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Nassau, Bahamas, December 2-4, 2008

MSF – We Make Next Generation Networks *Work*

Letter from the President


Dear MSF Member,

Our second quarter 2008 Technical Committee Meeting took place in Dublin, July 8 to 10, and as one would expect at this stage in our cycle, it was very well attended. GMI 2008 is now very much on everybody's radar screen and most of the lively, face-to-face discussions focussed on the final, detailed preparation - Implementation Agreements (IAs), Test Plans, Network Planning and so on. As ever, a lot of hard work was crammed into three days, but we did find time to visit the Guinness factory and sample its wares!



A lively GMI 2008 planning session at the MSF Technical Committee Meeting in July.

The list of participants for this event is impressive but more are welcome. MSF will accept new GMI participants until August 29. As indicated in the last newsletter, our GMI 2008 programme aims to incorporate test scenarios that have broad industry appeal. When other major industry bodies recognize this it is particularly heartening and I am pleased to be able to announce that ATIS has signed an agreement to partner with the MSF in the GMI 2008 IPTV



scenario. ATIS (the US based Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions) is the global leader in IPTV standards development, so it is hard to overstate the importance of being able to demonstrate key components of its IPTV architecture in the demanding real world networked environment provided by GMI 2008. I am also pleased to announce that the Broadband Forum (formerly the DSL Forum) recognizes the value of our work and has agreed to become a GMI 2008 Affiliate Sponsor. Our focus on the practical implementation of NGN standards has attracted a number of new members to whom I should like to extend a very warm welcome.

We've been working hard for the last 12 months planning for GMI 2008 and now all systems are go! The host sites are on board, we have a critical mass of participants, and the test scenarios are being finalised. Just in case you are reading this newsletter and are thinking about participating, we may still be able to accommodate you at this late stage, so please get in touch without delay. The relevant documentation and details of how to apply is available on the MSF web site:

[http://www.msforum.org/interoperability/MSF Participant Contract Final Revision.pdf](http://www.msforum.org/interoperability/MSF_Participant_Contract_Final_Revision.pdf)
and
[http://www.msforum.org/interoperability/GMI 2008 NDA FINAL 11Feb08.pdf](http://www.msforum.org/interoperability/GMI_2008_NDA_FINAL_11Feb08.pdf)

Best wishes,

Roger Ward, MSF President

ATIS/MSF Partnership Puts IPTV Standards to the Test

Key IPTV building blocks relating to authentication and initialization will be put to the test when ATIS (www.atis.org) joins forces with the MSF for GMI 2008. The partnership between the two organizations brings together ATIS' global reach in IPTV standards development with the MSF's proven success at validating key NGN concepts.

'GMI 2006 proved that the IMS architecture was ready for real world deployment,' commented Roger Ward, Office of the CTO, BT Group and President of the MSF. 'Now the main emphasis at GMI 2008 will be to show that key emerging services, such as IPTV, can effectively leverage this enabling infrastructure.'

ATIS President and CEO Susan M. Miller announced the partnership agreement at NxtComm. These are some of the highlights of her presentation:

'As the global leader in IPTV standards development, it is fitting that ATIS is the first standards development organization to formally demonstrate key components of its IPTV architecture. More than 40 ATIS member companies participate in the ATIS Interoperability Forum (IIF: details at www.atis.org/IIF/).

The time for ATIS to prove the 'real-world' applicability of its standards in the IPTV arena is now. ATIS is pleased to be the exclusive partner of the MSF for the 2008 GMI IPTV testing event, where the ATIS IIF will demonstrate its global leadership position on IPTV standards architecture.

MSF has a history of proven success when it comes to validating NGN concepts in real network deployment scenarios. GMI is an opportunity to test critical aspects of the IIF IPTV standards in a realistic, end-to-end environment. GMI 2008 will test key elements involved in the initialization of set top boxes—the automatic configuration and authentication of boxes to enable true plug-and-play.'



