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MSF PLANS FIRST GLOBAL TEST OF R2+ ARCHITECTURE, IMS

Service Providers Express Support for Demonstration

FREMONT, Calif. – October 13 , 2005 – The MultiService Forum (MSF) today announced plans to conduct a global interoperability test of its IMS compatible R2+ architecture in October 2006. The Global MSF Interoperability 2006 (GMI 2006) event, conducted at carrier labs in Asia, Europe and North America, will demonstrate multi-vendor interoperability of QoS-enabled voice and multimedia services originating & terminating on both MSF R2+ and IMS networks, using MSF Implementation Agreements (IAs).

The MSF is working closely with international carriers to develop specific GMI test scenarios. Service providers expressing early interest and support for the test include BT, Korea Telecom, NTT, Verizon & Vodafone.

"GMI 2006 will be the industry's first-ever test of the delivery of services over a converged wireline/wireless network," said Roger Ward, MSF President. "Service providers see the promise of IMS, but more work needs to be done on the detail required to deliver true multi-vendor open architecture solutions. The GMI event will be a prime opportunity for both carriers and vendors to test the ability of vendor-specific IMS solutions to interoperate with MSF R2+ networks."

The GMI 2006 network for the event will serve fixed subscribers, nomadic subscribers and roaming SIP end points. The network will consist of both wireline and wireless IMS compatible nodes with associated management systems, allowing interoperability testing to prove the compatibility of the R2+ MSF architecture & associated Implementation Agreements, both locally and between the two types of nodes over the GMI 2006 global test network.

About The MSF R2+ Architecture

The MSF R2+ Architecture provides the essential framework and common semantic for the definition of an IMS based multi-service network. Definition of a set of physical architecture implementations within the framework enables MSF members to focus on a common set of commercially viable scenarios. MSF IA's focus on key protocols from industry standards bodies and ensure interoperability between network components from different vendors, by specifying options and required functionality for key interfaces.

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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