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MSF Announces Dissolution of Forum

Significant Industry Contribution Spans 15 Years

Fremont, California, March 21, 2013 – The MultiService Forum (MSF) announced today that the forum will close in the coming months. Founded in 1998, the MSF has had an extremely productive 15-year run. The successful RCS/VoLTE Interoperability event in partnership with GSMA and ETSI, and the NNI Interoperability event with ATIS were the most recent in a string of influential industry interoperability events. The MSF conducted interoperability events testing equipment hosted in service provider labs, networked together on a global basis. With the growing maturity of multiservice network architectures, demand for interoperability events of this scale has declined. The industry focus is shifting toward smaller events that are already provided by many other forums.

"All groups have a beginning, productive period and an end. The Board believes this is the appropriate time to close the MSF. Taking action now to dissolve the MSF protects its legacy and preserves the excellent work it has done. The MSF has chosen to end on a high note," said Kyu Ouk Lee, MSF President.

The MSF is known for the contributions it made to interoperability through Global MSF Interoperability (GMI) events. The forum pioneered a ground-breaking approach to interoperability testing, validating important new technologies in a realistic, end-to-end network configuration. Testing was typically conducted between service provider labs, with global interconnectivity. The MSF provided realistic proof of concept testing for a string of emerging technologies, including IP Softswitches, IMS, LTE, IP interconnection and RCS/VoLTE. The feedback provided by GMI events was particularly valuable in the early stages of the transition from service-specific TDM networks to a multiservice IP network.
The MultiService Forum (www.msforum.org) 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.