OPTICAL INTERNETWORKING FORUM (OIF) DECLARES SUPERCOMM INTEROPERABILITY DEMO A SUCCESS

FREMONT, CA - June 12, 2001 - The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) today announced that it has reached a milestone in its work to advance the standards and methods of building optical networks with the very successful completion of a real-time interoperability demonstration during SUPERCOMM 2001 last week in Atlanta. Twenty-five vendor companies demonstrated User Network Interface (UNI) protocol-compliant optical cross connect switches, wavelength routers, protocol conformance test suites and edge devices including metro optical devices, IP/MPLS routers, ATM switches, SONET/SDH multiplexers and other devices that interface to, or form part of, the core optical transport network. Visitors to the demonstration viewed real-time dynamic control of connections across a mesh of different devices from 25 vendors. During the demonstration internetworking was demonstrated for both the optical control plane and transport layer, with clients setting up connections and passing data over the demonstration optical network.

“It was very exciting to have these 25 companies come together for the first time in the industry to demonstrate how the optical UNI streamlines the core optical network,” said Adam Dunstan, president of OIF. “The overwhelming success of this event speaks to the growing maturity of the UNI protocol. The OIF is already considering additional interoperability demonstrations to further benefit our members and the industry in the development of UNI.”

“We were very pleased to see the wide range of vendor devices featuring different capabilities and functions and the international representation of the demonstrating members,” said Tom Afferton, OIF board member and director of advanced transport technology and architecture for AT&T. “The interoperability demo provided carriers with insight into how they can enable new services, reduce cost by automating end-to-end provisioning and lower capital with multi-vendor sourcing.”

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OIF’s interoperability testing efforts are aimed at enhancing optical internetworking between data and transmission equipment that had previously been confined to single vendor strategies implemented within a carrier network. The UNI 1.0 protocol allows client devices to discover optical network resources and dynamically establish and clear optical circuit connections. UNI 1.0 provides for rapid provisioning of circuits between clients with various levels of circuit protection and restoration. UNI 1.0 establishes standards for signaling for connection establishment, automatic neighbor discovery and automatic service discovery, fault detection, localization and notification.


About OIF

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a rapidly growing, non-profit organization with 370+ 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, the IETF and T1. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com.

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