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**Volume 8, Issue 11
November 30, 2005**

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CENIC News

1. President's Message

CENIC was a participant in bringing together for the first time in a real-world environment more than one-half terabit per second (i.e., 500 gigabits per second) of bandwidth in deploying SCinet, the very high performance network built to support Supercomputing 2005 (SC05) in Seattle from November 12-18. The Pacific Northwest Gigapop (PNW Gigapop) was central to SC05 being able to provide this level of networking to this increasingly important annual conference co-sponsored by IEEE and the ACM.

This conference brought together scientists, engineers, researchers, educators, senior managers, programmers and system managers from the world's leading computing installation and companies to showcase innovative developing that spark new ideas and industries. Bill Gates was the keynote speaker for the conference.

Pacific Rim networks in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Australia utilized the Pacific Wave distributed peering exchange facility, the joint project between PNW Gigapop, USC and CENIC, to participate in the Supercomputing event. Numerous high-bandwidth national backbones, including National LambdaRail, CANARIE, Internet2's Abilene Network and UltraScience Net were also connected.

Among the many events relying on this bandwidth were massive storage and Data retrieval tools, the Internet2 Land Speed Record attempts (IPv4 and IPv6), data grids, multi-point real-time, high-definition video from points around the world, super high definition video, and 3D imaging.

The demonstrations, lectures and other events at this conference reflect the type of worldwide collaboration that networks like CalREN make possible and provide the foundation for future improvements in all areas of our lives. I am pleased that CENIC was able to make a contribution to this important international event.

Just as a side note, November 2005 CENIC Today will be the last issue for 2005. We will resume in January 2006.

Source: Jim Dolgonas, CENIC

2. NOC Report

Support for Supercomputing 2005 (SC05) Conference

As reported above, this year CENIC participated as an SC05 "premiere partner," working in close coordination with National LambdaRail (NLR), Pacific Northwest GigaPOP (PNWGP), and Cisco, all of whom were also SC05 premiere partners, to provide over 24 individual wavelengths for more than 240 Gigabits per second of network capacity to the show floor. SC05 provided CENIC with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the quality of both our optical network and our technical team to high-end researchers internationally. In fact, this infrastructure was used by international researchers from as far away as England and Japan and supported demonstrations in areas such as Grid computing, visualization, collaboration, and next generation networking development.

Source: Sheryllyn Evans, CENIC

3. California Community Colleges

Acceptance testing of the DS-3 circuit serving newly added Columbia College in Sonora has been completed and the CENIC NOC is working with the campus to complete the migration and to put the new circuit into production.

SBC is due to turn over a GigE circuit to the CENIC NOC for accepting testing on or about 11/30/05. This will be the third Community College site with a GigE connection to the CalREN-DC network. As previously reported, this high-speed circuit will serve both the campus as well as the California Community Colleges Satellite Network (CCCSAT).

Source: Ed Smith, CENIC

4. Campus Access Infrastructure Initiative (CAI)

Sonoma State University put its new GigE service into production in early November, and will be using its existing OC-3 connection for redundancy until it can be replaced with a second GigE connection over CENIC managed fiber.

At the request of the CSU, no additional circuits will be installed before mid-January 2006, primarily due to campus final exam schedules, registration periods and the upcoming Holiday schedules. SBC is expected to turn over GigE circuits for acceptance testing during January for San Jose State, CSU Fullerton and CSU Dominguez Hills.

Dark fiber design decisions have been made on campus entrance paths for the three CSU campuses (California Maritime Academy, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU San Bernardino) in implementation; construction contract awards are pending for 1st quarter completion of a single Gigabit Ethernet connection over CENIC fiber; CSU Monterey Bay construction has been delayed by issues with making a needed fiber interconnection on the last mile path.

Path and campus entrance and termination designs have been completed for CSU East Bay and San Jose State; a contract will be awarded for implementation of CENIC Managed Fiber (CMF) connections to these campuses as early as the second quarter of 2006.

CAI project staff visited seven additional CSU campuses to meet with campus representatives to review CMF construction plans and designs (CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Fresno, CSU Los Angeles, CSU San Marcos, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Stanislaus, San Francisco State). These visits will be followed in January by detailed engineering walk-through of the end-end fiber path planned to minimize cost and timing uncertainties.

Initial visits to the remaining CAI CMF campuses (CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, Sonoma State University) will occur after the holidays.

