

■ Remarks for Special Issue on Next Generation Network

Before I share some of my insights on this fascinating topic, I would first like to express our deep appreciation to all our customers for their continued support and encouragement.

Today the deployment of the Next Generation Network (NGN) by telecom carriers is gathering momentum on a global scale. Since 2004, British Telecom in the UK, SBC (currently AT&T) of the US, and other major overseas carriers have announced ambitious NGN plans one after another. Here in Japan, our leading carriers NTT and KDDI have both unveiled their roadmaps for the deployment of next-generation networks that will seamlessly integrate fixed and mobile communications. The long era of "telephone" communications is the past, and the coexistence of "telephone and internet" communications is our present. But on the horizon and fast approaching is the Age of NGN - an exciting era that will bring the integration of diverse services and applications including fixed and mobile telephony over high-reliability, ultrahigh bandwidth IP networks. In order to ensure the high level of security and reliability that will be demanded of a network that serves as both a lifeline and business infrastructure, and at the same time, to realize high value-added services that are sought by customers, the overall network that has been built, refined and served us for over a past century will have to undergo a dramatic transformation.

There is no doubt that the coming full-scale deployment of NGN will have an incredible impact on individual lifestyles and corporate business models. Through the utilization of NGN, so many things are expected to become possible - a myriad of services including voice and video communications with outstanding presence, online streaming of video and music content, electronic commerce will be provided with security, comfort and economy and without the user aware of any differences arising from location or network environment. The Ubiquitous Network Society which will empower people with the freedom to exchange information over networks "anytime, anywhere, any content and anyone" is not in the distant future, but just around the corner.

For the realization of NGN, the further evolution and integration of optical telecommunications, wireless communications, IP networks, and broadcast technologies will be indispensable. In addition, software will play an increasingly

vital role for the management of the services and realization of network equipment functions that will operate on NGN. Many of the diverse merits that will be enjoyed by end-users and carriers such as delivering telephone call quality and reliability over IP networks on a par with conventional telephone networks, ensuring security and flexibility of network to respond to service subscription changes and traffic fluctuations will be realized by software.

While NEC naturally offers world-class know-how and resources in the core technologies for optical, wireless, IP and broadcasting networks, we also possess other sophisticated technologies, skills and expertise that are necessary to realize the full potential of NGN from integration for optimization of the overall network, large-scale high-reliability carrier-class software as well as device-embedded software development capabilities and semiconductor and other device technologies.

Based on such competency, our company offers a rich array of products and solutions and continues to tackle the challenge of reinforcing and extending this lineup, which encompasses network products that cover from access to backbone and from fixed to mobile networks, service platform products that range from SIP servers to media servers, as well as billing systems and other business management systems.

In this feature on NGN, NEC would like to provide a whole image of how our company envisages the next generation network and our commitment to realizing this vision, and to introduce our related solutions and products in detail. As an "all-round player in networks" with know-how and experience honed in a nation with one of the most advanced broadband and mobile environments and as a "dependable partner" that continues to fulfill and exceed the strict quality demands of the customer, NEC is committed to making a significant contribution to the deployment of next-generation networks for customers not only in Japan but around the world. In the future, we hope that you will continue to grant us your invaluable guidance and support in this endeavor.



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