

TOKYO, JAPAN (June 1, 2001)

## **NEC mandates Sipro Lab Telecom to License its G.729 Essential Patents - And The Single Door Dream to Access the G.729 Technology Came True -**

A while ago, integrating the G.729 ITU-T speech compression standard within an application often turned to be a real nightmare. Most of the time, the problem started with an innocent question asked by a CFO or a CTO: "Are there not any royalties to be paid for the use of this technology?". A quick browse on the International Telecommunication Union website ([www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)) revealed the harsh reality: several entities claimed to hold essential patents related to the G.729 technology. Afterwards, a long process was launched in order to negotiate individual patent rights!

Fortunately in March 1998, three IPR owners, France Telecom, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, and the Sherbrooke University, gathered their rights and formed the G.729 Consortium. This IPR pool appointed Sipro Lab Telecom (Sipro) as licensing agent to deliver license agreements on their behalf. Later, two significant hurdles went down when Sipro received the mandate to license AT&T and Nokia's patents related to the G.729 technology. The G.729 One Stop Shopping was born.

***This One Stop Shopping is going a step further today with NEC giving Sipro a mandate to license its patents related to the G.729 technology.***

Looking for a third party to license our patents, we naturally turned towards Sipro Lab Telecom, says Mr. Kyomoto, General Manager of Intellectual Property Division of NEC. "Sipro's proven expertise in licensing standardized technologies will definitely shorten the time to market to any entity wishing to integrate the G.729 standard. NEC is promoting open standards and committed to make its essential patents available adds Mr. Kyomoto.

This partnership is an amazing feat achieved by Sipro who now gathers the IPR portfolio related to the G.729 technology of 6 major telecommunications companies on a worldwide basis.

Representing NEC today, one of the most successful Japanese entity in the IT market, constitutes a significant breakthrough in this IPR jungle" explains Mrs Helene Jay, Sipro Lab Telecoms' Vice President Licensing. "Being able to offer legal, technical, marketing and high level negotiating skills under the same roof, positions us as a incomparable experts as far as licensing is concerned, which is warmly welcome in this complex and puzzling world concluded Mrs. Jay.

### **About NEC**

NEC Corporation (NASDAQ: NIPNY) (FTSE: 6701q.l) (TSE: 6701) is a leading provider of Internet solutions, dedicated to meeting the specialized needs of its customers in the key computer, network and electron device fields through its three market-focused in-house companies: NEC Solutions, NEC Networks and NEC Electron Devices. NEC Corporation, with its in-house companies, employs more than 150,000 people worldwide and saw net sales of 5,409 billion Yen (approx. US\$50 billion) in fiscal year 2000-2001. For further information, please visit the NEC home page at: <http://www.nec.com>.

## **About Sipro Lab Telecom**

Sipro Lab Telecom Inc., a privately owned Canadian corporation based in Montreal, was founded in 1994. Its mission is to promote and transfer technologies developed within private and public laboratories and research centers in the fields of digital audio compression, telecommunications and information technologies. Besides its commitment in the promotion of the G.729 standard, Sipro also acts as licensing agent for France Telecom, the Sherbrooke University, AudioCodes, DSP Group, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, and Nokia in relation with the G.723.1 ITU voice compression standard.

### **For more information:**

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