GMI 2008 Participation

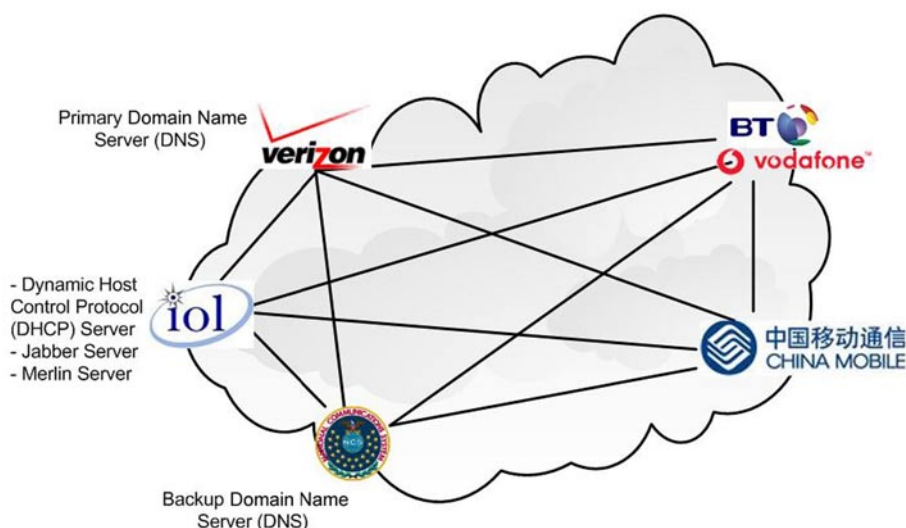
BT and Vodafone in Europe, China Mobile in Asia plus Verizon, The National Communications Systems and UNH-IOL in North America will provide laboratory facilities at GMI 2008 host sites in order to create a 'real world' global network. This will allow vendor participants to work together in a collaborative environment and thereby verify the interoperability of critical NGN elements in a range of practical scenarios. Building on the success of previous events, GMI 2008 includes enhanced test scenarios and embraces a wider range of service capabilities including the demonstration of end-to-end QoS over a variety of access tiles (including WiMAX), whilst supporting typical advanced services ranging from Location Management to IPTV.

Participants currently include. Acme Packet, Alcatel Lucent, Codenomicon, Empirix, Fujitsu, Huawei Technologies, Motorola, MuDynamics, NEC, Nokia-Siemens Networks, Nortel, OSI, Sonus, Spirent, Starent Networks, TELES, and ZTE Corporation.

GMI Interconnect Network

The GMI 2008 interoperability test scenarios involve the connection of five sites: two in the UK, two in North America, and one in China to a common backbone network. The design of this international network will use fully meshed VPNs and the global academic IP networks.


The GMI 2008 global interconnect test network connects the five host-sites shown here. They will be linked using VPN/IPsec tunnels and will also have Internet access and the ability to offer participants remote access via VPNs for remote configuration purposes. Vendors will be assigned a unique IP Address (worked into the overarching IP Addressing Scheme), which they may choose to utilize for remote access.



A new feature of the GMI 2008 network is the inclusion of VPN IPsec tunnels. These are enabled by Nortel routers at each site. Additional functionality includes PSK encryption with a common key and dynamic routing.

The GMI network this year is using a different technical solution than in previous GMI events. In the past, connectivity was provided using dedicated leased lines between each of the sites, with core routers providing interconnection. This does provide a highly reliable infrastructure, but it has two key disadvantages; it is very expensive, and it does not reflect the trend toward virtual private networks.

To better reflect the NGN concepts being deployed in commercial networks, the GMI team this year decided to enable connectivity between sites using VPNs. This is being provided using secure routers provided by Nortel at each site. Nortel's Secure Router 4134 is a modular, multi-service platform that integrates multiple networking functions, including routing, WAN, Ethernet switching, security and VoIP



into a single device. The platform's design ensures the consistently high throughput required by voice, data or unified communications applications. The use of VPNs provides very robust, cost effective, interconnection between the five host sites, with the latest NGN technology.

