

## FACT SHEET

### MRA FOR RESULTS OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN

June 27, 2007

**Q: Who will benefit from this MRA?**

**A:** Both U.S. and Japanese manufacturers of telecommunications terminal equipment and radio equipment will benefit by having reduced expenses and shorter processing times to export their products to each others' markets. This is particularly helpful for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who may not have a presence in the export market, but whose innovative technology is in high demand. Independent certification bodies for telecommunications equipment, if designated as Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) under the Agreement, can also compete for the provision of conformity assessment services. In 2005, Japanese suppliers exported \$1.6 billion dollars worth of telecommunications equipment to the United States, and U.S. suppliers exported \$1 billion dollars worth of telecommunications equipment to Japan.

**Q: What type of equipment is covered by this MRA?**

**A:** The scope is specified in Annex Section VI of the Agreement. Each country determines the equipment that is subject to certification in its own market. For some products, Suppliers Declaration of Conformity is allowed, but in other cases, third party certification is required. In particular, wireless devices and wireless networking equipment tend to have more burdensome technical requirements, and therefore would especially benefit from faster turnarounds of approval applications. A product does not have to be manufactured by a U.S. company to be approved for export to Japan by a designated CAB under this Agreement, but the CAB must be located in the United States.

**Q: What about Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) requirements?**

**A:** The FCC's requirements for Unintentional Radiators and Industrial, Scientific, and Medical Equipment are not covered by the MRA. Based on a separate exchange of letters, the FCC will accept test results for IT equipment from accredited Japanese laboratories, provided VCCI (Voluntary Control Council for Interference), a private-sector Japanese organization, accepts test results for IT equipment from U.S.-accredited laboratories.

**Q: When will this MRA be implemented?**

**A:** Japan formally approved the MRA through legislation on June 19, 2007. The FCC and NIST will work with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) to establish the appropriate application procedures for designation of CABs. The MRA will enter into force later this year after both countries have completed their internal preparations and exchange diplomatic notes. For more information and updates, please refer to [NIST's information page on MRAs](#).

The complete text of the agreement is available [here](#).