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## **NPF AND SA FORUM INITIATE LIAISON TO EXPAND DEPLOYMENT OF SERVICE AVAILABILITY FEATURES IN NETWORK ELEMENTS**

*Cooperation Between Communications Industry Organizations Speeds Integration of Network Processing and Service Availability Technologies*

**FREMONT, California and PORTLAND, Oregon – June 29, 2004** –The Network Processing Forum (NPF) and the Service Availability Forum (SA Forum) announced today that they are working together in a liaison agreement to facilitate the alignment of service availability and network processing interface specifications produced by the two groups. This joint effort will facilitate the modification of current NPF interfaces to incorporate SA Forum interfaces. Once completed and implemented, these modified interfaces will make it easier for network processing-based components to support service availability feature sets in a wide variety of networking equipment.

“There is growing demand for network processor oriented designs to support service availability in order to meet carrier-grade service requirements,” said Brian Holden, Board Member of the NPF. “Working with the SA Forum will enable us to align and expand our existing APIs with the SA Forum’s industry adopted service availability functionality.”

“Network processors are playing an increasingly significant role in today’s networks,” said Mike Spies, liaison chair of the SA Forum. “Working with the NPF to incorporate the SA Forum interfaces into their software framework will better enable network equipment providers and integrators to develop, integrate and deploy service availability solutions using modular off-the-shelf building blocks and software.”

Service Level Agreements and other Quality of Service measures are quickly becoming key differentiating characteristics between network service providers. Network elements such as routers need to provide service availability features such as failover, load-balancing, state replication and resource redundancy in order to avoid disruptions in service. Creating an ecosystem of network processing and service availability components and APIs that utilize standardized interfaces will simplify and lower the costs of deploying service availability features.

### **About the Service Availability™ Forum**

The Service Availability Forum is a consortium of industry-leading communications and computing companies working together to foster an ecosystem that enables the use of commercial off-the-shelf building blocks in the creation of high availability network infrastructure products, systems and services. To achieve this goal, the Service Availability Forum develops and publishes high availability and management software interface specifications while promoting and facilitating their adoption by industry. Service Availability Forum membership offers the opportunity to help frame and implement the Service Availability solution. For more information about the Service Availability Forum, visit [www.saforum.org](http://www.saforum.org)

### **About The NPF**

Founded in 2001, the Network Processing Forum (NPF) is an international industry consortium of networking semiconductor, software and OEM manufacturers accelerating the adoption of network processing technologies through the development and implementation of network processing standards and benchmarks. By establishing standard interfaces and benchmarks, the NPF helps semiconductor manufacturers, software developers, services companies and system OEM's lower development costs, shorten design cycles, reduce product time-to-market and increase product time-in-market. The Forum includes members from around the world that provide network processing products and services globally. For more information, visit the NPF website at [www.npforum.org](http://www.npforum.org).

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