BT’S 21ST CENTURY NETWORK PROGRAM BUILDS ON MSF IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS

FREMONT, Calif. – May 24, 2005 – The MultiService Forum (MSF) announced today that several of its Implementation Agreements (IAs) are incorporated into BT’s 21st Century Network (21CN) program. MSF IAs build upon protocols issued by standards bodies such as the ITU and IETF, providing practical methods for applying standards to real world networks.

“BT’s use of MSF IAs is a perfect example of the way that industry leaders benefit from collaboration on the detailed technical work necessary to implement 21st century open architecture networks,” said Roger Ward, MSF President. “The MSF’s carrier-led collaborative environment develops IA’s that support the deployment of VoIP networks with enhanced revenue earning services.”

“MSF IAs add the necessary meat to the bones of the work emerging from the international and regional standards organizations,” said Alan Nunn, chief voice architect and CTO at BT Group. “Last year's Global MSF Interoperability event (GMI 2004), as well as validating MSF IAs and MSF Release 2 architecture, also provided many proof-points for BT's 21CN architecture. As a result, we have been able to de-risk solutions more quickly, which will help us in our goal of achieving an accelerated migration from PSTN to a multi-service IP-based network.”

The major elements of BT Group's overall strategy including ICT, mobility, broadband, netcentricity and portfolio transformation are underpinned by the 21CN initiative. An early deliverable of this transformation is the first phase of the migration of services from the existing UK public switched telephone network (PSTN) to a multi-service IP based network which will carry both voice and data services.

About BT

BT Group plc is the listed holding company for an integrated group of businesses providing voice and data services in the UK and overseas, particularly in Europe, but also in the
Americas and the Asia Pacific region. British Telecommunications plc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of BT Group plc, holds virtually all businesses and assets of the BT group.

BT is one of Europe's leading providers of telecommunications services. Its principal activities include local, national and international telecommunications services, higher-value broadband and internet products and services, and IT solutions. In the UK, BT serves over 20 million business and residential customers with more than 29 million exchange lines, as well as providing network services to other licensed operators.

BT consists principally of three lines of business:

- BT Retail, serving businesses and residential customers and including BT Openworld, one of the UK's leading ISPs.
- BT Wholesale, providing network services and solutions within the UK, including ADSL, conveyance, transit, bulk delivery of private circuits, frame relay and ISDN connections.
- BT Global Services, BT's managed services and solutions provider, serving multi-site organizations worldwide. Its core target market is the top 10,000 global multi-site organizations with European operations.

There are a number of other businesses within the BT group, including BT Exact, an internationally renowned center of excellence in IT and networking technologies. It is also BT's technology and research and development business. For more information, visit www.bt.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/.

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