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RDMA CONSORTIUM COMPLETES PROTOCOL SPECIFICATIONS

RDMA Consortium Finalizes Version 1.0 of Remote Direct Memory Access Protocol Over TCP/IP Networks; Forwards Specification to IETF Working Groups

CHICAGO, October 30, 2002 – The RDMA Consortium today announced completion of version 1.0 of the RDMA over TCP wire protocol specifications. The completed wire protocol specifications are suitable for first generation industry implementations of the RDMA over TCP protocol and have been forwarded to Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) working groups as Internet Drafts for their consideration. The consortium continues to work on companion specifications and solicits industry participation and review. Completion of 1.0 versions of the companion specifications is expected in 1Q03.

Founded by Adaptec (Nasdaq: ADPT), Broadcom (Nasdaq: BRCM), Cisco (Nasdaq: CSCO), EMC (NYSE: EMC), HP (NYSE: HPQ), IBM (NYSE: IBM), Intel (Nasdaq: INTC), Microsoft Corp. (Nasdaq: MSFT) and Network Appliance (Nasdaq: NTAP), the Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA) Consortium is an independent consortium formed to develop the architectural specifications necessary to implement products that provide RDMA over TCP/IP networks, including Ethernet-based networks. These specifications will help organizations meet increasing demands for networking bandwidth and speed that are currently growing faster than the processing power and memory bandwidth of the compute nodes that process networking traffic.

RDMA technology enables removal of data copy operations and reduction in latencies by allowing one computer to directly place information in another computer's memory with minimal demands on memory bus bandwidth and CPU processing overhead, while preserving memory protection semantics. Today, communications over TCP/IP typically require copy operations, which add latency and consume significant CPU and memory resources.

The RDMA over TCP protocol promises more efficient and scalable computing and data transport within the data center by reducing the overhead burden on processors and memory. Creating more efficient communication protocols that run over existing infrastructures frees up processor resources for other work, such as user applications, and improves infrastructure utilization. As networks become more efficient, applications are better able to scale by sharing tasks across the network as opposed to centralizing work in larger, more expensive systems. Another opportunity is the ability to converge functions in the data center over fewer types of interconnects. By converging functions over fewer interconnects, the resulting infrastructure is less complex, easier to manage and provides the opportunity for architectural redundancy, which improves system resilience.

The RDMA Consortium is complementary to the IETF, a large open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet. The RDMA Consortium member companies and individuals are active participants in the IETF process and look forward to working within the IETF on RDMA protocols as experience is gained from RDMA implementation and usage.

The RDMA Consortium is an open forum and is actively encouraging participation and contribution from additional technology companies towards developing the new specifications.

Additional information about the RDMA Consortium, including application procedures, can be found at http://www.rdmaconsortium.org.

About the RDMA Consortium

The RDMA Consortium is an open industry forum chartered to develop architectural specifications necessary to implement products that provide RDMA technology over TCP/IP. Membership information, contacts for respective founding companies and other RDMA Consortium materials can be found at http://www.rdmaconsortium.org.

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