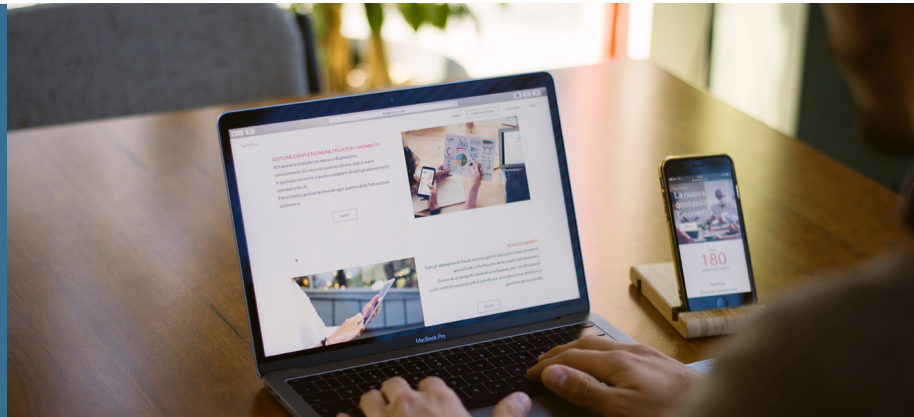**SOLUTION BRIEF**

Integrating Microsoft Teams® and Ekinops xCPE Creates an Ideal Unified Communications as a Service (UCaaS) Platform

With the rapid rise in the number of employees working from home during the Covid pandemic many businesses have been forced to look for a more reliable and scalable communications solution for its distributed workforce. In an increasingly digitized work environment, traditional telephony systems are no longer able to meet all the collaboration requirements of today's modern workforce. What is needed is a more flexible Unified Communications approach that can provide a collaborative platform that not only supports voice calls but can also handle video conferencing, instant messaging and file sharing, wherever the employee is located.

Microsoft Teams has quickly become the platform for Cloud voice with the constant rapid growth of the Unified Communication and Collaboration (UCaaS) business. Teams Direct Routing allows worldwide customers to connect their SIP trunk to Microsoft Teams® platform (Office 365). In this scenario, the customer can still use existing contracts with its favorite service providers while accessing to services provided by the Microsoft Phone System platform. Optionally, the solution allows enterprises using Microsoft Teams to continue using existing on premise customer-owned telephony equipment such as PBX and/or analogue devices.

Adopting Microsoft Teams for your UCaaS solution is the first stage of the transition. The key piece of Direct Routing infrastructure is the certified-Microsoft SBCs (Session Border Controllers). However, the SBC location depends on network topology selected by the Teams service provider, which could be a network operator or an organization. The Teams service provider could follow the partner-hosted scenario, which consists on embracing cloud-based services. In this context, the installation and the management of the Teams are outsourced. Otherwise, the Teams service users that have expertise in-house may manage their own SBC in the customer-deployed scenario.
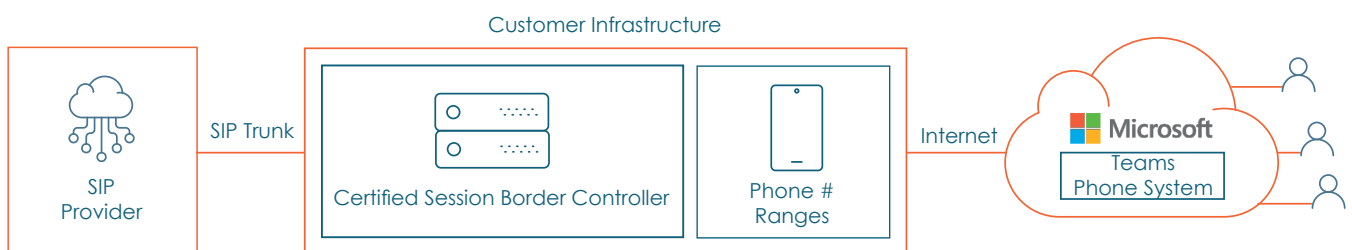
MS Teams and SBC Deployment

All Ekinops pCPE and uCPE routers support SBC functionality out of the box to enable call routing direct from MS Teams via the Internet linking SIP calls to the PSTN network. The SBC also routes incoming calls via the MS Phone System to any Teams-enabled device while monitoring traffic and optimizing the routing of calls with data transfer speed and quality of service.

The Ekinops SBC Solution

The combination of the Ekinops SBC enabled network access technology and the MS Teams business collaboration apps represents a new revenue opportunity for service providers to offer new and existing customers Unified Communications as a service (UCaaS) with minimal set-up and management costs.

Ekinops' flexible, scalable and cost-effective SBC products run on physical CPE or as virtualized software solution (VNF) on a range white box hardware. With support for MS Teams Direct Routing, both the SBC models are based on the OneOS6 operating system providing all feature-sets needed for full interoperability with the Phone System platform, including the support for non-MS Teams users.

Our physical SBCs (ONeSBC) are dedicated to secure enterprises and medium sized organizations with the ability to scale up to six hundred SIP sessions.

