ITU-T Study Group 13, OCAF Focus Group

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OCAF Focus Group Announces First Official Deliverable

Geneva, 8 June 2005 – The Open Communications Architecture Forum ("OCAF") Focus Group announced today the availability of the Carrier Grade Open Environment (CGOE) reference model, its first official output document, which represents a significant step towards fulfilling its mandate to develop requirements for components for a Carrier Grade Open Environment ("CGOE"). The CGOE reference model defines a framework by which interfaces and standards required to deploy COTS solutions in next-generation networks (NGNs) can be identified in a formal manner.

"Telecommunication service providers, solution providers, independent software vendors and technology providers recognized the advantages of using a standards-based approach and common off-the-shelf (COTS) technology to satisfy the requirements of NGN services. OCAF was formalized under the ITU-T banner as a Focus Group in May 2004" said Doug Dreyer, Chair of OCAF and Alliance Executive, IBM. "Today, we are seeing the first formal output of this group, the CGOE reference model."

Bolstered by industry agreement to support the CGOE, OCAF continues to promote a rich eco-system of standardized COTS technology to accelerate deployment of the NGN infrastructure and services. The CGOE model is consistent with the concept that technology providers deliver components to solution providers, who subsequently provide solutions to service providers. The classification and component relationships established in the CGOE reference model have been validated by studying the NGN network elements Home Subscriber Service (HSS) and the Call Session Control Function (CSCF).

Rather than create new standards, OCAF makes strong use of complementary work of other forums, including the 3GPPs, Parlay Group, SA Forum, IETF, OSDL, TMF, OMA and DMTF. OCAF also looks to these organizations to develop further specifications, in those instances where standards gaps are identified. This creates a framework for the end-to-end

integration of open, next generation telecommunication solutions.

"We see the availability of the OCAF CGOE reference model as playing a key role in reducing time-to-market and development costs via open, standards-based software components. These components must also meet strict carrier grade performance requirements, specifically in the areas of availability, scalability and security. The CGOE reference model is a tool that will be used by OCAF to identify component requirements, thereby allowing the industry to continue the delivery of world class solutions of value to their customers." said Bob Withrow, vice chair of OCAF and consulting engineer, Nortel.

OCAF members are already using the model to deploy NGN services and to promote best-of-breed component reuse and interoperability in a multi vendor environment. OCAF's next steps are to generate the associated functional and non-functional requirements for existing and new CGOE components and identify interfaces and relevant standards. This will be the basis for the definition of conformance. Selected OCAF outputs will be submitted for approval as ITU-T Recommendations.

OCAF invites new members to join by signing the OCAF Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and welcomes them to actively participate. Information on membership and participation in the Focus Group can be viewed at the OCAF web site: http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/index.html and interested parties should contact Georges Sebek at the ITU/TSB.

The CGOE reference document, a white paper entitled "Accelerating Open Standards for Deploying Next Generation Networks", as well as more information on membership and participation in the OCAF Focus Group, can be viewed at the OCAF web site: http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/index.html.

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