PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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Tutorial on Optical Network Interoperability

On September 24, 2004, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology will provide a tutorial on Optical Network Interoperability from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon in the Commission Meeting Room (TW-C305), 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

The evolution of the Optical Transport Network (OTN) has been an incremental process, and this has resulted in a heterogeneous network made up of a wide variety of network elements. To allow flexibility as the network continues to evolve, interoperability is required at many levels (i.e., transport, control and management). The tremendous success of Synchronous Optical NETwork (SONET) can be attributed, to a large extent, to it being a well-standardized transport interface, which facilitated interworking among vendor platforms, and carrier interfaces. We anticipate that a similar degree of interworking will be achieved for the evolving OTN.

A demonstration by the Optical Interoperability Forum (OIF) at Supercomm 2004 showcased the feasibility of interoperable optical control plane deployment. These capabilities will enable carriers to rapidly and flexibly provision and create new services, streamlining operational and capital expenses and optimizing their existing network to support additional revenue streams.

This tutorial will introduce the concept of interoperable optical networks and identify critical OTN capabilities needed for interoperability based on emerging OTN technologies and evolving industry standards. This tutorial will also introduce the Optical Internetworking Forum and its role in the evolution of the OTN.

The presentations will be made by Dr. Vishnu Shukla, Principal Member of Technology Staff at Verizon and member of the OIF Board of Directors, and Mr. Thomas Afferton, Senior Systems Engineer at Northrop Grumman TASC and member of the OIF Board of Directors and the Steering Board of the Optical Fiber Communications Conference.

The public is invited to attend. No preregistration is needed.   Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need including as much detail as you can. Also include a means for contacting you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible; please allow at least 5 days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau: For sign language interpreters, CART, and other reasonable accommodations: 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (tty). For accessible format materials (braille, large print, electronic files, and audio format): 202-418-0531 (voice), 202-418-7365 (tty).

For further information contact Young Carlson at Young,Carlson@fcc.gov, 202-418-2427 voice and 202-418-2989 TTY. RealAudio and streaming video access to the tutorial will be available at www.fcc.gov/realaudio. Videotape

of the tutorial will be purchased from the FCC contractor, CACI Productions Group, 341 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 20179, by calling at 703-834-1470.

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