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**OIF'S UNI 2.0 IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT DELIVERS TO
EMERGING CARRIER ETHERNET MARKET**

IA Allows Carriers to Offer New Services

FREMONT, CA – February 25, 2008 – The membership of the Optical Internetworking Forum has ratified the group's UNI (User-Network Interface) 2.0 Implementation Agreement (IA), enabling users to signal for enhanced transport services from an optical network service provider. Improvements made to UNI 2.0 were gleaned from the OIF's Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration - *On-Demand Ethernet Services* held last summer between 7 carriers and 8 equipment vendors. UNI 2.0 complies with the ITU-T ASON architecture, and supports all UNI 1.0 signaling with additional protocol extensions for the following new UNI 2.0 features:

- Support for Ethernet clients, providing both Ethernet Private Line (EPL) and Ethernet Virtual Private Line (EVPL) services
- Dynamic bandwidth modification, without service disruption
- G.709 connection services for ODU and OTU switching layers
- Low order SONET/SDH connection services

For network users, these improvements deliver more responsive and flexible services plus right-sized bandwidth for their dynamic traffic needs. Carriers can simplify their networks, maintain reliability, and improve network performance and customer satisfaction.

“UNI 2.0 is at the forefront of the emerging Carrier Ethernet market,” said Stephen Shew with Nortel Networks and OIF board member. “It allows Ethernet attached clients to request and modify EPL, and EVPL services that are defined in MEF (Metro Ethernet Forum) specifications.”

During the development of the OIF UNI 2.0, two interoperability events were held that refined various UNI 2.0 features, including EPL and bandwidth modification. These service requests were signaled from client Ethernet equipment or application and adapted into SONET/SDH at the edge nodes, enabling transport services with global coverage.

“The OIF continues to test the interoperability of UNI with close collaboration between equipment vendors and carriers,” said Jim Jones of Alcatel-Lucent and OIF’s vice president of marketing. “OIF members then incorporate the results of those tests into the IA, providing the industry with ready-to-use, mature specifications.”

About the OIF

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is the only industry group uniting representatives from data and optical networking disciplines, including many of the world's leading carriers, component manufacturers and system vendors. The OIF promotes the development and deployment of interoperable networking solutions and services through the creation of Implementation Agreements (IAs) for optical, interconnect, network processing and component technologies, and optical networking systems. The OIF actively supports and extends the work of national and international standards bodies with the goal of promoting worldwide compatibility of optical internetworking products. Working relationships or formal liaisons have been established with the IEEE 802.1, IEEE 802.3, IETF, ITU-T Study Group 13, ITU-T Study Group 15, IPv6 Forum, IP-MPLS Forum, MEF, ATIS OPTXS, ATIS TMOC, Rapid I/O, TMF, Ethernet Alliance and the XFP MSA Group. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com
<http://www.oiforum.com>.

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