

CENIC One Gigabit or Bust™ Initiative
Minutes of the Fiber Task Force Meeting on March 17, 2004

Chair: Victor Braud

The Fiber Task Force of the Gigabit or Bust Initiative met on Wednesday, March 17, 2004 at 2:00 PM in the Ritz Carlton in Marina Del Rey, immediately following the plenary meeting of the CENIC Annual Conference.

A list of attendees follows.

Following welcome remarks by Victor Braud, Task Force Chairman, Mr. Braud introduced Renee C. Estes, Lead Member of the Technical Staff at SBC Laboratories, SBC's research and development division.

Ms. Estes is based at SBC in northern California, and has been working on Fiber-to-the Premises applications for SBC for more than five years. Ms. Estes spoke on Fiber-to-the Premise standards being adopted by SBC and other ILEC's, including BellSouth and Verizon. Her entire presentation is available on the Gigabit-or-Bust web page for your review, but in general she indicated that SBC was well on its way to implementing fiber-to-the premises with five pilot projects beginning this year in different SBC operating areas with full-scale national implementation to begin in 2005.

Under the SBC initial rollout, design standards call for up to 32 residences or premises to share 622Mbps to 1Gbps (19Mbps down and 5 Mbps up per household/premise) through a combination of optical splitters and optical network terminals capable of delivering POTS-DS-1, Ethernet, Video, and E-Net VDSL to each premise. Point-to-point service between the SBC central Office and an individual premise will also be available at premium rates allowing a single residence to acquire services at up to 622 Mbps/household (622 Mbps down and 155 Mbps up).

SBC is adopting a standard platform that supports WDM, bi-directionally, utilizing the 1310, 1490 and 1550 nanometer wave lengths, with 1310 nm upstream and 1490 nm and 1550 nm downstream. The standard, based on the ITU's B-PON passive network specifications, uses multiple B-PON Categories, including 155 Mbps, 622 Mbps, 622/155 Mbps, and 1.2Gbs/622 Mbps.

SBC seeks to achieve a fully integrated services interface with emphasis on Golden Telephony, Hi-speed Data, and Competitive Video offerings, while achieving cost parity, a standards-based platform, and future-proof design. SBC's definition of "competitive video offerings" is still under evaluation and strategic consideration at this writing.

In other discussion, it was observed that dark fiber pricing for carrier's long-haul fiber appears to be firming. However, metro fiber price offerings are actually declining as carriers attempt to facilitate access with, and derive income from, in-the-ground assets, which to date are largely untapped or underutilized. Also noted are new carrier offerings

that allow end-users to access existing backbone fiber networks at more convenient locations through simplified, and much less costly, add/drop configurations. For example, a new offering from WiTel marketed under the name of "Network Exchange" offers end users the capability of accessing the WiTel long-haul backbone network at any optical amplifier site (typically 40 miles apart) vs. being restricted to access at specifically designated POPs, typically only located in major cities or telecom aggregation points or "junctions".

Workshop Participants:

Wesley Irish
Karen Wade
Roger Burtner
Ken Mills
Kenneth Wyrick
John Silvester
Jesse Bradshaw
Peter Chang
Eric Batongbacal
Michele Parker
Benjamin Wade

Norm Thorn
Larkin Bullard
Scott Loveless
Jean Szetoo
Tina Nerat
Concordia Chen
Jan McClintock
Julie Van Fleet
Francois Bar
Carlos Casasus