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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEROP® 91 FALL TO FEATURE MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON STANDARDS AVAILABILITY VIA INTERNATIONAL VIDEO LINK

ITU Sponsors Experiment to Allow CCITT Standards to be Distributed at No Charge on the Internet

Mountain View, California (September 16, 1991) — A special, live video link session between Geneva, Switzerland and San Jose, California will be held on October 11, at INTEROP 91 Fall to discuss the general availability of CCITT standards –at no charge– over the Internet.

Participating from Geneva at Telecom 91 will be Dr. Pekka Tarjanne, Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). In San Jose, participants will include Dr. Vinton Cerf, Chairman of the Internet Activities Board and several other key players in the standards arena. U.S. Sprint is providing the video link for this major standards announcement.

The session, which begins at 8:30 a.m. PDT, will feature an announcement by Dr. Tarjanne describing an experiment the ITU has endorsed to allow the entire CCITT standards set (known as the "Blue Book") to be distributed at no charge on the Internet. People all over the world will be able to access these standards from a wide variety of computer networks such as the Internet itself, BITNET, MCI Mail, AT&T Mail and CompuServe.

The CCITT standards are key to describing how open systems are to be constructed. Included in the more than 20,000 page Blue Book are the international specifications for

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high speed modems (V series), X.25 packet switched networks, ISDN and Broadband ISDN, X.400 message handling systems, fax, telex, teletex and the X.500 global directory. Until now, these documents have only been available in paper form at a fairly substantial charge.

The purpose of this experiment is to investigate whether or not tools like the Internet will, in fact, provide wider dissemination of these crucial standards. The Internet, with over 3.5 million users, is the largest network in the world and provides gateways and links to most other key networks.

According to Dr. Tarjanne of the ITU, "We are investigating all possible ways to make sure people can access these standards. The Internet is an important channel and we believe this experiment will allow our standards to reach a wider audience."

Coordination of this experiment will be provided by the Digital Resource Institute (DRI), a non-profit research group located in Boulder, Colorado. DRI is preparing the documents and converting them for use on the Internet at no charge. Sun Microsystems has provided a server with two gigabytes of disk space to house the standards. It is expected that many sites around the world will also house copies of these documents.

For more specific information on this announcement, please contact any of the sources listed on the attached contact sheet.

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Interop, Inc.® was founded in 1985 as an educational organization to further the understanding of current and emerging technologies within the fields of computer networking and communications. Interop, Inc. brings state-of-the-art ideas from the research and vendor communities to the user community through conferences, seminars, on-site training, protocol extension forums, and its industry journal, *ConneXions -- The Interoperability Report*®.

Interop, Inc. is the sponsor of the semi-annual INTEROP Conference and Exhibition. The company is located at 480 San Antonio Road, Mountain View, California, 94040. For more information on INTEROP 91 Fall and/or to register, contact Interop, Inc. at (415) 941-3399. Fax: (415) 949-1779.

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Mr. Rutkowski is Counsellor to the Secretary-General of the ITU and has been coordinating this effort for ITU. He is an attorney, and was formerly with MIT Media Laboratory, the Federal Communications Commission and was publisher and executive editor of *Telecommunications* magazine.

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Dr. Cerf is the Chairman of the Internet Activities Board. One of the original developers of the TCP/IP protocols, he is a noted authority on open systems and the Internet.

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Mr. desJardins is one of the leading authorities on the Government OSI Profile (GOSIP) and one of the original architects of the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) standards.

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Mr. Malamud is the author of six professional reference books, including "STACKS: Interoperability in Today's Computer Networks" and a three-volume series on network architectures. He will be coordinating the conversion and electronic publication of the CCITT standards.