

Laudatio presented by Prof. Oscar Martinez Bonastre honoring Dr. Paul Mockapetris

His Excellency and magnificent Rector of the Miguel Hernández University of Elche, illustrious civil and military authorities, esteemed colleagues, professors, administration and services staff, students, ladies and gentlemen.

Personally, it is a great honor and source of particular satisfaction being able to participate in this ceremony. First, I would like to express my gratitude towards our Rector, Professor Jesús Tadeo Pastor Ciurana, for allowing me to present this *laudatio* in the investiture as Doctor *Honoris Causa* of a personality as prominent internationally as is Dr. Paul Mockapetris. Likewise, I am also grateful for his deference toward us and acceptance of the Doctor *Honoris Causa* by our university, honoring us today with his presence precisely in the year that his main contribution to the development of the Internet turns 30 years of age.

In representing the School of Engineering of Elche management team, I would like to thank all the departments and services within our university for supporting the nomination of Dr. Mockapetris as Doctor *Honoris Causa* by our university. A thank you also goes out to all those colleagues at academic institutions on different continents who endorsed the proposal that was subsequently approved by the governing board of our university.

In any presentation where Paul Mockapetris is introduced, or even in any Internet search on him, phrases like “one of the fathers of the Internet”, “the man who coined the term .com and changed the world”, etc., are usually found. With these types of phrases, the proposal of Dr. Mockapetris as Doctor *Honoris Causa* is really quite simple to defend with a relatively brief speech.

In 1971, Paul Mockapetris received bachelor’s degrees in physics and electrical engineering from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (better known internationally by its famous acronym, MIT), and then in 1982 he earned his doctorate in information and computer science from the University of California at Irvine. In 2001, that same university awarded him special mention as a Distinguished Alumnus in recognition of his contribution to Internet development.

For more than thirty years, Dr. Mockapetris has carried out numerous important activities, and he has been recognized for having significantly influenced the development of a large distributed system that is known as the Internet. In 1983, his main contribution, the Domain Name System, became known, although worldwide his invention is better known by its English acronym, DNS, which is a system for translating domain names to Internet addresses using a distributed and dynamic database.

Thanks to his valuable contribution, we may surf the Internet using intelligible names like www.google.com and thus avoid having to do it using the numeric address 173.194.41.19, which would be complicated to memorize by any human being.

Worldwide, a large number of Internet users (us) have used his invention to configure their personal computer at some time or another. Moreover, one could say that Dr. Mockapetris created the first “guide” for finding Internet resources regardless of their geographic location.

I still remember how in the first year of the UMH’s existence, our dear colleague Pedro Fernández Cornejo was the first to operate the DNS server at the computer services of our

university and also responsible for announcing our web address, www.umh.es.

The extensive experience of Dr. Mockapetris began in the 1970s. Initially, he participated in the development of distributed operating systems and distributed communications systems, as well as in numerous projects that were subsequently marketed by companies such as IBM.

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Dr. Mockapetris served as director of the high performance computing and communications division at the University of Southern California. In the early 1980s, Dr. Mockapetris invented the DNS and participated in the design of the first email systems, writing the first implementation of the SMTP protocol that was essential for exchanging emails. During this time period, he also successfully led a large number of projects at the same university.

From 1990 to 1993, Dr. Mockapetris was a program manager at DARPA in Arlington (Virginia, United States) and responsible for programs fundamentally applied to the development of fiber optic networks, dark fibre, and Internet technologies.

In the second half of the 1990s, Dr. Mockapetris held senior posts at technology companies in California, one of the world's locations with the most activity in research, development, and innovation. From 1995-96, he was engineering director at the company @Home (Palo Alto, California), which offers high performance internet to millions of users; from 1996-97, he had management tasks at the company Software.com (Santa Barbara, California); from 1998-99, he did so at Fiberlane (Mountain View, California); and from 1999-2001, he worked at Urban Media (Palo Alto, California).

Since 2001, Dr. Mockapetris has been chairman and chief scientist at the company Nominum (Redwood City, California) where he remains involved with Internet technologies and services associated with DNS. What's more, since 2009, he has been a visiting scholar at the Pierre and Marie Curie University/LIP6 in Paris.

Dr. Mockapetris has also been part of and remains on the boards of numerous institutions and prestigious technology companies related to Internet technologies. He has also done consulting work for governmental institutions, fundamentally, the United States of America.

And to all this, we must add the many leadership positions he has held for international organisms that coordinate Internet development, among which standing out, from 1994-96, is his chairing of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), which is known worldwide for being the entity regulating Internet proposals and standards.

As for prizes and awards, in 2003 he received the Internet Award from the IEEE, the world's largest professional association dedicated to standardization. In 2004, he became an ACM Fellow by ACM International, and in 2005, he won the SIGCOMM Award. Dr. Mockapetris was inducted as a member into the Internet Hall of Fame in 2012 in recognition of his contribution to Internet development and his invention of the DNS.

And like this, his résumé goes on and on, a very long list of awards indeed.

Next, grant me permission to briefly address Dr. Mockapetris in his native language and show him our recognition and that of the international academic community of the Americas, Europe, and Asia, for his honorary doctorate presented by the Miguel Hernández University of Elche.

To summarize, the accumulation of merits and distinctions Dr. Mockapetris possesses is nothing more than a minimum reflection of the extent of his contributions to Internet development. I believe that the inclusion of Paul Mockapetris into the faculty of our university will honor us all. We enthusiastically hope that this is an honor for himself as well.

And for all these reasons, I request with full consideration to proceed with the investiture of Paul Mockapetris as Doctor *Honoris Causa* by the Miguel Hernández University of Elche.

Thank you very much.