



WTL Pass France Telecom SS7 Spirou Tests in Record Time

The WTL SoIP Gateway has passed formal interconnect testing with France Telecom's SS7 network. France Telecom uses "Spirou", a national variant of ISUP, and WTL were able to pass all required tests in the shortest possible time.

A key factor in the speed of passing the tests was the quick and easy way that the SoIP can be reconfigured to deal with all the many different test scenarios required by France Telecom.

Matthew Saltiel, Account Manager for WTL in France, stressed the value of this approval, "It is so important to get the testing right first time when interconnecting with a major PTT like this. A failure means that the customer has to go round the whole testing loop again and that means a delay to launching your service and paying the test fees a second time. Now, any customer in France who connects to Spirou knows that the WTL SoIP Gateway will pass first time."

The testing was based on VoIP subscribers connecting directly to the SoIP and being routed through to France Telecom via SS7 links for PSTN break-out. This represents a typical business model for WTL's operator customers who collect calls from residential and business users via SIP trunks. This model meant that features had to be supported which are specific to residential and business subscribers: call redirection, privacy options and emergency calls, for example. Direct Spirou interconnection with France Telecom gives the WTL customer better revenue, more flexibility and greater technical autonomy.

Charles Elong, a third party consultant who managed the entire interconnect project praised the efficiency of the France Telecom test regime, "From the pre-test conference calls to the actual on-site engineer, everybody was very helpful and professional. The whole process was remarkably smooth and, of course, we had put in a lot of time and effort running through the specifications and preparing for the formal tests. They seemed to appreciate that WTL knew SS7 very, very well; they didn't have to explain things twice to us."

Simon Pearson, WTL's Business Development Director agreed adding, "WTL have dealt with the testing departments of many PTTs over the years and I must say that this was one of the best. Our company has developed its own SS7 stack which, of course, gives us the freedom to modify and reconfigure the switch very quickly. The France Telecom engineers acknowledged this, they pointed out that

it normally takes ages for the manufacturer to fine-tune between tests but with WTL, it was done in the blink of an eye.”

For reference, the WTL SoIP was tested as OLB (local loop) and ELB (long distance) equipment according to the ARCEP (French regulator) test specifications. The tests involved proving that calls are routed correctly in many different scenarios and that all SS7 signalling elements are interpreted correctly. A major benefit in this case is the use of configurable filters which allow the WTL SoIP to either pass SS7 elements transparently, block them or act upon them locally within the switch. It is this flexibility which maintains the integrity of the SS7 signalling across the network.

About WTL:

World Telecom Labs is a Belgium-based company which has long been a leader in the provision of VoIP switches, Pre-Paid applications and signaling gateways for emerging carriers and telecom service operators. WTL has an installed base of 100,000s of voice ports with service providers worldwide switching billions of minutes of VoIP traffic using WTL equipment. For more information about WTL and its products, please visit www.wtl.dk or email sales@wtl.dk.