



MPLS in Mobile Backhaul Certification Program Announced

IP/MPLS Forum announces formal certification program for mobile backhaul solutions utilizing Circuit Emulation services over MPLS

FREMONT, CA – JAN 21, 2009 — The IP/MPLS Forum announced today the pilot phase of its MPLS in Mobile Backhaul Certification program. The certification program is the first of its kind in the industry, and allows vendors and operators to work together to provide a globally recognized and trusted benchmark for use by backhaul providers, mobile operators and their end-users.

The program will initially focus on certifying standards-compliant implementations of Circuit Emulation services over MPLS as defined in the IP/MPLS Forum's MPLS Mobile Backhaul Initiative (MMBI) which defines how MPLS can be used to backhaul TDM traffic for mobile operators. The certification program introduces a set of strictly-repeatable test procedures, and will be administered through the IP/MPLS Forum's certified lab partner, Iometrix.

"Operators require readily-deployable backhaul solutions today to resolve the bandwidth challenges associated with increasing traffic demands," said Andrew G. Malis, Chairman and President of the IP/MPLS Forum. "The Mobile Backhaul Certification Program represents a needed step in the evolution of MPLS solutions which have already proven in lab trials to be ready to meet the needs of operators around the world."

The certification program is backed by the numerous mobile operators who have been heavily involved in the forum in defining the MMBI offerings, and are now also involved in the certification pilot as well.

"The IP/MPLS Forum Certification program will provide assurance that technologies meet industry specifications through an independent testing service. Certification demonstrates that businesses are forming the correct partnerships to deliver an industry-accepted service." said Christopher Mayer, Vice President - Systems Integration & Testing at Verizon Communications.

“The increase of mobile data traffic is putting a lot of challenges on mobile backhaul to provide the required capacity in a cost-effective way. We see MPLS as a viable option for meeting this challenge, and believe this certification program will advance the deployment of MPLS-based backhaul solutions in the market,” said Alain Maloberti, VP, Network Architecture & Design for Orange.

The pilot phase of the certification program will conclude in early March, and the forum will announce the first group of certified vendors at the MPLS Ethernet World Congress that will be held in Paris, France, 10-13 February 2009.

About the IP/MPLS Forum

The IP/MPLS Forum is an international, non-profit association of service providers, equipment vendors, testing centers and enterprise users. The Forum's mission is to drive the global success of IP/MPLS-based technology, networks, and services, while focusing on application and deployment solutions. The Forum is driving network solutions based on IP/MPLS technologies in the global telecom industry through technical specifications, educational and marketing resources, and certification and interoperability programs. For Forum membership information please contact Alysia Johnson, Executive Director, at (510) 492-4057 or via e-mail at ajohnson@ipmplsforum.org. Additional information about IP/MPLS Forum is available online at <http://www.ipmplsforum.org>.

Additional Background:

Mobile backhaul networks have historically utilized TDM or ATM-based backhaul facilities to support revenue-generating and mission-critical services which are delay- and loss-sensitive and require a high level of network availability. Today's Mobile Backhaul networks must support these legacy services while also supporting the high-growth in demand for data services and bandwidth by today's mobile subscribers.

In order to meet these evolutionary requirements of operators, the IP/MPLS Forum's MPLS Mobile Backhaul Initiative (MMBI), which was announced last year, proposes a general framework for the use of MPLS and Ethernet technology to transport RAN backhaul traffic over access, aggregation and core networks. The forum releases a technical specification during 4Q08 which provides a specific framework and set of requirements for the use of MPLS in the mobile wireless access and aggregation networks across various RAN interfaces and technologies (eg: GSM, UMTS, LTE, mobile WiMAX, HSPA, etc.)

A copy of the technical specification can be downloaded from <http://www.ipmplsforum.org/tech/IPMPLSForum20.0.0.pdf> . Additional

information on the forum's MMBI work can be found here:
<http://www.ipmplsforum.org/tech/IPMPLSBackhaulWhitePaper.pdf>.

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Media Contact
Gary Lee
+1-678-921-0565
gary@grlee.com