

ACIF HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL VOIP FORUM

Focus on interprovider cooperation

The Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) will be hosting its second Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Forum on Tuesday 6 December, 2005.

The focus of this years forum will be on interprovider cooperation. A range of critical topics will be covered from quality of service to security of VoIP. In addition to case studies on VoIP deployment, a panel has been convened to consider the implications to industry of the Government report into the policy and regulatory implications of VoIP Services.

Speakers include industry analysts and professionals from organisations such as Alcatel, ingen, Huawei, iiNet, Neighbourhood Cable, Nortel, Optus, Pacific Internet, Telstra and Telsyte, with a keynote address by Fay Holthuyzen, Deputy Secretary Communications, DCITA.

Anne Hurley, CEO of ACIF, said that the VoIP forum is timely and relevant in light of the Government releasing its report on VoIP services. While the Government has found no immediate need for any changes to the regulatory framework, it has encouraged new and non-traditional providers of networks and services to participate in industry self-regulation processes and in ACIFs work on Next Generation Networks (NGN) issues.

ACIFs position is that self-regulation needs to keep pace with the changes that VoIP is bringing to telecommunications services to ensure that users are adequately protected. We hope that this forum will provide a platform to discuss any foreseeable challenges and opportunities that may arise when multiple providers work together to deliver VoIP services, Ms Hurley said.

ACIFs inaugural VoIP forum recognised VoIPs potential to fundamentally alter the way that people communicate and identified priority issues that needed to be addressed. In the past year, ACIF has developed fact sheets for VoIP providers and has established a VoIP Working Group to identify and monitor existing and new issues for the industry, consumers and regulators.

The forum will be held at the NSW Trade and Investment Centre, Level 44 Grosvenor Place, 225 George Street, Sydney, commencing at 9:30am and finishing at 4:30pm.

To register for the event or to find out more information, call ACIF on (02) 9959 9111 or visit www.acif.org.au/projects/seminars

About ACIF

ACIF is a member-funded organisation established in 1997 to lead industry involvement in defining the regulatory 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 through self-regulatory processes, technical codes and standards.