

[MEF Unveils Industry Certification Program for Link OAM](#)

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The MEF has announced details of the MEF 21 certification program that provides telecom equipment vendors independent testing to the highest industry standard for their Link Operations Administration Operation and Maintenance (OAM) implementations.

It provides globally recognized validation for vendor implementations of the MEF's UNI Type 2 specification (MEF 20) and is a foundation for multi-vendor interoperability, speeding deployment, saving cost and reduces risk. This new element of the MEF certification program sets the industry benchmark for testing Link OAM. Participating vendors are requested to sign up for the pilot phase by 5th June 2009 with the first group of vendor certifications slated for September 2009.

The MEF 21 specification, an Abstract Test Suite for Link OAM is the first in a planned series of major UNI Type 2 test specifications to be officially ratified by the MEF. The other two in the series are ELMI, recently ratified as MEF 24, and the upcoming test specification focused on Service OAM.

“MEF 21 Certification will set the industry benchmark for Link OAM compliance” according to Nan Chen, president of the MEF. “Service providers are increasingly opting for Link OAM, and this will reassure them that certified implementations fully comply with specifications. The explosive growth of Carrier Ethernet services is outpacing the providers' ability to manage manual links, and MEF 21 addresses their requirement for an Ethernet equivalent to SONET/SDH and ATM OAM capabilities – so this is a very timely addition to our MEF Certification program.”

Link OAM offers a set of fully automated mechanisms defining the next generation UNI on the customer premises that links the Carrier Ethernet service to the internal network. The definitions are based on IEEE spec 802.3-2005 Clause 57. Extensive manual settings by a provider's field engineer are replaced by automatic processes for retrieving and acting on status and configuration data about the network, monitoring capabilities, link fault detection and response, the request and response protocols for peer to peer communication, control of remote loopbacks and the exchange of vendor specific information.

Source: NetEvents