researching and developing a new digital infrastructure, network services and advanced applications (www.ucaid.edu). Given this background, how would we go on to define the i2CAT project?

- It has existed as a technological strategic project for the research and development of advanced Internet in Catalonia. The 'Catalunya en Xarxa' Strategic Plan facilitated the launch of the i2CAT project. It was the first second-generation Internet project in Spain and was one of the first in Europe.
- i2CAT is a partnership between universities, companies and the public administration, whose aim is to carry out strategic research in Catalonia into advanced Internet, in terms of its network, services and new applications. It is headed by the Generalitat of Catalonia's Secretariat of the Information Society and directed by UPC. Businesses have also participated widely in the project. The Generalitat of Catalonia's Secretariat for the Information Society provides political guidance and coordinates the efforts of relevant departments of regional and local administrations. UPC, as a university that carries out advanced technological research, coordinates the range of university groups dedicated to advanced Internet research in Catalonia.
- The involvement of innovative companies and institutions in i2CAT ensures that society as a whole will reap the benefits of the project. The positive effects on society have been aided by the creation of digital clusters, which allow the incorporation of new collaborators and the joining of forces in areas that are of strategic importance to Catalonia.

i2CAT has also attempted to disseminate the results of its research among Catalan companies and society, as a way of promoting the broadband Internet market and involving technological companies in its activity.



Management

i2CAT is managed by a Board of Managers, which is made up of all the institutions that signed the initial agreement and the Technical Management Group, which comprises lecturers and researchers, most of whom hail from UPC and UPF.

i2CAT Board of Managers

- **Joan Turró** , Generalitat of Catalonia
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- **Marc Creus** , Vodafone
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- **Ricard Ruiz de Querol** , Telefónica
- **Cristina Colls** , MediaPark
- **Bernat Rigau** , Nortel Networks



i2CAT Board of Managers

i2CAT Technical Management Group

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- **Cristina Cervelló**
- **Artur Serra**
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