



MSF Announces Dissolution of Forum

Significant Industry Contribution Spans 15 Years

Fremont, California, February 28, 2013 – The MultiService Forum (MSF) announced today that the forum will close following the Q1 2013 meeting in Yountville, California later this month. Founded in 1998, the MSF has had an extremely productive 15-year run. The successful RCS/VoLTE Interoperability event, in partnership with GSMA and ETSI, was the most recent in a string of influential industry interoperability events. With the growing maturity of multiservice network architectures, demand for large-scale, end-to-end interoperability events has declined. The industry focus is shifting toward small-scale events that can be provided by many other forums.

“All groups have a beginning, productive period and an end. The Board believes this is the appropriate time to close the MSF. Taking action now to dissolve the MSF protects its legacy and preserves the excellent work it has done. The MSF has chosen to end on a high note,” said Kyu Ouk Lee, MSF President.

The MSF may be best remembered for the contributions it made to interoperability through Global MSF Interoperability (GMI) events. The forum pioneered a ground-breaking approach to interoperability testing, validating important new technologies in a realistic, end-to-end network configuration. Testing was typically conducted between service provider labs, with global interconnectivity. The MSF provided realistic proof of concept testing for a string of emerging technologies, including IP Softswitches, IMS, LTE, IP interconnection and RCS/VoLTE. The feedback provided by GMI events was particularly valuable in the early stages of the transition from service-specific TDM networks to a multiservice IP network.

The MSF attracted key carriers, network equipment vendors, and test equipment vendors. Technical experts specified implementation agreements, developed testing strategies, conducted interoperability tests, and documented feedback to the industry in highly influential white papers. As well, the MSF enjoyed a close partnership with several industry standards bodies. MSF interoperability events tested network equipment, but they also provided valuable insight into the standards behind the equipment. Ambiguities, omissions and errors in the standards were identified and brought to the attention of the appropriate organizations. Wayne Cutler, MSF CTO noted that “in many ways, the role of “testing the standards” has been the most enduring contribution the MSF made to the industry.”



The MSF leaves behind a legacy of Implementation Agreements, Physical Scenarios, Testing Scenarios, Test Plans, Architecture Frameworks and White Papers developed to support its interoperability program. To maximize the ongoing value to the industry, it is expected that all of these approved MSF documents will continue to be publically available on the MSF website, for unrestricted use.

The MSF Q1 2013 meeting in Yountville, California, March 19 – 21, 2013 is open to all MSF member companies as well as invited guests. In addition to completing all open work items, this meeting will also host a session on future industry priorities and emerging technologies. This session will leverage the MSF experience to examine the future of interoperability testing. For more information on the meeting please contact Ashley Wright at awright@msforum.org.

About the MSF

The MultiService Forum (www.msforum.org) 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.

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