GSC-11 COMMUNIQUÉ: "STANDARDIZATION ADVANCING GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS"

Global Standardization Collaboration Intensifies

Arlington, Va. -- The world's leading telecommunications and radio standards organizations met from May 28 to June 2, 2006 to promote innovation and collaboration on next-generation standards for converged fixed/mobile communication services. The Eleventh Global Standards Collaboration meeting (GSC-11), including a User Workshop, was hosted by the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) in Chicago and was attended by more than 100 participants from nine participating standards organizations (PSOs) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Anil Kripalani, GSC-11 chairman, observed: "People's lives are positively impacted by the world of modern global telecommunications. Leaders from ICT standards bodies from around the world came together this week to address a wide range of subjects including healthcare, public safety, and entertainment, and to continue harmonizing their standards activities and increasing the collaboration in the global community."

In keeping with this goal, the meeting identified several new topics for collaboration:

- Mobile multimedia broadcast and multicast systems, supporting both commercial and public safety applications.
- IPTV, offering the promise of new innovative video entertainment experiences to the public.
- Information and communication technology (ICT) to aid the delivery of healthcare services.

Other key results of GSC included:
- Successful ongoing collaboration on Next-Generation Networks (NGN) standardization since GSC-10 resulting in a substantial convergence of fixed and mobile networking approaches.
- Importance of building and maintaining a culture of cyber security in which everyone has a role to fulfill.
- Role for networking standards to enable Radio Frequency IDentification (RFID)-based applications.
- Strong support for ongoing collaboration and harmonization of evolving 3G and other new wireless broadband access technologies to make access to advanced ICT services "anytime and anywhere" a reality.
- Potential of communications technology to relay safety messages to reduce vehicle accidents and waste of human life.
- The User Workshop was a great opportunity to exchange more detailed information on user requirements and the related standards that are being developed on a worldwide scale for the benefit of all. The Workshop, which included a panel on accessibility, focused on cyber security, emergency communications, and user issues for VoIP.

In addition, the GSC re-adopted its positions on IPR policy and on "open standards."

The Global Telecommunications Standards Collaboration (GTSC) and Global Radio Standards Collaboration (GRSC) meetings are a vital part of the Global Standards Collaboration. The GRSC and GTSC meetings aim to establish objectives to accelerate the process of global telecommunication and radio standards development thereby promoting interconnectivity and interoperability.

Specific resolutions on the following topics were agreed:

- Continuing cooperation on International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) standardization
- Emergency Communications
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
- Open Standards
- Healthcare ICT Standards
- IPTV Standards
- Global UltraWideband (UWB) Standardization
- Automotive Crash Notification
- Support for Vehicle Safety Messaging
- Terminology for Software-Defined Radios (SDR)
- Support for World Standards Cooperation (WSC) Event on ICT in Motor Vehicles
- Facilitating Liaison in Relation to Measurement Methodologies for Assessing Human Exposure to RF Energy
- Mobile Multimedia Broadcast and Multicast
- Public Protection and Disaster Relief
- Next-Generation Networks (NGN)
- Cyber security
- Home Networking
- Intellectual Property Rights Policies
- Broadband Services in Rural and Remote Areas
- Facilitating Liaison in Relation to Measurement Methodologies, associated Measurement Uncertainty and Calibration
- Personally Identifiable Information Protection
- User Needs, Considerations and Involvement
- Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Network and Ad Hoc Networking, particularly for systems providing broadband wireless access
- Radio Microphones and Cordless Audio Standardization

Other areas discussed were:
- Security and Lawful Interception
- IP over Wireless
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Satellite Services
- Communications onboard aircraft
- NGN: Architecture, Protocols, End-to-End QoS, Network Management, Lawful/Legal Interception, Service Platforms and Interworking of Services

Dan Bart, TIA senior vice-president, standards and special projects, said: "This GSC meeting provided an appropriate occasion to recognize the long service and outstanding contribution of

Karl Heinz Rosenbrock, the outgoing Director General of ETSI. His positive influence in bringing together the world of telecommunications standards will have a lasting impact on our community."

The GSC Web site (http://www.gsc.etsi.org/) contains details of the meeting, the User Workshop and archives of previous meetings.

Participants at GSC-11 included the Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF), Association of Radio Industries and Businesses (ARIB) of Japan, the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) from the United States, the China Communications Standards Association (CCSA), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the ICT Standards Advisory Council of Canada (ISACC), the Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA) of Korea, the Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC) of Japan, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Guests and observers included representatives from 3G Americas, American National Standards Institute (ANSI), CDMA Development Group (CDG), Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), FLO Forum, GSM Association, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Sector Board 4, IEEE, IETF, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Security Advisory Group (ISO/SAG), JTC1, Open Mobile Alliance (OMA), Society of Cable and Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE), and Wireless World Initiative/Wireless World Research Forum (WWI/WWRF).

Background Information:
The Global Standards Collaboration is the latest in a series of such events that commenced in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1990. Their goal is to promote informal linkage among senior officials from national, regional, and international standards bodies in support of the work of the International Telecommunication Union. The next GSC meeting in this series will be hosted by ARIB and TTC in Japan on 8th to 13th July 2007.

The GSC-11 meeting provided a framework for exchanging information, establishing objectives to accelerate the process of global telecommunication and radio standards development, and promoting interconnectivity and interoperability.

In conjunction with this meeting bilateral agreements were signed between ISACC and ETSI, and TTC and ETSI.

More information on GSC-11 and previous GSC meetings is available at http://www.gsc.etsi.org/