



AUSTRALIAN COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY FORUM

ACIF FORUM TO LOOK AT FUTURE OF BROADBAND WIRELESS

Second in series of ACIF Future Forums for planning Next Generation Networks

Sydney, 14 August 2006 – The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) has invited representatives from across the industry to discuss the challenges of rolling out broadband wireless in Next Generation Networks (NGNs).

The discussion will take place at Future Wireless – the second in a series of ACIF forums being convened to look at the issues relating to NGN access technologies.

ACIF is conducting the events to identify the major operational, technical, regulatory and commercial issues that will need to be addressed as Australia moves to the NGN environment.

The strategy is in line with ACIF's belief that the industry itself must take as much responsibility as possible for developing the NGN transition framework. One of the main objectives of the Future Forums is to pinpoint those areas that are most appropriate for industry-led initiatives.

The tempo of NGN leadership is set to accelerate shortly when ACIF and the Service Providers Association Inc (SPAN) merge to form the Communications Alliance.

Anne Hurley, CEO of ACIF and designated CEO of the Communications Alliance, said the Future Forums offered the industry a unique opportunity to set the agenda for the NGN transition.

"We can take the lead in deciding our future direction or we can sit around and wait for our fate to be determined by others," Ms Hurley said. "From what I am hearing throughout the industry, there is an overwhelming preference for the proactive approach and we are doing our utmost to facilitate that process."

The Future Wireless Forum will be hosted by law firm Baker & McKenzie, Level 27, Bridge Street, Sydney, between 1.30 pm and 6pm on Tuesday, August 22.

Speakers at Future Wireless will include Ms Hurley; Eric Hamilton (CTO, Unwired); Jason Ashton (Director, BigAir); Shara Evans (Founder, Market



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Clarity); Simon Curry (Group Manager, Intel Australia); Ray Owen (Asia Director, Motorola); Anthony Goonan (General Manager Wireless Planning, Telstra); Neil Robinson (Manager, Access Technology & Planning, Optus Networks); Justin Jamieson (Partner, Spectrum Strategy Consultants); John Lindsay (Carrier Relations Manager, Internode); Jim Holmes (Principal Consultant, Ovum).

Those wishing to attend can reserve a seat by clicking on www.slatteryit.com.au/acif_wireless.aspx.

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.

From September 1, 2006 ACIF and the Service Providers Association Inc (SPAN) will combine to become the Communications Alliance, the new peak body for Australia's communications industry.

Media information contact:

Jeff Bird

Bird & Co Public Relations

Phone: 02-9513 8899 (office)

0410 323 623 (mobile)

Email: jbird@LEVEL23.com.au