



IP/MPLS Forum “MPLS in Mobile Backhaul” Certification program continues to gain momentum with 4 new Vendors successfully completing testing

IP/MPLS Forum announces successful completion of the pilot for phase one of the certification program testing mobile backhaul solutions utilizing TDM services over MPLS.

FREMONT, CA – March 31, 2009 — The IP/MPLS Forum announced today the successful completion of the pilot phase of its “MPLS in Mobile Backhaul” Certification program, with 4 vendors completing and successfully passing the tests. As announced at the onset of the certification program, it 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 mobile backhaul providers, operators and their end-users.

Vendors participating in the program were put through an exhaustive set of test procedures, administered through the IP/MPLS Forum’s certified lab partner, Iometrix. In this initial phase of certification, the test focused primarily on certifying standards-compliant implementations of TDM services over MPLS as used in the IP/MPLS Forum’s MPLS Mobile Backhaul Initiative (MMBI) which outlines how MPLS can be used to backhaul TDM traffic for mobile operators.

“Mobile operators today must resolve the burden imposed by ever-increasing bandwidth usage by mobile users,” said Bob Mandeville, CEO of Iometrix. “A critical part of the solution is how to deal with circuit-based backhaul traffic which is still used by a large portion of mobile backhaul-based equipment in the network today. Through these certification tests, we have been able to certify solutions which meet the MMBI specifications, thus giving operators, standard based easily-understood MPLS-based solutions to begin deploying immediately for mobile backhaul.”

Mobile operators have worked closely with the vendor community to define the MMBI specifications, and then with Iometrix to define a replicable set of test suites to certify vendors’ solutions for the mobile industry.

Vendors who have successfully completed this initial phase of certification include:

- Alcatel-Lucent - 7750 Service Router and 7705 Service Aggregation Router
- Huawei Technologies - CX600 Series Metro Service Platform
- Juniper Networks - BX7000 Multi-Access Gateway.

In addition, Cisco has already been certified as part of the pilot phase of the certification program which was announced recently at the MPLS and Ethernet World Congress held in Paris, France in February, 2009.

“We congratulate these vendors who have diligently prepared their products to meet the MMBI specification, and successfully subjected their solutions to this extensive battery of tests,” said Andrew G. Malis, Chairman and President of the IP/MPLS Forum. “Mobile operators around the world should now view MMBI, MPLS-based solutions as proven and ready to tackle their mobile backhaul issues in their networks.”

Additional phases of the certification program will be announced shortly, and will certify both ATM and IP solutions over MPLS, thereby ensuring a broad range of application support for operators across various Radio Access Networks (RAN) architectures including GSM, UMTS, HSPA, LTE and WiMAX.

For the next phase of certification, IP/MPLS Forum has started work on ATM over MPLS test cases, primarily targeted for 3G UMTS deployments, which is the case of the majority of current deployment.

Note to Editors: The IP/MPLS Forum will be participating and speaking at the Telecommunications Magazine’s IP Backhaul conference co-located with the CTIA Wireless 2009 show in Las Vegas on April 1. Nikhil Shah, VP of International Business Development will be on a panel discussing “IP/Ethernet Backhaul Migration Strategies”. For additional information, please visit the following link:

http://www.ctiawireless.com/events/event_details.cfm?callID=796 .

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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