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**MULTISERVICE SWITCHING FORUM UNVEILS TECHNICAL  
ROADMAP, OPENS DOOR TO KOREA**

*Forum Examines PSTN Evolution Towards Next Gen IP - Focus is 'Beyond Voice'*

**Fremont, Calif., December 17, 2001** – In a move to broaden the debate about the structure of the Next Generation Network (NGN), the Multiservice Switching Forum (MSF) unveiled a new technical roadmap this week that aims to specify and prove a full-scale PSTN-evolved network over next generation IP infrastructure. The MSF's Technical Committee, meeting in Jeju, South Korea, specified a focus for the Forum's technical work that reaches beyond voice-over-IP (VoIP) into what one member described as telephony-over-IP.

“Network operators face an increasing challenge as existing voice networks approach equipment obsolescence,” said Richard Seager, MSF technical committee chair. “The MSF's Technical Roadmap is aimed at filling the gap between the requirement to support a secure PSTN service in the future and the capabilities of the NGN to provide it.”

At the MSF's Jeju meeting, sponsored by ETRI, Samsung LG Electronics and Korea Telecom, Jong-rak Lee, vice president and head of the Telecommunications Network Lab at Korea Telecom addressed the gathering on the challenges of a multi-year plan for the introduction of the NGN. The MSF's Korean membership has grown steadily over the last year as Korean companies have continued to present a unified vision for the NGN in the face of the current difficulties in the telecom industry.

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“The MSF’s technical work benefits carriers worldwide,” said Dr. Young Cheol Oh, vice president Broadband Network Systems R&D, Samsung. “The Forum’s focus on NGN complements the work that leading Asian companies are doing to move the industry beyond its current challenges.”

The MSF Technical Roadmap attacks barriers to NGN at all points in the network and application stack. In addition to working with traditional voice technologies such as SIP and H.248, the MSF plans to develop an appropriate security framework and address the underlying network protocols that are required to provide a scaleable NGN. To view the MSF Technical Roadmap go to <http://www.msforum.org/techinfo/roadmap.shtml>.

### **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>.

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