An updated CAI installation schedule will be posted online during the week of November 28 and is available online at <http://www.cenic.org/projects/cai/>.

Source: Ed Smith and Greg Scott, CENIC

5. CalREN HPR

The HPR Design Subcommittee (subcommittee of the HPR TAC) is developing a set of performance metrics and criteria for the CalREN/HPR network, as well as a proposed measurement infrastructure for the next generation of HPR. The subcommittee will present its recommendations to the HPR TAC in its December meeting.

Source: Brian Court, CENIC

6. Coachella Valley Project

Yuma construction has been completed except for the splicing into Level 3's facility. The second CalREN-DC backbone path connecting Palm Desert to San Diego should complete this month (December 2005). The current schedule calls for extending a GigE connection to College of the Desert by the end of the winter and to the Indio office of the Riverside County Office of Education shortly thereafter.

Source: Greg Scott, CENIC

7. CENIC Participates in CANS2005

The annual Chinese American Networking Symposium for 2005 (CANS2005) was held in Shenzhen, China, November 1st and 2nd. The event was sponsored by the China Science and Technology Network (CSTNET), China education and Research Network (CERNET), Internet2 and the Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST). Dave Reese, CENIC CTO, and Dave McGaugh, University of Washington, gave presentations to the group on Pacific Wave technologies and future directions. Also in attendance representing CENIC was John Silvester, chairman of the CENIC Board of Directors, who gave a presentation titled "Internet Futures: Where do we go from here?"

The group also spent 2 days prior to CANS2005 in Hong Kong to discuss open peering exchanges and toured the recently established Hong Kong Open Exchange Point.

Source: Dave Reese, CENIC

8. NASA Ames

CENIC has completed its gigabit ethernet connection linking the NASA Ames Research Center (ARC) to CENIC's advanced services to CalREN. Network traffic via the NASA Research and Engineering Network (NREN) at ARC, including traffic from leading scientists working on Department of Energy projects, will travel across this newly installed fiber connection to reach sites, including NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in California via CalREN. They will also be able to reach sites across the nation and world via CalREN's connections to national and international research and education networks such as Internet2, ESNNet, and CA-net2. More information can be found on the CENIC website: <http://www.cenic.org/about/releases/nasa11282005.htm>

Source: Jim Dolgonas and Greg Scott, CENIC

9. CENIC 2006-Your Connection to the World Annual Conference

CENIC invites you to its 10th annual conference, CENIC 2006 – Your Connection to the World. Quite possibly the most important networking and educational event of the year, CENIC 2006 is your opportunity to connect with California's key high-performance networking professionals – educators, researchers, business people and government representatives – and help advance the vision of tomorrow's Internet. The 2006 conference offers three days, March 13-15, 2006, of stimulating tracks, influential speakers and a rich array of collaborative panels amidst the diverse downtown setting of the Oakland Marriott City Center hotel and convention center. For the 10th annual meeting, a gigabit connection to the CalREN network will be available for real-time demonstrations. For more information and to submit a conference presentation proposal, visit <http://www.cenic.org/events/cenic2006/callforpresentations.htm>.

Note: Late proposals will be accepted on a space available basis.

Source: Tad Reynales, 2006 Annual Conference Program Chair

National Networking News

1. FCC to Look at Cities' Cable, Phone Deals

By JENNIFER C. KERR, The Associated Press, November 3, 2005

WASHINGTON -- What do traffic signals and street lights have to do with offering a new television service? That is a question federal regulators will explore as they review whether some communities are requiring phone or cable companies to pay for unrelated projects in return for allowing the companies to offer TV services to residents.

The Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously Thursday to look at the issue, with all four commissioners stressing the importance of competition in the cable market.

"New video entrants, regardless of the technology they employ, should be encouraged not impeded from entry," FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said.

Cable operators long have had to negotiate franchise agreements with each city they serve. Now phone companies are having to do the same as they begin to offer video services.

Phone companies have complained the process takes far too long, up to 18 months in some cases. They lay some of the blame with local officials for making what the phone companies consider outrageous demands that drag out negotiations.

In one community, for example, officials want Verizon Communications Inc. to connect all of the local traffic signals with fiber, according to a company filing with the FCC.

Another town wants Verizon to provide funds so the community can purchase street lights from the local power company.

Neither community was identified in the Verizon filing.

