

# The WiMAX Forum: At-a-glance



InnoWave joins Alvarion



**History** A non-profit trade organization, founded in April 2002 in anticipation of the publication of the initial specifications for the IEEE 802.16 standard, covering the sub 11 GHz bands for Wireless Metropolitan Area Networks (Wireless MAN)

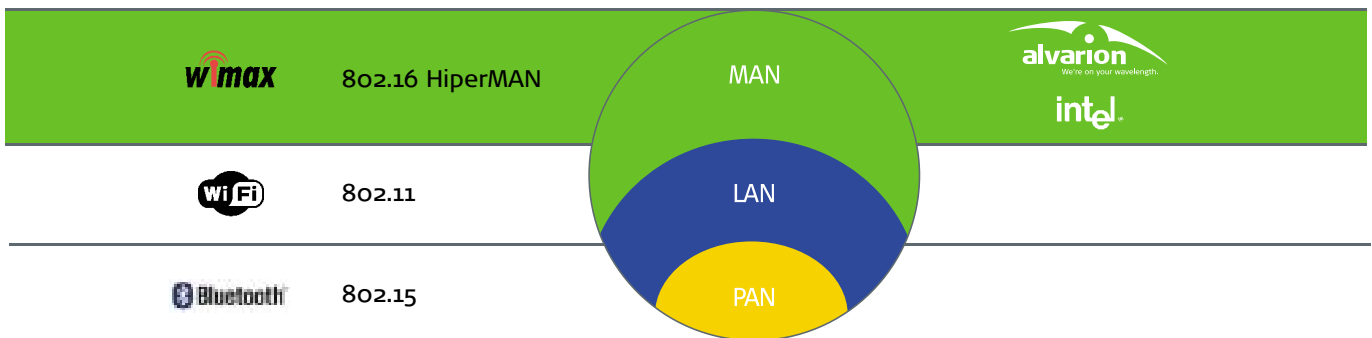
**Membership** Consists of leading vendors and providers of wireless components and equipment, as well as network operators and system integrators, including: Alvarion, Intel, Fujitsu, Airspan, Ensemble Communications, Nokia, Telnecity, WiLAN, Aperto and many others

**Mission** The forum advocates standardization with substance; WiMAX is empowered by a growing, industry-wide consensus that in order for the new wireless MAN protocol to gain acceptance, wireless vendors need to conform to uniform standards that enable the compatibility and interoperability of BWA components and systems

**Modus operandi** WiMAX is currently laying the groundwork for developing conformance test plans, selecting reputable certification labs and planning the first conferences that feature standards-based interoperable equipment

**WiMAX™ Certified** This label will serve as the ultimate seal of approval for vendors whose equipment has been successfully tested and deemed to be comprehensively compliant, compatible and interoperable with 802.16 networking systems according to the forum's exacting standards of excellence

**Continuity** WiMAX is to 802.16 as the WiFi Alliance is to 802.11



**Vision** Broadband everywhere. The WiMAX-backed 802.16a standard for 2-11 GHz is a wireless metropolitan area network (Wireless MAN) technology that provides broadband wireless connectivity to Fixed, Portable and Nomadic users. The ultimate complement to WiFi, the WiMAX wireless MAN standard can be used to backhaul 802.11 hotspots and WLANs to the Internet, provide campus connectivity, and enable a wireless alternative to cable and DSL for last mile broadband access. It provides up to 50-kilometers of service area range, allows users to get broadband connectivity without needing direct line of sight with the base station, and provides total data rates of up to 280 Mbps per base station - a sufficient amount of bandwidth to simultaneously support hundreds of businesses with T1/E1-type connectivity and thousands of homes with DSL-type connectivity with a single base station.

**Impact** The interoperability of equipment according to WiMAX standards is poised to benefit everyone in the wireless access delivery chain and hasten the deployment of BWA networks in numerous last-mile access markets



## Key Benefits

### Component Makers:

- Standardization creates a volume opportunity for chip set vendors/silicon suppliers

### Equipment Vendors:

- Concentrate on specialization (i.e. Base Stations or CPEs) - no longer need to create an entire end-to-end solution as in proprietary model
- Standards-based, common platform fosters rapid innovation and the addition of new components and services

### Operators:

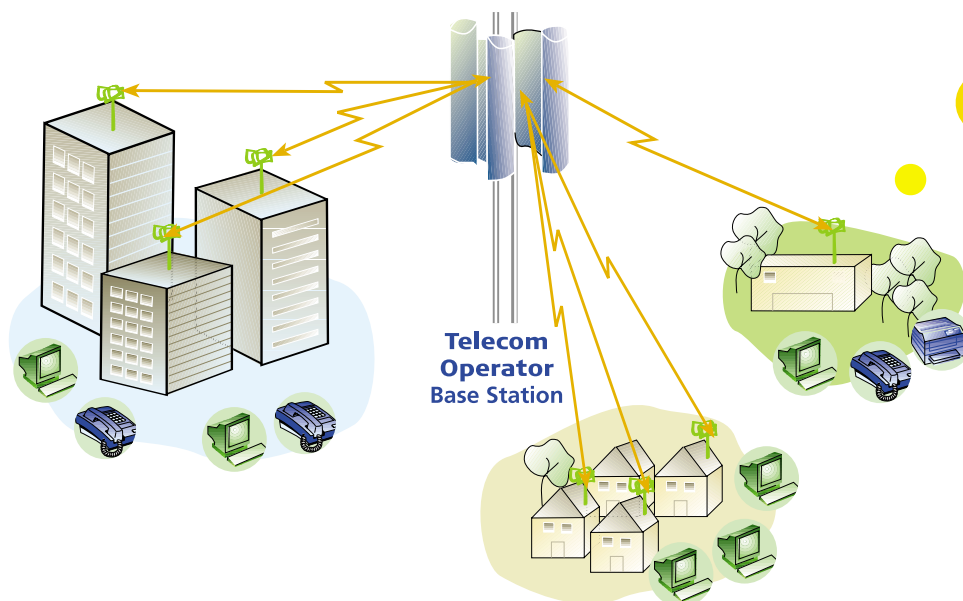
- Significantly reduces operator investment risk
- Common Platform drives down costs, fosters healthy competition and encourages innovation
- Pay-as-you-grow model enables a relatively low and fiscally responsible initial CAPEX investment followed by incremental expenditures that directly reflect growth
- No more commitments to a single vendor, a typical by-product of the proprietary technology model

### Consumers

- More choices for receiving broadband access services
- Quick "trickle down" effect of cost savings to end consumers translating into lower monthly subscription rates

### Alvarion/Intel Initiative

As charter members of the WiMAX forum with a wealth of collective experience in their respective fields, Alvarion and Intel are collaborating on the first WiMAX-compliant systems, which will integrate Intel chips in Alvarion BWA systems. Slated for delivery to market in the second half of 2004.



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