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PARTICIPATION IN BROADBAND PROJECT MESA GROWS AS NEXT-GENERATION
SYSTEM-ORIENTED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS DEVELOP

Denver, Colorado—30 April 2004

At its 27-30 April meeting in Denver, the international public safety mobile broadband data
standardization partnership, Project MESA, continued its aggressive technical work plan to
identify and specify MESA capabilities initially for the public protection and disaster relief
sector.

Representing more than nine countries in Europe and North America, MESA continues to attract
a diverse and global array of government and industry technologists, manufacturers, public
safety experts representing local to national user interests and research organizations like the
U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology and Politecnico Di Milano--CEFRIEL;
indicating the interest in this important project to the public safety community and the citizens
they serve throughout the world.

Project MESA and its groups continue to identify user requirements and needs that are being
translated into Next Generation technical specifications and capabilities for emergency
communications users, including police and security, fire fighting, emergency medical assistance
and disaster response. At the meeting Technical Specification Group--Systems (TSG SYS)
members, with constant user feedback, refined MESA's "system of systems" development
approach for communication between authorities and organizations, maximizing usage of
existing communications technologies and infrastructures as applicable to public safety
requirements. The technical group also reaffirmed the milestones that had previously been
approved during the April MESA #7 meetings in Milan which include the aggressive
development of MESA system-oriented technical specifications (initial drafts expected by year's
end) and a final MESA technical roadmap that manufacturers and system implementers can
utilize to shape next-generation data networks and devices for public safety and related sectors.
Proposed MESA systems and capabilities will involve day-to-day operations and extraordinary
or disaster emergency communication scenarios where infrastructure exists and where it is
nonexistent or exhausted (including fixed and mobile ad hoc networking elements).

As part of the above process, the MESA TSG SYS also approved a work item at this meeting to
identify and derive system technical requirements from the MESA user Statement of
Requirements document (SoR) that industry may utilize for building new MESA enabled devices
or update capabilities in existing technologies and devices. In addition, a number of technology
research initiatives were introduced allowing participants the opportunity to learn about new
technologies and research that may help identify or be applicable to various technologies that are
pertinent to MESA user requirements.

John Oblak, MESA Steering Committee Chairman, stated: We have completed a very successful eighth meeting of Project MESA, with important progress being made in the TSG toward distilling the MESA SoR's user requirements into technical capabilities and approved specifications, as well as surveying existing technologies that may be used as the basis for MESA standardization.

Craig M. Jorgensen, Chairman of the MESA Service Specification Group and of Project 25 Steering Committee, noted: "The new technology and research initiatives presented at MESA will help first-responders plan their networks of the future, help public policymakers articulate appropriate paths toward interoperable and effective broadband data systems for public safety, and help equipment manufacturers design needed devices and capabilities. This process also reinforces the need to prioritize the MESA SoR and map it with any current or proposed technology of which we are aware."

Dragan Boscovic Vice-chairman of the MESA Technical Specification Group noted: "Technical work in TSG SYS has progressed to allow further work to evolve along two main directions; namely a System Architecture Reference Model and user-derived System Technical Requirements. Additionally, technologies with potential applicability to Project MESA are being addressed. The level of contributions and the diversity of technical expertise at this meeting warrant timely completion of the initial MESA System Specification document by the Fall meeting in Sophia Antipolis."

MESA specification development is taking a technology agnostic approach. Resulting implementations may involve technologies for private and/or commercial systems, along with new technologies still under development. Additionally, this work will help to facilitate the coordination of different technologies and standards relevant for public safety communications and information systems.

MESA specifications also envision the identification of standards that satisfy needed capabilities and functionalities which standards organizations, vendors and governmental agencies can utilize in their implementation and procurement scenarios.

Within MESA, the Service Specification Group continues its responsibility for capturing the requirements of public safety services, such as police, ambulance, fire fighting, homeland security, and humanitarian and disaster services. Requirements and scenarios are articulated and captured within the SoR. MESA's Technical Specification Group -- Systems is currently utilizing this MESA Steering Committee-approved document as a basis for the development of co-ordinated technical capabilities, functionalities and specifications. Such co-ordination also includes standards and technologies originated from other standards organizations to be utilized in the public safety environment.

Project MESA is an international broadband communication partnership project between two of the world's leading standards development organizations, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) of the USA.

It represents a unique international collaboration between radio and networking experts from industry, academia, users and organizations working in the fields of law enforcement, fire fighting, homeland security, national/international crime and terror investigation, emergency and medical services and disaster response (including mass destruction and bio-terrorism).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Project MESA (Mobility for Emergency and Safety Applications) is a public safety partnership that represents the first international initiative to involve users and organizations from the Public Protection, Disaster Response and Civil Defense sectors. MESA brings together industry and users to produce truly global standards for public safety applications. For more information, visit www.projectmesa.org/ or the MESA-ETSI portal site http://portal.etsi.org/mesa/

For information about work on Emergency Telecommunications, visit www.emtel.etsi.org/

For information about work on Homeland Security and Critical Infrastructure Protection, visit http://www.tiaonline.org/standards/cip/

About ETSI

Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is officially responsible for standardization in telecommunications, broadcasting and certain aspects of information technology within Europe. As such, it also plays a major role in global standardization. ETSI unites almost 688 members from 55 countries inside and outside Europe, including manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users, in fact, all the key players in the telecommunications arena.

For more information: www.etsi.org/

About TIA

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) is the leading U.S. trade organization serving the communications and IT industry, with proven strengths in standards development, domestic and international public policy, and trade shows. Through its worldwide activities, TIA facilitates business development opportunities and a competitive market environment. The association provides a forum for its member companies, the manufacturers and suppliers of products and services used in global communications. TIA is accredited by the American National Standards Institute to develop American National Standards used in the industry. TIA represents the communications sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). Visit us at http://www.tiaonline.org.

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