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SNIA Releases its First Software with XAM Software Development Kit

*XAM Specification Version 1.0 Receives SNIA Vote Approval; On-track for ANSI
Standards Submission*

London, UK, 28th July 2008 – The Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) announced at the SNIA 2008 Summer Symposium that it has approved the eXtensible Access Method (XAM) version 1.0 specification and released a working draft of the associated XAM Software Development Kit (SDK). The XAM specification is now being prepared for ANSI and ISO accreditation and is expected to be integrated into storage products by autumn 2008 and into applications by early 2009.

The July working draft of the XAM SDK is available for download today and will provide Independent Software Vendors (ISVs), storage vendors and operating system vendors a preliminary version of the tools they need to develop and test the latest XAM specification. The initial release of the XAM SDK will include a C XAM Library with a Java Native Interface (JNI) Wrapper; a Java version of the XAM Library; a Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) VIM and a Reference Vendor Interface Module (VIM). The latest version of the XAM SDK can be accessed here at www.snia.org/xam/software.

“The availability of a preliminary version of the SNIA’s first software suite, the XAM SDK, marks a significant step forward for both the association and the XAM specification in helping to resolve the barriers associated with accessing data five minutes, 50 years or 100 years from now,” said Vincent Franceschini, Chair of the SNIA. “With reference data expected to account for more than half of all corporate data in the next few years, the XAM specification will help fulfil the market needs for a standard that enables information independence for applications and storage needed for long-term digital information retention requirements.”

The XAM Initiative and associated specification development efforts continue to progress and build momentum. More than 45 participants, which include storage vendors, application

developers and academia, are participating in the initiative and its two associated Technical Work Groups. The XAM Initiative is also holding a “plugfest” at the SNIA Technology Center the week of August 18th for vendors and ISV’s interested in testing their integration with the multiple platforms available at the centre. In addition, the first Hands-On-Lab for Developers will be held during [SNIA’s Storage Developers Conference](#) in September. In support of the community of XAM developers, the association has also created a new publicly available [XAM Developers Group](#) community site aimed at sharing best practices, expert advice, first-hand experiences and links to critical XAM resources.

“Our aim is to create both a specification and an SDK that can ease deployment for vendors and provide a simplified and valuable asset to end users,” added Mark Carlson, co-chair of the SNIA XAM SDK Technical Work Group. “The approval of the XAM specification, delivery of this working draft of the XAM SDK, and formation of the open XAM Developers Group mark significant milestones for SNIA, end users and storage vendors. Together these achievements provide the tools, resources and capabilities needed for the industry to come together, accelerate the adoption of the specification and ultimately realise the value of the eventual implementation of XAM in products.”

The discussion surrounding XAM development continues at the 2008 SNIA Summer Symposium until 24th July, as several sessions focus on refining the XAM SDK and the XAM specification. For an overview of the Symposium’s agenda, please visit <http://www.snia.org/events/summersymposium>. For more information on the XAM Initiative, specification and SDK, please visit www.snia.org/xam or sign up for the XAM Developers Group at groups.google.com/group/xam-developers-group.

About the SNIA

The Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) is a not-for-profit global organisation, made up of some 400 member companies and 7,000 individuals spanning virtually the entire storage industry. SNIA’s mission is to lead the storage industry worldwide in developing and promoting standards, technologies, and educational services to empower organisations in the management of information. To this end, the SNIA is uniquely committed to delivering standards, education, and services that will propel open storage networking solutions into the broader market. For additional information, visit the SNIA Web site at www.snia.org.

About SNIA Europe

The Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) Europe is dedicated to high-level knowledge exchange, thought-leadership and to promotion of the acceptance, deployment and confidence in open storage-related architectures, systems, services and technologies, across the IT and business community. To achieve this, SNIA Europe runs a coordinated series of activities at both pan-European and country-level to provide a central source of unbiased information on storage networking technologies. It is the voice of authority that delivers education and information on networked storage and associated technologies across Europe, Africa and the Middle

East. SNIA Europe is a non-profit, vendor-neutral organisation run by its members, which include over 100 vendors, channel partners and end users. For further information you can email euroinfo@snia.org, contact +44 (0) 20 8785 5555, or visit www.snia-europe.org.

