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New Carrier Ethernet Specifications plus Professional Certification Address Key Issues in Burgeoning APAC Market

NEWS & TRENDS

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Speaking at the recent NetEvents 2011 APAC Press & Analyst Summit in Thailand, MEF President Nan Chen outlined the proceedings of the MEF's last quarterly meeting for 2011, held in Singapore last month, and their particular relevance for APAC business. Key issues for the region include Carrier Ethernet Multiple Classes of Service (Multi-CoS), Ethernet mobile backhaul, and the rise of wholesale Ethernet services – and all three issues were addressed by new technical specifications progressed at the Quarterly meeting. He also announced strong support for the new MEF Carrier Ethernet Certified Professional (CECP) certification program, which is already boosting the skills availability in a highly competitive market. Nan Chen explained how the letter ballot acceptance of the MEF's Phase 2 on Multi-CoS and Mobile Backhaul Implementation Agreements – extending MEF 23 and MEF 22 respectively – is an especially important issue for the region where, without a strong legacy network of fixed line connections, it is doubly attractive to leapfrog traditional leased line connections from cell sites to core network and go for an all-Ethernet solution. According to Infonetics' Michael Howard: "IP/Ethernet MBH is the universally accepted solution to lower the costs of growing mobile data traffic, and to facilitate migration to next generation all-IP/Ethernet networks. This two Implementation Agreements will be especially welcome for addressing explosive growth of mobile Internet traffic, as well as pointing the way to simpler 4G migration." Nan Chen also mentioned other recent technical advances, including a new E-Access service – the MEF's first specification for standardizing the buying and selling of wholesale MEF Carrier Ethernet services – that will accelerate provisioning for local, regional and global services. Further work on the global interconnect program included approval of MEF 26.0.3 – Service Protection across External Interfaces – and letter ballot passage of MEF 26.1 that includes support for E-Tree

across the ENNI. The strong interest in this quarterly meeting – the second of a regular series to be held in APAC – underlined its significance to a region holding 42% of the total global market for Ethernet business services. According to Nan Chen, the MEF Certification Program has been a key factor in accelerating this market acceptance because the programs ensure: “Equipment that service providers can rely on to build fully compliant high performance Carrier Ethernet services; secondly services that earn buyers’ trust by conforming to MEF standards of quality and performance; and now also professionals with the proven knowledge and skills – providing a widely recognized benchmark for customer credibility and career advancement.” The first level – with two further levels under development – is already being awarded to individuals on the basis of an examination covering the fundamentals of Carrier Ethernet services. Concluding his brief revue of the MEF’s 10 years of progress, he referred to one piece of MEF current work items on Carrier Ethernet as an “Cloud Carrier” – developments addressing the secure, business-class delivery of cloud based applications as a supplement Internet delivery. He predicted “significant new markets for Cloud Providers and Cloud Carriers, with new, on-demand, dynamic Carrier Ethernet services.”