IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN Committee Achieves Milestone

Proposed Wireless Local Area Network (LAN) standard is submitted to letter ballot.

At the November 1994 plenary meeting the wireless standard working group took a significant step by approving the initial wireless draft standard for letter ballot.

This proposed draft standard includes a single Medium Access Control (MAC) layer which is supported by three Physical (PHY) layer interfaces: Frequency Hopping spread spectrum, Direct Sequence spread spectrum and Infrared technologies. The MAC provides provisions for both distributed and point coordinated wireless LAN communication architectures.

The specification has been designed to accommodate future enhancements, such as those which would provide higher data rates, as they are developed through technological advancements and regulatory expansion.

"This milestone moves IEEE 802.11 closer to our goal of achieving industry-wide interoperability and support of internationalization by utilization of the 2.4 GHz frequency band", said Vic Hayes, chairman of 802.11. "The approval of the draft 80211/D1 for letter ballot is the result of four years of teamwork and commitment by the committee members, an effort that will continue until the standard is adopted for release by the IEEE."

The activity of the IEEE 802.11 committee members now will be to focus on the resolution of issues which may arise out of the balloting process, and to develop test suites to ensure multi-vendor interoperability to the standard.

The next milestone, the submission of the proposed standard to the IEEE Standards Board for publication as an IEEE/ANSI Standard, is scheduled for November 1995.

The draft is available for purchase from the IEEE Document Distribution Service by ordering package 11.20 on or after December 12, 1994. Call 602-863-0999 or fax 602-866-8801 for document ordering information.