

Challenging role to oversee continued global growth of MEF & Carrier Ethernet Services Market

The Metro Ethernet forum (MEF) announced the names of the Fiscal 2012 Board of Directors following elections at their annual meeting in San Francisco. The Board represents a cross section of the industry with members from both vendor and service provider communities. Nan Chen, President, CENX, serves as President, with Mike Volgende, Director, Advanced Networking Product Transformation, Verizon being appointed Chairman of the Board. Kevin Vachon remains Chief Operating Officer to the MEF.

Other director appointments include: Margaret Chiosi, Executive Director of Optics and Ethernet Development, AT&T; Craig Easley, Vice President of Marketing and Product Management, Accedian Networks; Lionel Florit, Senior Manager, Cisco Systems; Arie Goldberg, CEO and Co-founder, Omnitron Systems; Robert Kuse, Director of Commercial Engineering, Cox Communications; Scott Mansfield, Principal Engineer, Ericsson; Kevin O'Toole, Senior Vice President of Product Management & Strategy, Comcast; Raghu Ranganathan, Senior Advisor (Office of CTO), Ciena; Ralph Santitoro, Director of Carrier Ethernet Market Development, Fujitsu Network Communications. Zhao Hui ling, Vice President, China Telecom has also been appointed as an Advisory Director by the Board.

Carlos Benavides (Verizon) and Phil Tilley (Alcatel-Lucent) continue in the role of Global Marketing Co-Chairs. Bill Bjorkman (Verizon) & Raghu Ranganathan (Ciena) will Co-chair the Technical Committee, while Eric Puetz (AT&T), Chris Donley (Cable Labs) and Biren Mehta (Cisco) were named as Certification Committee Co-Chairs.

Carrier Ethernet deployment continues to keep pace with the analysts' bullish predictions in recent years, as Nan Chen, MEF President, explained: "Two key tipping points have been reached in this our tenth year: for the first time Carrier Ethernet equipment sales have exceeded the combined total of legacy and alternative technologies; U.S. Ethernet bandwidth has surpassed legacy bandwidth. Ethernet Services for business-class applications is still on track to exceed their predicted \$40 billion by 2014".

He went on to explain that a whole new market for wholesale Ethernet has been created as a direct result of the MEF's recent work on the standardization of interconnection between providers, the development of Carrier Ethernet Exchanges and work in progress in Access Service definitions. Another significant growth area has been the use of Carrier Ethernet to optimize 4G-LTE backhaul and interconnection of mobile data. This is Carrier Ethernet at its best, as the demand for mobile bandwidth is skyrocketing; Carrier Ethernet delivers the lowest cost per megabit, with multi-CoS to ensure quality of service required by wireless operators.

MEF membership continues to grow. It is currently at 185 of which half are service providers. Along with increasing geographical coverage, the MEF has its sights on passing the 200 mark in its anniversary year. In addition to the many MEF equipment vendors, there has been an increase in software supplier members to address the growing challenge of Ethernet Services management.

The biggest news in MEF certification this year has been the launch of a new Professional Services category - with 61 candidates already achieving MEF-CECP (MEF Carrier Ethernet Certified Professional) status. Supporting the growing market of future MEF-CECP examinees, the MEF has accredited the first three MEF Accredited Training Providers (MEF-ATPs) - Telefocal Asia, EANTC and Perpetual Solutions. These MEF-ATPs provide Carrier Ethernet training courses that enable study and preparation for MEF-CECP certification.

Clouds on the horizon mean nothing but good news for the future according to Nan Chen, MEF President, who concluded: "Looking forward, I see Carrier Ethernet gaining a key role in enabling the delivery of Cloud Services to the Enterprise. This is a potentially huge market that will strongly impact members' revenues for business-class services. This year the MEF has been engaged in an in-depth investigation of Carrier Ethernet for Cloud Service delivery, with a view to further technical and marketing initiatives".