Carrier Ethernet Service & Technology Trends & Issues: Europe

A Special Ethernet Europe 2011 Post-Show Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ethernet is, without a doubt, one of the most important communications technologies developed in the last 30-plus years. High-performance Ethernet, known commonly as Carrier Ethernet, is rapidly becoming the technology of choice for controlling network communications costs, consolidating services onto a common infrastructure, and enabling more tailored services for consumers, enterprises, and operators.

Light Reading hosted its 6th annual Ethernet Europe event in London from April 12-13, 2011. Ethernet Europe 2011 is the premier event covering the hot topic of Carrier Ethernet network technologies and services in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA). A record number of 20 service provider experts from 19 network operators and carrier Ethernet exchange companies spoke at the event, along with representatives of the ITU-T, EANTC, MEF, and network solutions providers. Several hundred service provider, enterprise, finance, consulting, equipment vendor, regulatory, and other professionals attended the show.

This report highlights key themes emerging from service provider perspectives shared at Ethernet Europe. The report provides a window into the market unavailable from any other source and shares direct quotes and other candid feedback from many of the key movers and shakers in the carrier Ethernet industry.

Carrier Ethernet Service & Technology Trends & Issues: Europe is the first report prepared by Heavy Reading that captures service provider highlights from one of Light Reading's most popular and longstanding events. This report leverages Light Reading's unique ability as a research-led media company to assemble many of the industry's leading service provider and technology experts periodically throughout the year to spotlight key trends, progress, and challenges for the carrier Ethernet industry. Light Reading's Ethernet events have served as valuable networking opportunities for both non-sponsor and sponsoring attendees.

This report is centered on the service provider perspectives shared during the show. Comments and views expressed by equipment vendors and representatives of the MEF and ITU are beyond the scope of this report.

Click here for the full list of service providers whose perspectives are covered in this report.

Jeff Schwartz, Global Ethernet WAN Product Management for Verizon Business, gave the opening keynote for Ethernet Europe. Schwartz said the industry generally is moving in the direction of an Ethernet-enabled, cloud-based ecosystem in which "everything" is a service and we begin to see "dial-tone" for business applications. Practically speaking, however, enterprises today are looking for hybrid solutions that include both dedicated and virtual connections, as shown in the excerpt below.
Excerpt 1: Verizon's WAN Services Solutions

Rob Thomas, Director of Product Solutions for BT Wholesale, gave a well-received keynote at Ethernet Europe on the topic of mobile backhaul. Thomas walked the audience through the transformation of BT’s mobile backhaul network to handle 3G traffic and shared BT's perspective on what appears to be the best solution for dealing with the shift to LTE. The current state of BT's mobile backhaul transformation is shown in the excerpt below.

Excerpt 2: BT’s Mobile Backhaul Transformation – Upgrading Ethernet-Based Network

Source: Verizon Business, Light Reading’s Ethernet Europe, April 2011

Source: BT, Light Reading's Ethernet Europe, April 2011
Report Scope & Structure

Heavy Reading's Carrier Ethernet Service & Technology Trends & Issues: Europe is structured as follows:

Section II includes highlights of the Carrier Ethernet Services – Leading Innovators panel held during the morning of Day 1. Senior representatives of KPN International, Interoute, Global Crossing, and TATA Communications gave presentations and also participated in a Q&A period.

Section III covers highlights from the Opening Keynote given by Jeff Schwartz, responsible for Global Ethernet WAN Product Management for Verizon Business. Schwartz provided a solutions-oriented perspective on customer and network evolution.

Section IV shares Cable & Wireless Worldwide's perspective on the Advantages and Challenges of Using Multiple Access Options, plus highlights of the Q&A session that followed.

Section V includes highlights of the Carrier Ethernet Exchange – Catalyst for Market Growth session. Senior representatives of Equinix, CENX, and Telx gave presentations and also participated in a Q&A period.

Section VI covers service provider perspectives from the Carrier Ethernet Services Differentiation session. Senior representatives of Level 3, AboveNet, and euNetworks gave presentations and also participated in a Q&A period.

Section VII shares highlights from the popular Mobile Backhaul Keynote given by Rob Thomas, Director of Product Solutions for BT Wholesale. Thomas discussed BT's mobile backhaul transformation and the company's planned next steps for dealing with the shift to LTE.

Section VIII includes service provider highlights from the Wholesale Services & Interconnection Trends session. Senior representatives of Deutsche Telekom ICSS, Tinet, Virgin Media Business, and BT gave presentations and also participated in a Q&A period, along with CENX.

Section IX shares highlights from the Service Provider CTO/Senior Technology Roundtable. Senior representatives of GTS CE, COLT Telecom, and PacketExchange covered a range of service- and technology-related topics.

Carrier Ethernet Service & Technology Trends & Issues: Europe is published in PDF format.