



GCF and COAI to Promote Interoperability for Mobile Devices in India

New Delhi, July 16, 2013: The Global Certification Forum (GCF) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to promote interoperability for mobile devices entering the Indian market.

The Indian mobile handset market is one of the two largest in the world and is growing at a rate of 20 per cent per year. More than 600 devices are launched annually. However, issues with low quality handsets are undermining the experience of mobile users generally and increasing costs for network operators.

GCF's proven *'test once; use anywhere'* certification scheme provides a globally trusted benchmark of the interoperability of handsets and mobile networks. Although most of the best selling, higher-tier handsets from well known international brands are already GCF-certified, extending certification to lower tier devices can contribute to an improved mobile experience for all consumers.

Certification could also potentially support Indian handset manufacturers in their efforts to enter export markets. By minimising duplication of testing, the scheme has also been proven to reduce time-to-market for new mobile devices. GCF's assurance of interoperability can also reduce after-sales service costs and enhance brand perception for local manufacturers.

COAI is a non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of world-class yet affordable mobile communication services in India. The Association represents India's operators in their dealings with policy makers, regulators and other industry foras.

"The Indian handset market has enormous scale which is likely to have a significant influence on the growth of the device sector worldwide," said Dr. Adriana Nugter, GCF Operations Manager. "Input and insight from India can make a valuable contribution to the ongoing evolution of GCF Certification."

"Mobile telephony has transformed the socio-economic quotient of the country to remarkable levels and has become an essential tool for the people. Mobile technology today not only commands the bulk of the communications system, but is also viewed as a critical tool for social and financial inclusion, with an emerging role towards governance and administrative solutions," said Mr. Rajan S. Mathews, Director General, COAI. "Device certification could help ensure that India realizes the full economic and social benefits from the deployment of mobile broadband data services across the country," he added.

GCF and COAI will also work to identify potential certification requirements that may be specific to India such as high temperature resistance and performance issues that are not yet part of the global scheme. The MoU also provides for GCF and COAI to be represented at each other's meetings.



The signing of the MoU followed a successful workshop held in Delhi in March this year, which was organized by GCF with the assistance of Canvas M, the first GCF Recognised Test Organisation (RTO) in India. The workshop enabled senior industry leaders in India to gain a better understanding of the benefits of global harmonization of mobile device testing and certification while GCF members learned more about the high-growth and quality challenges in the Indian mobile market.

About GCF:

The **Global Certification Forum** – GCF – is an active partnership between network operators, device manufacturers and the test industry. Since its inception in 1999, GCF has created an independent certification programme to help ensure global interoperability between mobile devices and networks. By providing the focal point for the world’s most experienced practitioners in conformance testing, field trials and certification, GCF establishes best practice for the certification of mobile phones and the ever-expanding range of devices that incorporate wireless broadband connectivity. During 2012, 430 different 3GPP mobile phone, wireless modem and connected device models were GCF Certified.

About COAI:

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. (<http://www.coai.in/>).