

COMMUNICATIONS ALLIANCE SET TO LAUNCH

ACIF and SPAN members vote in favour of new merged body

The Communications Alliance the new peak body for Australia's communications industry will launch on September 1.

Special general meetings of members of the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) and Service Providers Association Inc (SPAN) have now approved the merger of both organizations to form the Communications Alliance.

ACIF members voted on July 26 and the SPAN meeting took place yesterday.

From September 1 the Communications Alliance will be governed by a transitional board, co-chaired by current ACIF chairman Neville Stevens and SPAN chairman John Kranenburg. Both will be non-executive roles.

A newly elected board will commence on December 1 and will elect its own chair.

ACIF CEO Anne Hurley has already been confirmed as the CEO of the Communications Alliance with responsibility for managing the business and operations of the new body.

Ms Hurley said the Communications Alliance would be the most broadly representative body in the history of the Australian communications industry, providing a powerful and unified voice to lead the transition to the next generation networks (NGN) era.

Our industry is undergoing an almost total transformation and it will require unparalleled cooperation between all sectors to ensure an orderly transition, Ms Hurley said. By bringing the industry together under the Communications Alliance we can muster all of the brain-power, resources and expertise we will need to handle this challenging time in our history.

The impending birth of the Communications Alliance will be celebrated when the industry comes together for the SPAN 2006 Annual Dinner on August 31.

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. For further information see www.acif.org.au

About SPAN

The Service Providers Association Inc (SPAN), founded in 1993, is the national body representing service providers in established and emerging communications technologies, and related organisations, in Australia. SPAN corporate membership is open to all industry participants, including access providers and access seekers and provides an effective forum to work co-operatively together to develop the overall market to their mutual benefit.

SPAN's principal aim is to amplify the voice of members to maximize industry growth and release constraints to innovation and competition. For further information see www.span.net.au