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SEVEN GLOBAL CARRIERS TO HOST TEN-WEEK OIF WORLDWIDE INTEROPERABILITY DEMO

*Most Comprehensive Network Test Ever to Take Place in China, France,
Germany, Italy, Japan and United States*

FREMONT, CA – March 31, 2005 – The Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) announced today that seven of its carrier members AT&T, China Telecom, Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom, NTT Laboratories, Telecom Italia and Verizon will host the second OIF Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration. The carrier hosts will provide test facilities, engineering staff and real-world network connectivity continuously from mid-April through mid-June. A public demonstration of the testing will take place at SUPERCOMM 2005, June 7-9, in Chicago. This year's OIF Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration will highlight solutions for support of Ethernet services over multi-domain SONET/SDH transport networks by employing OIF Implementation Agreements (IAs) in a multi-carrier, multi-vendor environment.

"Our carrier members are making a huge commitment of time and resources to the OIF Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration," said Joe Berthold of CIENA Corporation, and OIF president. "This event will provide a premier venue for system suppliers who want to showcase their technology for the world's largest carriers."

"This event takes interoperability to a whole new level," said Hans-Martin Foisel of Deutsche Telekom, and OIF Carrier working group chair. "Operating on such a global scale provides realistic challenges for carriers and vendors alike."

Real world scenarios will test the ability of technologies, platforms and networks to carry different data formats such as video, streaming video and VoIP traffic.”

The OIF Worldwide Interoperability Demonstration 2004 addressed signaling of SONET/SDH connections from network edge-to-network edge. The 2005 event will go farther by demonstrating complete client-to-client Ethernet-over-SONET/SDH signaling. This enables Ethernet clients to signal for dynamic connections, which the SONET/SDH network provides, without requiring the client to be aware of the underlying server layer network.

Furthermore, the global interoperability event will include testing of data plane interoperability of Next Generation transport network functions such as GFP/VCAT/LCAS. This will demonstrate to the industry that this suite of ITU-T standards will support multiple vendor network environments. This in turn will enable earlier deployment of multi-carrier support of services as well as offer cost effective networking architectures.

About the OIF

Launched in April of 1998, the OIF is a non-profit organization with a unique and diverse member base, including many of the world's leading carriers, component manufacturers and system vendors. As the only industry group uniting representatives from data and optical networks, the OIF helps advance the standards and methods of optical networks. The purpose of the OIF is to accelerate the deployment of interoperable, cost-effective and robust optical networks and their associated technologies. Optical internetworks are data networks composed of routers and data switches interconnected by optical networking elements.

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. Liaisons have been established with The ATM Forum, IEEE 802.3, IETF, ITU-T Study Group 13, ITU-T Study Group 15, MEF, NPF, OPTXS, Rapid I/O, TMF MTNM group, TMOC, UXPi and the XFP MSA Group. More information on the OIF can be found at www.oiforum.com.

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