OIF UNVEILS 40 Gbps SERDES FRAMER INTERFACE SPEC

FREMONT, CA - June 19, 2002 – The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) announced today that its membership has approved a Serializer/Deserializer (SerDes) Framer Interface Level 5 (SFI-5) Implementation Agreement (IA). Created by the OIF’s Physical & Link Layer Working Group, the SFI-5 IA is an integral part of a series of agreements addressing the interfaces for packet and cell transfer in 40 Gbps applications like OC-768 ATM and Packet-over-SONET/SDH (POS). The SFI-5 interface allows manufacturers of high speed SerDes devices and Optical Modules to develop components with the certainty that complementary products from FEC and Framer suppliers will be interoperable.

“SFI-5 and other high performance component and interface specifications enable suppliers to develop interoperable components for 40 Gbps systems,” said Mike Lerer, chairman of the OIF’s Physical & Link Layer Working Group and technology facilitator at Avici Systems, Inc. “Through its work on SFI-5 and other specifications, the OIF is providing the technical underpinnings that are the foundation for the next generation optical network.”
SFI-5 Implementation Agreement

SFI-5 specifies an interface between the SerDes component, the forward-error-correction (FEC) processor and Framer devices within the Physical Layer. SFI-5 addresses aggregate data bandwidths of OC-768, STM256, OTN OTU-3, as well as other applications at the 40 Gb/s data rate. System applications of SFI-5 include the interface between optical transponders and framers and transponders and FEC components.

About the OIF

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a rapidly growing, non-profit organization with more than 300 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, IEEE 802.3ae (10 Gb Ethernet), 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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