



COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE WELCOMES INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY EXPERT TASKFORCE

Sydney, 22nd June 2007 – At the second of two roundtables hosted yesterday by the Communications Alliance to discuss Australia's future in a fibre-to-the-node (FTTN) environment, the industry forum welcomed the opportunities presented by the government's Expert Taskforce for the competitive FTTN bids process.

Speaking after the event, Anne Hurley, Chief Executive Officer of Communications Alliance believes the Australian communications industry has been given a great opportunity to positively influence and shape its own future operating environment.

She commented, "As the Expert Taskforce begins to build its guidelines for the competitive bids process in consultation with industry, Communications Alliance Members are ideally placed to collectively craft the environment which we are embracing. We want to help lead the consultation process and pro-actively identify the broad principles to be captured by the guidelines.

"By collating our Members' views, Communications Alliance will provide a valuable, central reference for commentary on the network infrastructure proposals that may be tabled."

The first roundtable held on 7th June addressed Technical and Operational Issues around FTTN. Assuming that a central tenet of Australia's broadband future will be an FTTN network, Communications Alliance Members agreed that the principles around the operation of the interconnection model and the open access regime, as well as a framework for the seamless transition of customers, are priority areas for industry action. Similarly, all future principles must remain customer focussed to ensure that the migration to a new network does not result in stranded or dissatisfied users.

The second roundtable hosted yesterday looked at Commercial Principles for Wholesale Access Arrangements and, like the first roundtable, was well attended by representatives from all perspectives of the FTTN debate.

One of the key outcomes was that Communications Alliance will be setting up a Steering Committee to assist in developing the industry position and streamlining the industry input to the tender process.

Anne Hurley added: "We want to utilise Communications Alliance's broad industry insight to collate the technical, operational and commercial

principles that will drive the tender process. Ultimately, we can provide the essential industry consultation for a successful tender process and positive outcome for all Australians.”

Ends

About Communications Alliance

Communications Alliance was formed in 2006 to provide a unified voice for the Australian communications industry and to lead it into the next generation of converging networks, technologies and services.

The prime mission of Communications Alliance is to promote the growth of the Australian communications industry and the protection of consumer interests by fostering the highest standards of business ethics and behaviour through industry self- governance.

For further information see www.commsalliance.com.au

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