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<b>Draft PAR Confirmation Number:</b>
<b>Submittal Email:</b> bob.grow@ieee.org
<b>Type of Project:</b> PAR for a New Standard
<b>1.1 Project Number:</b> P802.1AX
<b>1.2 Type of Document:</b> Standard for
<b>1.3 Life Cycle:</b> Full
<b>1.4 Is this project in ballot now?</b> No
<b>2.1 Title of Standard:</b> Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks – Link Aggregation
<b>3.1 Name of Working Group:</b> Ethernet Working Group
<b>Contact information for Working Group Chair</b> Robert M Grow Email: bob.grow@ieee.org Phone:
<b>Contact Information for Working Group Vice Chair</b> David J Law Email: david_law@ieee.org Phone: +44-131-665-7264
<b>3.2 Sponsoring Society and Committee:</b> IEEE Computer Society/Local and Metropolitan Area Networks (C/LM) <b>Contact information for Sponsor Chair:</b> Paul Nikolich Email: p.nikolich@ieee.org Phone: 857-205-0050 <b>Contact information for Standards Representative:</b> Email: Phone:
<b>3.3 Joint Sponsor:</b> / () <b>Contact information for Sponsor Chair:</b> Email: Phone: <b>Contact information for Standards Representative:</b> Email: Phone:
<b>4.1 Type of Ballot:</b> Individual
<b>4.2 Expected Date of Submission for Initial Sponsor Ballot:</b> 2007-11
<b>4.3 Projected Completion Date for Submittal to RevCom:</b> 2008-04
<b>5.1 Approximate number of people expected to work on this project:</b> 200
<b>5.2 Scope of Proposed Standard:</b> Link Aggregation allows one or more links to be aggregated

together to form a Link Aggregation Group, such that a MAC Client can treat the Link Aggregation Group as if it were a single link. To this end, it specifies the establishment of DTE to DTE logical links, consisting of N parallel instances of full duplex point-to-point links operating at the same data rate. This standard defines the MAC independent Link Aggregation capability, and general information relevant to specific MAC types that support link aggregation.

**5.3 Is the completion of this standard is dependent upon the completion of another standard:**

Yes

**If yes, please explain:** This project is to extract the specification of link aggregation from IEEE Std 802.3-2005 during the revision of that standard (P802.3REV). To assure that link aggregation remains specified by an IEEE 802 standard, the revision and this new standard are co-contingent.

**5.4 Purpose of Proposed Standard:** Link aggregation allows the establishment of full duplex point-to-point links that have a higher aggregate bandwidth than the individual links that form the aggregation. This allows improved utilization of available links in bridged LAN environments, along with improved resilience in the face of failure of individual links.

**5.5 Need for the Project:** It has been concluded between 802.1 and 802.3 that future development of Link Aggregation would be more appropriate as an 802.1 standard. Recent and current 802.1 projects specify queuing related information that should appropriately interact with Link Aggregation and in some cases operate over aggregated links. Ethernet Link Aggregation is currently defined in IEEE Std 802.3-2005. As part of the revision of IEEE Std 802.3-2005, the Link Aggregation protocol defined in Clause 43 will be separated out into this new standard, with necessary MAC support remaining in IEEE Std 802.3-2005. This project will form an initial base document for MAC independent Link Aggregation based on the current Ethernet specifications. It is expected that addition of any other MAC types to the document will be done as future amendment projects to this base document.

**5.6 Stakeholders for the Standard:** The stakeholders for this standard are the semiconductor manufacturers, system product manufacturers (e.g., switch and NIC), network providers (e.g. installers, support, enterprises), bandwidth providers (e.g., carriers), and users of Ethernet link aggregation as currently defined in IEEE Std 802.3-2005.

**Intellectual Property**

**6.1.a.** Has the IEEE-SA policy on intellectual property been presented to those responsible for preparing/submitting this PAR prior to the PAR submittal to the IEEE-SA Standards Board? Yes

If yes, state date: 2006-11-13

If no, please explain:

**6.1.b.** Is the Sponsor aware of any copyright permissions needed for this project? No

If yes, please explain:

**6.1.c.** Is the Sponsor aware of possible registration activity related to this project? No

If yes, please explain:

**7.1 Are there other standards or projects with a similar scope? Yes**

If yes, please explain: IEEE Std 802.3-2005 includes the specification of link aggregation for Ethernet networks. This project will extract that specification into a stand alone document for future development and maintenance by 802.1. This document will have a much narrower scope than that of IEEE Std 802.3.

**and answer the following:** Sponsor Organization: CS/LM

Project/Standard Number: 802.3

Project/Standard Date: 0000-00-00

Project/Standard Title: Standard for Information Technology - Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems - Local and Metropolitan Area Networks - Specific Requirements Part 3: Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) Access Method and Physical Layer Specifications

#### **7.2 Future Adoptions**

**Is there potential for this standard (in part or in whole) to be adopted by another national, regional, or international organization?** No

If Yes, the following questions must be answered:

Technical Committee Name and Number:

**Other Organization Contact Information:**

**Contact person:**

**Contact Email address:**

**7.3 Will this project result in any health, safety, security, or environmental guidance that affects or applies to human health or safety?** No

If yes, please explain:

#### **7.4 Additional Explanatory Notes: (Item Number and Explanation)**

#### **8.1 Sponsor Information:**

Is the scope of this project within the approved scope/definition of the Sponsor's Charter? Yes

If no, please explain:

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Contact the [NesCom Administrator](#)