



IEEE 802.3 CSMA/CD (Ethernet) Working Group

July 21, 2005

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group

To: Ghani Abbas (ghani.abbas@marconi.com)

Cc: Paul Nikolich; Chair, IEEE 802 (p.nikolich@ieee.org)
Wael Diab; Secretary, IEEE 802.3 (wdiab@cisco.com)
Richard Brand (rbrand@nortel.com)

Sue Vogel, temporary IEEE staff liason (s.vogel@ieee.org)

Subject: Communication to ITU-T SG15, Synchronization of Ethernet PHY

Dear Mr. Abbas,

The IEEE 802.3 Working Group appreciates the interest of SG15 in our work and has reviewed your Action liaison letter. In response to your request for a MAC Slow Protocol codepoint (defined initially by P802.3ad Link Aggregation, now clause 43, and Annex 43B) we wish to point out that the definition of a new Slow Protocol subtype as you request in your letter would require changes to the existing specification and therefore the launch of a new project. Background information on the process involved to launch a new project (e.g., a Call For Interest, Study Group, Task Force phases, etc) is available at the following URL (see section 4):

http://ieee802.org/3/rules/P802_3_rules.pdf

The next plenary meeting of the IEEE 802.3 Working Group, when a Call For Interest could be scheduled is November 14–18, 2005 in Vancouver. (The request must be made by a voting member of IEEE 802.3 at least 35 days prior to the meeting.)

We recommend SG15 consider an alternative method to a new slow protocol. IEEE Std 802.3ah-2004, Clause 57 added an optional EFM OAM capability. This clause provides an OAMPDU for use by registered organizations. Specifically, the sequence of an OAMPDU code "FE", followed by an OUI, followed by a data field defined by a specific organization could perhaps meet your requirements. Note that OUI values are assigned by the IEEE Registration Authority, and to the best of our knowledge there is no charge to SDOs for an OUI. For example, the OIF has an EFM OAMPDU defined for use over the OIF UNI.

Regarding the issue of synchronization, there is preliminary work in progress in this area in 802.3. The specific work project is one of the study items of the 802.3 Residential Ethernet Study Group (see footnote). Due to the Study Group status, there is no draft document available at this time, though presentations made to the study group are archived at:

http://www.ieee802.org/3/re_study/index.html

We wish to thank the leadership and the members of ITU-T SG15 for the inquiry into our work programs and look forward to the continuation of the exchange of information on topics of common interest to our organizations.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Grow
Chair, IEEE 802.3 Working Group
bob.grow@ieee.org