DSL Forum Annual Meeting and Elections Outcomes

At its annual meeting, held in Vienna [27 February to 2 March 2006], the international DSL Forum focussed on its expanded scope that extends to other broadband access technologies. Already, work has progressed to address common CPE and architecture requirements for various types of access methods to deliver video, voice and data services, together.

According to Michael Brusca, chairman and president of the DSL Forum, "We have built on our end to end architecture, broadening Layer 3 specifications that are applicable to FTTP and FTTN (PON) in addition to DSLAM based platforms. Our DSLHome™ work has been expanded to cover management of common CPE and devices for all types of Wide Area Networks (WANs) and consumer electronics (CE) networking requirements.

With this inclusive approach, the economics are improved by enabling triple play services, protocols and network management across various types of access platforms. Our interoperability and qualification work has also been expanded to address these higher layer functions as well as the physical layer testing of ADSL2plus and the newly standardized VDSL2."

Nine new Technical Reports (TR) were completed by The DSL Forum in 2005. (See http://www.dslforum.org/techwork/treports.shtml) Together these specifications provide interfaces and parameters for information flows including automated configuration, diagnostics, quality of service (QoS), and other management functions for voice, data and video services. Their implementation allows service providers to deliver multiple services simultaneously and improve customer support.

Broadband DSL is at the core of networks that deliver multiple services and accounts for over 60% of the world's subscribers receiving high-speed data, video and voice content. Appropriately, the DSL Forum specifications for remote management continue to be extended from in-home gateways (TR-069) to VoIP devices, Set-Top Boxes (STB) as well as Network Attached Storage (NAS).

With the trend towards packaging video services along with voice and data over the access infrastructure, the DSL Forum is finalising its first Technical Report on architectures migrating from ATM to Ethernet technology. This report will specify architectures that extend outward through the broadband network gateway (BNG), access node and aggregation network to the edge of the core network. It will identify equipment requirements and management solutions that deliver multiple services efficiently, making multicast IPTV a mass-market reality.

The migration of service provider networks from ATM to Ethernet technology will support QoS-enabled IP services, which is one of the evolving industry breakthroughs pioneered by the DSL Forum. Along with new work on video quality of experience (QoE), evolving architectures are being designed to assure customer satisfaction for IPTV and streaming video applications.

"Our work continues to produce standard approaches that evolve to the demands for robust, reliable and scaleable broadband services delivery all around the world," says

Michael Brusca. "Ethernet based access is part of that evolution to further improve the economics and enable faster quality transport of IPTV and VoIP," he added.

New DSL Forum Board Members

In its 2006 elections, DSL Forum members elected two new directors, re-elected five directors and marked the retirement of one of its founders, David Greggains. Having served as a director of the DSL Forum for all of its 11 years in various roles including chief operating officer, vice president, secretary and treasurer, David received the Forum's Lifetime Achievement Award.

New members elected to the board are Lisa Garza, broadband market manager of Cisco Systems and Heather Kirksey, senior manager, standards and emerging technologies of Motive, Inc. Both have previously been awarded the Forum's Circle of Excellence award for their active participation in its work over several years. Directors who were re-elected are: Frank Van der Putten of Alcatel; Peter LeBlanc of Aware, Inc.; Steve Plume of BT; Phil Skeba of Intel and Greg Bathrick of Texas Instruments.

Gavin Young, chief architect of Bulldog Communications, was re-elected as technical committee chair. Vincenzo Gulla, vertical application marketing manager of Aethra was elected marketing committee chair after Jay Fausch of Alcatel, who served in this position for five years, stood down from the role.

- ends -

About the DSL Forum

The DSL Forum is tailoring broadband to meet the needs of the next generation of multi-media services and the online community. By developing new standards and embracing new applications, the Forum works to streamline processes, define specifications and share best practices that set the stage for effective deployments, and explosive global DSL growth. Established in 1994, the DSL Forum is an international industry consortium of over 200 leading service providers, equipment manufacturers and other interested parties. For more information about the DSL Forum, see www.dslforum.org.

For biographies and photos of the new DSL Forum board of Directors, go to http://www.dslforum.org/about/bod.shtml.

Further information is available from:

Media Contacts (Europe & Asia Pacific): America)	**Media Contacts (North and South**
Carol Friend or Charlie Meredith-Hardy	Laurie Gonzalez
PIELLE Consulting	DSL Forum
+44 (0)20 7323 1587	+1 770 761 9300
dsl.forum@pielleconsulting.com	**lgonzalez@dslforum.org**