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**MSF Announces NGN Test Bed to Support Accelerating NGN Activity**

*1 October 2007, Fremont CA* — The MultiService Forum (MSF) announced today the launch of its permanent test bed programme to meet growing demand for testing NGN (Next Generation Networks) components and interfaces. The MSF NGN Interoperability Test Bed will be housed at the University of New Hampshire InterOperability Lab (UNH-IOL) and, following an initial pilot trial in October 2007, the first full tranche of testing will be initiated in Q1 2008 to address the interoperability of NGN media gateways. This new initiative is additional to the existing Global MSF Interoperability programme and will build on the MSF's plans for GMI2008.

“The success of the latest event in the Global MSF Interoperability programme, GMI 2006, has raised the industry’s expectations about collaborative testing to hasten the delivery of NGN technology,” explained Roger Ward, Office of the CTO, BT Group and President of the MSF. “We are seeing a massive increase in NGN implementation around the globe and though the industry is very supportive of our GMI programme, we felt that there was so much more to do than is possible in our showcase GMI2006, GMI2008 events. By launching this permanent test bed now, we have a significant new resource that will enable our members to collaborate on testing to at a much greater depth that will enable them to be better prepared for GMI2008, as well as continuing to work the issues arising from GMI2006.

The MSF NGN Test Bed will support testing of all MSF Implementation Agreements (IAs) and will grow to encompass future IAs on topics including IPTV, Quality of Service, Location Management and supporting Operational Support Systems.. In addition to continued in depth testing based on key GMI interoperability scenarios such as the optimal media routing of IMS interconnection between subscribers in the MSF R3 domain and legacy networks, the MSF NGN Test Bed will provide demonstration and test facilities designed in support of MSF members’ in-house laboratories and personnel as the industry gears up for greater NGN development and deployment.

David Hutton, Standards Strategist, Vodafone commented: “GMI 2006 proved that IMS technologies and interfaces could work together in a live traffic environment, and that is

key to Vodafone's NGN strategy. The event also clarified issues where further work needs to be done, and we see the MSF's test bed as an essential factor in maintaining the momentum of their GMI events and subsequent development of NGNs."

The "NGN Media Gateway Interoperability Test," scheduled for Q1 2008, will be preceded by a pilot test in late October involving Vodafone, Huawei, and Tektronix. Under scrutiny will be the Mc Interface located between the Mobile Switching Centre Server (MSC-S) and the Media Gateway (MGW). The Mc Interface is an essential element in the evolution of the mobile circuit switched domain to a Bearer Independent Core Network architecture and an all-IP implementation. The Bearer Independent Core Network architecture enables transport of inter-MGW voice over IP transport, independent scaling of MSC-S's and MGW's throughout the network, and Transcoder Free Operation. Opening the Mc Interface will offer significant CapEx and OpEx savings to operators and will allow the MSF to extend its architecture to mobile operators.

### **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 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>.

### **About UNH-IOL**

Founded in 1988, the UNH-IOL is one of the networking industry's premier third-party proving grounds for developing technologies. Approximately 200 companies use the UNH-IOL to extend their development and quality assurance efforts by testing and fine-tuning technologies, protocols and products for multi-vendor interoperability and conformance to standards. With more than 32,000+ sq. feet, 125 employees and millions of dollars worth of donated networking and test equipment, the UNH-IOL houses the largest heterogeneous networking test bed in North America, if not the world. For more information, visit <http://www.iol.unh.edu>.