



Multisource and XConnect Form IP-Peering Federation for South Africa

*Partnership Will Help Operators in Emerging Market
Offer VoIP and Next-Generation Services Easily and Cost-Effectively*

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, April 13, 2010 – [Multisource](#), South Africa's leading wireless services provider, and London-based [XConnect](#), the leader in next-generation interconnection and carrier ENUM-registry services, have formed a partnership to help South African service providers take advantage of growing opportunities in the country's increasingly-competitive telecommunications market.

The partnership, known as XConnect South Africa, will establish a multilateral peering federation, which will offer operators advanced VoIP and next-generation network (NGN) peering capabilities via an in-country interconnection hub. The federation will provide a simple, cost-effective means for exchanging traffic within South Africa and globally.

XConnect South Africa will combine Multisource's extensive market knowledge and network capability with XConnect's expertise in providing multimedia interconnection and carrier ENUM registry services. The full suite of XConnect's [Interconnect 2.0](#) services will be deployed, enabling operators to interconnect their networks and route calls seamlessly and efficiently through a scalable, multilateral interconnection hub.

"With the proliferation of IP and VoIP players, the complexities and associated costs of interconnecting operators and telecommunication networks have become central concerns for South African service providers," said Multisource CEO Richard Smuts-Steyn. "To compete successfully in our country's emerging telecoms market, operators need a secure and scalable point of interconnection and the comprehensive services our federation will offer.

"As we enter an era of explosive growth in South Africa's VoIP market, in terms of services and complexity, service providers are looking for solutions that can offer more cost-effective ways of communicating and carry the functionally rich bouquet of multimedia communications from end to end," he added.

XConnect CEO Eli Katz said: “Our Interconnect 2.0 services are ideally suited to helping operators in South Africa overcome the challenges of next-generation interconnection and peering. The federation will enable easy interworking and interoperability between fixed, mobile and Web 2.0 networks.

“We are excited to be involved in the rapidly-developing South African market,” Katz said. “We look forward to working with Multisource to offer service providers a competitive advantage in responding to opportunities arising from regulatory changes, economic growth and infrastructure improvements.”

The newly appointed CEO of XConnect South Africa, Christopher Geerdts, said the partnership underpins the principles of Interconnect 2.0, ushering in the next generation of VoIP in South Africa. “Our vision is to democratise voice and multimedia communications by empowering telecommunications players to focus on growing their core businesses whilst reducing barriers of complexity and costs,” he said.

Smuts-Steyn noted that interconnectivity extends beyond traditional voice connections to include the multimedia environment. For example, he said: “When you talk with someone on Skype, you are able to use both voice and video. When you break out of the Skype environment and connect to a cell phone, you lose the value-added video connectivity. This is because many networks do not support the complexity of multimedia interconnection. The new federation will provide technically elegant interconnect across all mediums.”

For more information, interested parties may contact Christopher Geerdts at +27 83 222 1463 or chris@multisource.co.za.

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About Multisource

We have been in the telecommunication business for 35 years, respected and noted for our reliability and expertise. Our sources are multiple – but we’re your single service provider: one single contact point for any number of solutions designed and deployed to match your specialised need – whether it be mining, emergency services, municipalities, security, aviation and marine. Our people are our strength: they have the experience and the know-how to deliver solutions for specialised communications requirement. Best-of-breed defines our product philosophy: we stock, distribute, and deploy only reliable, cost-effective products – such as those of our principal suppliers, Icom, Trango, Proxim and Airspan – world-class, leading players in the broadband and wireless market. For more information, please visit www.multisource.co.za.

About XConnect

The global leader in network peering, XConnect is trusted by IP-based service providers in 30 countries to offer a suite of Interconnect 2.0 services, including carrier ENUM-registry and next generation multimedia interconnection hub solutions. London-based XConnect offers the most comprehensive and reliable solutions to help service providers deliver rich multimedia IP communications across networks while improving service quality and reducing costs. Backed by Tier 1 venture capital firms, XConnect operates the largest worldwide ENUM-based IP-peering federation, the Global Alliance, and the world's first national VoIP/NGN interconnection federations, in the Netherlands and Korea. For more information, please visit www.xconnect.net.

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