

NEC and Meru Networks collaborate to enable open-standards-based software-defined networking (SDN) solutions for the enterprise

Wired and wireless networking leaders collaborate to drive unified access management and other applications via OpenFlow™

July 24, 2014 – NEC Corporation of America (NEC), a wholly owned subsidiary of NEC Corporation and leading provider and integrator of advanced IT, networking and communications solutions, and Meru Networks® (NASDAQ:MERU), a leader in intelligent Wi-Fi networking, have announced an agreement through which the two companies will work together to create SDN-enabled unified wired and wireless enterprise access networking solutions. The two companies are collaborating on support for OpenFlow™ to enable seamless interoperability between the NEC ProgrammableFlow® Networking Suite and Meru 802.11ac intelligent Wi-Fi solutions.

NEC and Meru, both members of the Open Networking Foundation (ONF), are two of only three vendors worldwide to have received ONF conformance for their networking solutions. ONF members, including NEC and Meru, are collaborating with companies around the world to bring open networking solutions to market and are in the vanguard of innovation in software-defined networking solution development. The ONF Certificate of Conformance gives customers confidence that they are purchasing current technology that accurately implements a particular version of OpenFlow -- the only globally recognised specification for SDN.

The bring-your-own-device (BYOD) phenomenon and upcoming explosion of the Internet of Things (IoT) are pressuring IT departments to become more agile. However, most networks today are being managed using antiquated proprietary Command Line Interfaces (CLI). Open-standards-based SDN support simplifies network management and provisioning by enabling greater automation and accelerating the deployment of new applications and services. It also enables application-specific service level agreements (SLAs) and development of third-party applications for network traffic monitoring, location-based services and enhanced security.

The benefits that SDN provides in the data centre, including network traffic optimisation and lower cost of ownership have been widely recognised, with large cloud-based service providers broadly adopting SDN switches. Realisation of its benefits in the enterprise has grown recently, as wireless has become the primary method of network access.

“Meru and NEC share a vision for creating truly open networks through OpenFlow and SDN that allow customers to choose best-of-breed networking solutions,” said Dr. Bami Bastani, president and CEO of Meru. “Working together, we can set a new standard for vendor interoperability, increasing agility and lowering costs for our customers as they move into the open networking era.”

“NEC and Meru are taking a leadership position in the networking industry by working together to drive adoption of open standards,” said Mitsuhiro Murooka, vice president, strategic business and planning, NEC Corporation of America. “Customers today want flexibility in networking vendor selection, along with the ability to manage those assets in the way that best suits their specific needs. The combination of our technologies, bound together by OpenFlow and SDN, addresses their requirements completely.”

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About Meru Networks

Meru Networks (NASDAQ: MERU) is a leader in intelligent 802.11ac Wi-Fi solutions, delivering uninterrupted user experience for education, healthcare, hospitality and enterprise. The Meru MobileFLEX architecture is designed to enable seamless roaming with traffic separation for critical applications, providing top performance and high capacity in high-density environments. Visit www.merunetworks.com or call (408) 215-5300 for more information.

About NEC Corporation of America

Headquartered in Irving, Texas, NEC Corporation of America is a leading provider of innovative IT, network, communications and biometric products and solutions for service carriers, Fortune 1000 and SMB businesses across multiple vertical industries, including Healthcare, Government, Education and Hospitality. NEC Corporation of America delivers one of the industry's broadest portfolios of technology solutions and professional services, including unified communications, wireless, voice and data, managed services, server and storage infrastructure, optical network systems, microwave radio communications and biometric security. NEC Corporation of America is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NEC Corporation, a global technology leader with a presence in 140 countries and \$29.5 billion in revenues. For more information, please visit www.necam.com.

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About Wavelink

Wavelink specialises in the supply, marketing and support of a range of leading edge Enterprise Mobility and UC Solutions. Wavelink distributes a range of products from Meru Networks, Spectralink, Digium, Polycom and Purple WiFi. For more information please contact Wavelink on 1300 147 000.