



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON FEB 4, 2008, 8AM GMT

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***Public Mobile Backhaul Interoperability Showcase Announced by the
IP/MPLS Forum, Metro Ethernet Forum and European Advanced
Networking Test Center (EANTC)***

Showcase organized by EANTC to demonstrate interoperability of vendors for Mobile Backhaul solutions utilizing Ethernet, IP and MPLS Protocols

FREMONT, CA – Feb 4, 2008 — The IP/MPLS Forum announced today their participation in the first public multi-vendor Mobile Backhaul Interoperability showcase at the upcoming MPLS and Ethernet World Congress in Paris, 5-8 February, 2008, Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, 11-14 February, 2008, and the CTIA Wireless Show in Las Vegas, 1-3 April, 2008. The showcase is organized by the European Advanced Networking Test Center (EANTC) and supported by both the IP/MPLS Forum and the Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF).

Fifteen vendors have prepared mobile applications and end-to-end business customer services for the showcase across a multi-vendor network comprising more than 85 devices. Participants include Alcatel-Lucent, Ceragon Networks, Ciena, Cisco, Ericsson, Harris Stratex Networks, Huawei Technologies, Ixia, Lightstorm Networks, MRV Communications, Nokia Siemens Networks, Nortel, RAD Data Communications, Spirent Communications and Telco Systems, a BATM company.

The purpose of the showcase is to demonstrate viable solutions from work ongoing in the IP/MPLS Forum and the Metro Ethernet Forum that allow operators to migrate from ATM and TDM backhaul solutions for mobile networks to ones using Ethernet and IP/MPLS. The IP/MPLS Forum and Metro Ethernet Forum are working together with their mobile backhaul initiatives. Specifically, the demonstrations will showcase how traffic from a Radio Access Network (RAN) can be carried over Metro Ethernet

and an IP/MPLS Core to give operators backhaul architectures that are flexible, scalable and economical.

“Mobile operators are facing a significant spike in bandwidth demands in the backhaul due to the proliferation of 3G and eventually 4G-based data services and the emergence of high-speed air interface enhancements such as HSPA,” said Michael Howard, principal analyst at Infonetics Research. “At the same time, these operators are seeking to dramatically reduce their operating costs and are looking at migration from separate, legacy ATM and TDM networks to more cost-effective converged IP/MPLS-enabled multi-purpose networks. During this migration, mobile backhaul networks have become the bottlenecks in these new network architectures, and the work from the IP/MPLS and Metro Ethernet Forums offers viable solutions to the problem.”

The goal of the IP/MPLS Forum’s work on Mobile Backhaul is to provide guidelines on the architecture and technology choices for IP/MPLS RAN backhaul within the various network environments (legacy, IP, converged). The IP/MPLS Forum’s *MPLS Mobile Backhaul Initiative (MMBI)* proposes a framework for the use of MPLS and Ethernet technology to transport RAN backhaul traffic over access, aggregation and core networks. The framework includes a reference architecture that is intended to be broad enough to cover all possible deployment scenarios, providing recommendations on how to deploy MPLS in each of these scenarios. This will create a reference guide that will allow vendors and operators to select the appropriate feature sets for their specific scenario.

The focus is on a shared network infrastructure that is able to support (or replicate) existing legacy services (2G, 2.5G) as well as new services based on 3G and 3.5G (Eg: HSPA). Emerging technologies such as LTE, mobile WiMAX and UMB and are also considered. This will enable a migration path between existing legacy ATM and TDM backhaul networks to a more cost-effective, converged, MPLS-enabled, and multi-purpose network. Work on the *MMBI* framework was launched by the IP/MPLS Forum in April, 2007, and is based on the definitions outlined by the industry standards organizations (3GPP, 3GPP2, WiMAX Forum etc.).

“We are pleased to be showcasing IP/MPLS solutions to a severe bottleneck problem in the network, and are also pleased to be working alongside leading organizations such as the EANTC and MEF to define solutions for the industry,” said Andrew Malis, President and Chairman of the IP/MPLS Forum. “The work from all organizations and participating vendors is providing much-needed solutions to operators, and we look forward to demonstrating the solutions at these two industry events.”

White papers with detailed findings and an overview of the IP/MPLS Mobile Backhaul solution are available for download from http://www.eantc.com/mobile_backhaul and <http://www.ipmplsforum.org>.

About the IP / MPLS Forum

The IP / MPLS Forum is an international, industry-wide, non-profit association of service providers, equipment vendors and enterprise users. The focus of the Forum is to drive global adoption of IP/MPLS based technology, networks, services and solutions. The Forum is driving the convergence of ATM, Frame Relay and IP/MPLS technologies in the global telecom industry through implementation agreements educational and marketing resources and programs as well as interoperability initiatives. For Forum membership information please contact Alexa Morris, Executive Director, at (510) 492-4057 or via e-mail at amorris@ipmplsforum.org. Additional information about IP / MPLS Forum is available online at <http://www.ipmplsforum.org> .

About EANTC

The European Advanced Networking Test Center (EANTC) offers vendor-neutral consultancy and test facilities for network equipment manufacturers, service providers and enterprise customers. Primary business areas include interoperability, conformance, and performance testing for IP/MPLS, Carrier Ethernet and Triple Play technologies and applications. For more information contact Carsten Rossenhövel, Managing Director, at +49.30.3180595-0 or via e-mail at cross@eantc.com.

About the Metro Ethernet Forum

The MEF is a global industry alliance comprising more than 135 organizations including telecommunications service providers, cable MSOs, network equipment/software manufacturers, semiconductors vendors and testing organizations. The MEF's mission is to accelerate the worldwide adoption of Carrier-class Ethernet networks and services. The MEF develops Carrier Ethernet technical specifications and implementation agreements to promote interoperability and deployment of Carrier Ethernet worldwide.

For more information about the Forum, including a complete listing of all current MEF members, please visit the MEF web site at <http://www.MetroEthernetForum.org/>

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