Fremont, Calif. – July 19, 2004 – Leading the development of network processing standards and benchmarks, the Network Processing Forum (NPF) announced today the release of two new Implementation Agreements (IA) designed to enable the incorporation of High Availability (HA) features into the group’s existing software framework. HA functions protect against network and operational failures that cause disruptions in real-time services. The two new specifications include the HA Architectural Model and Framework IA and the HA Service API IA. As network processing hardware vendors and software developers introduce these interfaces into their products, System OEMs will be able to more quickly and cost-effectively develop multi-vendor networking solutions that support HA features. Both of these new Implementation Agreements are available free of charge, on the NPF web site at http://www.npforum.org/techinfo/approved.shtml.

“Service availability is becoming a critical concern in today’s converged voice and data communications networks,” said Chuck Sannipoli, board member of the NPF. “Adding HA functions to our software framework and existing APIs will enable system manufacturers to build HA network processor-based systems that maintain the Quality of Service (QoS) and Service Level Agreements (SLA) required in today’s multimedia networks.”

The HA Architectural Model and Framework IA outlines the additions needed to build highly available systems within the confines of the NPF software framework. The specification describes what types of interfaces are needed and how they will exchange information with each
other and the existing NPF Software APIs. The IA also enables the seamless integration of the Service Availability Forum (SA Forum) API into the NPF HA middleware.

The HA Service API IA defines the data structures and required data types of an operational API that will be used by HA aware applications to send HA parameters to the other NPF software APIs. The IA also describes in detail two additional APIs, the HA-Services API and the HA-Functional API, that are needed to interface HA Services with existing NPF software APIs.

Together, the two IAs describe how HA systems will function within the NPF software environment, how the SA Forum’s services can be used with the NPF HA API and how existing NPF software APIs can be modified to incorporate HA features.

“The recent growth of IP voice services is increasing the requirement for networking equipment that provides on-demand, uninterrupted service for end-users,” said Vinoj Kumar, chair of the NPF software working group. “These latest IAs facilitate the development of systems based on flexible and programmable network processing technologies that will deliver the appropriate HA capabilities.”

About The NPF
Founded in 2001, the Network Processing Forum (NPF) is an international industry consortium of networking semiconductor, software and OEM manufacturers accelerating the adoption of network processing technologies through the development and implementation of network processing standards and benchmarks. By establishing standard interfaces and benchmarks, the NPF helps semiconductor manufacturers, software developers, services companies and system OEM’s lower development costs, shorten design cycles, reduce product time-to-market and increase product time-in-market. The Forum includes members from around the world that provide network processing products and services globally. For more information, visit the NPF Website at www.npforum.org.

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