

*For Immediate Release*

**IIJ and Hitachi Metals to Expand Partnership in the SDN Solutions Market  
for Enterprise Networks**

TOKYO—January 12, 2016—Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ, NASDAQ: IJJI, TSE: 3774) and Hitachi Metals, Ltd. (Hitachi Metals, TSE: 5486) today agreed to further their technological partnership, entering the area of enterprise networking solutions that utilize Software Defined Networking (SDN)<sup>\*1</sup> technologies.

The two companies will develop solutions that combine SDN controllers developed by IIJ with Hitachi Metals' Ethernet switch products and will open up new areas of the market by re-selling one another's products and services.

Major initiatives:

The two companies will combine their technological expertise to deliver efficient enterprise networks that employ SDN technologies.

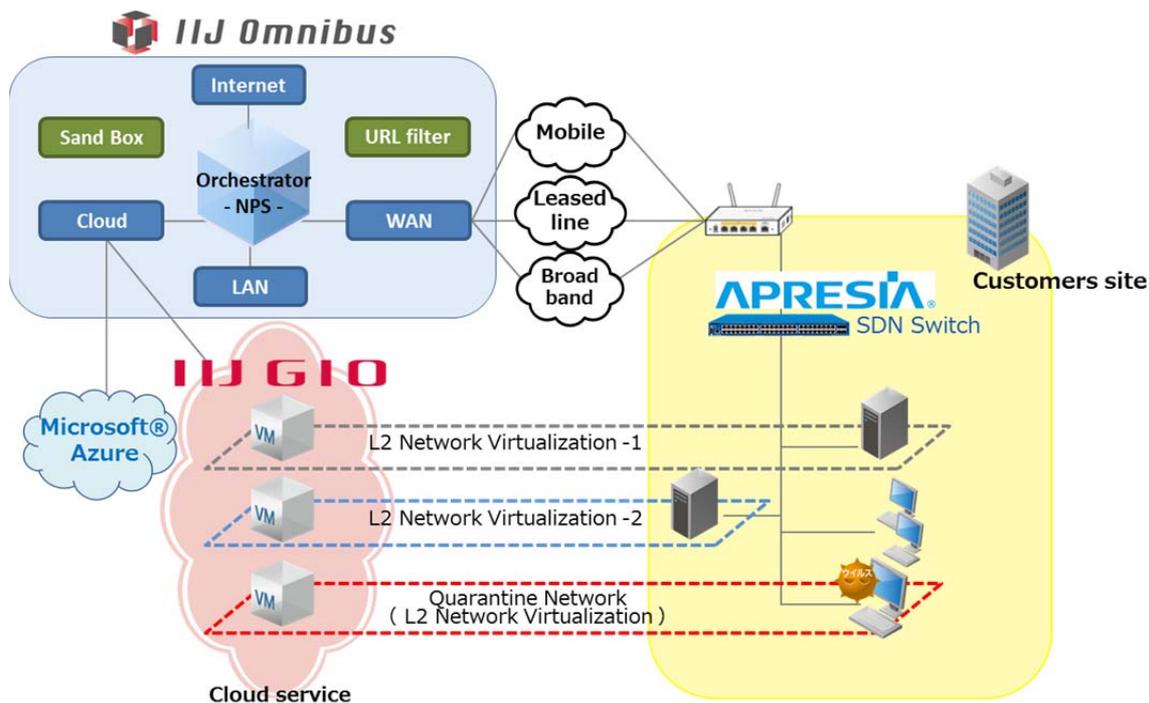
- IIJ and Hitachi Metals will conduct technical demonstrations for the eventual commercialization of new solutions, including a test of interconnecting IIJ's SDN controller “OmniWarp” with Hitachi Metals's APRESIA series of switch products.
- The two companies will develop networking solutions that combine “IIJ Omnibus Service”—IIJ's cloud networking service using SDN and NFV technologies—with the APRESIA series.
- IIJ and Hitachi Metals will re-sell one another's products and services and propose SDN solutions that combine both companies' products.

Background:

IIJ and Hitachi Metals (formerly Hitachi Cable, Ltd.) began joint technical consultations concerning wide-area networks that employ SDN (SDN-WAN) in 2013. The two companies are now expanding their area of joint consultations to the domain of enterprise LANs. They are redoubling their cooperation in the development of new SDN solutions that employ each other's products and technological expertise. IIJ and Hitachi Metals will work together to meet their customers' needs for enterprises network virtualization.

They plan to announce details concerning their current endeavors at SDN Japan show, which will be held from January 14 and 15, 2016, at Ochanomizu Sola City Hall.

Case consultation:



## ■ Links

IIJ Omnibus Service: <http://www.ij.ad.jp/en/news/pressrelease/2015/0715.html>

APRESIA series: <http://www.apresia.jp/en/index.html>

\* All company names and service names used in this press release are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. "APRESIA" is a registered trademark of Hitachi Metals. "Ethernet" is a registered trademark of Fuji Xerox Co., Ltd.

\*1 Software defined networking (SDN): A next-generation network concept in which the entire network is controlled (defined) by software in order to dynamically configure the network.

## About IIJ

Founded in 1992, Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ, NASDAQ: IJJI, Tokyo Stock Exchange TSE1: 3774) is one of Japan's leading Internet-access and comprehensive network solutions providers. IIJ and its group companies provide total network solutions that mainly cater to high-end corporate customers. IIJ's services include high-quality systems integration, cloud computing/data center services, security services, and Internet access. Moreover, IIJ has built one of the largest Internet backbone networks in Japan that is connected to the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia. IIJ was listed on NASDAQ in 1999 and on the First Section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange in 2006. For more information about IIJ, visit the IIJ Web site at <http://www.ij.ad.jp/en/>.

## About Hitachi Metals, Ltd.

Hitachi Metals, Ltd., (TSE: 5486), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, with approximately 30,278 employees worldwide and consolidated revenue totaled over 1,004 billion yen in fiscal 2014 (ended March 31, 2015), is one of the major members of the Hitachi Group of companies. The company manufactures and markets a diverse portfolio of high-grade metal products and materials, magnetic materials and applications, high-grade functional components and equipment, wires, cables, and related products. To learn more, visit [www.hitachi-metals.co.jp/e/](http://www.hitachi-metals.co.jp/e/).

*The statements within this release contain forward-looking statements about our future plans that involve risk and uncertainty. These statements may differ materially from actual future events or results. Readers are referred to the documents furnished by Internet Initiative Japan Inc. with the SEC, specifically the most recent reports on Forms 20-F and 6-K, which identify important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements.*

For inquiries, contact:

IIJ Corporate Communications Tel: +81-3-5205-6310 E-mail: [press@ij.ad.jp](mailto:press@ij.ad.jp)

Yoshihara, Communications Department, Hitachi Metals, Ltd. TEL: +81-3-6774-3073