While voting for the FCC review, the agency's two Democratic commissioners Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein emphasized that local officials have a critical role in contract negotiations.

"We should not and indeed cannot usurp for ourselves the authority granted by Congress to local governments," Adelstein said.

Cable companies say the franchising process has worked well over the past 20 years and that the demands the phone companies are complaining about are rare.

Representatives of local franchise authorities say the phone companies are trying to skirt obligations such as ensuring that services be offered in lower-income areas as well as affluent ones.

The FCC action is the result of efforts by big phone companies to "largely avoid the established local franchising process," said Libby Beaty, executive director of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

The phone companies deny that and are hoping that the FCC, Congress or state governments will intervene to speed the contracting process.

In Texas, the phone companies won a legislative victory in August when state lawmakers passed a bill allowing the carriers to get a license for television service from the state rather than having to contract with each city they want to serve.

Verizon launched its first television service in September in the Dallas suburb of Keller. The company has contracts to offer video services in about 30 other areas in Texas, California, Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts and New York.

Rival phone company SBC Communications Inc. also is upgrading its network for video, and plans to launch its own TV service in early 2006.

Source: Washington Post (<http://financial.washingtonpost.com/wpost/newspaper.asp?Mode=QUOTE&Story=20051103/307w5261.xml&Symbol=VZ&dispnv=business>)

2. Tech Firms Assail Proposed Broadband Rules

Anne Broache, Staff Writer, CNET News.com, November 9, 2005

Technology firms voiced disapproval over draft broadband regulations discussed at a contentious, six-hour congressional hearing Wednesday.

Google, Microsoft, eBay, Amazon.com and InterActiveCorp representatives said in letters and statements to a U.S. House of Representatives panel that the new legislation it is preparing is too heavy-handed and favors certain technologies to the detriment of others.

The draft bill first released in mid-September and re-released with changes last week (click for PDF), proposes rules for three prongs of broadband services: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), broadband video services and broadband Internet transmission services, or BITS.

BITS is defined as "a packet-switched service that is offered to the public." That characterization of BITS was intended to place DSL (digital subscriber line) and cable providers on equal footing, legislators said upon the draft's release.

It's all part of Congress's drive to update the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which does not address the Internet and therefore "no longer reflects the technological and competitive reality," said Rep. Joe Barton, the Texas Republican who chairs the House committee that has taken charge of drafting new regulations.

Major Internet players said they appreciated the effort but were troubled on several levels by the direction the current draft takes.

In a joint letter, representatives from Google, Amazon, eBay and InterActiveCorp voiced opposition for the draft's failure to impose "Net neutrality" requirements equally on all three categories of services. That is, in the current draft, companies offering only standard broadband Internet services would be legally bound to ensure that subscribers could access and use all lawful Internet content and could connect any devices they wish. Broadband video services would not explicitly be held to the same requirements.

The companies charged that the omission could create a loophole for companies, such as SBC and Verizon, that provide both broadband Internet service and broadband video service.

"In addition, the provisions of the net neutrality section are troublingly ambiguous, and inject uncertainty for those companies like ours which are spending billions of dollars investing in broadband content and services," the companies wrote.

A Microsoft representative, who shared those concerns, raised another concern: By his estimation, the proposal would extend unreasonable obligations to an overly broad swath of Internet services.

"There is no reason that Xbox Live should have to offer E911 service, nor should a collaborative work program like Live Meeting," Paul Mitchell, senior director and general manager of Microsoft's TV division, said in prepared remarks before the committee. "Hotmail or MSN should not have to register with all 50 states in order to continue to provide service."

Mitchell was referring to two provisions in the current draft. First, all VoIP providers--a category that could include the new Xbox and LiveMeeting products--must provide E911 service. Second, all broadband services must register with the states in which they do business. He suggested that only VoIP services that provide a "substantial replacement" for telephone service should have to provide E911 and broadband services should be under exclusively federal, not state, jurisdiction.

Net pioneer and Google Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf sent his own letter urging Congress to think carefully about any new regulations for the Internet, which he said "was designed with no gatekeepers over new content or services."

"My fear is that, as written, this bill would do great damage to the Internet as we know it," wrote Cerf, who declined an invitation to speak at the hearing because he was scheduled to receive a presidential medal that evening.

On Wednesday, it remained unclear when legislation would be formally introduced or what changes may be made in the process. But Representative Barton of Texas said in a statement: "We have considered the issues involved in this legislation thoroughly and it is time to legislate."

