



## **ITU-T FS-VDSL Focus Group Press Release**

**Global Telcos and industry join forces to compete with enhanced multimedia services**

*New ITU-T Focus Group announces 'Triple Play' Specifications*

Issued 20 September 2002. – The newly established ITU-T Focus Group on Full Service VDSL (FS-VDSL) has announced the approval of a set of five specifications defining how extensive multimedia services can be provided over existing copper networks. Using these specifications the traditional telecom operators will be able to compete cost-effectively with cable and satellite operators with the provision of multiple high-quality digital video streams at the same time as providing high-speed internet access and voice services, known in the industry as the “triple-play”. Customers will profit as new multimedia service packages emerge. Operators will be able to offer these new services with significantly reduced deployment costs.

The viability of this approach was further reinforced by the video compression day promoted by the Group, where multiple vendors demonstrated what can be done with the latest video compression technologies including the upcoming H.264 video coding standard. The use of these technologies will provide for multiple simultaneous video streaming along with high speed Internet access, so while Mum is checking the weather in one room, the kids are enjoying a movie in another, Dad can be checking his email. Don Clarke, Chairman of the Focus Group commented, “We believe these specifications now make the delivery of fully interactive multimedia services via VDSL an economic reality, and look forward to further economies resulting from their progress to true worldwide standards as ITU-T Recommendations”.

The specifications were approved after the successful completion of the first meeting of this new ITU-T FS-VDSL Focus Group hosted by SBC in California. The Group is working on specifications for the deployment of multimedia services over VDSL. The Group also announced its intent to migrate these specifications into the ITU-T process, such that they will achieve truly global standard status as ITU-T Recommendations. The new Focus Group has been established under ITU-T’s Study Group 16, which is responsible for multimedia studies. “It is exciting to see how these new technologies can really provide customers with the services and capabilities they desire, and we are very happy to integrate this with our other Study Group 16 work” said Pierre-André Probst, Chairman of ITU-T Study Group 16

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## **About the ITU-T FS-VDSL Focus Group and its work**

The participants in the new ITU-T FS-VDSL Focus Group envisage a new multi-service video-centric network platform based upon VDSL (Very-high-speed Digital Subscriber Line) delivery, which will enable operators and service providers to provide end-users with a rich mix of video, data, and voice services. By exploiting a firm global ITU-T standards base, economies of deployment are expected.

A worldwide group of operators and service providers are pushing hard to have a stable base of standards on which to deploy services offering the “triple play” i.e. multiple streams of high-quality video, high speed data and voice services. Using VDSL technology, this can be achieved over existing copper phone lines and enabling superior service capability to cable platforms. With capital outlay now less than \$1000 per customer connected, further standardization will help to further reduce start-up costs, and the barriers to deployment will come down. The use of VDSL rather than today’s typical ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) provides significant increase in bandwidth enabling provision of multiple digital TV channels including HDTV and on-demand services, along with high-speed data and multiple voice channels.

The specifications approved by the ITU-T Focus Group this week are based on those developed by the FS-VDSL Committee, which was established in 2000. The FS-VDSL Committee consists of over 60 companies focused on a common vision for a multimedia video-centric service platform using VDSL.

Earlier this year, the FS-VDSL Committee agreed to integrate its work into the ITU-T. The result is a new ITU-T Focus Group established under ITU-T Study Group 16, which is responsible for studies on “Multimedia systems services and terminals”. This new group, whose formal approval by its parent organization is expected to take place in October 2002, will ensure continued development as well as establish internationally recognized standards.

The new ITU-T Focus Group will now work to progress the existing Technical Specifications through the ITU-T process with the intent of approving a corresponding set of ITU-T Recommendations by mid-2003.

The Focus Group meeting was preceded by a demonstration from 12 vendors of their latest video compression technologies. This included further optimizations to MPEG2 encoding; straight out of the lab examples of the new technology being standardized in draft Recommendation H.264; and also demonstrations of some new proprietary algorithms. These industry leaders successfully demonstrated high quality video at data rates ranging from 5Mbit/s down to 500kbit/s. “We were very pleased with the level of participation from industry and it is very clear that good performance improvements are being achieved.” said Balan Nair of Qwest, organiser of the event.

The work towards new Recommendation H.264, also known as MPEG 4-Part 10 AVC, results from a joint standardization activity between ITU-T Study Group 16 and the ISO/IEC MPEG committee.

Companies participating in this event are listed at the end of the document.

In view of the success of the event, it is planned to repeat the video demonstrations in the spring of 2003.

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ITU-T Counsellor for Study Group 16

The next meeting of the ITU-T Focus Group is scheduled to be hosted by France Telecom in Paris-France, November 19-21, 2002. Organisations interested in the work of the FS-VDSL Focus Group should refer to the web site at [www.fs-vdsl.net](http://www.fs-vdsl.net). A table of organisations involved in the FS-VDSL Focus Group, and a list of the companies which demonstrated during the video compression event, are attached

## **FS-VDSL Membership List**

Updated August 30, 2002

### ***Operators / Service Providers***

Bell Canada  
Belgacom  
Bezeq Israel Telecom  
British Telecommunications plc.  
Deutsche Telekom  
eircom  
France Telecom  
KT  
KPN Research  
Qwest Communications International Inc.  
SBC Technology Resources, Inc.  
Swisscom Ltd.  
Telecom Italia Laboratories  
Telefónica Investigación y Desarrollo  
Telenor R&D  
Telia  
Video Networks Ltd.  
Yes Television Ltd.

### ***Vendors***

ADC Telecommunications  
Adtran Inc.  
Alcatel  
Analog Devices Inc.  
Aware Inc.  
Be Connected Ltd.  
Broadcom Corporation  
Calix Networks  
Centillium Communications Inc.  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
Concurrent Computer Corporation  
ECI Telecom  
Entone Technologies Inc.  
Equator Technologies, Inc.  
Fujitsu Telecommunications Europe Ltd  
Fujitsu Siemens Computers  
GlobeSpanVirata, Inc.  
Humax Co., Ltd  
Ikanos Communications  
iMagicTV Inc.  
Infineon Technologies  
Laboratoire European ADSL  
LG Electronics  
Lucent Technologies  
Marconi  
Metalink Broadband Access  
Minerva Networks  
Myrio Corporation  
nCUBE Corporation  
NEC Corporation  
Next Level Communications  
Nokia Networks  
Occam Networks  
Optibase, Ltd.  
Orca Interactive Ltd.  
Pace Micro Technology  
Paradyne Corporation  
Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.  
Sapphire Communications, Inc.  
SerCoNet  
Siemens AG  
SkyStream Networks, Inc.  
Stellar One Corporation  
Sumitomo Electric Industries  
Telia Research AB\*  
Tellabs, Inc.  
Thomson Multimedia Inc.  
Tioga Technologies  
TUT Systems  
VDSL Systems Oy  
VideoTele.com  
Virtual Access  
Zarlink Semiconductor  
Zhone Technologies, Inc.

**Companies participating in the FS-VDSL Video Compression Event**  
Pleasanton-USA, September 4, 2002

Envivio  
eTrepid Technologies  
Harmonic  
Lucent Technologies  
On2 Technologies  
Optibase  
Pulsent Corp.  
Skystream Networks  
Tandberg  
VideoLocus  
VideoTele.com  
Vweb