



Press Release

Berlin
November 7, 2008

Partnership sealed at the 4th
International IMS Workshop
in Berlin

Ericsson partners with the Fraunhofer FOKUS IMS Playground

All-IP networks – Ericsson and Fraunhofer FOKUS collaborate on IMS

Ericsson AG in Switzerland and the Fraunhofer Institute FOKUS in Berlin have signed a partnership for joint work in the field of the IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS). Ericsson thereby becomes an official partner of the FOKUS IMS Playground and the Open SOA Telco Playground, and receives access to all IMS-based applications of FOKUS. The two partners will couple their respective IMS environments, and test and present new IMS applications. At present Ericsson is building an IMS environment in Bern for developer companies and network operators. Fraunhofer FOKUS will support Ericsson in the implementation of forums for developers and customers, and give the company exclusive rights to its Facebook application which uses IMS to integrate the world of telecommunications in the world of the Web. The main aim of the alliance is to push forward entry of IMS applications onto mass markets.

“With our cooperation agreement we intend to bring forward the establishment of an IMS Eco-System,” says Stefan Koetz, CEO of Ericsson in Switzerland. “In this respect Ericsson as a leading provider of commercial end-to-end systems, and the Fraunhofer Institute FOKUS as one of the leading R&D centers for Next Generation Networks are truly ideal partners.”

Prof. Thomas Magedanz, head of the Next Generation Networks Competence Center at Fraunhofer FOKUS commenting on the new partnership, said, “The mission of FOKUS is to take innovative prototype development in the highly complex field of convergent telecommunications, Internet, entertainment and Information Technology, and as a competent and neutral research partner to demonstrate new ideas and solutions to the cast of players active on the technology convergence market – including vendors, integrators, application providers and above all network operators – and to work together with them on validation.”

Both partners already have IMS test environments for Next Generation Networks (NGN) on which network operators and developers can test applications like Web 2.0 and IPTV. Their alliance will now connect up

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Ericsson's IMS environment in Bern with the IMS landscape of FOKUS in Berlin, enabling Ericsson to use the dedicated FOKUS hardware and software environments. Within the terms of their partnership Ericsson and Fraunhofer FOKUS will be demonstrating the roaming of applications across national frontiers and network boundaries.

IMS enables the convenient combination of multimedia applications which up to now have generally been used on a stand-alone basis. For instance, one application developed by Fraunhofer FOKUS combines applications like Facebook, Google Maps and enabler functions like call conferencing, Presence Support, and location information or SIP-based Instant Messaging, RSS Feeds and Geo-Blogging.

IMS – an Outline

IMS or the IP Multimedia Subsystem is the technological heart of the new network architecture to be introduced with the upgrading of existing telecommunications networks to All-IP networks. The two decisive advantages of IMS are its high level of standardization and the low costs associated with the development of end customer applications. While today's Internet-based services offered by different providers are often incompatible with one another, in future with IMS clients will be able to use multimedia applications to communicate with one another – regardless of which provider they use or whether they are sitting in front of their PC or TV or are on the move with their mobile phone, notebook, netbook or games console. And regardless of whether they are connected up to the Internet via WLAN, mobile broadband, DSL, cable or fiber optic.

At the same time network operators and service providers will be able to market applications that provide the same user-experience and comparable functionality on every end device with IMS client capability. Unlike all previous IT services, IMS also ensures optimal real-time quality. Whilst in terms of traditional Internet surfing, a best-effort transmission of data packets is seen as acceptable, the applications of the future, with their ever greater appetite for broadband, demand the Carrier Grade Quality of Service – the highest standard of availability known to telecommunications. In September 2008 Ericsson was the first global provider to present an IMS-based IPTV solution which meets all these quality specifications and allows for a wide range of extensions going far beyond time-delayed television and video-on-demand.

Ericsson

Ericsson is the globally leading provider of technology and services for operators of telecommunications networks, and the market leader in 2G and 3G mobile wireless technologies. The company supplies communication services and operates networks for its customers which serve over 195 million users. Its range of products includes mobile and fixed network infrastructures as well as broadband and multimedia solutions for network operators, enterprise and developers. The Sony Ericsson joint venture supplies consumers with high quality mobile end devices.

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Ericsson pursues its vision of "communications for all people" with innovations, technologies and sustainable commercial solutions. In 2007 more than 70,000 employees in 175 countries produced revenue of 27.9 billion US dollars (SEK: 188 billion). The company was founded in 1876 and has its headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden. Ericsson shares are listed on the OMX Nordic Exchange in Stockholm and the NASDAQ.

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Fraunhofer FOKUS

Located in Berlin, the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems FOKUS has now been involved for more than 20 years in the research and development of communication and integration solutions for its partners from industry, contract research and public administration in the fields of telecommunications, automotive engineering, eGovernment and software development.

Its key R&D areas are:

- Communication technologies and services and their interoperability
- Architectures and protocols for future communication networks and platforms
- Interactive technologies for individual and community-based applications
- Integration of processes and IT systems in eGovernment
- Measurement and testing of distributed telecommunications systems
- Methods of automating and optimising software and system development in the fields of telecommunications and automotive engineering.

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Fraunhofer FOKUS is a member of the Fraunhofer ICT Group.