Source: Cnet News (http://news.com.com/Tech+firms+assail+proposed+broadband+rules/2100-1036_3-5942508.html)

3. E-911 Rule May Rein In Some VoIP Links

By Paul Davidson, USA TODAY, November 13, 2005

Most Internet-based phone services do not expect to meet a government mandate to provide all their subscribers full-featured 911 service by Nov. 28.

As a result, they likely will have to stop signing up customers in much of the country during the holidays. A group of Internet-based providers has asked a federal court to suspend the deadline.

"The (Federal Communications Commission) effectively has told us to stop building our business for the holidays," says Chris Murray of Vonage, the No. 1 Net-based service with 1 million customers.

The FCC last spring ordered so-called Voice over Internet Protocol services to provide Enhanced 911 by Nov. 28. E-911, available on most traditional phone services, shows emergency dispatchers a caller's number and address.

VoIP providers typically offer a bare-bones 911 service that doesn't display that information and doesn't ring on emergency phone lines in dispatch centers. As a result, some 911 centers don't accept the calls. The FCC action came after high-profile incidents in which subscribers could not reach a 911 operator in an emergency.

But the FCC did not force the big local phone companies to let VoIP providers connect to their E-911 call-routing networks. The agency also has not yet appointed an administrator to speed E-911 rollout.

FCC spokesman Mark Wigfield says VoIP providers would face a smoother road if they got certified as "telecommunications carriers" and took on the responsibilities that come with that. By law, certified carriers must be given access to local phone company networks but also must bear burdens, such as extra per-call fees.

Murray says VoIP providers would still need help from local phone companies because of the nature of Internet calls. Of the 2.5 million or so U.S. VoIP subscribers, half are served by cable companies that are certified telecom carriers. They offer E-911 but their services travel over private Internet-protocol networks and work only at subscribers' homes or businesses.

The rest are served by smaller companies such as Vonage. Their calls travel over the Internet, so customers can use the service from any broadband line nationwide and can get numbers with out-of-state area codes. Without the local phone giants' help, they can't connect to E-911 systems built to recognize only local emergency calls.

About 750,000 of the upstarts' 1.2 million customers won't have E-911 by Nov. 28, says VON Coalition, a VoIP trade group.

Vonage's 911 coordinator, Steve Seitz, says Verizon and Qwest have helped it quickly connect. E-911 should be in all or much of their regions by Nov. 28. But he says SBC and BellSouth say Vonage must first get permission from thousands of 911 centers. Just small parts of their regions will have E-911 by Nov. 28. Both phone companies say they want to ensure that the 911 centers will be aware of the new calls they'll be receiving. "That's the way it's set up," says BellSouth's Bill McCloskey.

Source: USA Today (http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/techpolicy/2005-11-13-voip-911-deadline_x.htm)

4. Feds Using ISPs to Spy on Internet Users

By Nick Parker, November 13, 2005

Having recently reported how ISPs are being pressurized into revealing information on internet users, the USA stands on the threshold of a far more ominous threat to privacy that will force ISPs to allow a wide range of law enforcement agencies direct real time access to their own systems.

Having exposed the EU's intentions regarding data retention in a news article on Slyck, it comes as little surprise to hear that similar moves are afoot in the USA. Intelligence agencies already have full access to ISPs in those countries participating in the Echelon electronic spying network (Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA), and these latest measures are intended to extend similar powers to a wide range of other agencies.

This latest move has arisen in response to representations made by the Department of Justice, the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency out of concern that emerging technologies *"were making it increasingly difficult for law enforcement agencies to execute authorized surveillance"*. As a consequence, the US communications governing body, the Federal Communications Commission issued a final Order effective Monday November 14th compelling all broadband Internet service providers and many Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, companies to include backdoors allowing police and many other enforcement agencies to directly eavesdrop on their customers by April 2007.

Curiously the deadline for consultation also ends this Monday, which happens to be the very day the 59 page Order becomes effective. The FCC acknowledge that this is confusing and say that they will be issuing further directives in forthcoming months to clarify issues such as P2P voice communications (as apart from VoIP) and whether educational establishments are considered ISPs in their own rights. ISPs will have 18 months from November 14th to fully comply.

This move supplements and updates the 11 year old Communications Alliance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA), which dealt with the issue of wiretapping on telecommunications carriers, and addresses the concern that emerging technologies such as VoIP, IM and Emails all lie outside the scope of existing legislation.

