



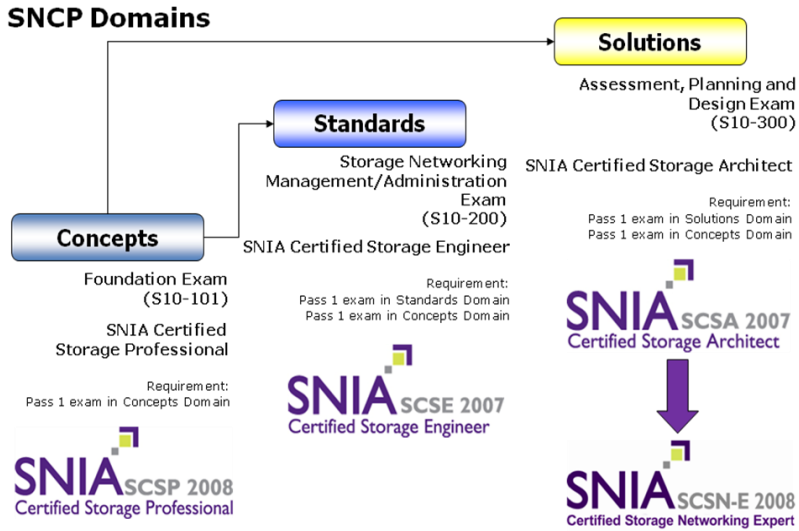
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SNIA ANZ SEES RISE IN STORAGE NETWORKING CERTIFICATION Increase in training course attendance and exam passes

Sydney, 2 December 2008 – The Storage Networking Industry Association for Australia and New Zealand today announced a large increase in storage professionals undertaking the Storage Networking Certification Programme (SNCP) with a high percentage of delegates passing the appropriate examinations. Since August 2007 there has been an increase of more than 100% in the number of certified professionals in the region with more than 40 being accredited in the last two months.

The SNIA Storage Networking Certification Program (SNCP) provides a strong foundation of vendor-neutral, systems-level credentials that integrate with and complement individual vendor certifications. The structure of the SNCP has been enhanced to reflect the advancement and growth of storage networking technologies into areas such as virtualisation, storage management, and IP storage.



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“One of SNIA’s strategic objectives is to promote and provide educational services to storage professionals,” said Craig Scroggie, Chairman of the SNIA Board. “SNIA is making a significant impact to the availability and credibility of storage based education in Australia and New Zealand. Our intent is to make this level of education available to all those who have storage and information management responsibilities and also offer this to universities so that we can instil storage as a fundamental part of the IT education path.”

Chair of the SNIA ANZ Education Committee, Catherine Rosenbrauer stated, “I’m delighted with the success of the SNIA education program. Over the past year we have enhanced the education courses by partnering with strong training organisations that provide high quality education to storage professionals, encouraging students to take the SNCP examination. The qualification is widely recognised as a benchmark of storage knowledge and provides the industry with valuable transparency and validation around skill and knowledge levels.”

One of the recent most successful candidates, a Senior Solutions Architect with Alphawest, a SingTel Optus Group Company, was particularly pleased to have qualified as a Storage Networking Expert with a 100% pass mark which places him amongst an elite few in the world. He stated “My role at Alphawest presents me with challenges every day in designing business critical storage solutions for our customers. Product knowledge and certifications are important, but clients require a lot more than this due to their interoperable and complex environments. Consequently, my broad range of advanced storage industry certifications such as SNCP enables me to provide our customers with more efficient and professional consultation services and technical skills, saving them time and money on their implementations, integrations and projects. There are also only six people in Australia who have these advanced storage certifications and two of these are at Alphawest, which helps reassure our customers of the level of experience and expertise they are receiving.”



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### About the SNIA

The Storage Networking Industry Association (SNIA) is a not-for-profit global organization made up of more than 420 active member companies plus their worldwide affiliates and close to 7,100 active individuals spanning virtually the entire storage industry.

SNIA members share the common goal of leading the worldwide storage industry in developing and promoting standards, technologies, and educational services to empower organizations in the management of information. SNIA has a corporate mission to :

- Be the trusted advisor across all business segments and the recognized authority in storage technologies in support of information management.
- Be the catalyst for the development of information technologies and storage standards.
- Establish a strong international presence to address the needs and requirements of the local storage and information management marketplace.

For additional information, visit the web site at [www.snia.org](http://www.snia.org) or in ANZ visit [www.snia.org.au](http://www.snia.org.au)

SNIA ANZ is the regional affiliate responsible for the regional activities. SNIA ANZ is also a not-for-profit organisation registered in Australia and is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership each year to represent the Association.

The current Board of Directors are:

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