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FOUR CARRIERS, THREE CONTINENTS, TWO WEEKS, ONE VERY SUCCESSFUL GMI 2004 INTEROPERABILITY EVENT

28 Companies Collaborate on Live Global Test

BOSTON – October 19, 2004 - The Multiservice Switching Forum (MSF) today announced the successful completion of its Global MSF Interoperability 2004 (GMI 2004) event. GMI 2004 concluded on October 16 after two weeks of simultaneous testing by 28 companies in Asia, Europe and North America. The event, sponsored by Navtel and Siemens, was hosted by Qwest in the United States, BT in the United Kingdom, NTT in Japan and KT in Korea.

“GMI 2004 achieved everything that we hoped for,” said Roger Ward, president of the MSF. “The event challenged carriers and vendors to work together to apply MSF standards-based Implementation Agreements (IAs) to real-world scenarios. GMI 2004 participants demonstrated to service providers and to the industry at large that the MSF end-to-end solution for VoIP is ready for network deployment.”

GMI 2004 tested basic point-to-point VoIP within a single service provider’s network and increased in complexity as Value Added Services, connectivity to the PSTN, and direct connectivity between multiple VoIP carrier networks was demonstrated on a global basis. Video communication was tested in both IPv4 and IPv6 environments.

In addition to the host carriers, GMI 2004 participants included:

Acme Packet	Ericsson	Leapstone	Operax
Agilent	ETRI	Marconi	Siemens
Alcatel	FeelingK	MetaSwitch	SoftFront
Cisco	Fujitsu	Navtel	Sonus Networks
Convedia	Hitachi	NCS	Spirent Communications
Empirix	IP Unity	Nortel Networks	Teledata Networks

“The global nature of the event was extremely beneficial to all parties,” said Dr. Kazuyoshi Tateishi, vice president at NTT. “The GMI 2004 IP network was a real-world challenge for the participants.”

“KT is pleased to have been a host site for GMI 2004,” said Tae Il Park, vice president at KT. “The collaborative nature of the event was ideal for testing the live implementation of standards.”

“Many of the MSF’s Implementation Agreements are incorporated in BT’s 21st Century Network architecture,” said Alan Nunn, chief voice architect at BT Group. “GMI 2004 was an ideal way for us to see how system suppliers have progressed in implementing such standards in network products.”

In each progressive GMI 2004 test scenario, requirements that are critical for real-world deployments, such as Quality of Service (QoS), routing, and network management, were demonstrated. State-of-the-art network elements, key to supporting a fully integrated VoIP solution such as application servers, media servers, service brokers, call agents, bandwidth managers and other control and management systems were implemented against the specific protocols defined in MSF Implementation Agreements (IAs).

Each participant demonstrated interoperability in the network through the use of predefined test suites utilizing MSF IAs for key protocols that are accepted as core IP technologies by service providers around the world including MPLS and SIP.

An executive summary of the GMI 2004 White Paper is available to the public at <http://www.msforum.org/techinfo/reports.shtml>.

About Multiservice Switching System Technology

Multiservice Switching Systems of the future will be based on a distributed, open architecture which incorporates a variety of switching methods - frame, cell or packet-based - designed to support voice, video, private line and data such as ATM, Frame Relay and Internet Protocol (IP) services. Such technology 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 define the requirements of the interfaces between key functional and physical components found in practical deployments of such systems.

About the Multiservice Switching Forum

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/>.

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