OIF BEGINS RACE FOR ULTRA HIGH DATA RATE INTERFACES

Forum Updates E-NNI Work to Reflect Success of Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration

FREMONT, CA – July 27, 2005 – Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) members convened in Brussels this month to begin work on defining system and component requirements for future intra-system interfaces. The OIF’s Physical Layer User Group has begun work on specifications for ultra high data rate interfaces including 100, 120, and 160 Gbps that will enable a higher density than the organization’s current Common Electrical Interface (CEI). Initial contributions from Physical Layer User Group members on the high data rate interface will be reviewed at the OIF’s October meeting in Florida.

"Our members are seeing exponential growth in data traffic and a corresponding demand for higher bandwidth,” said Karl Gass of Sandia National Laboratories, and OIF Physical Layer User Group chair. “Forward looking companies need to identify requirements for their next generation of products, three to five years down the road. These intra-system requirements will form the basis of future PLL interface development work.”

Worldwide Interoperability Demo Spurs UNI Contributions

The OIF’s Architecture & Signaling Working Group is continuing to refine the ENNI signaling Interoperability Agreement (IA). The group is applying lessons learned in the OIF’s Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration to ENNI while enhancing the agreement to include support for UNI 2.0 services across the ENNI link. The Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration, unveiled at
Supercomm in June, spanned seven global carrier host labs with 13 vendors participating.

“Based on our interoperability experience, the OIF is making material contributions to the existing UNI 2.0 specification,” said Jonathan Sadler of Tellabs, and OIF Architecture & Signaling Working Group chair. ”The Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration is an important element in testing and applying the technical work that the OIF creates.”

PLL Working Group Projects

The Physical Link Layer Working Group (PLL WG) began working on a project to define Maintenance and Diagnostic (M&D) features for the high speed Common Electrical Interface (CEI).

Another PLL WG project start builds on the OIF’s Electronic Dispersion Compensation (EDC) work by addressing interoperability for EDC-enabled Extended Reach (ER) transponders.

Additional Forum News

Elections were held for several key leadership positions at the OIF Brussels meeting. Jim Jones of Alcatel and Trey Malpass of Mindspeed were re-elected as the Technical Committee chair and vice-chair, respectively. Michael Oltmanns of Northrop Grumman Interconnect Technologies was re-elected and Dave Brown of Lucent Technologies was elected as co-chairmen of the Market Awareness & Education Committee (MA&E). Linda Dunbar, of Huawei Technologies, was elected as the Interoperability Working Group co-chair.

About the OIF

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a non-profit organization with a unique and diverse member base, including many of the world's leading carriers, component manufacturers and system vendors. As the only industry group uniting representatives from data and optical networks, the OIF helps advance the standards and methods of optical networks. The purpose of the OIF is to
accelerate the deployment of interoperable, cost-effective and robust optical networks and their associated technologies. Optical internetworks are data networks composed of routers and data switches interconnected by optical networking elements.

The OIF actively supports and extends the work of national and international standards bodies with the goal of promoting worldwide compatibility of optical internetworking products. Liaisons have been established with The ATM Forum, IEEE 802.3, IETF, ITU-T Study Group 13, ITU-T Study Group 15, MEF, NPF, OPTXS, Rapid I/O, TMF MTNM group, TMOC, UXPi and the XFP MSA Group. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com.

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