

# ACIF ANNOUNCES FUTURE FORUMS TO PLOT THE COURSE TO NEXT GENERATION NETWORKS

First event brings industry together to discuss fibre access issues

The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) today announced a series of Future Forums to explore the operational, technical, regulatory and commercial access issues that need to be addressed in the transition to next generation networks (NGNs).

ACIF will use the information gleaned from the Future Forums to prioritise the issues and feed this information into the development of Australias strategic framework for the NGN transition.

The first event, Future Fibre, will focus on the challenges presented by fibre access solutions such as fibre to the home (FTTH) and fibre to the node (FTTN). It will take place on Tuesday 18 July from 1:30 to 6pm and will be hosted in the offices of law firm Baker & McKenzie at 50 Bridge Street, Sydney.

Speakers at Future Fibre will include ACIF CEO, Anne Hurley, Alcatel CTO, Ric Clarke, ACCC general manager, Michael Cosgrove, Optus director of Corporate & Regulatory Affairs, Paul Fletcher, Ovum principal consultant, Jim Holmes, ATUG managing director, Rosemary Sinclair and Telstra general manager of regulatory Affairs, Dr Tony Warren. A number of other industry leaders have indicated their interest in speaking and will confirm their participation closer to the event.

The next generation of communications networks will rely on a variety of access technologies, all of which present complex operational, technical, regulatory and commercial challenges, Ms Hurley explained.

Because of ACIFs unique position as a neutral body that is broadly representative of the Australian communications industry, we intend to take the lead in driving discussion of the issues that need to be confronted.

This series of Future Forums will kick off that process and provide valuable input into the strategies the industry needs to pursue as we move into the future.

To register for Future Fibre, visit [www.slatteryit.com.au/acif.aspx](http://www.slatteryit.com.au/acif.aspx) or call Slattery IT on 02-9423 8850.

## 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.