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Dear Colleague,

### **Interoperability Standards for Next Generation Networks – Invitation to Join NICC Standards Limited**

We wrote to you and other industry stakeholders in July last year to ask for your views about our plans to restructure the UK technical standards body NICC to help it to meet the challenges of developing standards for NGN interoperability. Our aims are to raise NICC's profile, broaden industry participation, and take a more rigorous approach to minimising participants' exposure to the potential IPR liabilities associated with standards development.

Ofcom and the NICC Board are grateful to those who submitted comments and suggestions on the proposals. We have made some minor changes to the company constitution (which set out the rules of the new organisation) in the light of stakeholder comments.

Following a review of the stakeholder comments, Ofcom and the NICC Board have decided to implement the new arrangements bringing them into operation in June 2008. There will be a period of transition up to 1 September to allow organisations to join the new NICC after which the new arrangements will become fully operational. NICC will then cease to be a committee reporting to Ofcom and will become an independent enterprise owned by the industry and hosted by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

To ease the transition, Ofcom will provide funding to cover NICC's budgeted expenditure for the first financial year of operation (i.e. up to 31 March 2009), with the result that new NICC will not charge membership fees and should not need to ask members for any other financial contributions during its first year.

I have attached a letter from the Chair of NICC Professor Sir John O'Reilly describing the new arrangements in more detail and also NICC's plans for the future. The letter also contains a membership application form to join NICC Standards Limited.

NICC is currently engaged in the development of interoperability standards for Next Generation Networks. These are an important enabler of the transition from PSTN to NGN

networks. I would therefore urge you to continue to support NICC's work and help ensure the success of the new organisation by becoming a member.

I would of course be happy to discuss any queries as would members of the current NICC Board (contact details attached).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Ingram". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left and a sharp upward stroke at the end.

Peter Ingram

Attached: Contact details for NICC Board members

## Contact Details for NICC Board Members

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