

Report on the IIR Carrier Ethernet World Congress, Amsterdam, 13 October, 2011

INTUG Executive Vice President Nick White moderated a user panel on Ethernet Services at the IIR Carrier Ethernet World Congress. The participants were:

- Torben Brieghel Jensen, Commercial Manager, Global Connect
- Andy McEwan, Head of Ethernet & Leased Lines, Virgin Media Business
- Tom Van Wint, Manager SITA Waste Services & BELTUG Board Member

Key issues raised during the panel discussion were:

Price

- which is currently too high and a deterrent for business applications

Service Quality

- how can this be guaranteed cross-border and involving more than one service provider?

Availability

- how can customers in rural areas, especially SMEs, be serviced?

Billing

- how can customers avoid unpleasant bill shocks

Competition

- the market is aggressive, but there is not enough competition to improve availability, service quality and price

Speed

- some applications require extremely low latency and even higher speeds are required, e.g. in financial services

Regulation

- systems integrators and international service providers non-discriminatory wholesale Ethernet access is essential

Other sessions in the Congress included:

- Future technologies for higher speed services, now trialling 1Gbps Ethernet
- Relative strength of global and national service providers in each country
- Potential for Carrier Ethernet Exchanges to provide interoperable connectivity
- Interoperability testbed showing standard interfaces ease equipment acceptance

The vision for Cloud Service support with Carrier Ethernet should be:

- flexibility of supplier and technology with easy migration
- full ICT control at IP level, e.g. to change services without operator involvement
- avoidance of the need to co-ordinate IP addresses
- avoidance of the need to co-ordinate Quality of Service between providers
- avoidance of the need to co-ordinate interface proprietary protocols
- a WAN which behaves like a LAN

The Congress suggested that the WAN market is moving again from a Level 3 to a Level 2 transport service with a move from pure IP to IP over Ethernet (a similar trend occurred with the move from X25 to Frame Relay and then MPLS).

Nick White, EVP, INTUG