March 6, 2018

To: David Law, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group Chair

Subject: Invitation to RoCE Interoperability Plugfest Event, April 9-20, 2018

From:

Alan Benner, IBTA Electro-Mechanical Working Group Chair
Rupert Dance, IBTA Compliance & Interoperability Working Group Chair

Dear David

The InfiniBand Trade Association has historically supported the development of high-bandwidth, low-latency communications protocols, both over InfiniBand links and transport layers, and, with development of the "RDMA over Converged Ethernet (RoCE)" protocols, over Ethernet as well. This support has included development and publication of the IBTA RoCE (April 2010) and RoCEv2 (Sept. 2014) specifications, at http://www.infinibandta.org/content/pages.php?pg=technology_public_specification.

Since March 2015, the IBTA has supported the RoCE community through a series of twice-yearly "Plugfest" events, where vendors of products supporting RoCE communications have been able to bring their products to the UNH Interoperability Lab (https://www.iol.unh.edu/testing/plugfest) to test and verify interoperability with other RoCE RNIC, switch, and cable products from multiple other vendors, at 10, 25, 40, 50, and 100 Gb/s, in over two dozen different Interop scenarios. These Plugfest events have helped the RoCE community's customers by highlighting products that interoperate successfully and helped the community's vendors by highlighting opportunities for improvement, in a very co-operative, non-competitive and disclosure-protective environment.

Please see the following link to review the list of vendors and products that were successfully tested at Plugfest 32, in October 2017: http://www.infinibandta.org/content/pages.php?pg=products_integrators_list

In the 6 previous RoCE plugfests, vendors have only been able to submit products for Interoperability List consideration if they were full members of the InfiniBand Trade Association. However, for this 33rd Plugfest (April 9th through the 20th 2018) the IBTA has, in the interests of further assisting the RoCE community, decided to allow vendors to submit RNICs and RoCE-capable switches to the plugfest, free of charge.

The IBTA is therefore, through this letter, extending an invitation to vendors of RoCE products, to bring your products to the Plugfest, and see how they interoperate with other devices. There is no charge for this event.

Vendors who are interested in submitting RoCE-capable RNIC and switch devices for RoCE Interoperability testing should please contact either Rupert Dance (rsdance@soft-forge.com) or Alan Benner (bennera@us.ibm.com) for details.

Deadline for registration for this special promotion is March 16th 2018. Please see the following link for details: http://www.infinibandta.org/content/pages.php?pg=events_plugfest

Thank you kindly –
Alan Benner
Rupert Dance