



FLO testing & certification specifications complete

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The interoperability of FLO (Forward Link-Only) technologies reached a significant milestone recently with approval by the FLO Forum membership of FLO Series II and FLO Series III Testing Plans. The approval means that a complete set of FLO Series I, Series II and Series III Testing Specifications is available to the market, with Series I specifications already published by the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) as standards TIA-1102, TIA-1103 and TIA-1104. The FLO Forum is a multi-company initiative of nearly 90 members committed to advancing the global standardisation and promotion of FLO technology.

FLO Series II (FLO Services Testing) is a suite of application and service-related MediaFLO qualification tests and their descriptions for standardisation. A corresponding service Series FLO Device Qualification System (FDQS) facilitates execution of tests.

FLO Series III (FLO/Non-FLO Concurrent Operation) verifies that MediaFLO services do not interfere with non-MediaFLO radio-based services and features on the handset. This specification currently addresses cdma2000 1X, 1xEV-DO a-GPS and Bluetooth test cases.

The new technical specifications are the outcome of work by the FLO Forum Testing and Certification (T&C) Committee, chaired by Noel Richardson. "Testing and Certification is a vital part of the effective interoperability and deployment of FLO networks and services," said Richardson. "The FLO Forum T&C Committee's work towards specifying these minimum criteria FLO tests means that an organization building a FLO-based mobile broadcast business will be able to bring their products and services to market quickly through clear specifications for device behaviour. The published series of specifications addresses both reverse-link and other system elements. Reflecting market requirements and priorities, these specifications have a CDMA reverse-link focus where necessary. Plans for the T&C Committee include the development of comparable documents to address a UMTS/WCDMA reverse-link. Further, as service-level features are enhanced and added, the committee will address changes to existing feature documents (FLO II) as well. Both of these activities are a high priority for the committee this year."

Dr. Kamil A. Grajski, president of the FLO Forum, said: "The completion of FLO testing and certification specifications for this series is a milestone for the technology. The interoperability of FLO handsets, transmitters and services is now ensured for commercial implementation of FLO technology."