



AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY FORUM

ACIF BOLSTERS VOIP AND NGN LEADERSHIP BY TAKING IN AVOIPA

Sydney, 30 May 2006 – The Australian communications industry is poised to have an expanded peak body to lead it into the Next Generation Networks era.

The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) today announced it had finalised arrangements for the Australian Voice over IP Association (AVOIPA) to merge under the ACIF banner.

ACIF CEO, Anne Hurley, said the expanded ACIF would provide a stronger voice for the industry, and lead it into the next generation of converging networks, technologies and services.

“ACIF is intent on driving the communications industry into the future with confidence, vitality and strength of purpose,” Ms Hurley said. “By extending our membership further into the VoIP sector, ACIF will more closely reflect the diversity that characterises our industry in the NGN world.”

ACIF will increase its emphasis on providing leadership on new trends and directions by promoting industry-led outcomes which foster competition and innovation. By bolstering its VoIP expertise, ACIF will be ideally placed to provide balanced and comprehensive input to policy development and debate.

Mike Carew, founder of AVOIPA, agreed that the industry needed more unified representation rather than a multiplicity of specialist organisations.

“ACIF has demonstrated that it has the resources and the expertise to achieve the sorts of cooperative outcomes our industry will need as VoIP and NGN services challenge the traditional technologies,” Mr Carew said. “We welcome the opportunity to make a significant contribution through ACIF.”

About ACIF

ACIF is a member-funded organisation established in 1997 to lead industry involvement in defining the communications environment.

ACIF provides a neutral forum in which all participants and end-users in the Australian communications industry can work together to foster an efficient, competitive environment. Further information: www.acif.org.au



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About AVOIPA

AVoIPA was formed in February 2005 to represent network operators, service providers and other businesses involved with the supply of VoIP services to business and residential customers within Australia. Given the rapid growth of the VoIP community in Australia and the many regulatory issues involved, AVoIPA's founding members realised the urgent need for a trade association to help promote and represent the interests of the industry, and very importantly, the consumer.

AVoIPA has therefore been set up to act as the representative voice of the industry to Australian Government bodies such as the DCITA, ACA and ACCC. Due to the global nature of the industry AVoIPA has also established links with key industry associations overseas, including ITSPA in the UK.