

Media Contacts:

Schwartz Communications, Inc.
Kathleen Shanahan and Michelle Gray
+1 415.512.0770
press@lipsforum.org

Linux Phone Standards (LiPS) Forum Gains Momentum in Mobile Market—Adds New Industry Leaders

- *Telecom Italia, Texas Instruments and ZTE join LiPS*
- *Industry leaders join together to drive standards and accelerate growth of mobile Linux market*

ISSY-LES-MOULINAux, France, July 17, 2006—Demonstrating the growing momentum of the mobile Linux market, The Linux Phone Standards (LiPS) Forum announced today that Telecom Italia, Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) and ZTE are the most recent additions to the consortium of companies with a strategic focus on Linux telephony. In association with its members, The LiPS Forum is currently defining a standardized software platform which allows applications and end-user services to be deployed across all types of Linux telephony terminals, fostering interoperability and promoting adoption of Linux.

The LiPS Forum was founded in November, 2005 to help accelerate the adoption of Linux in fixed, mobile and converged devices. By standardizing Linux-based services and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that influence the development, deployment and interoperability of applications as well as end-user services, device manufacturers, third party software vendors and operators can increasingly differentiate their offerings from competitors and generate revenue. The LiPS Forum is now comprised of 20 companies from that complete mobile industry ecosystem.

The worldwide mobile Linux market is expected to grow at a combined annual rate of over 28% per year over the next few years according to Venture Development Corporation (VDC). "We have seen significant growth in the use of embedded Linux, especially within the market for mobile phones and other consumer electronics products," says Matt Volckmann, senior embedded software analyst at VDC. "Greater participation in Linux standard bodies like LiPS should serve to help software vendors,

semiconductor companies, handset manufactures and telecom operators more readily develop and deploy Linux-based mobile devices and services.”

“As mobile phones evolve to take advantage of the power of 3G networks, the need for a robust, flexible, secure and scalable operating system grows. Linux provides an attractive alternative to the closed, proprietary operating systems available today,” said Haila Wang, president of the LiPS Forum. “Standardizing a Linux-based software platform and APIs will significantly improve time-to-market for Linux phones that meet the demands of operators and help them maximize their current network investments.”

The success of Linux in phones, as elsewhere, is reliant on standards that ensure interoperability and guard against fragmentation. To date, standardization efforts have focused on the important question of Linux kernel optimization to achieve improved boot time, power management, system footprint and other performance-related factors. For mass-market telephony terminals, standards that enable key applications and services to be deployed with a high degree of interoperability are as important as performance characteristics. The LiPS Forum has been created to meet this critical need for modern phones and complements other current initiatives around Linux standardization for mobile phones.

“We are pleased to join the LiPS Forum. By leveraging our experience, we can help drive and shape standards that will optimize Linux for mobile phones. We look forward to making Linux a viable technology within the telephony market and accelerating a wide variety of data rich and innovative services,” said Roberto Vannini, executive vice president, Business Innovation & Technical Solution, Telecom Italia.

“Open standards are a critical part of furthering the adoption of new technologies in fixed, mobile and converged devices,” said Eric Thomas, software chief technology officer for Texas Instruments’ Cellular Systems division. “TI believes that the LiPS Forum is an important venue for aligning mobile requirements with the Linux community and we are honored to become a recent member.”

"As one of the earliest Linux handset vendors, we will work with the LiPS Forum to implement and deploy a new standardized wireless, fixed and telephony Linux-based software platform," said Libin, chief engineer of Linux Handsets, ZTE

In addition to Telecom Italia, Texas Instruments and ZTE, new members also include A-la-Mobile, Longcheer, McAfee, Movial Oy, Purple Labs and Spreadtrum. Please visit www.lipsforum.org for a complete list of current LiPS Forum members.

About the LiPS Forum

The Linux Phone Standards (LiPS) Forum is a consortium of leading industry players formed to standardise the Linux-based services and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that most directly influence the development, deployment and interoperability of applications and user-level services.

The founding members of the LiPS Forum are ARM, Cellon International, Esmertec, France Telecom, Orange, FSM Labs, Huawei Technologies, Jaluna, MIZI Research, Inc., MontaVista Software, Inc., Open-Plug and PalmSource, Inc., an ACCESS Company.

Companies interested in finding out more about LiPS, please visit www.lipsforum.org.

Companies interested in joining LiPS, please email join.@lipsforum.org.

For press enquiries, please email press@lipsforum.org

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