OIF COMBINES MARKETING EFFORTS WITH COMMUNITY DONATION

OFC Conference Booth Materials Donated to Habitat for Humanity

FREMONT, CA - March 6, 2003 – The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) announced today that plants and flowers used to decorate the Forum’s booth at the Optical Fiber Conference (OFC 2003) later this month would be donated to Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). HFHI will use the donated materials to landscape new homes for those in need of adequate shelter and to raise money for building supplies. OFC 2003 is scheduled for March 25-27 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

The OIF’s booth will feature a live English garden with colorful flowers, plants and trees along with tranquil water features. The environmentally friendly booth has been designed to promote the interoperability interests of the forum in an interesting and unique setting. In addition to seeing the latest technology demonstrated by the OIF members, show attendees will have a place to relax and discuss business in an environment that promotes an atmosphere of debate and the sharing of ideas.

“This booth is a unique example of how the telecom industry can couple marketing efforts with community responsibility,” said Joe Berthold, CIENA Corporation, president of the OIF. “The OIF sees this opportunity to give back to the community as a good fit with their non-profit status.”

Many of the plants donated to the Atlanta chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be utilized by the Atlanta ReStore to help generate much-needed additional funds. The Habitat Atlanta ReStore will be holding a community plant sale in conjunction with the OIF’s donation on April 3-5, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at 519 Memorial Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30312. For additional information contact the ReStore at (404) 525-2114.

“We are very thankful for this very generous donation. It is this type of tremendous support that will hopefully allow us to build 55 or more Habitat Atlanta homes in 2003”, said Joe Schaitberger, Habitat for Humanity Atlanta ReStore manager. “The Atlanta Restore helps fund
additional Habitat homes by selling donated building products, home accessory items and landscaping products such as those donated by the OIF.”

**OIF’s Interoperability Demonstration at OFC 2003**

The OIF will sponsor the first Physical and Link Layer (PLL) Interoperability Demonstration and the broadest demonstration of optical networking capabilities (UNI/NNI) at OFC 2003 in booth #7620, Hall B. The PLL demonstration will highlight dynamic N-way interoperability of the SPI-4.2 Implementation Agreement (IA) as well as the SFI-4.1 IA, SFI-5 IA, VSR-4, the tunable laser IA and the TFI-5 work in-progress among OIF member companies. The UNI/NNI demonstration will be the first-ever demonstration of the OIF’s integrated UNI/NNI solution. The goal of the event is to achieve dynamic, end-to-end connection establishment between client devices and optical network elements in the Control Plane. More information on the OIF and the interoperability demonstration can be found at www.oiforum.com.

**About Habitat For Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Founded by Millard Fuller, along with his wife, Linda, Habitat for Humanity International and its affiliates in more than 3,000 communities in 87 nations have built and sold more than 125,000 homes to partner families with no-profit, zero-interest mortgages. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please log on to www.habitat.org.

**About the OIF**

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a rapidly growing, non-profit organization with more than 250+ international member companies, including many of the world’s leading carriers and vendors. As the only industry group uniting representatives from data and optical networks, the OIF helps advance the standards and methods of optical networks. OIF’s purpose is to accelerate the deployment of interoperable, cost-effective and robust optical internetworks and their associated technologies. Optical internetworks are data networks composed of routers and data switches interconnected by optical networking elements.

With the goal of promoting worldwide compatibility of optical internetworking products, the OIF actively supports and extends the work of national and international standards bodies. Formal liaisons have been established with The ATM Forum, IETF, ITU-T Study Group 15, MEF, NPF, T1M1, T1X1 and the TMF. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com.