

## From the President's Desk

Dear NTAF Members and Industry Colleagues,

Happy First Anniversary to NTAF! Thank you for climbing aboard the NTAF express! It has been both exciting and rewarding to associate with the visionaries in the network testing industry and it has been a personal pleasure to work with you.

March 1<sup>st</sup> marked the completion of NTAF's first year as an organization and what a year it has been. As the principal forum for the network test automation industry, we have met many challenges on our Road to 1.0 and I am thrilled to inform you that the finish line for our first RFC outlining general communications between test devices is within sight. I am also pleased to report that every one of NTAF's [member companies](#) has rejoined for 2011. In addition, I am delighted to welcome Shenick Network Systems ([www.shenick.com](http://www.shenick.com)) as the newest member of NTAF. I know you join me in welcoming Shenick to our band of visionaries.

As NTAF looks forward to the next phase, I believe, to quote a classic song, "the best is yet to come". The Board of Directors, the Technical Committee and Marketing Committee have aligned on a plan for the next 12 months which I invite you to download from ARO (<http://www.ntaforum.org/members/aro.html>). I am confident that our plan for the coming year is achievable and has our automation goals and interests covered. I am equally confident that our amazing teams will deliver on the plan and that the results will prove to be a strong force for positive change in the test automation industry.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge NTAF's incredible volunteers who, over the course of the last year met week after week, attended meetings and shared ideas to keep NTAF moving forward so successfully. As individuals and as a community it is *your* efforts that have made NTAF what it is today – a vibrant, thriving forum.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank all of you for your ongoing support and contributions. This victory lap is all yours.

Sincerely,

Keith Kidd, Verizon

President, NTAF

### **1. NTAF Meeting Announcement**

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that NTAF will hold a face to face Technical Committee meeting and NTAF's first Annual Meeting

"...the best association/marketing money we have ever spent."

- *Dmitry Gorin, Linkbit Co-Founder and COO on joining NTAF*

### Welcome New NTAF Members

- New Members

#### Q4/10

- Brocade
- MRV

#### Q1/11

- Shenick

### We Want to Hear from You

- **Linked-In**  
Share your thoughts and ideas with our community on the [NTAF Group on Linked-In](#).
- **Blog**  
Submit articles or posts for the [NTAF blog](#) by contacting [info@ntaforum.org](mailto:info@ntaforum.org).

on May 17-18, 2011 in Washington D.C. Further details about this meeting will be announced soon!

***Reminder: Please respond to the meeting poll by 5:00pm PDT Monday, March 21 to help us reserve adequate meeting space.***

## **2. Leadership Elections**

Nominations are now being sought for the NTAF Board of Directors and Committee Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Interested candidates should submit a completed Declaration of Candidacy form no later than 5:00pm PDT, March 29, 2011, Attn: [jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org](mailto:jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org).

Self-nominations are welcome. Please contact Julianne Fitzpatrick if you need a copy of the Declaration of Candidacy form or if you have any other questions.

### **2011 Election Schedule**

Tuesday, March 15, 2011	Call for Nominations
Tuesday, March 29, 2011	Nominations Due
Wednesday, March 30, 2011	Ballot forms sent to Members
Wednesday, April 13, 2011	Ballots due
Thursday, April 14, 2011	Announce election results

## **3. Welcome Shenick Network Systems**

NTAF is delighted to welcome our newest Principal Member, Shenick Network Systems. Shenick is an award winning provider of IP communication test and measurement systems. Shenick's solutions address key next-generation converged network and application performance issues. Shenick is represented by Robert Winters, Mark Lambe and Ultan Kelly.

#### 4. Social-Media Contributors Wanted

Did you know that NTAF hosts a Linked-in Group *and* a blog on the NTAF website? If you or your company would like to contribute to the blog or start a conversation on Linked-in – we welcome your messages and posts. The guidelines are broad but please keep content in line with the External Communications Policy, ([http://www.ntaforum.org/documents/NTAFExternalComm.Policy\\_Approved.pdf](http://www.ntaforum.org/documents/NTAFExternalComm.Policy_Approved.pdf)).

For more information, please contact Julianne at [jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org](mailto:jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org) or Todd Law at [todd.law@spirent.com](mailto:todd.law@spirent.com).

#### 5. Committee Meetings – All Are Welcome

The Technical Committee and Marketing Committee meet every other week, respectively and are open to all NTAF members and new folks are very welcome to join and participate. If you or your colleagues would like to attend a meeting, please send a note requesting the meeting schedule to [jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org](mailto:jfitzpatrick@ntaforum.org).

#### 6. Important Dates (March-May 2011)

##### **March**

March 20 – Spring begins

***March 31 – Release of 1.0***

##### **April**

April 28 Passover begins

April 22 Good Friday

April 25 Easter Monday

##### **May**

***May 17-18 NTAF Meeting, Washington D.C.***

May 23 Victoria Day (Canada)

May 30 Memorial Day (US)



## **NTAF NEWSLETTER**

April 2011