



**USA PR contact:**

Richard Williams  
Zonic Group PR  
[rwilliams@ZonicGroup.com](mailto:rwilliams@ZonicGroup.com)  
+1 919 554 3532  
or +1 919 523 0621

**EMEA:**

Mark Fox  
Zonic PR EMEA  
[mfox@ZonicGroup.com](mailto:mfox@ZonicGroup.com)  
+44 (0) 870 760 9248  
+44 (0) 7836 248110

**Asia Pacific:**

Shirley Yeh  
Zonic PR Asia  
[syeh@ZonicGroup.com](mailto:syeh@ZonicGroup.com)  
+8621 5115 4551 x1221

**TOP SERVICE PROVIDERS TO CONDUCT GLOBAL TRIAL  
OF IMS-BASED INFRASTRUCTURE AT GMI 2006**

**Fremont, Calif., February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006** – The MultiService Forum (MSF) announced today details of GMI 2006 – the Global MSF Interoperability event that will be held in October this year. Five of the world's top carriers – BT, KT, NTT, Verizon and Vodafone and a world class test facility UNH-IOL – will host the event to provide world-class networked test facilities spanning 3 continents. Comprising a massive 'real network' trial of the MSF IMS-compatible (IP Multimedia System) Release 3 architecture, this event is critically important to any carrier or vendor committed to building or implementing infrastructure elements compatible with IMS.

GMI 2006 will bring together dozens of carriers and vendors to test the interoperability of IMS-based infrastructure components in a real-world setting. Providing a test-bed for the full spectrum of hardware, processes and services needed to assemble an effective next-generation delivery platform, GMI2006 is designed to validate MSF Release 3 Implementation Agreements covering a wide range of topics including roaming across multiple network types (including cellular and WiFi), QoS issues (including session border control and bandwidth management), and interoperability with 3GPP release 4. Because full IMS implementation will demand enormous investment – nothing less than a complete overhaul of the world's service delivery infrastructure – GMI2006 provides a vital insight into the development of appropriate interoperable specifications for deployment across real networks.

As Roger Ward, Office of the CTO, British Telecom and President of the MSF explains, "GMI 2006 will demonstrate the multi-vendor interoperability necessary to achieve fixed/mobile convergence supporting the IMS service framework. We're not working with theoretical issues here; the MSF is creating the very Implementation Agreements that will help carriers deploy interoperable components that will deliver services worldwide across the multi-service, multi-vendor networks of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

"The MultiService Forum has created the industry's signature test framework for IMS service interoperability and GMI will clearly be one of the most closely watched events by carriers worldwide," said Naseem Khan, Principal Member of Technical Staff from Verizon. "GMI 2006 presents the opportunity to test the service infrastructure as we begin the process of implementing the next-generation networks."

"Mobile infrastructure vendors as well as mobile operators need to play an active role in driving for interoperability of Next Generation Network infrastructure," according to Helmut Hoffmann, Director of Global Networks, Vodafone, co-hosts for the European site at GMI2006. "GMI2006 provides a unique opportunity for all the key mobile vendors to test the open interoperability of their 3GPP Release 4 and IMS implementations. GMI2006 will accelerate the introduction of new enabling capabilities such as presence and group management and the seamless blending of these new capabilities with IP-based telephony and video communications – integrate all of this

with roaming, and you can continue to enjoy rich media communications as you move from location to location.”

”The adoption of IMS is tied directly to the future fortunes of large service providers, and, by turn, the future fortunes of telecommunications equipment makers,” according to Joe McGarvey, Principal Analyst, Current Analysis, Inc. ”They share a mutual interest in seeing that IMS is implemented in a manner that allows service providers to be successful. Through participation in GMI 2006, carriers and vendors can not only keep themselves ahead of the game, but also ensure that the telecoms industry itself has a viable and dynamic future.”

Global MSF Interoperability events are organized every two years by the MSF. With a greatly expanded scope, GMI2006 builds on the lessons learned from GMI 2004, an event that also spanned three continents and included multiple Tier 1 carriers with a strong representation of influential equipment vendors who have already signed on for GMI 2006. For full details on participation, visit <http://www.gmi2006.com>.

#### **About The MultiService Forum**

The MultiService Forum is a global association of service providers and system suppliers committed to developing and promoting open-architecture, multiservice switching systems. 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, and encouraging input to appropriate national and international standards bodies. For more information about the MSF and its members, visit the MSF web site at <http://www.msforum.org/>