



FS-VDSL Committee

Rome, Italy

Sixth Meeting

December 3-5, 2001

Issued Thursday December 20, 2001.

The Full Service-VDSL Committee convened for its sixth plenary session hosted by Telecom Italia in Rome-Italy, December 3-5, 2001.

99 delegates from 44 companies attended.

This was the 6th plenary meeting of the FS-VDSL Committee. The 5th plenary meeting was due to be held in Seoul-Korea in September, but was cancelled due to the tragic international events. In order to minimise the delay to our specification work, 12 international teleconferences were organised to replace the Seoul meeting. This included a "plenary" teleconference to which around one hundred participants were connected.

To further accelerate progress, interim meetings of key working groups were convened during October and November, and again on the Sunday immediately preceding this Rome plenary meeting. This intensive work enabled us to recover all the lost ground.

In his opening address representing the host Telecom Italia, Paolo Passeri, who is responsible for engineering the access network, stressed the importance of solutions which can deliver media content to consumers more efficiently and more flexibly than digital satellite or cable TV platforms. He indicated that, for network operators, leveraging the existing copper pairs is vital for economical deployment.

During the meeting, there were intensive discussions involving System Architecture and CPE, dealing with critical issues such as MPEG encapsulation, implementation of channel zapping in the distributed home environment, Video on Demand implementation, Digital Rights Management (DRM), and bandwidth management. The structure of the specifications and their key contents were stabilised in Rome – a significant milestone. The FS-VDSL specifications ensure that broadcast TV can be delivered with similar performance to cable platforms, but augmented with fully interactive two-way broadband capability.

We have defined a set of VDSL transceiver interoperability tests which will be used to encourage chip vendors to participate in early demonstrations of VDSL transceiver interoperability – a key goal of the Committee. In addition to VDSL transceiver interoperability testing, extensive multi-vendor interoperability tests of complete end-to-end FS-VDSL systems are ongoing in the labs of several of the network operators.

On the important topic of Operations, a complete specification based on the operators' requirements is approaching completion. It includes information on Customer Care, Service Development and Operations, Network and System Management.

Don Clarke, Head of VDSL Development at Btexact Technologies and FS-VDSL Technical Director said : "This forum has achieved a very high level of industry credibility and recognition for its technical expertise, extensive vendor participation, and organisational efficiency. The operators have very similar objectives and are comfortable working together to accelerate standardisation of this important competitive platform".

The schedule for approval and publication of the FS-VDSL specifications has now been finalised: FS-VDSL Members will receive the first complete draft of the core specification documents in late December for analysis during January 2002. Comments will be embedded in a near-final text to be issued in early February. Final comments will be resolved during the 7th plenary meeting to be hosted by Qwest in Denver in March, when the Management Council of the FS-VDSL Committee, will be asked to approve the documents for publication to the wider industry. Industry feedback will be analysed during the 8th plenary meeting to be hosted by Telenor in Norway. This will close the two-year cycle for this Committee.

This technical plenary meeting in Rome included a statutory General Assembly during which Christopher R. Coles, President of Qwest Video Services, was elected Vice President of the FS-VDSL Committee. Bernard Marti, Director of Standards for France Telecom and FS-VDSL Secretary-Treasurer said: "With the election of Chris Coles to the Board of FS-VDSL we have assembled a very strong cast of industry figures who will use their influence in the industry to facilitate the adoption of our work to increase choices for consumers".

The Rome meeting was closed by Clayton Mangione, President of the FS-VDSL Committee, who highlighted the importance of the committee activities, the industry awareness and the established timelines for specifications and product availability. He continued by outlining the path for Bell Canada to achieve a smooth migration towards a Full Service environment: “in the context of voice, digital video, interactive TV and data competition, VDSL is an attractive opportunity to bridge high speed interactive services with optimum management of our investments and resource skill sets”.

In Rome, Lucent Technologies, Metalink Broadband Access and Tut Systems provided public demonstrations of technologies relevant to our ongoing specification work.

The next plenary meeting will be hosted by Qwest Communications International in Denver-USA, March 4-6, 2002.

Background Information

The FS-VDSL Committee is a group of over 70 companies who share a common vision for an end-to-end multi-service video-centric network platform based on FS-VDSL (Full-Service Very high speed Digital Subscriber Line). FS-VDSL enables the delivery of high quality digital video programming, high-speed data and voice services over traditional phone lines.

Since this initiative was launched in Paris in July 2000, 14 network operators have joined representing North America, Europe and Asia; and involvement by vendors and operators has continuously grown, despite the approaching end of our specification work.

The credibility of the FS-VDSL Committee has grown markedly as the industry realises that it is the only forum where a full service video-centric network solution for telcos is being globally standardised to be interoperable end-to-end. The FS-VDSL efforts should help reduce overall cost and facilitate faster deployment. Minimising operational complexity is a key focus and lessons learned from current DSL deployments are being captured to ensure that customer installations will be quick and efficient, and customers will experience the best possible competitive broadband service.

Organisations interested in the work of the FS-VDSL Committee should refer to our web site at www.fs-vdsl.net. A table of current members and observers is attached.

FS-VDSL Membership List

December 20, 2001

<i>Network Operators / Service Providers</i>	<i>Vendors</i>
Bell Canada	ADC Telecommunications, Inc.
Bezeq Israel Telecom *	Adtran, Inc.
British Telecommunications Plc	Alcatel
Deutsche Telekom AG	Analog Devices, Inc.
eircom	Aware, Inc.
France Telecom	Be Connected Ltd.
KPN Research	Broadcom Corporation
Korea Telecom	Calix Networks
Qwest Communications International, Inc	Centillum Communications, Inc.
SBC Technology Resources, Inc.	Cisco Systems, Inc.
Swisscom AG	ECI Telecom
Telecom Italia Lab.	Entone Technologies, Inc. *
Telefónica Investigación y Desarrollo *	Equator Technologies, Inc.
Telenor R&D	Eson Networks
Video Networks Ltd.	Fujitsu Networks Europe Ltd (FNEL)
	Fujitsu Siemens Computers
	FutureTV
	GlobeSpan, Inc.
	Humax Co., Ltd
	Ikanos Communications
	ImagicTV, Inc.
	Infineon Technologies
	Laboratoire European ADSL
	LG Electronics
	Lucent Technologies
	Marconi
	Metalink Ltd.
	MindSpeed, Inc.
	Minerva Networks
	Motorola
	Myrio Corporation
	nCUBE Corporation
	NEC Corporation
	Newpoint Technologies, Inc.
	Next Level Communications
	Nokia Networks
	Optibase, Ltd.
	Orca Interactive Ltd.
	Pace Micro Technology
	PMC-Sierra, Inc. *
	Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.
	Sapphire Communications, Inc.
	SerCoNet *
	Siemens AG
	Space Cyberlink, Inc. *
	Stellar One Corporation
	Sumitomo Electric Industries
	Teleste Corporation
	Tellabs, Inc.
	Thomson Multimedia, Inc.
	Tioga Technologies
	TUT Systems
	VBOX Communication Ltd.
	VDSL Systems Oy
	VideoTele.com
	Virtual Access
	Zarlink Semiconductor
	Zhone Technologies, Inc.

* Observers.