PLANS FOR FIRST-EVER GLOBAL MULTISERVICE SWITCH TESTING UNVEILED

Multiservice Switching Forum Announces Global MSF Interoperability 2002

Fremont, CA, June 18, 2002 – The Multiservice Switching Forum (MSF) revealed today its plans for Global MSF Interoperability 2002, the industry’s first networked test and demonstration event for the MSF’s Release 1 Architecture. The event, scheduled for November 4-15 will be conducted simultaneously at three different sites – one each in North America, Europe and Asia. The goal of Global MSF Interoperability 2002 is to demonstrate MSF’s Release 1 Architecture utilizing the MEGACO H.248, Bearer Independent Call Control (BICC) and Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) as the main control and signaling protocols. Participation in Global MSF Interoperability 2002 is open both to MSF members and non-members.

“Global MSF Interoperability 2002 will be a landmark event for the next generation telecommunications switching systems industry,” said Roger Ward, MSF president. “MSF’s Release 1 Architecture is supported by many of the world’s largest carriers. This demonstration will send the message that true interoperability among key switched network components is the path to success for vendors and carriers alike.”

Comprised of four voice scenarios and one data scenario, Global MSF Interoperability 2002 will run for two weeks, with the first week dedicated to configuring equipment and testing components. During the second week, validated testing of the five planned scenarios will be conducted between the three global test sites.

-more-
Qualifying Test Event

Prior to the actual *Global MSF Interoperability 2002* the MSF will conduct a closed qualifying interoperability trial September 9-20. Designed to provide participants with an opportunity to validate the *Global MSF Interoperability 2002* test protocols, the qualifying test event will be held at a single location supported by a virtual lab interface. Companies interested in participating in *Global MSF Interoperability 2002* should visit the MSF website at www.msforum.org.

About Multiservice Switching

A Multiservice Switching System (MSS) is a distributed switching method – frame, cell or packet-based – designed to support voice, video, private line and data such as ATM, Frame Relay and Internet Protocol (IP) services. MSS may use a broad range of access technologies, including traditional Time Division Multiplexing (TDM), Digital Subscriber Line (xDSL), wireless data, and cable modems. MSF Implementation Agreements (IAs) define the requirements of the interfaces between components of a MSS.

About the MSF

The Multiservice Switching Forum (MSF) 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.

###