GSC-13 Communiqué

"*Transforming the Network through Global Collaboration*"

Boston, Massachusetts, USA
17 July 2008

The world's leading telecommunications and radio standards organizations met from the 14th to 17th of July 2008 to promote innovation and collaboration on a broad spectrum of standards topics, ranging from the environment and public safety, to the evolution of networks for the support of new capabilities like IPTV and mobile broadband. The Thirteenth Global Standards Collaboration meeting (GSC-13) was hosted by the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) in Boston, Massachusetts. One hundred participants from eight Participating Standards Organizations (PSO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) attended along with observers from additional groups.

"ATIS is delighted to host the thirteenth meeting of the GSC in Boston and to facilitate important changes that enhanced the strategic dialogue that will indeed transform the network through global collaboration," commented Susan M. Miller, President and CEO of ATIS. "The dialogue generated during this unique international gathering of standards development organizations expands the ability of our industry to deliver interoperable products and services to the marketplace."

"We are pleased with the significant progress achieved this week at GSC-13," stated Art Reilly, Chair of GSC-13. "Not only are we addressing important technologies such as IPTV and advanced wireless capabilities, but also Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) standards to help address challenges such as climate change, emergency communications, health care, and accessibility for persons with disabilities."

Key topics for collaboration discussed at this meeting included:

- ICTs and their use in environmental monitoring and energy saving across all industries and society in general
- Global Cybersecurity strategies and solutions to reduce vulnerabilities and mitigate risks
- Interconnection of home networking devices (e.g., personal computers, mobile devices) and their interworking with external networks
- Next Generation Networks and the convergence of fixed and mobile networks and services, including IPTV
- Evolution of future wireless platforms such as IMT-Advanced
- Expansion of support for regional and global standards on Emergency Communications, Early Warning Systems and Disaster Relief
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues affecting the development of communications standards

- Key radio issues in preparation for WRC-11

Participants at GSC-13 included the Association of Radio Industries and Businesses (ARIB) of Japan, the China Communications Standards Association (CCSA) of China, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), the ICT Standards Advisory Council of Canada (ISACC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) from the U.S., the Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA) of Korea and the Telecommunications Technology Committee (TTC) of Japan.

Guests and observers included representatives from 3G Americas, American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Broadband Forum, CDMA Development Group (CDG), Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), GSM Association (GSMA), Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), European Patent Office (EPO), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Sector Boards 4 (SB4), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) TC204, Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) and WiMAX Forum.

Background Information:
The Thirteenth Global Standards Collaboration is the latest in a series of such events that commenced in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1990. These events provide a strategic opportunity for dialogue among senior officials from national, regional and international standards bodies in support of the work of the International Telecommunication Union. The next GSC meeting will be hosted by the ITU, the 13th to 16th of July 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The GSC-13 meeting provided a framework for exchanging information, establishing shared objectives to accelerate the process of global telecommunication and radio standards development and promoting interconnectivity and interoperability.

More information on GSC-13 is available at: www.gsc.etsi.org. Information on the GSC meetings is available at the ITU repository www.itu.int/ITU-T/gsc.