OIF TARGETS 10 GIG SPECS, DATA TRANSPORT PROTOCOL

New Working Group Leaders Elected

FREMONT, CA - February 20, 2003 – In the wake of the Optical Internetworking Forum’s (OIF) February 11-13 quarterly meeting, the Forum announced today the creation of four new technical work projects for 2003. Of the four new projects, three originated in the OIF’s Physical and Link Layer (PLL) Working Group (WG), including unified 10 Gigabit specifications, a Data Transport Protocol and an enhanced tunable laser project. The fourth project addresses the User Network Interface (UNI) 1.0 Release 2 which the OIF has fine-tuned to align with input from standards bodies over the last two years.

"The OIF has a full plate of technical work planned for 2003,” said Joe Berthold, CIENA Corporation, president of the OIF. “The projects planned by our Technical Committee address some of the most critical issues facing the optical networking industry.”

New PLL Projects

Unified 10 Gigabit Optical Specifications: The goal of the OIF’s Unified 10 Gigabit Optical Specification is to provide manufacturers, users and systems vendors with a common interface allowing one product to be used for SONET SDH, Ethernet and Fiber Channel. Today, three different products, one for each application must be manufactured, tested, inventoried, and spared. The OIF intends to develop a Unified 10 Gigabit Optical Implementation Agreement (IA) that will allow a single product to be used for any, or all, of the three applications, therefore minimizing cost and maximizing utility.

The CEI work will focus on both short reach (0 to 200 mm with up to one connector) and long reach (0 to 1m with up to two connectors) applications. With the CEI project underway, the OIF is moving forward with a new project that will define the Data Transport Protocol used by various applications (SFI, SPI, TFI). The Data Transport Protocol will allow the applications the benefit of migrating to higher speed electrical I/Os and improving capabilities, reducing cost and reducing pin-count of these interfaces.

**Tunable Laser Project:** The OIF has agreed that the PLL WG will move forward on its tunable laser efforts and develop an IA for both transmitter and continuous wavelength (CW) tunable laser modules. In 2002 the OIF membership approved the industry’s first tunable laser specification that covered a broad range of applications and included the path for form factor reduction. Based on member feedback, the new specification will focus on a single form factor, supporting multiple applications based on switching speed and optical performance. This specification will enable and encourage industry deployment of tunable lasers.

**UNI 1.0 Release 2**

UNI 1.0 Release 2 will reflect the latest revisions of signaling protocols while preserving the functionality of the current specification. Since the approval of UNI 1.0 in 2001, other signaling standards have evolved and stabilized, and this update ensures that UNI 1.0 stays aligned with the current state of the industry.

**New Working Group Leaders**

In other OIF quarterly meeting news, the Forum’s membership elected three new working group chairmen. Hans-Martin Foisel, head of research group at T-Systems/Deutsche Telekom was elected chairman of the Carrier working group, Amy Wang, product line manager at Avici and Brian Von Herzen, consultant at Xilinx were elected co-chairpersons of the Interoperability working group. In addition, the OIF membership reelected Jim Jones, network architect at Alcatel as chairman of the Architecture working group and Doug Zuckerman, consultant at Telcordia as chairman of the Operations Administration, Maintenance, & Provisioning (OAM&P) working group.
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.

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