Clearly VoIP is causing great consternation to government agencies, as highlighted by Deputy Assistant Attorney General Laura Parsky when emotively addressing a Senate panel on homeland security issues back in June stating *"It is even more critical today than (when CALEA was enacted in) 1994 that advances in communications technology (do) not provide a haven for criminal activity and an undetectable means of death and destruction"*.

Two separate legal challenges have been mounted by EFF, trade group CompTel, VoIP provider Pulver.com, The Center for Technology & Democracy and the Electronic Privacy Information in alliance, with the American Council for Education mounting a parallel challenge. Preliminary hearings are imminent.

In the meantime Douglas Sullivan of Verizon has been reported as saying that they have been working with vendors over the issue of compliant systems for several years, although he expressed concern at the cost implications and how it will operate. Brian Dietz of the National Cable and Television Association is also reported as having said that his members have been working with the FBI in anticipation of this legislation for some time.

Coming on top of our report that the EU now plans to compel all ISPs throughout Europe to keep records of internet activity for 12 months, with telephone records being retained for "at least" 6 months, this is a troubling – if not entirely unpredicted - development for those living in the USA.

Source: Slyck (<http://www.slyck.com/news.php?story=990>)

5. SBC now the largest US carrier; AT&T's CEO snags \$30M; FCC's alert

November 11, 2005

RedHerring.com reader Daniel Mendoza asked whether we erred in a recent story when we wrote that Verizon Communications is the second-largest carrier in the United States (see Verizon's 'Street Fight' Prices). Verizon is indeed the second-largest carrier in the US. SBC Communications is the largest. SBC has 51 million access lines, 22.8 million long distance lines, and 6 million digital subscriber lines. It has a presence in 13 states. Verizon has 49.7 million access lines, 18.15 million long distance lines, and 4.5 million DSL lines. Verizon has a presence in 28 states. Until recently, they were close in size, with SBC being a tad larger. But now that SBC has acquired AT&T and Verizon has acquired MCI, the size difference has grown. AT&T, which cost SBC \$16 billion, is significantly larger than MCI, which cost Verizon about \$8 billion. Verizon has almost double SBC's market cap and more customers because of its location in the densely populated northeast. That's why most people, including we at TechSpin, considered Verizon to be the largest carrier in the US. But with the mergers completed, SBC is definitely the largest carrier in the US.

Dorman's Parting Gifts

SBC said that David Dorman, chief executive of AT&T, will exit the company shortly after the completion of the merger of the two firms. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Mr. Dorman wanted to assume the top spot at the merged firm, which will take the AT&T name. But SBC's board chose to stay with Edward Whitacre Jr., 64, SBC's current CEO, as the head honcho of the new AT&T. But Mr. Dorman, 51, will be leaving with some pretty nifty parting gifts. He is eligible to receive a compensation package valued at more than \$30 million. Details of Mr. Dorman's agreement with SBC were disclosed in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. His severance package will amount to \$10.3 million, with accelerated vesting of options valued at roughly \$1.3 million and accelerated vesting of restricted shares worth about \$9.1 million. His annuity is likely valued at about \$2 million, and he will receive lifetime medical and dental benefits.

FCC's Digital Warning

One day after the announcement of a new member of the panel, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission was back at work. The commission issued an order to help ensure that consumers using digital broadcast and subscription television and radio services have access to emergency alert and warning information. The proliferation of digital technologies in the U.S. prompted the agency to begin the process of expanding the current Emergency Alert System (EAS) rules to include providers of digital broadcast and cable TV, digital audio broadcasting, satellite radio, and direct broadcast satellite services. With the exception of Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) service, all affected firms must comply with these new requirements by December 31, 2006. DBS services must comply no later than May 31, 2007. The commission is seeking comment on how to best develop a next-generation alert and warning system that takes full advantage of digital media's potential. Interested parties should contact the FCC.

Source: Red Herring-TechSpin (<http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=14439&hed=TechSpin%3A+SBC's+Size+Matters§or=Regions&subsector=Americas#>)

6. RadioShack Brings Skype-Ready Products to Customers Nationwide

FORT WORTH, Texas & LUXEMBOURG--Nov. 21, 2005--RadioShack Corporation (NYSE: RSH) and Skype, the Global Internet Communications Company, today announced an agreement to distribute Skype-certified hardware and software in approximately 3,500 RadioShack stores. This makes RadioShack the first U.S. retailer to offer this new Internet phone service.

