

22 August 2019 ASX Announcement

## **Vonex Protects and Bolsters Oper8tor Platform**

## Highlights:

- Vonex has lodged a new application with the Patent Office to protect the IP surrounding the unique Message functionality of its Oper8tor aggregated communications platform
- Extended testing period provides valuable insight ahead of initial launch
- The Company has elected to write its own code for a range of tasks to ensure Vonex can control the stability of several key elements of Oper8tor. Insourcing this work will ensure that Vonex delivers the best possible version of Oper8tor on launch
- Vonex reaffirms its marketing and commercialisation plan for Oper8tor, which will target the large and attractive Europe market

Telecommunications innovator Vonex Limited ("Vonex" or the "Company") (ASX: VN8) is pleased to provide shareholders with an update on progress towards the launch of the Oper8tor app.

Oper8tor is a disruptive aggregated communications platform which targets the inclusion of Conference, Voice, Message and Video functionality, facilitating user communication across a broad swathe of channels. The mobile app aims to seamlessly link all voice calls as well as messaging across multiple platforms and devices.

Vonex's recent testing of Oper8tor has empowered the Company to achieve new developmental milestones, particularly relating to the platform's Message functionality. During the testing process the Company has identified the potential to secure additional intellectual property (IP) protection covering this unique service. The Company's patent attorney has lodged an application with the Australian Patent Office to protect this IP. When granted, this will help to de-risk Oper8tor as Vonex commercialises and scales up adoption of the platform.

The Company's tests have also highlighted the opportunity to further develop key elements of the platform more thoroughly to stabilise the app's performance at scale. This requirement flows from the increased complexity of login authentication processes known as two-factor authentication. This level of security has become increasingly adopted and is now common amongst the social media platforms.

Further to this, Vonex has recently elected to write its own code for a broader range of tasks than was initially envisioned. The Company has made this decision to ensure Vonex can control the



stability of several key Oper8tor elements, including third-party connections, consistency of functionality across different manufacturers' devices, and adherence to Android's recently-imposed requirement to provide 64-bit versions of apps.

The extended testing window during the last 6 weeks has been an important stage in the development and has provided valuable insight into the areas requiring further attention prior to initial launch. Vonex plans to complete this work in Q4 of 2019, after which the Company will commence executing its planned marketing and commercialisation strategy for Oper8tor.

Following the successful initial launch of Oper8tor V1 in Australia, Vonex will move to commercialise the app in the European market where the company expects to generate revenue from advertising and in-app purchases.

The Company views Europe as an important step in the roll out of Oper8tor, with an educated and tech-savvy population of approximately 750 million across 44 countries. The close proximity of this audience is attractive from a technical perspective, providing an opportunity for significantly lower back end network costs per user.

As it is a market typically welcoming of new technologies and home to an estimated 500 million smart phone users, Vonex views Europe as the most attractive launching point for Oper8tor.

**ENDS** 

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## About Vonex

Vonex is a full service, award-winning telecommunications service provider selling mobile, internet, traditional fixed lines, and hosted PBX and VoIP services - predominately to the small to medium enterprise ("SME") customer under the Vonex brand. The Company also provides



wholesale customers, such as internet service providers, access to the core Vonex PBX and call termination services at wholesale rates via a white label model.

Vonex also develops new technologies in the telecommunications industry, including a feature-rich cloud-hosted PBX system. Vonex is also developing the Oper8tor App, a multi-platform real-time voice, messaging and social media app that allows users to connect with all social media friends, followers and contacts across different social medias, all consolidated into one app.