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IMTC Experts Group Advances SIP Video Definitions to Facilitate Seamless Integration into Broader Communications Platforms

Working Group of Leading Communications Companies Chooses SIP as De Facto Standard, Aligning Video Communications with IP Telephony, Unified Communications and IMS Architecture

San Ramon, Calif. – February 2, 2010: The International Multimedia Telecommunications Consortium (IMTC) today announced that its member companies have authored a series of Best Common Practices documents for extending SIP standards to be used as a main stream communications protocol for video conferencing. The definition enables video communication devices to seamlessly interoperate with IP telephony infrastructure and unified communications (UC) applications today enabling common feature sets and interoperability across all video, voice and UC solutions. Additionally, the new SIP definition enables the future integration of video communications into the IP Multi-Media Subsystem (IMS) architecture, designed to be the platform for any-to-any delivery for all communications devices.

“The SIP standard at its most basic level has been a commonly used standard in video communications since 2005. The expanded definition established by the IMTC working group enables the full power of Video Communications to be integrated into the IP telephony and Unified Communication infrastructure by utilizing a common protocol shared by all communications devices,” said Ashish Goyal of LifeSize Communications, Chair of the IMTC SIP Parity Activity Group. “This means expanded interoperability, enhanced user experiences and the breadth to support the concept of universal access for any device, from smartphones to telepresence systems.”

SIP is one of the most commonly used protocols for establishing real-time communication sessions like voice and video calls – over IP networks. The flexibility and interoperability of SIP has established the protocol as the current standard for communications systems. However, lack of support for advanced video features has been a bottleneck preventing widespread SIP Video deployments. The newly authored SIP Video profile extends supported features beyond just establishment of basic video calls and enables rich multimedia experiences by defining interoperability profiles for Security and encryption, Dual video streams, Bandwidth flow control and intra frame request.



The expanded definition extends functionality and interoperability for video communications beyond the traditional H.323 video islands, to deliver an even richer communications experience and more natural integration into a modern communications ecosystem.

The SIP Parity Activity Group, led by Ashish Goyal, Director of Communications Software at LifeSize Communications, includes all the leading communications companies: Avaya, Cisco, LifeSize, Polycom, Radvision, Siemens, Sony, Tandberg and many other IMTC member companies. The new expanded SIP reference documents will be submitted for consideration to the ITU and IETF standards bodies in March 2010. The ITU and IETF will review and, if agreed, will progress them toward an extension to an existing standard or the creation of a new standard. More information may be found at <http://www.imtc.org/membership>.

About the International Multimedia Telecommunications Consortium (IMTC)

The IMTC is an industry-leading, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and facilitate the development and use of interoperable, real-time, multimedia telecommunication products and services based on open international standards. Hosting interoperability testing events and demonstrations throughout the world, including SIP, IMS, 3G-324M, 3GPP-PSS, H.323, and other Voice over IP technologies, the consortium offers membership to any party, interested in multimedia communication, conferencing or streaming, including hardware and software vendors; academic institutions; government agencies; and non-profit organizations. The IMTC is based in San Ramon, California.

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