According to Skype officials, Skype has successfully brought free Internet calling to over 66 million people around the world since its launch in 2003, with an average of 175,000 new people joining each day. People with Internet connectivity can load Skype's free software enabling unlimited, high-quality voice calls to other Skype users anywhere in the world. Unlike other Internet phone services, Skype's unique software resides directly on a computer or mobile device to facilitate communications. Skype runs on Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, and Pocket PC platforms. Skype also offers premium services providing enhanced functionality for its users to make calls to regular phones for as little as two cents a minute.

This agreement with RadioShack supports Skype's growing presence in the U.S. market as a leading Internet communications company. RadioShack's convenient network of neighborhood stores staffed by knowledgeable sales associates will help expose Skype's unique worldwide free call service to a broad new audience of potential customers. Further, these retail stores will provide consumers with a place to shop for new Skype-certified products such as the Motorola Wireless Headset and Internet Calling Kit - the world's first Skype-certified Bluetooth offering.

Skype-certified phones and headsets at RadioShack include:

--New Motorola H500 Bluetooth headset and PC850 USB Adapter bundled in the Internet Calling Kit - a RadioShack limited exclusive with a suggested price of \$99.99
--Linksys CIT200 Skype-enabled Cordless Internet Telephony Kit with a suggested price of \$129.99 (with a limited time \$15 mail-in rebate)
--Logitech Premium USB Headset 250 with a suggested price of \$39.99
--VoIP Voice Cyberphone K USB Internet phone with a suggested price of \$39.99
--Skype Starter Packs: the Skype Starter Pack, priced at \$4.99 until Dec. 24, 2005, allows anyone to get started with free Skype software, a Skype-enabled headset and 30 SkypeOut minutes to call any number anywhere in the world

"RadioShack is known for helping make the market for new technologies, and by all indicators Skype is poised to resonate with U.S. customers after experiencing huge success overseas," said Jim Hamilton, RadioShack's senior vice president and chief merchandising officer. "Customers should love how they can cut their phone bill without cutting their phone line, making unlimited free calls to other Skype users around the world."

"Skype is looking at innovative retail channels for distribution, and with 94 percent of the U.S. population living or working within five minutes of a RadioShack, we see them as an ideal partner through which to offer consumers access to Skype accessories," said Saul Klein, Skype's vice president of marketing.

About Skype

Skype allows people everywhere to make free, unlimited, voice calls, chat and share files. Skype is available in 27 languages and is the fastest growing voice communications offering worldwide. Skype has been downloaded more than 200 million times in 225 countries and territories. 66 million people are registered to use Skype's free services, with over 175,000 new registered users each day, and more than 4 million people using Skype simultaneously at any one time. Skype earns revenue through its premium service offerings, and has a growing network of global affiliates, and a community of developers working with the Skype APIs. Skype Technologies SA is headquartered in Luxembourg, with offices in London and Estonia, and in 15 other countries with users in every nation. Skype is an eBay company (NASDAQ: EBAY). To learn more visit www.skype.com.

Skype is not a telephony replacement service and cannot be used for emergency calling.

About RadioShack

Fort Worth, Texas-based RadioShack Corporation (NYSE: RSH) is one the nation's most trusted consumer electronics specialty retailers and a growing provider of business-to-business retail support services. The company operates a vast network of sales channels, including: nearly 7,000 company-owned and dealer stores; over 100 RadioShack locations in Mexico; and more than 700 wireless kiosks. RadioShack's knowledgeable and helpful sales associates deliver convenient product and service solutions within five minutes of where 94 percent of all Americans either live or work. For more information on RadioShack Corporation, visit www.RadioShackCorporation.com. To learn more about RadioShack products and services or to purchase items online, visit www.RadioShack.com.

Source: Radio Shack (http://corpinfo.radioshack.com/companyinfo/Internet_Html_Pages/footer.asp?x=401323021P)

About CENIC

1. About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation serving California Institute of Technology, California State University, Stanford University, University of California, University of Southern California, California Community Colleges and the statewide K-12 school system.

CENIC's mission is to facilitate and coordinate the development, deployment and operation of a set of robust multi-tiered advanced network services for this research and education community.

More information about CENIC can be found at www.cenic.org.

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Last Update: December 01, 2005