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## **MultiService Forum Announces Industry's First IMS/NGN Certification Program as Part of 2007 Technical Program**

*MSF announces plans to broaden scope and initiate certification programs*

**San Jose, Calif. (SPRING VON) – March 19, 2007—** The MultiService Forum (MSF) announced today that it is building on its highly successful Global MSF Interoperability (GMI 2006) program focused on practical implementation of the IMS service architecture by extending the scope of its activity to address broader aspects of “making NGN’s work” in its technical program for 2007. Key elements in this program will be the extension of MSF architecture to embrace web services and the launching of an interoperability testing framework that includes the industry’s first NGN/IMS Certification Program.

The MSF announced five additional goals of the MSF’s 2007/8 work program:

- 1) Extension of the MSF architecture from its communications network focus to include integration of web services;
- 2) A unified approach to QoS to minimize and contain differences in practical implementation;
- 3) Evaluation of NGN interconnect scenarios and development of fully specified NNI interconnect points;
- 4) Specification of a coherent approach to achieving resilience to overload in highly distributed and dynamic NGN implementations; and
- 5) Initiation of an MSF NGN certification program with a Pilot Program focused on delivering certifiable specifications based on MSF Implementation Agreements

“The MSF needs to integrate web services into the applications framework and that will clearly be a focus for the MSF this year,” said Jim McEachern, Carrier VoIP Standards Strategist, Nortel. “Release 3 rightly focused on communications via Parlay and Parlay-X services, but the world is going web-based and traditional web services and other components, including non-trusted third-party applications, need to be addressed to meet the needs of next generation networking.”

“Service providers worldwide are moving quickly to migrate their network infrastructures to better leverage a more flexible, IP-centric service framework, and we believe the MSF Certification Program will become a key metric in how we evaluate products and technologies in the future,” said Naseem Khan, Principal Member of Technical Staff, Verizon and MSF board member. “Our support of the MSF is based on the organization’s ongoing commitment to making next generation networks work and the newly announced Certification Program is the next logical step.”

Chris Gallon, Senior Network Architect at Fujitsu Telecommunications and member of the MSF’s Board of Directors, was recently appointed to oversee the pilot phase of the MSF’s Certification Program. The MSF NGN certification program will focus on delivering certifiable specifications based on MSF Implementation Agreements.

The MSF has set April 2007 as the target launch date, and the first round of certification testing could begin by the third quarter and be completed early in 2008. The MSF is also exploring a permanent interoperability test bed to augment the large-scale test bed created to support GMI test events. This test bed would enable the industry to keep pace with current innovation and provide a less formal test facility that can leverage accelerating development schedules as the market moves toward NGN architectures.

“As the technology matures we need to focus more on developing industrial strength Implementation Agreements that can be used by carriers in their NGN procurement programs,” said Roger Ward, Office of the CTO, BT Group and President of the MSF. “A pilot NGN certification testing program will be a key aspect of our work this year with an initial focus on service interoperability.”

More detail of the proposed certification program will be released after the MSF’s Montreal meeting on April 26th, 2007.

#### **About the MSF**

The MultiService Forum (MSF) is a global association of service providers and system suppliers committed to developing and promoting open-architecture, multiservice 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, please go to [www.msforum.org/](http://www.msforum.org/).

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