

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cisco Systems introduces Quality of Service Certification for Managed Ethernet Services to Support IP Next Generation Networks' Voice and Video Services

COLT's High-reliability Switched Ethernet Services First to Gain Cisco Powered Network QoS Certification in Europe

LONDON, UK, September 14, 2005 – Cisco Systems® today announced new certification requirements that will help businesses requiring resilient, high-speed connections for real-time applications to evaluate providers of managed Ethernet services. Providers must now have a plan to offer Quality of Service (QoS) capabilities in order to receive a “Cisco Powered Network” designation for Ethernet services. QoS certification verifies that the provider has committed to meeting Cisco-defined specifications and best-practice criteria for delivery of high-performance, low-latency connectivity services.

COLT First to Earn QoS Certification for Switched Ethernet Services

COLT is the first service provider in Europe to earn a Cisco Powered Network designation with QoS certification for its Switched Ethernet services. Available across Europe on a metro, national or international basis, COLT's managed Switched Ethernet services deliver any-to-any connectivity that is designed to allow prioritization of different types of services over dedicated fibre rings, backed by robust service level agreements (SLAs). This enables businesses to run different mission-critical applications across their corporate network, providing reliable, high-speed access to users across all offices. Built on the Cisco multiservice optical transport platform, COLT's Switched Ethernet services offer customers a high level of security through dedicated bandwidth per customer and service flexibility with 'burstable' bandwidth features.

Speaking at the Carrier Ethernet World Congress in Berlin today, Alireza Mahmoodshahi, CTO of COLT said, “The new Cisco Powered Network QoS certification is a powerful endorsement of COLT's commitment to delivering innovative corporate networks which

support mission-critical applications. It will give our customers the peace of mind they need in deploying business-sensitive applications across our managed Ethernet services.

Providing customers with higher performance and more cost-effective networks is a core part of COLT's strategy – and Ethernet is at the heart of this. The introduction of Switched Ethernet solutions and effective QoS capabilities are accelerating the appeal of Ethernet services to customers. We expect demand for these services to continue growing rapidly in the near future. With our industry-leading portfolio of services, COLT will remain at the forefront of these developments.”

Customers of COLT's industry-leading Switched Ethernet services include PFA Pension in Denmark, Recoletas in Spain and HTM in The Netherlands.

Geraint Anderson, Vice President for Service Provider Wireline, Cisco Systems Europe, said: “When COLT launched its service last year, it was the first managed switched Gigabit Ethernet service to be deployed across Europe. Through its Quality of Service commitments, COLT is continuing to offer intelligent, differentiated next generation services that give confidence to enterprise customers who are out-tasking their most vital networking services.”

The Cisco Powered Network certification process requires the service provider to undergo an annual third-party, on-site assessment, to validate that the provider follows best practices for delivering recommended levels of network performance (including latency, jitter and packet loss) and customer support for the different types of video, voice and data services. The certification also specifies that the service-level agreement must span the network from customer-edge to customer-edge in order to provide the end-to-end transparency and seamless management essential to support real-time voice, video and mission-critical applications. This certification helps to solidify provider and end-user SLAs, boosting the provider-enterprise customer relationship and confidence.

Additionally, Cisco has been recently certified by the Metro Ethernet Forum's Carrier Ethernet Certification Program, which increases the trust level of carriers in Cisco's metro Ethernet products.

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About the Cisco Powered Network Program

The Cisco Powered Network program identifies service providers that use Cisco equipment in their service-delivery networks end to end and meet Cisco standards for service quality and support. Cisco Powered Network program members are committed to maintaining high levels of network quality and providing services that offer unmatched interoperability with enterprise networks built on Cisco equipment.

Currently, more than 350 service providers around the world are members of the Cisco Powered Network program. Situated in more than 62 countries, program members offer a wide range of Cisco-based services for businesses of all sizes. Service providers that have qualified for Cisco Powered Network designation for one or more services are authorized to use the Cisco Powered logo and have access to exclusive Cisco technical training and joint marketing programs and promotions.

Cisco has recently added certification requirements for Cisco Powered Network designation for some service types. A service provider that has passed an on-site assessment, validating that it follows best practices for delivering recommended levels of network performance (including latency, jitter and packet loss) is authorized to use the Cisco Powered logo with the following text: Certified By Cisco for Quality of Service.

For additional information on the Cisco Powered Network program visit www.cisco.com/cpn

About COLT

COLT is a leading European provider of business communications. COLT specialises in providing data, voice and managed services to midsize and major businesses and wholesale customers. It has more than 22,000 customers across all industry sectors. COLT owns and operates a 13-country, 20,000km network that includes metropolitan area networks in 32 major European cities with direct fibre connections into 10,000 buildings and 12 COLT data centres.

COLT Telecom Group plc, COLT's parent company, is listed on the London Stock Exchange (CTM.L) and NASDAQ (COLT). Information about COLT and its services can be found at www.colt.net

About Cisco Systems

Cisco Systems (NASDAQ: CSCO) is the worldwide leader in networking for the Internet. Cisco news and information are available at <http://www.cisco.com>. For ongoing news, please go to <http://newsroom.cisco.com>. Cisco equipment in Europe is supplied by Cisco Systems International BV, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cisco Systems, Inc.

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