OIF TO CONDUCT BROADEST DEMONSTRATION OF OPTICAL NETWORKING CAPABILITIES

Network Interface and PLL Tests Will Headline OFC 2003

FREMONT, CA - February 3, 2003 – The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) will sponsor multiple interoperability demonstrations at OFC 2003 in Atlanta, March 25-27. The demonstrations will highlight the OIF’s pioneering User Network Interface (UNI), Network-to-Network Interface (NNI) and Physical and Link Layer (PLL) technical work. Live demonstrations and displays will give attendees a visual representation of the real time test topology as well as dynamic link establishment among clients and network elements.

“OIF members have seen the benefits of multi-vendor interoperability testing and the Forum, once again, is making it happen,” said Joe Berthold, CIENA Corporation, president of the OIF. “The direction of the optical internetworking industry is clear: Interoperability is a must. The technical work of the OIF is focused on providing interoperable solutions at all levels of the next generation optical network.”

UNI/NNI Interoperability Demonstration

The public demonstration at OFC 2003 will be the first time the OIF’s integrated UNI/NNI solution is showcased. The OIF UNI 1.0 Implementation Agreement (IA) represents a significant industry milestone towards achieving an open network layer. 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. Conducted in a multi-vendor, multi-node network environment, the test topology will include a wide range of optical network equipment. Participants will include manufacturers of IP routers, optical cross connects, metro and long haul optical transport equipment, and add/drop multiplexers. Protocol test equipment and software will also be highlighted.

-more-
Driven by a set of requirements developed by the OIF Carrier working group, OIF NNI specifications allow intra carrier network elements to exchange signaling and routing information. The NNI is based on the G.ASON architecture using relevant protocols from the IETF. The OIF NNI aims to provide transport network signaling and routing solutions in an intra carrier, inter domain environment. Resource management features will be demonstrated in a multi-vendor, multi-domain (administrative and/or control) environment. The testing will include both real network equipment as well as simulated nodes to show true network scalability and domain-to-domain interoperability. In conjunction with the UNI/NNI event, the OIF’s Call Detail Records IA (CDR 1.0), which enables billing for UNI 1.0 connections, will be demonstrated publicly for the first time.

Physical and Link Layer Demonstration

The PLL event will demonstrate for the first time dynamic N-way interoperability of the System Packet Interface Level 4, Phase 2: System Interface for Physical and Link Layer Devices (SPI-4.2 IA) as well as the Serdes Framer Interface for a common electrical interface between SONET framer and serial/deserializer parts for OC-192 interfaces (SFI-4.1 IA), the Serdes Framer Interface Level 5: 40Gb/s Interface for Physical Layer Devices (SFI-5 IA) and the tunable laser IA among OIF member companies. Participants will include ASSP, FPGA, ASIC, optical module and test equipment vendors highlighting protocol testers, signal integrity measurement equipment including eye diagrams and jitter measurements, video generation and display equipment.

Qualifying Test Event

A qualifying test event will be conducted prior to the public demonstration among participating vendors to establish interoperability and resolve any implementation issues. Conducted at the University of New Hampshire’s InterOperability Laboratory (UNH-IOL), the UNI/NNI qualifying test event will provide a preview for OIF Carrier working group members on the final day. The PLL private event will be held at Tektronix in Portland, Oregon. Interoperability will be validated using test equipment and methodologies developed by a sub-committee of technical experts.

-more-
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.

# # #