GMI Sponsorship Opportunities

Four Premier Sponsorships opportunities for GMI 2008 are still available. Benefits include:

- ⊙ Speaking opportunity at host-site press conference (s) during GMI
- ⊙ First right of refusal on other speaking opportunities announcing the results of GMI
- ⊙ Collateral distribution at host site press conference during GMI
- ⊙ Logo on all official GMI materials
- ⊙ Logo on GMI 2008 White Paper document that will be widely distributed to the industry press and interested parties
- ⊙ Logo on MSF website listed as Premier Sponsor
- ⊙ Listed in the official press release announcing the event results

Cost: \$25,000. Contact Julianne Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@msforum.org or +1.510.492.4052 to sign-up!

Membership news


Richard Kaczmarek from National Communication System (NCS) was honored with the Q308 Circle of Excellence Award at the Dublin meeting in July. Richard has been an indispensable member of the GMI Planning Committee and of the MSF as a whole. In addition, he has been a valuable contributor to the GMI Network Planning Committee and has offered key insight into the design of the GMI 2008 Interconnect Network.

Richard's input has been especially helpful for the completion of the GMI IP Addressing Scheme and in providing visual representations of the Network and the Host Site Configurations. Richard also represented the MSF at NXTcomm. His assistance with the presentation and the Q&A sessions for the panel were exceptionally helpful. Richard is also Host Site Manager for the NCS site in Chantilly, VA. He has maintained near perfect attendance on all of the GMI Planning, Network Planning, and Scheduling Committee calls. Richard has become crucial to the success of GMI and deserves to be recognized for all of his efforts.

Bhumip Khasnabish (Verizon, and MSF IPTV TF) and Mitchell Wu (ZTE, and MSF MA&E Co-Chair) participated in a panel discussion at the US IPTV World Forum, which took place in Chicago on July 23 2008. The key topic was the MSF's IPTV Interoperability test scenario at GMI 2008.

Panelists agreed that IMS based IPTV service implementations will interoperate more easily. Non-IMS IPTV implementations use proprietary protocols and/or extensions, and offer too many variants and options. And, currently there is no industry-wide agreement among the vendors to use any particular variants and protocols, so non-IMS implementations will create silos of non-interoperable infrastructures.





Discussions on home network and STB management focused on the Broadband forum's (former DSL Forum) TR-069 standard and the models that the MSF plans to use during GMI. The slides from this event will be available on the Informa website.

What the media is saying

Most people agree that IMS has an important part to play in delivering future IP-based telecoms services, so why has progress been so slow? Early proponent KPN declared in late 2007 that it was scaling back its plans because IMS was not ready. And the first mobile services enabled by the networking architecture have received a lukewarm reception.

But the industry consensus is that the networking role of IMS is secure. No other standard promises to deliver real-time services independent of the access network or has had so much intellectual effort invested in its development. For mobile, fixed and cable operators it is not a question any more: 'IMS is the long-term vision for the core of their networks', says Christoph Aktas, head of partnerships for terminals and clients at Nokia Siemens Networks.

First, though, technical issues must be overcome while operators continue to grapple with the business case for IMS. Cost of deployment, complexity and interface inconsistencies are also cited as reasons for the current slow progress. Indeed the widespread deployment of IMS will take time. And in fast-moving telecoms markets IMS faces the risk that operators will pursue alternatives that could ultimately curtail its grand networking vision. 'There is always that potential', says Stephane Tehral, principal analyst at Infonetics Research. 'You can't ignore it.'

That is one motivator for the latest initiative from operators and vendors, the Rich Communication Suite (RCS), that aims to kick-start IMS for mobile services. RCS aims to tackle the lack of IMS handsets, and the inability of IMS services to span mobile networks. RCS is backed by operators Orange, Telecom Italia, TeliaSonera, Telefonica and NTT DoCoMo, vendors Ericsson and Nokia Siemens Networks, as well as handset makers Nokia, Samsung and Sony Ericsson.

New Members

MSF has acquired several new members over the last quarter: China Mobile, Codenomicon, ECT, Mu Dynamics, Objective Systems Integrators (OSI) and Starent Networks

