
IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

To: Mr. Jan Kruys, Chairman, ETSI Project BRAN

Cc: Jamshid Khun-Jush, ETSI BRAN PHY WG Chairman
Mr. M. Koga, MMAC
Jim Carlo, IEEE P802, Chairman
Howard Frazier, IEEE P802, Recording Secretary
Mary Shepherd, IEEE Standards Department, Intellectual Property Manager

Date: April 28, 1999

Subject: Request for considering adopting the IEEE P802.11a as a member of HIPERLAN family of standards

Dear ETSI BRAN Officers and Members,

The development of the 802.11a High Speed Physical Layer for the 5 GHz band is tightly coordinated with ETSI BRAN Standards Committee. The coordination effort intensified since September 1998, after both standards committees have chosen OFDM as the basis modulation. We were able to reach agreement on all basic parameters of the modulation, and the convergence of many details is making a positive progress. We held a joint meeting in January 1999 in Orlando, Florida. Comments by BRAN as a whole and by individual BRAN members were considered during the 802.11a Working Group ballots. Several significant changes made to 802.11a are a result of adopting BRAN's comments. We would like to thank the BRAN members and in particular the PHY chair, Jamshid Khun-Jush, for the participation in the process and for the expertise they brought.

The 802.11 Wireless LAN Standard in the 2.4 GHz band enjoys significant success worldwide, and in particular in Europe. The 802.11a high speed WLAN standard, developed for the 5 GHz band, faces an obstacle in Europe, since the license exempt bands at 5 GHz in Europe are designated by CEPT for the HIPERLAN project.

We are asking BRAN, as a body which continues to develop the HIPERLAN family of standards, to consider adopting the IEEE 802.11 with the 802.11a Physical Layer as a member of the HIPERLAN family. We are aware of the market overlap between the 802.11a and the HIPERLAN/1. To support our request, we would like to stress the significantly higher level of compatibility between the BRAN's HIPERLAN/2 project and the 802.11a. In particular, several points are worth mentioning. The channelization structure of 802.11a is compatible with HIPERLAN/2. The extreme similarity of the Physical Layers will facilitate reuse of technology and production of dual mode equipment.

The Wireless Ethernet Working Group of MMAC-PC in Japan decided to adopt the 802.11a standard. We are asking your support for introduction of 802.11a as a dominant Wireless LAN standard in the 5 GHz band in Europe and worldwide. We hope that the close cooperation between the 802.11, the BRAN and the MMAC will result in a suite of highly aligned standards for high rate Wireless Access and WLAN, which are applicable worldwide.

Sincerely,

Vic Hayes, Chairman IEEE P802.11,
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