



Activity Title and Number: EU-China Conference on the Internet of Things A387-C5

Beneficiary: MIIT

Location and Date: Shanghai, 28-30 October 2014

Stakeholders: CATR, EUCCC, Chinese and European ICT companies

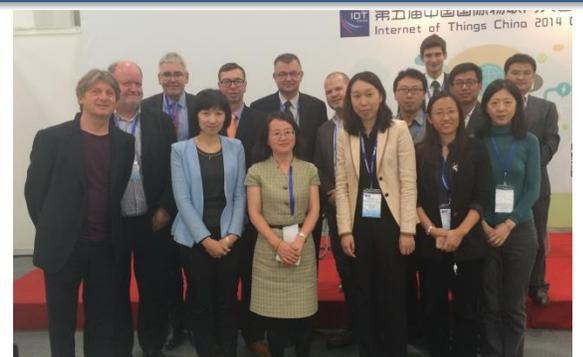
Brief Activity Report

Relevance and Impact

The Internet of Things (IoT) is defined as a dynamic global network infrastructure with self-configuring capabilities based on standard and interoperable communication protocols where physical and virtual “things” have identities, physical attributes and virtual personalities, use intelligent interfaces and are seamlessly integrated into the information network. IoT has moved from being a futuristic vision to an increasing market reality both in China and Europe. It is estimated that IoT will account for an increasingly huge number of connections: 1.9 billion devices today, and 9 billion by 2018 - roughly equal to the number of smartphones, smart TVs, tablets, wearable computers, and PCs combined. To assess the tremendous business opportunities for devices, software services and application integration in a large area of vertical specific sectors, the EUCTP II organised a conference to discuss respective trends and policy developments.

Activity Description

The conference was organised in different panels that were integrated into the expo and conference IoT China 2014, which is organised annually under the auspices of China’s MIIT. The break-up sessions focused on IoT applications and pilot projects with regard to intelligent transport systems, e-health, agriculture and food safety, smart cities, as well as approaches and tools to promote innovation in these fields. Both sides introduced their respective approaches and agreed on a follow-up event during a concluding roundtable discussion with a view to stimulate the development of overarching strategic plans for the Internet of Things and to further deepen and explore bilateral cooperation in this field.



Chinese and European experts at the IoT China 2014 in Shanghai

Results and Dissemination

- ✓ Both sides face common societal challenges, e.g. increasing traffic volume in cities or rising health costs, to which IoT developments and applications can provide solutions.
- ✓ Common barriers were identified, e.g. in terms of standardisation, as well as the challenge to find business models capable of turning IoT innovations into profitable businesses, while a potential China-specific obstacle was found to lie in internet censorship, which might be a major barrier to the globalisation of the IoT;
- ✓ The need for more B2B opportunities and room for business matchmaking was identified to be of common interest – as was the involvement of more experts, innovators and entrepreneurs;
- ✓ Follow-up event will be organised back-to-back with the IoT event SIDO, to take place in Lyon, France, 7-8 April 2015.