



ISRAELI UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF THE *NEPTUNE* (NETWORK PROGRAMMING) CONSORTIUM

Leading telecommunications vendors and universities backed by the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), in the Israeli Ministry of Economy, collaborate to lay foundation for Network Programming

PETACH TIKVAH, ISRAEL, **AUGUST 7, 2014** --- Today, ten leading Israeli companies along with ten Israeli universities and research institutions announced the formation of the ***Neptune*** (Network Programming) consortium. Its goal is to develop efficient methods to automate and programmatically manage service provider networks, irrespective of their underlying network technologies. The ability to program and automate networks will increase the efficiency and flexibility of service provider networks, thereby simplifying deployment and operation and reducing dramatically associated costs.

With financial support from the "[Magnet Program](#)" of the Office of the Chief Scientist in the Israel Ministry of Economy, the founding members include ECI Telecom, RAD Data Communications, Gilat Satellite Networks, Elbit Systems, Ceragon Networks, BATM Telecom, ADVA Optical Networking Israel, Mellanox Technologies, Mobilicom, Bezeq International, the Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Ben-Gurion University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Bar-Ilan University, Tel-Aviv University, University of Haifa, Tel-Aviv Jaffa Academic College, Holon Technological Institute, the Lev Academic Center in Jerusalem, and IDC Herzliyah.

Tighter financial restrictions along with ever-growing demand for bandwidth as well as the dynamic introduction of various new services and applications are forcing service providers to adopt ever more efficient, automated, and service-aware networks. This necessitates a totally new network architecture, enabling simplified network provisioning, fast creation of new services, real time network optimization, as well as CAPEX and OPEX reduction.

Future heterogeneous networks will additionally benefit from optimized combined terrestrial and satellite technologies. Service providers are looking for ways to integrate wired and wireless networks into a single orchestrated network. "By applying sophisticated multilayer optimization algorithms combined with new virtualized network functions, we will enable what we call the **AutoMagically configured Network** - a new level of network programmability solutions, allowing the operator to shift from 'network planning' to 'network programming', says Gali Malkiel, Chairman of the Neptune Consortium and Head of ECI Telecom's SW & SDN Solutions Line-of-Business. "By exploiting the expertise in and synergies between Israeli industry and academia, the Neptune consortium will employ a unique blend of skills,

guaranteeing the success of the project and a better future for open service provider networks.”

Research and development efforts are already in progress worldwide towards two complementary technologies: Software Defined Networking (SDN) and Network Functions Virtualization (NFV). The goal of the Neptune consortium is to exploit SDN and NFV technologies in order to enable **Carrier-grade** automated network solutions.

Topics currently being researched under the aegis of Neptune include:

- Automatic and dynamic network resource allocation
- Multilayer and cross-layer network resource optimization
- Real-time congestion control and resiliency mechanisms
- Joint SDN and NFV optimized orchestration
- Fast setup of complex services including network path computation and virtual function placement
- Coexistence and migration from conventional networks to new SDN/NFV empowered networks.

Neptune has already initiated activities for attaining the aforementioned goals over the next three years. It will work closely with the relevant global standards development organizations and open-source communities.

ABOUT ECI TELECOM

ECI Telecom (Petach Tikvah, Israel) delivers Next Generation Packet Optical and Carrier Ethernet solutions to service providers and customers with a need for mission critical networks worldwide. ECI provides efficient platforms and solutions that enable customers to rapidly deploy cost-effective, revenue-generating services. Our market leading LightSoft® network management suite enables customers to smoothly manage multilayer services and provides the foundation for SDN and Cyber security solutions. For more information, please visit www.ecitele.com.

PETACH TIKVAH, ISRAEL - NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ECI Telecom, a global provider of next-generation network solutions, announced today that its new cyber-security suite LightSec, which provides holistic protection for service providers' operational and IT networks, features technology from strategic partner Check Point Software Technologies. ECI's Native Packet Transport (NPT) stand-alone security engine runs Check Point's Next Generation Threat Prevention solution. Check Point's Next Generation Threat Prevention solution brings proven security, easy deployment and effective management by consolidating the company's award-winning Software Blades into a single, efficiently managed solution. Check Point's proven security combined with ECI's transport and networking expertise makes LightSec a cost-effective suite that can accommodate all business models without requiring any additional hardware or software. "Our Next Generation Threat Prevention solution delivers our industry-leading, multi-layered security protections via ECI's LightSec cyber-security protection suite," says Alon Kantor, vice president of business development at Check Point Software Technologies. "ECI has taken a very unique approach by implementing multiple security appliances in a virtualized way and Check Point is excited to be partnering with ECI Telecom in its security innovation." ECI Telecom, a leader in optical and packet transport solutions, has developed a new Network Function Virtualization (NFV) platform over its NPT based portfolio, as well as a standalone solution. The Distributed (D-NFV) approach replaces purpose-built equipment with a generic "white box". This enables equipment like ECI's Apollo and NPT, both furnished with generic x86 based engines, to be remotely configured to run a variety of applications. This same engine can be configured to provide SCADA deep packet inspection (DPI) in one location and encryption in a different location. ECI's holistic approach provides the appropriate security means, a central point of real time views, and control for a comprehensive unified IT/operational networks cyber security solution. "The strategic partnership between ECI and Check Point was forged upon leveraging the strengths of each company's expertise," states Yuval Illuz, General Manager, Cyber Division at ECI Telecom. "ECI has Check Point's Next Generation Threat Prevention running over ECI's NFV platform, through a series of rigorous tests, and using a wide variety of testing methodologies. Both ECI and Check Point are looking forward to meeting the rising demand for complete cyber protection within vast operational networks." The LightSec suite also includes the LightSec-V® (LightSec Viewer), which is a smart web-based threat management system for managing and visualizing all of the cyber-security solutions provided by ECI. LightSec-V provides a centralized aggregated view from ECI security solutions as well as from any additional cyber security solutions used by the client. This makes LightSec configurable to match each client's specific needs. ECI will demonstrate its new LightSec cyber security suite at European Utility Week, November 4-6 in Amsterdam.

About ECI

ECI is a global provider of ELASTIC network solutions to CSPs, utilities as well as data center operators. Along with its long-standing, industry-proven packet-optical transport, ECI offers a variety of SDN/NFV applications, end-to-end network management, a comprehensive cyber security solution, and a range of professional services. ECI's ELASTIC solutions ensure open,

future-proof, and secure communications. With ECI, customers have the luxury of choosing a network that can be tailor-made to their needs today as well as be seamlessly and cost effectively upgraded to future requirements. For more information, visit us at www.ecitele.com.

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