NextiraOne gives new voice to QinetiQ

Europe's largest science and technology organisation signs new deal for converged voice and data network to the desktop

London, 12th May 2003 — NextiraOne , a leading provider of world-class communications services and solutions, today announced a contract to design and install a converged voice and data network for QinetiQ, formerly the larger part of DERA (the UK MOD's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency) and currently Europe's largest science and technology organisation.

In partnership with DesignIT Solutions, an IT consultancy, NextiraOne has designed a telephony system using a complete Alcatel solution and a Cisco based data infrastructure. The installation will link the largest number of IP users ever, to an Alcatel OmniPCX 4400 IP (on the LAN) system, in Europe.

The network will deliver highly efficient communication services to the 865 users at its new Malvern and Sundridge UK sites. Installation at each site is expected to take just one month and users at both sites will benefit from convergence in the LAN and delivery of a converged network direct to the desktop, enabling the installation of IP-based telephony handsets and PC terminals for each user.

"The introduction of this solution will enable us to make considerable savings to our telephone bills as inter-company calls become effectively free, as well as reducing network management costs." said Roger Smith, IS Operations Manager, Corporate Information Systems, QinetiQ. "In addition, new levels of computer/telephony integration will form a vital platform for next generation customer relationship management applications."

"QinetiQ is now one of the first companies in the UK to adopt a converged voice and data network in the LAN," said Simon Gibbs, Managing Director at NextiraOne. "The installation is expected to demonstrate the major business benefits that convergence can deliver."

The Alcatel Omni PCX 4400 is an IP-powered, advanced enterprise platform for integrated voice and data for fixed and mobile communications. This platform provides a range of services including: LAN switching; IP telephony and call-handling capabilities on IP and Ethernet infrastructures; fully integrated network services and applications; one network to manage Secure IP calls for teleworkers and fully integrated remote connections for end users.

About QinetiQ

QinetiQ is a new science and technology powerhouse formed from the major part of DERA, the British Government's elite defence research and development organisation. With an unrivalled track record in applied science and technology, it is poised to become a world leading business solutions provider.

About NextiraOne

Headquartered in Paris, France and Houston, Texas, USA, NextiraOne (www.nextiraone.com) is a leading provider of world-class solutions and LifeCycleSM services – from planning and design to the implementation, support, and management of voice, data and converged communications networks. As a global service organization that carries an extensive portfolio of certifications and product expertise, NextiraOne provides best-in-class technologies from leading partners, such as Alcatel, Cisco Systems, Genesys and Nortel Networks. NextiraOne offers consultation and solutions development ranging from contact centre applications to network infrastructure outsourcing.

About Platinum Equity

Platinum Equity is a global acquisition firm uniquely specialized in the operation of mission-critical technology companies. Since its founding in 1995, Platinum has completed more than 40 privately funded transactions, leveraging a multi-billion-dollar revenue base derived from the continued growth of its portfolio. With an established infrastructure in North America, Europe, Asia and South America, Platinum employs a workforce of more than 15,000 employees throughout the world.