

## **Abstract:**

IMS is an evolutionary network architecture developed originally by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) for 3G wireless networks. IMS promises to transform networks by simplifying the introduction of applications and services and creating a seamless environment where subscribers can easily move across what is perceived today as network boundaries.

Although developed for 3G wireless networks, IMS is now gaining momentum among several Wireline Network Operators as the reference architecture of choice for deploying overlaid next generation services over broadband access networks. Almost all such operators have indicated that their next generation network architecture will align, to a great extent, with the concepts and processes mentioned in the 3GPP IMS principles.

The transformation towards IMS is likely to be, for most operators, an evolutionary upgrade rather than an abrupt one. The 3GPP has developed various architectural releases that are likely to be embraced by operators in their move towards IMS. Furthermore, the IMS architecture framework utilized many of the principles that have been adopted for evolving conventional voice networks towards NGN. Those principles have been adopted by the 3GPP as the mean for interconnecting legacy networks to IMS based networks.

In this session, Lucent Technologies will present its vision for the evolution of operator's networks towards IMS. The various 3GPP releases leading towards IMS will be discussed. Examples of key applications and services that are likely to influence operator's decision for the migration towards IMS will also be presented.