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Notes for editors

In order to promote the understanding and adoption of networked storage SNIA Europe runs a coordinated series of activities at both pan-European and individual country-level; these include:

- SNIA runs a number of tutorials developed by its members for anyone interested in expanding their knowledge of the networked storage industry and its technologies; the SNIA Europe Academy, a series of comprehensive, one-day tutorials designed to provide storage professionals with regular educational programs on key storage technologies and solutions, will take place in a number of countries in the coming months including, Milan (16th September), Warsaw (17th September), 27th January (Zurich) and Dubai (3rd February);
- Certification: SNIA has developed a certification program for IT professionals. This is the first independent certification of its kind;
- Storage User Council: country-specific, vendor-independent user groups run by users for users with the participation and support of the vendor community. The European End User Council Chair is an advisory member of the SNIA Europe Board of Directors;
- Storage Networking World - Europe (www.snweurope.com): the only fully independent conference where IT professionals can listen to the industry's leading figures share their expertise and insights, attend SNIA-endorsed education tracks, get hands-on access to the wide range of SNIA-sanctioned solutions demonstrations, and get the time to mix with industry peers and technology experts who are faced with similar IT storage issues every day;
- Storage Networking Times - This quarterly newsletter is written by SNIA Europe representatives and independent industry analysts and is aimed at end users. With sections including educational articles, a regional spotlight and a myths uncovered column, Storage Networking Times is a key resource for all EMEA IT professionals involved in storage and data management and can be accessed on www.snia-europe.org/news_events/e_news/.

SNIA Europe's programs are overseen by the member-elected Board of Directors, responsible for high-level strategy, direction, focus and region-wide activities. Four directors hold the officer positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Other members of the Board are responsible for membership, events, marketing, education and country committee liaison. Other committees include those responsible for the IP Storage Initiative, SMI and Data Management Initiative. Below is the current Board of Directors as it now stands until October 2009:

- Juergen Arnold – Chairman, HP, Germany
- Malte Rademacher – Vice Chairman, EMC, Germany
- Matthias Werner – Secretary and Events Committee Co-chair, IBM, Switzerland
- Bob Plumridge – Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair, Hitachi Data Systems, UK
- Frank Bunn – Director and Storage Management Initiative Chair, Symantec, Germany
- Aad Dekkers – Director and IP Storage Initiative Chair, NetApp, The Netherlands
- Walter Dey – Director, Liaison to Education Committee and Events Committee Co-chair, Cisco Systems, Switzerland

- Philippe Nicolas – Director and Data Management Initiative Interim Chair, Brocade, France
- Alan Wallman – Director and Strategic Alliances Committee Chair, Emulex, UK

In addition, SNIA Europe today has country and regional committees in:

- BeNeLux: John Myklebust, BeNeLuxchair@snia.org
- Czech Republic and Slovakia: Rostislav Jirkal, Czech-Slovakchair@snia.org
- France: Philippe Nicolas, francechair@snia.org
- Germany: Stefan Ehmann, germanychair@snia.org
- Italy: Marco Spoldi, italychair@snia.org
- Middle East: Mahesh Vaidya, mideast-chair@snia.org
- Nordics: Bjarne Madsen, nordicschair@snia.org
- Russia: Alexander Dudnik, russia-chair@snia.org
- Switzerland: Laurent Piguet, switzerlandchair@snia.org
- UK: Jon Tate, ukchair@snia.org

Their primary responsibilities are to promote and host the activities of SNIA Europe in the individual countries.

In addition, SNIA Europe has established the following Technology Initiatives to develop and implement education programs in key areas of technology:

- Data Management Initiative: Philippe Nicolas, Chair, DMI-Europe-Chair@snia.org
The Data Management Initiative committee works in conjunction with the US Data Management Forum to educate the market about three key areas of data management: Data Protection, Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) and Long Term Archive and Compliance Storage Initiative (L-TACSI)
- IP Storage Initiative: Aad Dekkers, Chair, IPSI-Europe-Chair@snia.org
The IP Storage Initiative focuses on delivering educational programs and seminars on the benefits and positioning of various IP storage technologies and solutions, including IETF-ratified standards FCIP, iFCP, and iSCSI. The work with the US IP Storage Forum to develop content based on current standards and best practices
- Storage Management Initiative: Frank Bunn, Chair, SMI-europe-chair@snia.org
The Storage Management committee serves as the European liaison group to the US Storage Management Forum, created by the SNIA to develop and standardise interoperable storage management technologies and promote them to the storage, networking, and end user communities.

These initiatives work with the European program committees and maintain a liaison to the SNIA technology forums in the US, where standards and best practices in these areas are being developed. A complete list of initiatives, publications, committees and events is available at www.snia-europe.org.

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