Joint Press Release

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Industry Begins Privatization of Part 68 Rules for Terminal Equipment

FCC Selects Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) to Serve as Joint Sponsors of Industry-led, Part 68 Administrative Council

January 31, 2001, Washington, D.C. -- The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) and the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) announced today plans to form the Part 68 Administrative Council for Terminal Attachments (ACTA), an industry-led body that will serve as the "gatekeeper" for maintaining Part 68 certification requirements for terminal equipment.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) selected ATIS and TIA to serve as joint sponsors of the council, following its decision to move the administrative responsibility for Part 68 from itself to the private sector.

Representatives from ATIS and TIA held an initial planning session last week to address basic operating principles and procedures for the administrative council. Subsequent meetings will be held to finalize council criteria and a timeline for transferring responsibility from the FCC. Additional meetings will be held in order to ratify the process and timeline with the FCC, before an official notice of the first council meeting is announced to the industry.

Parties wishing to receive notice of the first council meeting should forward their contact information, including e-mail address, to Megan Hayes (**acta@atis.org**). Both ATIS and TIA will also distribute notices via press releases, e-mail and the Web.

Part 68 requirements provide assurances that customer premises terminal equipment does not cause harm to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), or cause damage to telephone company equipment, malfunctions in telephone company billing equipment, degradation of service to consumers, or electrical hazards. The definition of terminal equipment includes a wide range of products - telephones, fax machines, PBX, telecommunications switches, computers and other devices that connect directly to a telephone line.

The FCC's decision to chose ATIS and TIA as joint sponsors was published December 21, 2000, in a Report and Order (R&O) in the matter of 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 68 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, CC Docket No. 99-216. The R&O is available for download at **www.fcc.gov/ccb/nsd/documents/PART68.HTML** and Notice of the Order in the Federal Register at 66 Fed Reg 7579, Wednesday, January 24, 2001.

For further information, contact Ed Hall (**ehall@atis.org**) or Dan Bart (**dbart@tia.eia.org**).

The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) is a member company organization that is the leader for standards and operating procedures for the telecommunications industry. Nearly 3,000 experts from more than 500 telecommunications companies participate in ATIS committees, whose work focus includes network interconnection standards, number portability, improved data transmission, wireless communications, Internet telephony, toll-free access, and order and billing issues. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) frequently refers operations issues to ATIS committees for recommended solutions. Members of ATIS and committee participants include, but are not limited to, telecommunications service providers, manufacturers, software developers, resellers, enhanced service providers, and providers of operations support.

Information on ATIS is available on the World Wide Web at **www.atis.org**, or by contacting the ATIS headquarters at 202/628-6380, or by writing to: ATIS, 1200 G Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005.

TIA is the leading trade association servicing the communications and information technology industry, with proven strengths in market development, trade shows, domestic and international advocacy, standards development and e-commerce. Through its worldwide activities, the association facilitates business development opportunities and a competitive market environment. The association provides a

market-focused forum for its more than 1,100 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in global communications. TIA represents the communications sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). Visit them at www.tiaonline.org.

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