OIF AND NPF COLLABORATE ON INTERFACE ADVANCEMENT

Joint Meeting Facilitates Cooperation and Sharing of Customer Requirements

FREMONT, CA – June 3, 2004 – The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) and the Network Processing Forum (NPF) announced today the results from their first joint meeting, which was held in Budapest, Hungary last month. This combined meeting provided the venue for both groups to hear and discuss valuable customer insights provided by the OIF’s Carrier Working Group. Specifically, the OIF Physical and Link Layer (PLL) and NPF Hardware working groups met to discuss the next generation packet interfaces. Additionally, the OIF Architecture and Signaling and the NPF Software working groups studied several areas of technology for potential future collaboration.

“It is extremely rare for two independent organizations to join forces and hold combined technical sessions,” said Mike Lerer, Xilinx, OIF Physical and Link Layer Working Group Chair and NPF Hardware Working Group Chair. “By recognizing that the working groups within each of these industry forums are complementary, we were able to successfully combine efforts on several key areas of technology.”

The objective of this collaboration is to develop a successor interface to both the NPF’s Streaming Interface (SI) and the OIF System Packet Interfaces (SPIs), that will operate efficiently and scale over high-speed data links. In support of this effort, the NPF initiated a new project called the Scaleable Streaming Packet Interface (SSPI). The new interface is intended for operation over serialized electrical interfaces operating at 5 to 10 gigabits per second per
copper differential pair. Plans for the SSPI include operation over the OIF CEI Protocol (CEI-P) and CEI high speed electrical specifications as well as 64/66 encoded 10 gigabit Ethernet interfaces. For its part, the OIF will continue its development of CEI high-speed electrical specifications, as well as, the CEI-P project.

“The fact that two strong industry forums have come together to identify an industry need, mutually assign work items and responsibilities, and to collaborate on a joint vision will greatly benefit the industry,” said Joe Berthold, CIENA Corporation, president of the OIF. “We expect many more successful joint meetings in the near future.”

“Working together with the OIF will enable both groups to expand activities in synergistic areas and garner greater industry support than if we were working separately,” said Misha Nossik, IDT, Chair of the NPF Board of Directors. “We were particularly pleased to receive input from the OIF’s Carrier Group. The NPF is looking forward to hearing more from these customers and incorporating their insights into the designs of future specifications.”

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.

About the OIF
Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a non-profit organization with more than 170+ 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. Liaisons have been established with The ATM Forum, IEEE 802.3 HSSG, IETF, ITU-T Study Group 13, ITU-T Study Group 15, MEF, NPF, T1M1, T1X1, TMF and the XFP MSA Group. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com.

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