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Soapstone Networks' Provider Network Controller (PNC) Participates in World's Largest Interoperability Test At Carrier Ethernet World Congress

Showcases industry's first multi-vendor dynamic control plane

Billerica, MA, September 24, 2007 — Avici Systems (NASDAQ:AVCI), Soapstone Networks, today announced that its Provider Network Controller (PNC) ™ is participating in the world's largest interoperability test event at Carrier Ethernet World Congress (CEWC). The highlights of the test include the successful establishment of services by the PNC across a multi-node Provider Backbone Transport (PBT) network. The Soapstone PNC is the industry's first and only implementation of a multi-vendor dynamic control plane.

The CEWC and Interoperability event is endorsed by Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) and is taking place in Geneva Switzerland, September 24-27 at the Hotel Intercontinental. The Interoperability event highlights Carrier Ethernet strengths and incorporates MEF defined Ethernet services. Over 50 engineers representing 24 vendors constructed the Interoperability exhibit made up of over 65 devices. The 2007 Interoperability showcase, initiated by the European Advanced Networking Test Center (EANTC), was first developed and conducted in Berlin, Germany over a two-week period during August.

The PNC dynamically created multiple services with resilient backup paths across a multi-vendor network configuration consisting of Nortel Networks MERS 8600 and Extreme Networks PB 12802 switches as endpoints. In real-time, the PNC received requests for Ethernet services and computed optimal paths through the network, accounting for current topology, then signaled the configuration to each network element to instantiate each service.

Because PBT switches do not have a control plane, an external control plane is critical to enable the deployment of PBT based Ethernet services. The separation of the control plane from the data plane also enables a decoupling of service provisioning from the underlying network technology, allowing carriers to deploy heterogeneous networks built around best-in-class technology. The EANTC testing validated the following capabilities of the PNC:

- The ability to discover network equipment and associated topology.

- The ability to engineer and provision PBT tunnels across multiple vendors' equipment automatically.
- The ability to identify the optimum path for PBT tunnels between endpoints while meeting Service Level Agreement and QoS requirements while optimizing for commercial business rules.
- When required, the ability to create suitable backup PBT trunks across disjointed parts of the network infrastructure.

According to Ray Mota Ph.D., Chief Strategist and President of Consulting at Synergy Research Group, this test represents a major milestone in advancing the adoption of PBT in carrier networks. "Our research shows that one of the major obstacles to the deployment of PBT in carrier networks is lack of interoperability. Soapstone Networks PNC is the industry's only external control plane that has successfully demonstrated the ability to provision services dynamically across a multi-vendor switch network. This test is a clear signal to the industry that PBB-TE is ready for prime time."

"We are very pleased to participate in this ground-breaking interoperability event," said Esmeralda Swartz VP Marketing and Business Development at Soapstone Networks. "This represents the next major milestone for our PNC product, the ability to dynamically provision multiple services across a multi-vendor PBT network. We are pleased to work with our Carrier Ethernet Ecosystem partners on accelerating the adoption of PBT technology."

The Soapstone Networks PNC mediates between multiple resource requests from the OSS services/control layer via a standard SOA based interface. The PNC dynamically models the available and occupied capacity of the network, selecting the path based on modeling along with any other QoS based constraints. Services on the network are dynamically migrated to allow the restoration of backup paths in the event of a hard failure or to allow network equipment to be taken on/off line. The PNC continuously monitors for SLA compliance as well as network faults, allowing intelligent fault remediation as well as fault reporting between network operation and provisioned services on a service correlated basis.

About Soapstone Networks
Soapstone Networks is at the forefront of the movement to Carrier Ethernet by delivering resource control systems that realize NGN software-provisioned services in the new Carrier Ethernet transport network. Soapstone's common control framework decouples services from underlying network technologies. The Soapstone solution dynamically provisions precise, SLA-quality services, continuously optimizing utilization of network resources to bring orderly, predictable business-driven behavior to service provider networks. The future of Carrier Ethernet - www.soapstonenetworks.com