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## **Vodafone & China Mobile commit to inter-continental LTE/SAE infrastructure test**

*MSF Interoperability event the most comprehensive yet for next generation  
telecoms*

**London, July, 20<sup>th</sup> 2009:** Vodafone and China Mobile are the first to sign up for the MSF's (MultiService Forum) major LTE/SAE (Long Term Evolution / System Architecture Evolution) Interoperability Event scheduled for March 2010. Providing the most comprehensive test yet of the EPC (Evolved Packet Core) infrastructure, this event will be hosted by Vodafone's Test and Innovation Centre in Dusseldorf, Germany, as well as China Mobile's facilities in Beijing – with other major carriers already expressing supporting interest. Of major importance to the telecommunications industry, this event marks a significant escalation of the MSF's involvement in activities beyond the large scale, carrier-hosted, globally networked biennial GMI events for which the MSF is best known – new activities that include an exciting partnership with ETSI to accelerate the standardization of high profile services like IPTV to mobile devices.

“We need to collaborate across the industry to build confidence that all aspects of next generation network technology will operate seamlessly in multi-vendor, multi-carrier practical implementations” says MSF president, Roger Ward. “While the LSTI (LTE/SAE Trial Initiative) forum is doing some invaluable pioneering tests, their main focus has been on access rather than the core. Our event will give operators the confidence that the Evolved Packet Core is a rock solid foundation on which to build tomorrow's telecommunications networks. As well as MSF members, the wider operator community and infrastructure and access equipment vendors will benefit enormously, as the tests will embrace extensive real-world roaming scenarios.”

The EPC or SAE uses all-IP technology to reduce the current complexities of Serving and Gateway GPRS Support Nodes, allowing meshing between base stations, a flatter system architecture and significantly reduced latency. Combined with 3GPP's LTE access from mobile base stations it goes way beyond the latest HSPA (High Speed Packet Access) technology to deliver broadband at hundreds of Mbps. These levels will support such popular Internet applications as Voice over IP, video streaming, and music downloading, and will allow TV to migrate to the mobile network.

According to Dave Hutton, MSF Board Member and Standards Strategist, Vodafone "LTE/SAE represents a significant step forward in the provisioning of mobile broadband services, and we expect LTE to form part of Vodafone's future technology strategy. The deployment will build on our existing 3G broadband High Speed Packet Access network. We are working closely with Verizon on field trials in the US and Europe and the access speeds are impressive. Full LTE coverage requires significant investment and the industry demands exhaustive testing on the GMI scale to ensure multi-vendor deployments."

Speaking for China Mobile, Wei Bin from the Dept of Network Technology Division added: "This is an excellent opportunity for China Mobile to pool resources and gain real experience working with the Evolved Packet Core. China Mobile is committed to researching post-TD-SCDMA technologies and is especially interested in promoting the synchronized development and convergence of TD-LTE and FDD-LTE technologies. We are confident this testing will make a significant contribution to the maturity of LTE/SAE networks"

The MSF's planned test scenarios include LTE access into the EPC network, roaming, backward compatibility with non-LTE access (e.g. GERAN/UTRAN) into the EPC, handover/relocation, and access into the IMS core network to trigger QoS using the 3GPP PCC (Policy and Charging Control) architecture. The tests will be based on the MSF's Release 5 architecture which builds on the finalized MSF Release 4. While Release 4 covered such high profile services such as IMS-Based IPTV as well as the addition of multiple access technologies (UMTS PS, WiMAX, Broadband, Baseband, etc) and their integration with an IMS core network, MSF Release 5 includes the adaptation of 3GPP's LTE/SAE technology as a new access platform. Those wishing to take part or find out more about this event are invited to visit the MSF website <http://www.msforum.org/> for further details.

Standards bodies are increasingly looking to these MSF interoperability events as a means to reduce test duplication and make more efficient use of skills and resources. Following the MSF's GMI 2008 success – when co-operation between the MSF and the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) was hailed as a vital development for the future of IPTV – the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) will be working with the MSF for their IPTV PlugFest event for IMS-aware IPTV user devices, to be held in Lannion, France, in October this year.

“ETSI was impressed by the ruggedness and usability of our GMI 2008 test plans and have adopted many of them for this event” said Wayne Cutler, MSF Technical Chair and System Manager, Ericsson. “It makes sense to share resources and work together, especially nowadays, and we see ourselves increasingly as an interoperability partner of choice for standards bodies like ATIS and ETSI – which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MSF last month – so we are pioneering a very important new era of co-operation between industry and standards bodies.”

#### **About the MSF**

The MultiService Forum (MSF) is a global association of service providers, system suppliers and test equipment vendors committed to developing and promoting open-architecture, multiservice Next Generation Networks. Founded in 1998, the MSF is an open-membership organization comprised of the world's leading telecommunications companies. The MSF's activities include developing Implementation Agreements, promoting worldwide compatibility and interoperability of network elements, and encouraging input to appropriate national and international standards bodies.

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