

Mobile Broadband Demonstration Breaks Barriers at Mobile World Congress

The Fixed Mobile Convergence Alliance (FMCA) reviews WiMAX and 3G seamless interworking

Mobile World Congress, Barcelona – Feb. 16, 2009 – The integration, rather than separation of mobile broadband services, is an important step for customer satisfaction according to Steve Andrews, Chairman of the Fixed Mobile Convergence Alliance (FMCA). Andrews, speaking at an industry-wide FMCA reception hosted by Intel Corporation during Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, was shown a live demo system exhibiting rapid handovers between WiMAX (4G) and 3G data connections (both directions), while maintaining service continuity of all data sessions.

“Making the barriers between the various broadband technologies as invisible as possible is the key,” explained Andrews. “Customers quite rightly expect digital convergence to just happen, and expect an uninterrupted mobility experience with great coverage. The “do it yourself” and interrupted connectivity days must come to an end, bringing pleasure to our customers and huge benefits in costs to the industry as helpdesks get less calls to sort the issues.

The Fixed Mobile Convergence Alliance is a group of 32 global Carriers and technology companies who collaborate to represent the voice of the customer and influence the development of future technologies and services. The key goal being to enable customers to have access to people, content and information in the way they want, from wherever they are.

“Intel supports the FMCA’s mission to accelerate the availability of simple to use convergent products,” said Sriram Viswanathan, vice president of Intel Capital and general manager of the Intel WiMAX Program Office. “With the introduction of new categories of mobile devices including the Netbook and the Mobile Internet Device (MID), we are poised to accelerate the convergence of the computing, mobility and future wireless technologies.”

Roaming and inter-working between technologies such as WiMAX, 3G and WiFi are essential to the rapid global adoption of mobile broadband. The system demonstrated enables users to run any number of IP sessions and transfers connections back and forth between the WiMAX and 3G networks in around -50ms - live Internet news streaming, Google-Talk (VoIP), regular web-browsing, and YouTube streaming all running simultaneously with no user-perceived interruption. An important feature demonstrated is that only one of the radio modules needs to be active at any given time which reduces and even eliminates the need for concurrent transmission and reception of the two radios. The system is based on provisions being worked into the appropriate 3GPP and WiMAX Forum standards.

About the FMCA – www.thefmca.com

The Fixed-Mobile Convergence Alliance (FMCA) is a global, non-profit organization whose objective is to accelerate the development and availability of customer-driven, high-quality, seamless and easy to use Convergence products and services. Its vision is to be the voice of the customer for the evolution of convergent services to provide a superior customer experience.

Representing a global base of over 700 million customers who stand to benefit from the development of Convergence products and services, its objective is to ensure, through close collaboration with industry, that devices, access points, applications and underlying networks interoperate to deliver a superior user experience. The FMCA was formed in June 2004 and incorporated as a not-for-profit trade association under New York law in August 2006.

Executive Members of the FMCA: Brasil Telecom, BT (Chair), China Telecom, Rogers Communications Inc. (Vice Chair) – Canada, Swisscom – Switzerland, Telecom Italia, Deutsche Telekom, Optus Singtel

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