

ITU-T Study Group 13, OCAF Focus Group

NEWS RELEASE

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OCAF Focus Group Announces Board of Directors, Scope and Operational Structure

OCAF to develop technology to speed the development of Next Generation Networking

Geneva, 29 July 2004 – The Open Communications Architecture Forum (“OCAF”) Focus Group announced today an agreement to develop requirements for components for a Carrier Grade Open Environment (“CGOE”). Bolstered by broad industry agreement to support the CGOE, OCAF has been working with industry players to develop an eco-system of off-the-shelf commercial technology to accelerate deployment of Next Generation Network (“NGN”) infrastructure and services.

“Service Providers and their suppliers recognize the advantages of using a standards-based approach and Commercial Off The Shelf (“COTS”) technology to satisfy the requirements of NGN services and have agreed to work together as a focus group under ITU-T to realize these benefits”, said Doug Dreyer, IBM, Chair of OCAF.

OCAF founding membership includes global representation from a mix of service providers, solution providers, computer vendors and component manufacturers to develop a comprehensive and open framework. Broad industry participation ensures the move to a standards-based environment will provide benefits across all industry sectors and enables more cost-effective solutions having a greater choice in software and hardware components, and improves interoperability of multi-vendor networks by standardizing the component level building blocks. Founding members include: Avaya*, Cisco*, Comcast*, Deutsche Telekom*, France Telecom*, Lucent*, IBM*, Nortel Networks*, NTT*, Telecom Italia* and Siemens*.

OCAF will work closely with related standards forums and has already forged a close working relationship with the Service Availability™ Forum (“SA Forum”). The SA Forum has agreed to cooperate with OCAF as a Standards Liaison member and SA Forum members will actively participate in the CGOE Working Group.

The intent of the OCAF is to make strong use of complimentary work of other forums, rather than create new standards. Initial organizations whose work will be considered include: ITU-T, 3GPP, Parlay Group, SA Forum, IETF, OSDL, TMF, OMA and DMTF. Where gaps are identified, OCAF will look to other organizations to develop specifications. Selected OCAF requirements will be submitted for approval as ITU-T Recommendations.

“We see OCAF as playing a key role in reducing time-to-market and development costs via standards-based software components, this in turn allows Telecom Solution Providers like us to continue delivering world class solutions value to our customers,” said Subhash Patel, Nortel Networks, Vice Chair of OCAF.

“A primary objective of OCAF is to accelerate an ecosystem of COTS providers based on an open framework to enable innovation at the component level”, said Steve Craddock, SVP New Media Development, Comcast. “Our interest in OCAF is to facilitate a commercial offering that is based on standards, proven plug and play and fully carrier grade.”

“The SA Forum develops and publishes high availability and management software interface specifications”, said Manfred Reitenspiess, president of the SA Forum. “We believe that by maintaining a liaison with OCAF we maximize the effectiveness of both organizations by creating compatible and non-overlapping specifications, thereby accelerating the adoption of commercial off-the-shelf building blocks in the creation of high availability NGN infrastructure and services.”

The newly elected OCAF leadership team includes:

- Doug Dreyer, (Chair) IBM
- Subhash Patel (Vice Chair), Nortel Networks

In addition, each founding member organization has a position on the board of directors.

The OCAF Focus Group work is organized under two Working Groups:

- the Solutions Working Group (co-chaired by Marcus Dormanns, Deutsche Telekom and Laurent Hue, France Telecom); and
- the Carrier Grade Open Environment Working Group (co-chaired by Max Bornschlegl , Siemens and Ed Bailey, IBM).

The Solutions Working Group will review service scenarios, service descriptors and use case descriptors from other standards organizations as a starting point and will develop a component/product solution map. The process will identify functional requirements (AAA, Logging, Signaling etc) non-functional requirements (such as scalability, availability, security and legal) and technical and OA&M requirements in creating this mapping. To help start the exercise and converge on a process, the group has been developing solution and product maps for push-to-talk and IP Centrex.

The Carrier Grade Open Environment Working Group will develop a reference model using open industry standards and external interfaces to assist identification, classification, and interoperation of Commercial Off The Shelf components that satisfy the requirements of NGN services defined by the OCAF Solutions Working Group. CGOE will use the reference model to encourage other standards groups on gaps in their standards and interfaces and to stimulate creation of comprehensive eco-system of COTS components that satisfy the CGOE.

OCAF founding members welcome new members to join the Focus Group and will be asked to actively contribute to the activities of one or both of the Working Groups.

Applicants will be required to sign an OCAF NDA and sign up to actively participate in one of the OCAF Working Groups. Information on membership and participation in the Focus Group can be viewed at the web site: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/index.html> and interested members need to contact Georges Sebek at ITU/TSB.

Additional information on the Service Availability Forum can be found at the web site: <http://www.saforum.org>.

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