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ETSI approves a new Industry Specification Group on Semantic Communications

The board of the **European Telecommunications Standards Institute** has officially approved the establishment of a new Industry Specification Group on Semantic Communications – ISG SEM. The ISG's kick-off meeting was held on 13 November 2026 at ETSI's premises in Sophia Antipolis, France.

The creation of an ISG dedicated to semantic communications in the context of AI-native networks represents a major milestone for the semantic communications community. It also recognises the growing relevance of semantic and goal-oriented communications in the evolution towards AI-native 6G networks. The mission for ISG SEM is to coordinate research into semantic technologies, establish common technical foundations and support their future standardisation as the industry continues to develop 6G networks.

For the 6GARROW project, this is a particularly significant achievement. It demonstrates that the vision, concepts, and technologies developed during the project are gaining strong visibility and momentum within the international standardization ecosystem. The approval of the ISG confirms the increasing importance of Semantic Communications as a key research and innovation area for future communication systems.

This success also highlights the leading role and active contribution of the 6GARROW project and its partners in shaping the future standardisation landscape. 6GARROW Project Coordinator Dr **Emilio Calvanese Strinati** has been elected Chair of ETSI ISG SEM, with **Louis-Adrien Dufrène** elected Vice-Chair. Many other key players from the project have also shown strong commitment to the ISG. The project's scientific results, demonstrations and dissemination activities have contributed

6GARROW project has received funding from the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) under the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101192194.

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significantly to establishing semantic communications as a strategic topic for the telecommunications industry.

"The creation of the ETSI ISG SemCom opens a unique opportunity to further promote our project outcomes, strengthen collaboration between academia and industry, and contribute to the development of future standards and interoperability frameworks for semantic and AI-native communications," Dr Strinati says.

"We look forward to working together on this exciting next phase and to continuing our leadership in this rapidly emerging field. We are now about to begin active studies. On a personal note, having studied and worked on Semantic Communications concepts and technologies since 2016, I am very happy that this ISG is now getting under way. Any partners not yet involved but interested in joining can contact me to find out how to join us," he concludes.

Further information about ISG SEM is available on the ETSI website.

About ETSI

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute provides an open, inclusive and collaborative environment for the development and testing of globally applicable standards for ICT-enabled systems, services and applications. Uniting over 950 members across more than 60 countries, ETSI is a front-runner in producing standards and specifications for telecommunications and other digital technologies that industry, citizens and communities depend on daily.

As a European Union recognised European Standardisation Organisation, ETSI plays a leading role in creating technology standards for 5G, machine-to-machine / IoT and more, supporting European regulatory policymaking as well as the wider global market.

About 6GARROW

6GARROW is a joint European–Korean research project supported by the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) and the Institute for Information & Communications Technology Promotion (IITP). Its mission is to develop AI-native, energy-aware, and resilient 6G network architectures that integrate intelligence across devices, radio access networks, and core systems. Through close collaboration between leading academic, research, and industry partners, 6GARROW is advancing technologies that will shape the future of global communication infrastructure.

The 6GARROW consortium includes CEA-Leti, Fraunhofer HHI, Aalto University, University of Oulu, Intel, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Grenoble Ecole de Management, Orange, Yonsei University, Korea University, ETRI and LG.

For more information, visit https://6garrow.com/.

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