



PRESS RELEASE

THE TUCAN3G PROJECT WAS PRESENTED TO RURAL COMMUNITIES OF PERU DURING A WORKSHOP ABOUT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Madrid, 15/12/2014 – The TUCAN3G project has participated in the workshop "Creating a business model and proper incubation process for the success of community telcos in the Peruvian Amazon" held in Yurimaguas (Alto Amazonas, Peru) on 27 and 28 November. The meeting was organized by the IEEE Foundation, the University of Colorado Boulder, the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) and the TUCAN3G project itself, an Specific Targeted Research Project of the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission.



1: Representatives of the institutions that attended the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to identify needs for the implementation of small business telecommunications in rural areas of the Peruvian Amazon, as well as share models that ensure their sustainability. The first step of the workshop was a meeting with FITEL and OSIPTEL in Lima to discuss issues related to regulatory and legal requirements for rural operators. The next sessions took place in Yurimaguas in direct contact with some rural areas of Balsapuerto, where Community leaders (APUs), local government representatives and public health staff participated actively in the discussions. They also signed an agreement to further explore and design a definitive proposal to provide Internet and mobile telephony services in these isolated rural areas.



2: Presentation of TUCAN3G project.

The objectives of TUCAN3G were presented by EHAS, one of the 11 partners of this consortium funded by CE and coordinated by UPC and URJC. Its research on Wireless technologies for isolated rural communities in developing countries based on cellular 3G femtocell deployments is being developed since 2013. The results achieved so far were shared in the workshop to show its new technical solutions as well as analysis of business models to provide sustainable and low-cost telecommunications services in these areas.

Regarding the agreements of the meeting, for the short term, a co-operative or civil association will be created by the local communities to provide Internet services (including VoIP telephony) only to their members using the existing wireless network infrastructure that operates in

unlicensed spectrum. Whereas, in the medium and long term, it is envisioned that the business model will evolve to offer mobile services (3G/4G voice and data), which will require get an operator license from the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC). Another option would be sharing the network infrastructure with an established (licensed) mobile operator, in order to extend the services available in Yurimaguas to these rural communities, without requiring huge investments (CAPEX) and with lower costs (OPEX) compared to satellite solutions.

PRESS CONTACT

- **Fundación EHAS (www.ehas.org)** is a non-profit organization which improves healthcare in remote areas of developing countries through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) – Contact: ana.garcia@ehas.org
- **La Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (UPC) (www.upc.edu)** is a public institution dedicated to research and higher education, specialised in the fields of architecture, science and engineering.