



NextPoint Rolls Out IP Multimedia Exchange to Meet Growing Demand for FMC Applications and Services

Company Completes GSMA-led Trials

IMX's Enhanced Security, Session Routing and Session Management Features Enable Seamless Interconnectivity Between 3G Mobile Operators and Wireline Carriers

Mobile World Congress, Barcelona – February 11, 2008 – NextPoint™, a leader in fixed-mobile connectivity (FMC) solutions, announced today availability of its enhanced IP Multimedia Exchange (IMX). The latest version of the IMX supports the deployment of IP services based on the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) architecture specified by 3GPP and extended for ETSI-TISPAN, and the GSM Association (GSMA) IP Packet eXchange (IPX) and MultiService Forum (MSF). The IMX is part of the NextPoint IntelliConnect® System product suite.

Under the auspices of GSMA-led trials, NextPoint completed extensive interoperability testing of the IMX as a critical IPX network element, with leading mobile operators, service providers and network equipment providers in Asia and Europe. The GSMA developed a network architecture based on the IPX, a hub network topology, for efficiently interconnecting mobile operators together. NextPoint's experience in the testing will help accelerate deployment and time to market of FMC applications and services. In addition, the NextPoint Community of more than 550 service providers and enterprises worldwide will provide a rapid IPX interconnect opportunity.

NextPoint IMX Addresses Complexity at the Services Layer

As service providers begin to deploy IMS-based services, their requirements for interoperability and interworking with other mobile and fixed-line operators at the services layer become increasingly more complex. Mobile operators in particular are faced with this challenge as subscribers roam and a diversity of handsets proliferates. Wireline carriers and mobile operators are defining more advanced requirements for billing and settlement, application- and network-based service level agreements (SLAs), quality of service (QoS) management, call admission control, session-based least cost and time-of-day routing, call hunting and security. Multiple network deployment scenarios need to be implemented including IPX hubbing, bilateral peering and multilateral peering using ENUM for number resolution. Session border controller

capabilities must be enhanced to meet these needs, and a broader technology set is required.

“The implementation of IMS-based services has moved from the interoperability working group stage to network trials and deployment. NextPoint provides the broadest feature set and solution to meet service providers’ needs as they pursue the benefits of FMC,” said Mark Pugerude, CMO of NextPoint. “The deployment experience that NextPoint fostered by deploying session border control, session routing, network-wide QoS and session visibility can now be directly applied to the IMS and IPX service infrastructure model.”

Enabling Multimedia Services with NextPoint IMX

NextPoint’s IMX fully leverages the functionality of the NextPoint IntelliConnect System to enable service providers to quickly support IP services that span both IMS and Next Generation IP networks to generate revenue streams independent of network architecture choice. The NextPoint IMX supports IP-based end-to-end voice services and delivery of revenue-generating enriched multimedia applications, including video-sharing, gaming, instant messaging, push-over-cellular (PoC), conferencing and presence.

“In an all-IP environment, subscribers’ expectations for end-to-end ‘quality of experience’ will continue to grow. They will necessitate solutions for end-to-end policy control,” said Akshay Sharma, Research Director, Gartner. “Within next generation networks, service providers need a solution for applying policy management across multiple secured interconnects, ensuring a seamless experience.”

“The IPX model, with its flexible billing structure, quality and security, will have a strong influence on session-based IP Interconnect services,” said Ajay Joseph, CTO of iBasis. “NextPoint has been a valuable contributor in the interoperability testing that is a vitally important component of the GSMA IPX trials and future commercial deployments.”

Meeting the requirements for deploying IP multimedia services for IPX and direct peering architectures requires the integration of multiple standards-compliant technology sets. NextPoint is an active and longstanding member of a number of global standards bodies, including the MultiService Forum and IMS Forum, and is committed to working with the global telecommunications industry to further interoperability across fixed and mobile networks, supporting all media types.

NextPoint IMX is based on a third-generation software platform that is IMS-standards and GSMA-IPX requirements compliant and incorporates the session routing and ENUM functionality set from the NextPoint MSX. The combined feature set gives service providers the richest solution available.

Enhanced NextPoint IMX Features

The NextPoint IMX's key features include stateful SIP dialog processing, call admission control, number/domain translation, ENUM, SIP routing, topology hiding, IPV4/IPV6 interworking, TCP, TLS, IPSec, Tel:URI, customizable call detail records (CDRs), Denial of Service (DoS) prevention, media proxy, media QoS, VLANs and DiffServ. When used in conjunction with the NextPoint RSM and session-level visibility, QoS can be enabled on a real-time basis.

The NextPoint IMX also provides secure connectivity to IMS networks using intelligent identity mechanisms, including access control lists, SIP/TLS certificates, and DNS checks that authenticate subscribers and protect against SIP security.

About NextPoint

NextPoint Networks (www.nextpointnetworks.com) delivers global, fixed-mobile convergence (FMC) border platforms and secure interconnectivity solutions that enable mobile and fixed-line operators to interoperate. NextPoint's technology platform, products and solution suites address the evolving needs of mobile and fixed-line operators for increasing security and intelligence at the network edge by delivering secure voice, data and multimedia over a scalable platform. Over 550 service providers and enterprises worldwide use NextPoint's IntelliConnect System across multiple, diverse network technologies and operating systems to manage technical complexities, optimize business economics, and remove partnership hurdles.

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