

Reflecting on 10 years of CO-LaN

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The CAPE-OPEN Laboratories Network (CO-LaN) was created as a not-for-profit organization in February 2001 as a deliverable of the European funded projects on CAPE-OPEN standards. CO-LaN's objective is to expand process modelling capability through software interoperability standards.

Initially under the chairmanship of IFP, then from Dow, Shell and currently BP, it has greatly evolved in size, spread and actions: close to 90 members, from all over the world even if still mostly from Europe, are now part of CO-LaN, including most of the process simulation vendors. The membership is divided in Full and Associate Members. Full Members are end-user, operating companies and are funding CO-LaN while software vendors, universities and other parties, as Associate Members, are paying no fee to participate in CO-LaN.

In the last 10 years, in accordance with its missions, CO-LaN has delivered a series of conferences (in Europe and the US) to publicize implementation and use of CAPE-OPEN technology, new interface specifications (Thermodynamics 1.1), revised specification documents on thermodynamic and unit operation interfaces, a suite of testers, a Wizard (other parties have contributed Wizards in several programming languages), a logger (COLTT now distributed as open source), several source code examples, advice to developers by dedicated experts, training sessions in Europe and the US on many aspects of the CAPE-OPEN standards. CO-LaN has also conducted numerous interoperability tests, in order to assist the vendors in making their modelling software CAPE-OPEN compliant.

Through the CAPE-OPEN Award, CO-LaN has recognized the people and organizations that have made and progressed the CAPE-OPEN standards while several major bodies have recognized the work done by CO-LaN (EFCE, VDI-GVC, EGAS) as significant contributions to accelerating the increase in power and scope of process simulation. CO-LaN remains targeted at providing the necessary drive to the CAPE-OPEN standards adoption and use and, to meet the requirements of its Full Members, CO-LaN is currently commissioning the production of CO wrappers for third party software.