

## MIT Internet Telephony Consortium

### The Goal:

- Bring folks from different industries and backgrounds together, to
- Remove barriers to growth of Internet telephony and multimedia business, by
- Developing unbiased and supportable information and technology, and
- Injecting it effectively, where it counts.

## Areas

- Technical interpretation
- Economics and Business Models
- Gov't and Regulatory Policy

## A Policy Question

- Internet Telephony is the crash point between two competing industries and cultures.
- Regulation is not dead.
  - Telecomm "Dereg" Act ->80 new FCC actions!
- What's going to happen?
  - Split IP and IPtel?
  - Bring the Internet into the framework?
  - Change the framework?
- Factual args phrased in FCC-speak needed

## An Economic Question

- Some folks think IntTel (hmm) is great because it's "free". It's not. Some think it's black death. It's not.
- What's the truth?
  - Fundamentally better? <technical merit..>
  - Just different? <no billing..>
  - Regulatory history?
- What are the real costs of supporting it?
- Where can the money come from?

## ITC and the IETF

- ITC not a technical standards organization.
- Most companies (inc telecomm) view IETF as the appropriate place for interoperability stds.
- ITC contributions to the IETF:
  - cross-industry technical understanding
  - people participating in WG's
  - warning flags about non-technical pitfalls.
  - Pre-IETF R&D in critical technical areas.
  - Short-term technical interoperability needs.

## Who/When

May, 1996: 20 companies at exploratory meeting  
July 1, 1996: initial "intended members" meeting  
Expected industry participation @ July 1 meeting:  
Vocaltec, Netscape, US Robotics, Mediatix, Cable & Wireless, Lucent Technologies, Nokia, Telenor, Opencon Systems, Telia, <Large Asian Telecomm>  
Discussions in progress:  
Quarterdeck, White Pine, Netcentric, MCI, Nortel, Bell Canada  
Academic participation - folks from:  
MIT Research Program in Communications Policy (lead), MIT Lab for Computer Science, Kennedy School of Gov't, MIT Dept of Electrical Engineering