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Carrier Ethernet to ride on wave of mobile proliferation

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iPhone 5 and growth in 4G driving adoption of MEF Carrier Ethernet v2.0



Nan Chen, President of the MEF

The MEF (Metro Ethernet Forum), the defining body for Carrier Ethernet, referenced the Dell'Oro Group Mobile Backhaul Report that predicts large-scale network investments as a result of the proliferation of mobile devices like the new iPhone 5. Dell'Oro Group forecasts investments in mobile backhaul infrastructures will approach \$40 billion over the next five years, with Carrier Ethernet equipment accounting for the vast majority of the expenditures.

Telecoms groups are predicted to make more money from data than voice by 2017 according to research for the Financial Times (London) by the GSMA, which represents nearly 800 mobile operators in 220 countries. T-Mobile USA, the fourth largest U.S carrier, which this week appointed John Legere as its new CEO, is the latest member of the MEF. T-Mobile USA is starting to aggressively court

owners of the iPhone while preparing to roll out its own fast 4G LTE network, set to go live next year.

“To keep up with the exponential demand for mobile data, operators will need to adapt their mobile backhaul infrastructures rapidly in the next five years,” says Nan Chen, President of the MEF. “Carrier Ethernet has transformed WAN and enterprise connectivity as well as providing an infrastructure to fuel soaring user expectations for mobile applications.”

Users may already own two or three devices – mobiles, smartphones, kindles, ultrabooks. This places a huge strain onto an already stretched mobile network. The move to cloud computing or on-demand IP – where users might want a few minutes of very high speed connectivity once in a while – no longer matches a traditional telco business model geared to one or multi-year, fixed-bandwidth contracts.

Carrier Ethernet has been touted as the most legitimate solution to these challenges.

According to Nan: “Our first generation of Carrier Ethernet (CE 1.0) enabled standardized Ethernet services to be delivered over a single provider’s network. This second generation, CE 2.0, can be best defined by its ability to deliver differentiated applications over interconnected, managed networks globally.”

“In particular, the CE 2.0 Mobile Backhaul Implementation Agreement creates a standard for efficient and reliable 4G mobile backhaul networks and services, delivering significant backhaul savings for mobile operators and revenue opportunities for access providers through Multi-CoS enabled Interconnect.”