OPTICAL INTERNETWORKING FORUM TO HOST INTEROPERABILITY DEMONSTRATION AT SUPERCOMM 2001

Optical UNI Interoperability Demo First Step Toward Allowing Carriers To Offer New Optical Network Services in Multi-Vendor, Multi Technology Networks

FREMONT, CA – March 19, 2001 – The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) announced today that it will sponsor a multi-vendor, multi-technology User Network Interface (UNI) Interoperability Demonstration at SuperComm 2001 in Atlanta, June 3-7 at Booth #150D in the Georgia Dome. The demonstration will highlight OIF’s UNI 1.0 protocol that allows client devices to discover optical network resources and dynamically establish and clear optical circuit connections.

Optical internetworking between data and transmission equipment has previously been confined to single vendor strategies implemented within a carrier network. OIF’s UNI Interoperability Demo will showcase true optical internetworking that will enhance the advent of optical network services deployed by carriers. Optical network services are ushering in an era of bandwidth-enabling services that address consumer and business demand for higher speed connectivity and networking applications.

“OIF’s signaling work has reached a maturity level that will benefit from multivendor interoperability testing,” said Adam Dunstan, president of the OIF. “We are conducting interoperability testing to refine the UNI document and accelerate vendor implementation. The demonstration will highlight new product functionality which will enable service providers to deliver existing services in a fraction of today’s provisioning times and new service previously unavailable with existing technology”.

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Leading optical network technology manufacturers and test equipment vendors are expected to participate in the SuperComm demonstration. The event will include optical interface internetworking, connection control and signaling between an Optical UNI-N (network element) and Optical UNI-C (client). Participants will demonstrate interoperability amongst optical cross connect switches, wavelength routers, and edge devices, such as metro optical devices, IP/MPLS routers, ATM switches, SONET/SDH multiplexers and other devices that will interface to, or form part of, the core optical transport network.

**Qualifying Test Event**

The OIF will conduct a private qualifying interoperability test based upon a subset of the proposed UNI 1.0 agreement for member vendors interested in participating at the SuperComm event. The private event will be held in May at the University of New Hampshire’s Interoperability Labs (IOL). Interoperability will be validated using test equipment and methodologies developed by a sub-committee of technical experts.

**About the OIF**

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a rapidly growing, non-profit organization with 330+ member companies to date, including many of the world’s leading carriers and vendors. As the only industry group uniting representatives from packet and voice 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 802.3 HSSG and the IETF. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com.

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