

# NATURAL MICROSYSTEMS ANNOUNCES NEW CARRIER-GRADE SS7 SOLUTIONS

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-New SS7 redundancy software and CompactPCI hardware platforms offer unparalleled reliability between IP gateways and PSTN networks-

Natural MicroSystems (NMS), provider of open-standards development tools for the telecoms industry, today announced new high-end SS7 offerings to provide unprecedented availability and reliability to service providers and to enable developers to build carrier-class systems without a single point of failure. SS7 is the leading call handling protocol for the traditional telephone network, providing highly reliable connections between packet-switched IP gateways and the circuit-switched PSTN. These offerings will bring added reliability to IP-based services which will enable global carriers and service providers to greatly improve quality of service and functionality.

The new solutions include release 3.0 of NMS's SS7 redundancy software, and TX Series CompactPCI and PCI hardware platforms for exceptional reliability. Natural MicroSystems' SS7 Redundancy solution enables developers to build absolutely reliable carrier-class systems. In addition, CompactPCI for SS7 will introduce a new level of availability for service providers. CompactPCI is a robust hardware platform offering "hot swap" capabilities which will allow service providers to extract boards without adversely affecting a running system.

High availability is particularly crucial to new revenue-generating services for carriers such as messaging applications, wireless communications and gateways for Voice-over-IP networks. NMS's expansion of its award-winning SS7 technologies underscores the value of its expertise in providing carrier-grade technology for IP-centric and traditional PSTN circuit switched telephony networks.

Chris Smith, director of wireless and IN products for Natural MicroSystems comments, "Equipment providers look to strategic partners to provide technology that can address the complexities and deployment challenges of a carrier-class environment while supporting multiple SS7

standards. With the release of our Redundant SS7 and TX Series CompactPCI technologies, we are solidifying our leadership position in providing enabling technology for suppliers of carrier-grade systems."

"We've been very happy with our deployments of Natural MicroSystems AG and TX Series SS7 technology around the world," said Mike Vargo, senior vice president and chief technology officer, Clarent Corporation. "The SS7 capabilities announced today will bring the added functionality and reliability that are being requested by global carriers offering IP telephony services today and going forward."

#### About SS7

As the leading call handling protocol for the traditional telephone network, SS7 provides the reliability and speed required for passing all call control information in carrier-grade systems. SS7 has continued to gain acceptance in new areas such as Voice over IP and wireless IP (VoIP) gateways due to the highly reliable connections it provides between packet-switched IP gateways and the circuit-switched PSTN.

#### About Clarent Corporation

Clarent Corporation is a premier provider of scaleable, IP telephony products to carriers and Internet service providers around the world. Clarent's intelligent architecture and the Clarent Command Center enable Clarent products to route, manage, inter-connect and terminate high volumes of calls for service provider customers including the world's largest long distance telecommunication companies. According to a Cape Saffron report published in 1999, more minutes travel across Clarent-enabled networks worldwide than those of any other equipment supplier.\*

Founded in July 1996, Clarent is headquartered in Redwood City, California and has offices in major cities in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America. Additional information about Clarent is available at <http://www.clarent.com>.

## About Natural MicroSystems

Natural MicroSystems (NASDAQ: NMSS), based in Framingham, MA, provides IP-centric software development tools, hardware, reference designs and consulting services to the leading suppliers of communications equipment. The network-quality products, technologies, design and customisation resources make Natural MicroSystems the OEM partner of choice for the rapidly growing number of manufacturers that are building platforms to support today's convergence applications.

By using Natural MicroSystems' products and services, equipment providers benefit from reduced time-to-market when delivering best-in-class high-performance IP gateways, IP media servers, wireless/IP gateways, network-based enhanced services and other voice/data/video solutions. This is because Natural MicroSystems' state-of-the-art products and technologies, including SS7 and CompactPCI, are based on open, standards-based platforms collectively referred to as Open Telecommunications™. Founded in 1983, Natural MicroSystems products and services are available in more than 40 countries, and the quality processes at the company have earned ISO 9002 certification. More information on the company is available at: <http://www.nmss.com>

## About Natural MicroSystems SS7 Product Family

Natural MicroSystems' high-end SS7 solutions for PSTN networks offer:

- Market leading high performance at low cost
- Rapid time-to-market and ease-of integration through CT Access, Natural MicroSystem's comprehensive, flexible OEM software development environment
- Interoperability between product generations for maximum return on investment
- Worldwide support through highly experienced, senior engineers who are deployed wherever Natural MicroSystems' customers need them

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