



MetroWAND™ 3.3 Features Automated Network Design Platform

Meets Key Challenges in Transport Network Design and Optimization

March 3, 2005 – Ossining, NY – RSoft Design Group, the established leader in photonics simulation software, is introducing a new Automated Network Design Platform to MetroWAND, its network modeling environment for service providers and equipment vendors that streamlines network modeling, network design and service planning functionalities. The new platform will provide a new equipment library and interface to OSS/NMS.

Service providers are constantly rebuilding and restructuring their networks to secure long-term business success in the global telecom market. Designing today's transport network is complex, and technology decisions have a huge impact on both short and long term service offerings, the quality and reliability of services, and capital and operational costs. This is especially important as networks become increasingly multi-service, multi-protocol, and carry traffic with various protection/restoration requirements. Accurate network modeling provides service providers much needed confidence in network investment decisions, high quality network design, and choice of technology.

Accurate and detailed modeling of Network Element (NE) is essential for network planners to estimate investment needs. The majority of vendor-supplied network planning software today uses a high-level cost model, which usually lumps either the total cost of an entire NE or the cost of common components within an NE. However, these high-level models are insensitive to changing costs and configurations of the components within an NE and thus are inflexible to provide an accurate cost estimate for creating and maintaining an NE. Therefore a model that allows a detailed break up of the cost metrics which can be updated as needed, becomes very critical.

To address the above needs, MetroWAND 3.3 introduces a new equipment library that contains cost, technology and design rule information. The equipment library is implemented as an XML interface to the software which allows the user to fully customize the NE or network node model and use it directly in the process of network planning. When used with MetroWAND's proven ring and mesh design capabilities, the equipment library becomes a very powerful utility for network design.

The equipment library feature in MetroWAND 3.3 is especially useful to equipment vendors. Making use of this library, a Bill of Materials (BOM) for the network design solution can be easily created and, directly be used for their sales response needs. This provides an added support for the equipment vendor in projecting accurate design costs to the service provider. The feature also enables equipment vendors to keep track of historical changes in a network so that new network planners who are not familiar with the company's past product-lines and network design activities can quickly be updated.

MetroWAND can not only assist in determining the cost of a new network, but can also help determine the ongoing cost of maintenance. The frequency of adding or removing capacity, or bandwidth, to a network is high in a typical transport network. Modern NMS and OSS are used by service providers and equipment providers to efficiently manage the provisioning of circuits and thereby reducing the operating expenditure. Modern networks are usually quite complex, and it is a tough job for network planners to find spare capacity in the network. Decisions based on a working network design interfaced with an NMS is a synergy that greatly simplifies this task.

Using MetroWAND in conjunction with an NMS is a total network planning solution. This approach ensures that both financial and technical requirements are met for all parties dealing with network design and cost analysis. Information required for planning purposes can be automatically updated giving the network planner confidence that only the most current information is used to create a network model. As a result, the network planner can be confident in the estimated cost as well as about the compatibility between new and

existing equipment. The new equipment library and NMS interface also puts RSoft in a unique position to work with equipment vendors to easily and flexibly create vendor-specific equipment models and NMS interfaces, which will provide important benefits for equipment vendors to serve the needs for service providers.

For more information or a demo of MetroWAND, please visit the RSoft Design Group booth #2021 at OFC/NFOEC 2005, or contact RSoft Design Group at info@rsoftdesign.com

About RSoft Design Group, Inc.

Offering a comprehensive suite of design and business analysis software solutions to the telecommunications, photonics, and semiconductor industries, RSoft Design Group is the only company that provides a full range of simulation and planning software and services across the entire component to network-level hierarchy. The company's award-winning products are used by researchers, manufacturers, systems integrators, and service providers to address design challenges ranging from the physics of component design to the business implications of planning networks. RSoft Design Group, Inc. is a privately held corporation with software development offices across the United States, and global marketing operations in the Pacific Rim, Europe, and other worldwide locations.

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