Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your liaison COM 15 – LS 382 entitled “Transport of CPRI and future mobile interfaces”.

The IEEE 802.1 Working Group would like to inform you of the IEEE P802.1CM Time-Sensitive Networking for Fronthaul project of the IEEE 802.1 Time-Sensitive Networking (TSN) Task Group. P802.1CM is ongoing work, with collaborative efforts from the Common Public Radio Interface Cooperation. The web page of the project: http://www.ieee802.org/1/pages/802.1cm.html.

The P802.1CM project will specify bridged transport networking over IEEE Std 802.3 Ethernet for the transport of fronthaul traffic, including user data, management and control plane traffic. That is, P802.1CM defines profiles that select features, options, configurations, defaults, protocols and procedures for bridges, stations and LANs that are necessary to build networks that are capable of transporting fronthaul streams. The project includes requirements for the fronthaul interface where the functional decomposition of the radio base station to Radio Equipment (RE) and Radio Equipment Control (REC) is according to the Common Public Radio Interface (CPRI 7.0) specification. Furthermore, the project includes synchronization requirements, which have been provided by the CPRI Cooperation. These requirements may be developed further during the course of the project.

P802.1CM is developing profiles for functional decompositions of the radio base station in close cooperation with CPRI Cooperation. To date, profiles for CPRI 7.0 has been developed. P802.1CM will define profile(s) for a recently announced new functional decomposition: eCPRI (http://www.cpri.info/press.html). Further profiles corresponding to other decompositions may be possible.

Note, however, that the specification of the functional split of the radio base station and the resulting fronthaul interface is out of scope for P802.1CM, which only specifies transport for the fronthaul interface. We will provide you the P802.1CM draft as soon as it reaches a stable enough state, which we anticipate mid-2017.