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**Alaska gets Carrier Ethernet 2.0**

*Alaska Communications’ CE 2.0 certified services will benefit business, government and consumer markets*

**March 19th 2013, Los Angeles:** The arrival of Carrier Ethernet (CE 2.0) services, announced today, brings Alaska in step with the best-connected business communities in America, according to Nan Chen, MEF President. He congratulated Alaska Communications for being Alaska’s first provider to achieve the new CE 2.0 certification for both their carrier grade E-Line and E-LAN Ethernet services, now extensively available across the state.

“This certification puts Alaska Communications among the pioneers of new Ethernet services and it’s a testament to the company’s commitment to the business market” said Nan Chen. “CE 2.0 services help address Alaska’s unique needs and infrastructure challenges, bringing the assurance that Alaska businesses will have the world-class connectivity that places them right at the heart of the US, and global, economy.”

CE 2.0 extends Carrier Ethernet with vital added features, including multiple classes of service, greater manageability and easier interconnect for eight standard service types, enabling new levels of efficiency for mobile backhaul, making it easier for a large number of access providers to join the Carrier Ethernet community and establish Carrier Ethernet as a business class cloud service carrier.

Headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska Communications (Nasdaq: ALSK) delivers wireless, mobile broadband, Internet, local, long-distance and advanced broadband solutions for businesses and consumers. The company’s coverage includes advanced broadband and voice networks and dual submarine fiber links connecting Alaska to Oregon and the contiguous United States. The company offers businesses and consumers wireless service on the largest network in the state, and began providing 4G LTE service late last year.

According to Michael Todd, Alaska Communications’ SVP, Customer Operations: “Our CE 2.0 certification provides our Alaska business customers unparalleled assurance of world-class connectivity when they’re doing business across the state, throughout the country or around the world.”

Alaska Communications’ commitment to Carrier Ethernet reflects the industry’s biggest success story of the past decade. For the first time this year, CE services share of bandwidth exceeded the sum total of all legacy telecoms services across the world, making it the dominant technology in the carrier space, according to Vertical Systems Group. Last year over 1.2 billion new Ethernet ports were shipped (400 million wired and 800 million wireless) according to IDC, and Frost & Sullivan, Vertical Systems and Infonetics predict a near $48+ billion services market by 2015.

**About The MEF:**

The MEF is a global industry alliance comprising more than 210 organizations including telecommunications service providers, cable MSOs, network equipment/software manufacturers, semiconductors vendors and testing organizations. The MEF’s mission is to accelerate the worldwide adoption of Carrier-class Ethernet networks and services. The MEF develops Carrier Ethernet technical specifications and implementation agreements to promote interoperability and deployment of Carrier Ethernet worldwide.

For more information about the Forum, including a complete listing of all current MEF members, please visit the MEF web site at <http://www.MetroEthernetForum.org/>