HGI and the Broadband Forum Agree to Work Together on Smart Home

Two world-leading organisations work jointly on Smart Home documents covering device abstraction layers and wireless requirements

17 October 2013. HGI and the Broadband Forum have agreed to jointly specify requirements for the Smart Home. Two projects are under way — one clarifying performance and co-existence requirements for wireless home area networks (WHAN) and the other specifying requirements for interworking between various home devices and home automation systems (abstraction layers). Both are very important in machine-to-machine systems for consumer applications.

Cooperation on the documents will avoid duplication of activities, benefit both parties by combining areas of expertise and will benefit the M2M industry in resolving these key issues. It will also help coordinate recommendations to the standardization organisation oneM2M, which is developing technical specifications for common M2M service layers based on inputs from multiple groups and organisations around the world.

“The Smart Home has been a focus for HGI over the last two years, matching the interest from broadband service providers who are rolling out new revenue-generating services. HGI has already delivered foundation specifications in this area related to connectivity technologies and software platform architecture. Those that HGI will develop with the Broadband Forum will define an abstraction layer that allows applications to connect to in-home devices with commonly agreed software interfaces over a variety of home networks. We also plan to work on APIs for cloud-located service logic. All these components are very important for the Smart Home ecosystem,” said Duncan Bees, Chief Business and Technology Officer of HGI.

The Broadband Forum and HGI have had a longstanding liaison agreement through which the two organisations have worked together on projects including energy efficiency of telecommunications networks, quality of service, and management requirements for Home Gateways.

“The Smart Home has become a topic of key consideration within the Broadband Forum and more widely in the industry,” said Robin Mersh, CEO of the Broadband Forum. “The work being carried out in HGI complements the Broadband Forum’s work in the management and control of devices in home networks. It therefore makes good sense to work in common on the abstraction layer components of the smart home as well as the requirements for the wireless Home Area Networks.”

Both organisations have a wide set of liaison relations with other fora and will rely on consultation with key partners including OSGi Alliance and a number of others.

For more information about HGI visit www.homegatewayinitiative.org or email contact@homegatewayinitiative.org. There will be a demonstration of smart home technology on HGI’s stand G9 at the Broadband World Forum in Amsterdam next week.

For more information about the Broadband Forum visit www.broadband-forum.org.
**About the HGI** [http://www.homegatewayinitiative.org/](http://www.homegatewayinitiative.org/)

The HGI, founded in 2004 by nine telecom operators, is shaping the next generation of internet and voice services. Starting from use-cases and service needs, the HGI sets requirements for Home Gateways, infrastructure devices, and the home network. The HGI now has over 60 members from across the globe, representing the entire spectrum of players in the broadband home area.

**About the Broadband Forum**

Broadband Forum, a non-profit industry organization, is focused on engineering smarter and faster broadband networks. Our work defines best practices for global network design, enables service and content delivery, establishes technology migration strategies, engineers critical device & service management tools, and is key to redefining broadband. Our free technical reports and white papers can be found at [www.broadband-forum.org](http://www.broadband-forum.org).

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