

Communications Platforms Trade Association (CP-TA) FACT SHEET

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DESCRIPTION: The Communications Platforms Trade Association (CP-TA) is a global organization of communications platform and building block providers dedicated to accelerating the adoption of SIG-governed, open specification-based communications platforms through interoperability certification.

MISSION: The mission of CP-TA is to drive the creation of a mainstream market for SIG-governed specification-based communications platforms by actively developing an ecosystem that delivers certified interoperable building blocks from multiple vendors.

MEMBERSHIP: Founding sponsors include: Intel and Motorola. Sponsor members include: Degree Controls, Inc., Emerson Network Power, Hewlett-Packard, Kontron and Nortel Networks. Contributor members include: B-Star, Continuous Computing, Diversified Technology, Inc., Enea, Interphase, Pentair-EP (ElSol/Schroff), Performance Technologies, Polaris Networks and ZTE Corporation. Adopter members include: Alliance Systems, American Portwell Technology, CorEdge Networks, GE Fanuc, GoAhead Software, NMS Communications, RadiSys, Sun Microsystems and TietoEnator.

STRUCTURE: CP-TA has three working groups focused on meeting the association's overall objectives. The groups and their specific responsibilities include:

Technical

- Determine interoperability requirements
- Develop test plans
- Liaise with other standards development organizations

Compliance

- Develop test procedures
- Select compliance test tools
- Organize interoperability plugfests
- Establish certification program

Marketing

- Create CP-TA awareness
- Create pull from NEPs and Service Providers for compliant products

ADDRESSING INTEROPERABILITY ISSUES: CP-TA will certify building blocks to interoperability test requirements based on existing open specifications from the Service Availability Forum, PICMG and the Linux Foundation and on system-level profiles developed by the SCOPE Alliance. Initially, CP-TA is focused on certifying building blocks to interoperability requirements based on PICMG specifications.

LIAISON RELATIONSHIPS: The CP-TA is working with industry organizations including:

- PICMG
- Service Availability Forum (SA Forum)
- The Linux Foundation
- SCOPE Alliance
- Mountain View Alliance

INTEROPERABILITY DOCUMENTS: CP-TA members have developed an Interoperability Compliance Document (ICD) and Test Procedure Manual (TPM) that define objective and verifiable interoperability criteria. The first ICD and TPM have been developed for AdvancedTCA building blocks and aligned to the system-level profile developed by SCOPE. Periodic CP-TA Interoperability Plugfests will provide a confidential environment for the CP-TA community to harmonize the execution of automated test suites, as well as offer a true multi-vendor environment for enhanced interoperability testing.

CP-TA members have developed the first version of the ICD and TPM that address three integral areas of interest for communications' providers who construct AdvancedTCA platforms – thermal, manageability and data transport. The ICD and TPM are now available for download at www.cp-ta.org/certification.

INDUSTRY BENEFITS: CP-TA's efforts to achieve true interoperability offer these advantages:

For network equipment providers

- Faster time-to-market
- Lower integration costs
- Alternative sourcing and product choice
- Drive a mainstream market for COTS products

For service providers

- Faster time-to-revenue
- Lower operational costs
- Alternative sourcing and product choice

INFORMATION: Additional information about the trade association, its participating companies and membership is available at www.cp-ta.org.