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The i3 Forum Continues Momentum for Transitioning to an All-IP World

Paris – June 10, 2010 – The i3 Forum, comprised of more than 37 telecommunications providers representing a combined retail base in excess of 1.5 billion customers in over 100 countries, has announced they will be hosting a two-day industry workshop with more than 20 leading vendors June 15-16 in Warsaw, Poland. As part of a series of partner-oriented initiatives, the i3 Forum will leverage its extensive industry knowledge to host the Technical Workshop in an effort to share its recommendations on the IP-transition and accelerate their implementation by the vendor community.

“Collaboration is at the heart of our organization,” said Philippe Millet, Chairman, i3 Forum. “Our highly diverse member base is key, but our efforts extend well beyond to the entire industry. We believe that only by transitioning to IP together can the industry as a whole reap the benefits of efficiency, agility and innovation, in an economically viable way.”

To expedite the industry-wide transition of voice and related services to Internet Protocol (IP), the i3 Forum is bringing the top vendors, industry organizations such as the GSMA, standardization bodies, and telecom forums together to cover topics ranging from Signaling and operational issues to Quality of Service (QoS) Control and Management.

In parallel to this workshop, the i3 Forum will be participating in the GSMA’s IWG (Interworking Group) plenary meeting in Boston, in a joint effort to finalize the model for implementing voice services in an IPX environment. This represents a tremendous joint accomplishment, made possible by 18 months of extensive work together.

In addition to the Technical Workshop, the i3 Forum will be developing a new suite of Training Programs on International IP Interconnection with Neotelis, a consultancy that assists telecommunications organizations worldwide. The programs were announced at the i3 Forum Panel and Press Conference entitled, “*Transitioning the Carrier Industry to IP: Real Life Experience from the Members of the i3 Forum*” held at ITW 2010.

With a pragmatic and open approach, the i3 Forum’s efforts are focused around the practical challenges of evolving to IP. The i3 Forum aims to encourage and accelerate an industry-wide transition to IP-based interconnections for all services, ranging from existing voice and related legacy to innovative services within the international telecommunications sector, both fixed and mobile. The desired end result of this collaboration means end-users will be able to enjoy IP-enabled services and applications, such as streaming video, HD Videoconferencing and voice calls across all networks.

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To date, the i3 Forum has delivered service definitions and SLA guidelines. In addition to developing interconnection models, recommendations on Signaling (SIP and SIP-I), Codecs, Security and QoS and templates for interoperability.

About the i3 Forum

The i3 Forum brings together the communications expertise of more than 37 telecommunications providers, representing a combined retail base of over 1.5 billion customers across more than 100 countries.

The goal of the i3 Forum is to develop collaborative recommendations for an industry-wide transition of voice and related services to Internet Protocol (IP). The forum's unified effort to expedite global IP-based voice implementation supports widespread access to innovative and high-quality IP-based services and applications.