



## **“Global Interconnect” Dominates MEF’s NetEvents Message**

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Delegates attending NetEvents Asia-Pacific Press Summit 2010 in Singapore were updated on the MEF’s (Metro Ethernet Forum) Global Interconnect program and the recession-defying global growth of Carrier Ethernet services. Highlights included the ratification of Phase 1 of MEF 26, the ENNI (External Network to Network Interface), Ethernet’s growing role in mobile backhaul networks, and the recent launch of the first Ethernet Exchanges, offering a cost-effective alternative to the one-to-one connections between service providers.

According to MEF COO, Kevin Vachon, speaking about the MEF’s Global Interconnect Program: “Among the many business opportunities created by the recently ratified MEF 26 standard, is the opportunity for providers to now offer wholesale services, upgrading their Ethernet offerings to certified Carrier Ethernet networks and interconnecting with multiple providers. This increases providers’ options as well as delivering obvious savings from the use of standardized connections and processes as opposed to the current lengthy and uneconomical individual interconnect agreements.”

“ENNI is absolutely key to the future growth of Carrier Ethernet” according to Michael Howard, Principal Analyst, Carrier and Data Center Networks, Infonetics Research. “As operators increasingly migrate to all-packet networks, they are investing heavily in delivering Ethernet services to the customers. The ability to span these services in a timely and economical manner over multiple operator networks is a multi-billion dollar opportunity in waiting”

Carrier Ethernet is now almost universally acknowledged by industry analysts as the only economically viable solution for mobile backhaul as operators struggle to cope with the changing traffic demands created by the migration to Smartphones by both business and consumers. As well as offering lower capital and operating expense, Carrier Ethernet’s scalability allows flexible response to changing traffic demands at mobile sites, as well as architectural scalability to meet future network needs.

NetEvents attendees were also updated on the recent announcement of Carrier Ethernet Exchanges. Implementing the MEF 26 ENNI standard, these exchanges provide Carrier Ethernet interconnection at strategic points in the network enabling multiple virtual connections over a single physical connection. Ethernet exchanges are considered to be an essential prerequisite for service providers who looking to simply and lower Ethernet service implementation costs and deliver flexibility in scaling their services up or down as required.