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## **MultiService Forum details GMI2006 test scenarios and outlines the way forward**

**Portugal, September 28th, 2006, NetEvents** – Roger Ward, President of the MultiService Forum (MSF) today announced final details of the Global MSF Interoperability (GMI) 2006 event, together with a glimpse of the MSF's strategic direction following GMI 2006.

GMI 2006, to be held on October 16 – 27, will be the industry's first multinational, distributed, interactive test event that will verify key interoperability aspects of a practical NGN/IMS implementation. Five of the world's top carriers--BT, KT, NTT, Verizon and Vodafone-- along with world-class testing and research facilities at UNH-IOL and ETRI, are joining together to host this major event which has attracted 27 vendor participants and sponsorship from Nortel\*. With a unique global network connecting labs on three continents, GMI 2006 is in effect the first massive 'real network' trial of the MSF Release 3 IMS (IP Multimedia System)-compatible architecture announced on September 12<sup>th</sup> - the first industry specification to describe physical implementations of IMS-enabled devices in real-world deployment scenarios that explicitly include first-generation VoIP SoftSwitches, PSTN interworking and evolution to a true IMS network.

"The devil is in the details, and we are proud of our work in creating more than twenty Implementation Agreements that support the Release 3 architecture" said Roger Ward, Office of the CTO, British Telecom and President of the MSF. He went on to describe the event's five increasingly demanding test scenarios, starting with a nomadic subscriber in a single domain, and progressively building up to eventually demonstrate roaming between networks, with value-added services based on SIP and Parlay/OSA applications. Several of the GMI scenarios address IMS interconnection between subscribers in the MSF R3 domain and 'pure' IMS domain as peer IMS networks. The final GMI2006 scenario represents the future reality of converged fixed and mobile IMS networks - demonstrating interoperability between a variety of networks at different stages of evolution and operated by a variety of carriers. This final scenarios brings together all the topics addressed by the MSF over the last few years including – the support of roaming plus value added services between MSF R3 and 'pure IMS' networks.

Building on earlier work that culminated in GMI2004, the MSF Release 3 Architecture refines the definition of key MSF Release 2 elements such as the Session Border

Controller and also introduces a new class of user terminal, the IMS-aware SIP UA. By taking account of both the 3GPP IP Multimedia System (IMS) architecture and existing deployed core network wireline VoIP systems, the MSF R3 specification reflects the reality of wireless-wireline convergence today and in the foreseeable future.

“As networks position themselves for the emergence of converged Fixed and Mobile product and service offerings, it is important to be involved in events such as GMI2006” said Helmut Hoffmann, Director of Global Networks, Vodafone. “By involving ourselves with MSF, and co-hosting the European GMI2006 lab, we are demonstrating a commitment not just to a future where networks deliver services to end users over any access, but also to making the interconnection and interoperability of services and operators using Next Generation Networks a realistic and achievable goal”

“Given the industry’s intense effort to define an all-embracing Next Generation Network (NGN) architecture and service framework, we felt it was important to collaborate with other major players across the industry to provide a significant practical level of implementation detail early in the development process”, said Chris Daniel, Vice-President of Business Development at Leapstone Systems and Vice-President of the MSF Board of Directors. “One key advantage of the MSF approach is the pragmatic way the Release 3 Reference Architecture anticipates the degree to which the industry has already begun to converge on such an architecture.”

"GMI 2006 is a critical step in the move to widespread IMS deployments that supports the development & verification of interoperability across the entire IMS solution set," said Sita Lowman, IMS business leader, Nortel. "Our sponsorship of GMI 2006 underscores Nortel's commitment to an open, standards-based solution across multiple core and access platforms and products which is essential to the future of network convergence and IMS."

In conclusion, Roger Ward provided a glimpse of the key hot issues that will be on the MSF’s agenda after GMI2006. These included a unified, practical approach to QoS, standardized reliability and resiliency mechanisms, advanced applications and services, fully specified carrier interconnection, interface certification, overload control in a highly distributed architecture, and IPTV.

### **About The MultiService Forum**

The MultiService Forum is a global association of service providers, system suppliers and test equipment vendors committed to developing and promoting open-architecture, Multiservice Next Generation Networks. 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 of network elements, 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/>. Further detail of the MSF’s Release 3 Architecture specification is available on the MSF’s website at <http://www.msforum.org/techinfo/approved.shtml>.

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