Alternatively, the Ekinops virtual SBC (ONEvSBC) scales up to two thousand concurrent calls to meet the needs of both large enterprises and service providers
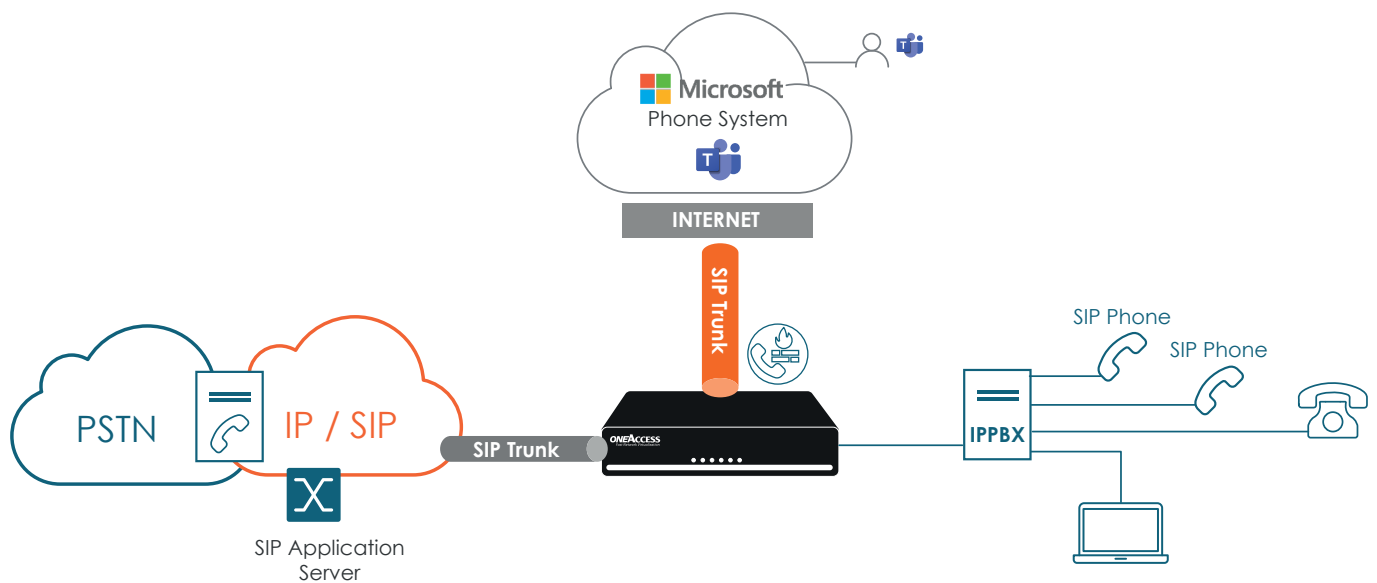
Intelligent Hybrid eSBC

Ekinops SBC provides a strict demarcation point to secure the enterprise against attacks by hiding the network topology and running as a SIP application-level firewall. The hybrid SBC also includes a powerful IP router combined with an optional embedded voice gateway. It also provides multiple analog and digital connectivity options to allow users to take advantage of existing on-premise infrastructure while managing the complexity of the transcoding needs due to the various voice applications in use. The "Intelligent Coder Alignment" feature embedded in OneOS6 Operating System optimizes the use of product capabilities while delivering quality voice services.

Enterprise Hybrid SBC

ONE421, ONE521, ONE526
ONE1526, ONE2501, ONE2520
ONE2515, ONE2540

Flexible Virtual Software SBC

The Ekinops ONEvSBC delivers a full state-of-the-art SBC solution for both enterprises, large organizations and operator networks as an edge Core SBC. It scales up to two thousand simultaneous sessions with a redundant option to ensure voice service continuity in the context of disaster. In this scenario, the SBC takes care of maintaining the established calls.

Ready for virtualization, it supports NETCONF and Call Home for easy deployment.

Enterprise & Operator SBC

Major hypervisors and white-boxes including Ekinops white-boxes (OVP Series)

Controlled Migration to Teams

Controlling the migration is a critical path for MS Teams' service providers. Many organizations may decide to retain on-premise devices to optimize and protect their initial telephony equipment investment. Others might decide to raise additional SIP trunks with their existing service provider or add different service providers for backup and increased resilience. By delivering a complete solution, Ekinops Hybrid SBC represents the ideal solution to interface with the MS Teams Direct Routing platform and offers scalable multi-trunk features as well as options for analog and digital connectivity to simplify migrations to Teams.

A step-by-step method driven by a well-defined need is required to transform existing on-premise platforms and integrate with the MS Teams solution. If required Ekinops can offer a suite of professional services to provide additional support your customers' migration plans.

Simplify Deployment

Enabling the secure trunk for the Phone System for the Ekinops SBC is simple. Using the embedded WebGUI wizard dedicated to Microsoft Direct Routing the tool allows the installer to remotely activate the SBC function and configure the connection in easy to follow steps to achieve a successful deployment.

Microsoft Teams®, Microsoft SBC®, Microsoft® logo, Microsoft® Phone System Platform are registered trademarks of Microsoft.

About Ekinops

Ekinops is a leading provider of open and fully interoperable Layer 1, 2 and 3 solutions to service providers around the world. Our programmable and highly scalable solutions enable the fast, flexible and cost-effective deployment of new services for both high-speed, high-capacity optical transport networks and virtualization-enabled managed enterprise services

Our product portfolio consists of three highly complementary product and service sets: Ekinops360, OneAccess and Compose.

- Ekinops360 provides optical transport solutions for metro, regional and long-distance networks with WDM for high-capacity point-to-point, ring and optical mesh architectures, and OTN for improved bandwidth utilization and efficient multi-service aggregation.

- OneAccess offers a wide choice of physical and virtualized deployment options for Layer 2 and Layer 3 access network functions.

- Compose supports service providers in making their networks software-defined with a variety of software management tools and services, including the scalable SD-WAN Xpress.

As service providers embrace SDN and NFV deployment models, Ekinops enables future-proofed deployment today, enabling operators to seamlessly migrate to an open, virtualized delivery model at a time of their choosing.

A global organization, with operations in 4 continents; Ekinops (EKI) - a public company traded on the Euronext Paris exchange - is headquartered in Lannion, France, and Ekinops Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary, is incorporated in the USA.