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From *Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun* (8 November 2002, Japan):

Test Evaluation: MSF Starts Multi-Vendor Interoperability Testing With Japan, U.S. and U.K. Network

The Multiservice Switching Forum's (MSF) *Global MSF Interoperability (GMI) 2002* tests the interoperability of a multi-vendor network in which Japan, the U.S. and Britain are connected. The test evaluations are intended to show that the time is approaching when a next-generation network can be built economically in a multi-vendor environment. MSF is made up of carriers and equipment vendors from 43 companies around the world. It aims at realizing next-generation networks which offer extensive service flexibly in an open environment. This is the first time the MSF has undertaken an interconnection examination of this scale. It is new that a communication field also examines a multi-vendor environment in the world-scale network. Testing will continue until November 15th. GMI 2002 ties the NTT Musashino Research and Development Center, the University of New Hampshire Interoperability Lab in New Hampshire, U.S., and the research technical center of Britain's BT Technologies with a network, incorporating the equipment of different vendors to the same functional protocol, and performing interconnection examinations. The test site in Japan was placed in the center, with the overseas vendor and the research organization also represented. A midnight-to-morning testing schedule was used to accommodate the U.S. and British time differences. This round of testing examines by a voice system four patterns and one data system, and evaluates whether the equipment of each vendor is interoperable according to the MSF specification. If the testing is successful, another interoperability testing event will be scheduled within the next two years to take the application level to a higher rank. Such flexibility in a high network environment will further progress economic efficiency.