



AFORE Accelerates Data Center WAN Performance with ASE3300 Network Optimization Appliance

Enables High Performance Virtualization and Storage Networking over Ethernet & IP WANs

Ottawa, Ontario, CANADA – October 16, 2008— AFORE Solutions, Inc., a leader in the design and delivery of technology solutions for the networking industry, today unveiled its ASE3300™ Network Optimization Appliance, part of its Accelerated Secure Ethernet technology suite. The ASE3300 targets inter data center networks providing optimized, secure high performance extensions over diverse wide area networks (WAN).

"AFORE's ASE3300 is the first system to converge the key capabilities required to effectively address the full requirements for interconnecting Data Centers," said Alex Berlin, AFORE's President and CEO. "The ability to provide secure, optimized and lossless wide area networking with high performance and low latency provides the seamless data and storage virtualization required by today's Enterprises."

While Enterprises are becoming more global and distributed, their data and application servers are becoming increasingly centralized in order to secure and optimize their IT networks. Enterprises, Data Center Operators, and Managed Service Providers must now interconnect a broader suite of data center protocols and applications over a variety of IP, Metro Ethernet, or Private Line wide area networks. The rapid development of new applications and the surge in Data Center capacity has created the need for network optimization solutions to extend storage, virtualization and high performance data network applications between enterprise data centers and managed service provider's points of presence. Rapid data center expansions are occurring around the world as businesses evolve to compete globally.

"AFORE has a significant solution in a rapidly developing segment of the communications market," said Frank Dzubeck, president of Communications Network Architects, Inc. "Both large and small enterprises are beginning to evaluate the concepts of private and/or hybrid cloud-computing. This will drastically effect the way they interconnect data centers and end-users. The changes that may occur can be as dramatic as the outsourcing of the WAN to a next-generation services delivery provider (SDP) to, as a minimum, the re-engineering of the WAN to meet cloud computing quality of service (QoS), latency, security and service-level agreement (SLA) requirements. AFORE's solution is an important infrastructure element in this transition process."

The ASE3300 is purpose built to specifically address the needs of inter data center networks. The ASE3300 consolidates the functionality of multiple devices into a single, high performance application agnostic platform enabling Enterprises, Data Center Operators, and Managed Service Providers to improve application delivery, extend storage and virtualization, secure all data in flight, and dramatically reduce wide area networking costs. Easy to manage, simple to deploy, and high performance tuned with ultra low latency, the ASE3300 accelerates any application over any network.

"In this era of data center consolidation, enterprises are looking for transparent and reliable networks for interconnecting their mission critical data centers over wide area networks," said Michael Howard, Principal Analyst and Co-Founder of Infonetics Research. "The ability to offer high performance, secure connections between redundant data centers for storage, virtualization, and enterprise applications is an ongoing requirement for many industries. Service providers want to offer their premium customers the premium services enabled by the ASE3300 appliance, including low latency, bandwidth efficiencies, and secure interconnections. With the many capabilities included in the ASE3300, I'm sure enterprises and Managed Service Providers will be interested in AFORE before the next WAN contract renewal."

Security and data integrity are top of mind concerns for all business. "Up until now, security has been at the periphery of wide area network optimization strategies. In the near future however, we expect it to be a critical requirement as security features such as site-to-site encryption would be increasingly important with growing regulatory compliance pressures," states industry analyst Arun Chandrasekaran of Frost & Sullivan.

Combined with advanced Ethernet, Fiber Channel, and IP optimization capabilities such as Gigabit rate lossless data compression and network packet loss immunity and recovery, the ASE3300 secures all wide area networks with advanced AES-256 bit network encryption guaranteeing reliable, highly optimized and secure wide area network connectivity.

Key technology advances of the ASE3300 include:

- EtherPACK – The ASE3300 has a dedicated hardware compression engine for each client port, providing extremely low latency, high performance compression of multiple Gigabit rate interfaces. EtherPACK offers a transparent mode of operation enabling any network protocol and application to be compressed. Compression ratios up to and exceeding 10:1 with latency in microseconds have been achieved in live network deployments.
- EtherSECURE – The ASE3300 provides hardware-based, low latency AES-256 encryption for secure protection of all traffic types. The encryption process operates on a per port basis and provides a high degree of flexibility supporting IP, Metro Ethernet & legacy wide area networks.
- EtherCORRECT – The ASE3300 re-sequences out of order frames and detects / recovers entire packets that have been dropped due to congestion or network errors using a groundbreaking packet level error recovery algorithm. This accelerates TCP/IP based application performance by eliminating costly re-transmissions and provides a reliable network for loss intolerant applications such as native Fibre Channel, UDP (e.g. VoIP & video) and TDM circuit emulation.
- SAN-XTEND – Storage applications require high bandwidth connectivity and are intolerant of data loss, requirements that leverage the ASE3300 EtherPACK and EtherCORRECT capabilities to provide reliable, optimized wide area networking. The ASE3300 enables SAN extension between geographically diverse data centers covering distances of thousands of kilometers. SAN-XTEND enables disaster recovery and synchronized back-up for both Fibre Channel and Ethernet deployments.
- JumboSLICE - Many enterprises and applications employ Jumbo frames within their local area and storage networks yet many wide area services are unable to accommodate Jumbo frames. The ASE3300 can fragment large frames into smaller frames (max size programmable) at GigE rates with low latency. Frames are re-assembled at the far end, ensuring the process is transparent to the customer application.
- HyperTUNNEL – The ASE3300 offers high speed WAN encapsulation technology for tunneling aggregated LAN and SAN traffic across Metro Ethernet and IP/MPLS networks. The ASE3300 delivers high-speed, low latency transparent connectivity between remote server groups enabling applications which traditionally operate within a single data center such as VMotion™ to now extend between data centers.

“Virtualization and cloud computing will revolutionize the way enterprises build their networks,” said Jonathan Reeves, AFORE’s Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer. “The ASE3300 has a rich suite of technology innovations that address the needs of enterprises and managed service providers seeking to provide differentiated data center services.”

In addition, AFORE’s ASE System Manager is a distributed standards-based network management platform providing end to end management and reporting tools which can readily integrate with third party SNMP management systems. The ASE3300 has powerful SLA performance management and policy engines with programmable threshold based alerts, providing storage of a 7 day history logged with 15 minute granularity. This greatly reduces the management overhead required to manage SLAs across a large network of customer sites for applications such as managed service providers & cloud computing services.

The ASE3300 is generally available.

About AFORE Solutions:

AFORE is a leading provider of innovative technology to the networking industry. Our unique blend of custom development, InterPort™ technology, and system solutions enables network equipment providers and Enterprises to accelerate innovation and deployment of advanced networking applications.

AFORE - *Acceleration FOR Ethernet*™ For more information visit: www.aforesolutions.com.

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