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IMTC & ITU-T Host Multimedia Services Joint Spring Forum

San Diego, CA – May 17, 2006 – The International Multimedia Telecommunications Consortium (IMTC) and the ITU-T held a joint ITU-T Workshop and IMTC Spring Forum that was hosted by Nokia in San Diego, May 9-11, 2006 to drive further market acceptance, interoperability and usage of video and multimedia services over mobile and broadband networks.

The overarching theme from this event was whether the emergence of the next generation of Multimedia Systems and Terminals will use the existing H.323 and SIP protocols or will it require new protocols and interfaces. Over the course of three days, ITU-T experts, IMTC members, and executives from the world's leading communications companies came together to explore how to enable the new generation of multimedia communication systems across disparate networks and systems.

Istvan Sebestyen, President of the IMTC, Vice Chair of ITU-T Study Group (SG) 16 and Director of Standards for Siemens AG summarized this year's focus, "From the subject, presentations and discussions point of view, this Spring Forum was one of the best in IMTC's history. It became clear that a standardized third generation ITU-T multimedia sub-system (also known as the H.325 project) is a long term project that will take several years to come to fruition. In the short term, we have other high priorities such as the definition of SIP-based multimedia systems and terminal profiles, continuation of interoperability for classic IMTC areas such as mobile and wireline H.32x and streaming (PSS) and embrace new areas that the industry will require (e.g. IPTV interoperability testing)."

Pierre Andre Probst, Chair of ITU-T SG 16 and OFCOM, and co-host of this year's event commented on the strong partnership between the ITU-T and the IMTC: "The ITU-T has been synonymous with standards for global communications for many years and multimedia services are even more complex to insure inter-working between networks, suppliers and end-users. We are very pleased with the success of this year's joint Spring Forum with the IMTC as it highlighted the importance of interoperability and the cooperation between member companies to advance new multimedia services." Dr. Senthil Sengodan, Site Manager of Nokia Research Center in San Diego and an IMTC Board member added: "Nokia is pleased to have hosted this joint ITU-T workshop and IMTC Spring Forum within its facilities in San Diego. Nokia has always believed

that open standards and interoperability are key drivers in growing the mobile services market – and Nokia’s participation within organizations such as the IMTC and ITU-T is consistent with this view.”

Dr. Joan L. Mitchell, who is an IBM Fellow and Master Inventor and member of the IBM Academy of Technology, was presented with the IMTC Leadership Award. This award is given out for contributions to the industry in multimedia communications and recognizes significant contributions by a person or company. “I am honored and pleased to receive this leadership award. It is gratifying to receive an award for an area that I feel very strongly about – working with standards and interoperability for the benefit of the industry and consumers. This award confirms that these areas are still very important,” said Dr. Mitchell.

A number of key themes were explored at the Spring Forum including:

- Real time conferencing and conversation: Different schemes to be considered to enhance these services
- New developments of media codecs: How new video codecs such as H.264 will provide increase quality and flexibility for video services
- IPTV challenges and opportunities: Enabling new IPTV services, but preventing another “me too” experience
- H.325 Project: The potential use of IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) for real-time multimedia purposes and new multimedia protocols
- Mobile Multimedia networks: Continued progress and mass deployments of 3G-324M and PSS and challenges of existing protocols, emerging IMS convergent networks

Complete presentations, abstracts and biographies can be found on:

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/worksem/h325/200605/programme.html>

About the International Multimedia Telecommunication Consortium

The International Multimedia Telecommunications Consortium (IMTC) is a non-profit corporation consisting of more than 50 organizations, worldwide. The IMTC is dedicated to the advancement of real-time, rich-media, communications, and actively promotes the interoperability of products, services and applications based on international standards. The IMTC works with international standards organizations that include, ETSI, IEEE, IETF, ISO/IEC, ITU-T, TIA, 3GPP and W3C. Membership is open to Internet Application Service Providers, teleconferencing hardware and software suppliers, telecommunications teleconferencing service providers, end users, educational institutions, government agencies and corporations.

For more information on the IMTC and its events, visit www.imtc.org.