

Press Release

SNIA AND HCL TECHNOLOGIES COLLABORATE TO ADVANCE INTEROPERABLE STORAGE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Debut of Latest Storage Management Initiative Test Suite at Spring Storage Networking World

PHOENIX, AZ--Apr 15, 2003 - The Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA), an international organization dedicated to delivering storage networking architectures, education, and solutions for the IT community, has joined forces with HCL Technologies (HCL Tech), a leading global IT and technology services provider, to further advance the Storage Management Initiative Specification (SMI-S). The SNIA awarded the contract to HCL Tech to develop the initial phase of an SMI-S test suite, which will be showcased at Storage Networking World (SNW) in Phoenix, Arizona this month. The development of the SMI-S test suite is a definitive step towards verifying the conformance of any storage solution with SMI specifications.

"The joint efforts between HCL Tech and SNIA to promote storage networking standards will ensure that the investments made by end users in storage solutions will be protected over time," said S. Raman, COO & President-Core Technologies, HCL Tech. "Starting with moderate investments that address their current requirements, users will be able to scale up their storage network capacity as and when the need arises without being dependent on one vendor."

As the SNIA Work Groups create common definitions and technical standards for their respective areas of focus, it is critical that products from multiple vendors be verified against these standards. As part of its scope of services, HCL Tech will provide interoperability testing to ensure that the storage solutions are multivendor interoperable.

"Path-breaking developments like the SMI-S Test Suite enable SNIA members to work towards and achieve the goal of simplifying storage management for users," said Gene Chesser, SNIA Interoperability Committee Co-chair and member of the Board of Directors. "This test suite reflects the deep commitment of the SNIA Interoperability Conformance Test Program (ICTP) towards simplifying management of storage and promotion of interoperable storage solutions."

SNIA selected HCL Tech for its expertise in developing effective solutions for storage vendors and its successful history in developing re-usable software components in Fibre Channel and iSCSI (SCSI over IP) areas. HCL Tech developed the initial iSCSI Management API (IMA) test suite for SNIA, which was first demonstrated at the October 2002 SNW conference, and has taken the lead in developing CIM, WBEM and iSCSI based management solutions.

About the SNIA

The Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) is a not-for-profit organization, made up of over 350 companies and individuals spanning virtually the entire storage industry. SNIA members share a common goal: to set the pace of the industry by ensuring that storage networks become efficient, complete and trusted solutions for the IT community. To this end the SNIA is committed to delivering standards, education,

and services that will propel open storage networking solutions into the broader market. For information visit the SNIA web site at <http://www.snia.org>.

About HCL Technologies

HCL Technologies is a leading global Product Engineering & IT Services company, providing value-added, software-led IT solutions and services to Fortune 100 companies. With gross revenues of US\$ 332.84 million for the year ending June 2002 and a delivery organization with over 7788 professionals, spread across 14 countries, in America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Japan, HCL Tech is among the top five software service providers in India.

HCL Tech focuses on technology as well as R&D outsourcing, with the objective of working with clients in areas at the core of their business. The focus on such mission critical projects and the ability to provide services throughout the lifecycle of client products, from conceptualization to ongoing development and maintenance, enables HCL Tech to build long-term relationships with customers. Together with its knowledge of embedded systems, core technologies and applications development expertise, HCL Tech is positioned as a composite solutions provider, equipped to cater to diverse IT needs.

HCL Tech is an Associate Member of the SNIA and participates in working groups of SNIA and IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force). For more information visit the HCL Tech website at <http://www.hcltech.com> or write to sanopera@hcltech.com.

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