Proposed letter to TIA chair

Masood Shariff and John Siemon
Co-chairs, TIA TR41.8.1

Gentlemen,

We would like to commend your group on your effort to define higher bandwidth multimode fiber. As you may be aware, IEEE 802.3z was not able to fully meet the original objectives of 550 meter operation over both 50 and 62.5 micron fiber for 850 nm sources. This was due to bandwidth limitations of the installed fiber as specified in TIA-568A. Meeting this objective in the future with higher bandwidth fiber will greatly benefit our industry.

IEEE 802.3 recognizes that TIA will sufficiently characterize a 50/125 micron multimode to enable 550 meter topologies (including patch cords) for 1000BASE-SX. We understand that the proposed revisions to 568A do not include improvement in the 62.5/125 micron fiber modal bandwidth specification at 850 nm. Without an equivalent bandwidth 62.5/125 micron fiber, new fiber installations wanting to achieve 550 meters for 1000BASE-SX will need to specify 50/125 micron fiber.

IEEE 802.3 requests that TR41.8.1 add a 62.5/125 micron modal bandwidth specification of 500/500 MHz*km to TIA-568B, as is proposed for 50/125 micron fiber.

Our committee is also concerned about interoperability issues related to mixed multimode cable plants.

We would appreciate your prompt response to the above issues.

Geoff Thompson,
802.3 Chair

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