

IEEE 802.3

Geoff Thompson, Chair

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Subject: Informational Advisement of a Future Request re Ethernet

Gentlemen:

The IEEE 802.3 Working Group is in the process of formally initiating a project that will include formatting at the physical layer for transmission through the framed wide area infrastructure at 10 Gb/s. It is expected that this will require the allocation of a signal label (C2 byte) code point from ITU-T but we are not at that stage of the project yet. We do understand that due to the timing of ITU-T meetings that having a formal request in place in time for their April 2000 meeting is appropriate if we wish a formal value within the next 2 years.

This letter is to advise you that we expect to make such a formal request out of our Plenary meeting to be held in Albuquerque, NM during March 6-10, 2000. The HSSG (Higher Speed Study Group) and its expected successor, the 10 Gigabit Ethernet Task Force (P802.3ae) is meeting in Kauai, HI November 8-11, in Dallas TX during the week of Jan 17, 2000 and in Albuquerque, NM March 6-10, 2000. For further information please see the IEEE 802.3 web page at: <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/802/3/index.html>

Specifically, the HSSG is a Study Group, operating under the IEEE 802.3 Working Group. HSSG has the charter to pursue a project to extend the IEEE 802.3 Standard to 10 Gigabit per second operation. The HSSG has adopted an objective to define two physical interfaces (PHY) for 802.3 Ethernet at or about 10 Gigabit per second (10Gb) data rate. One of the physical interfaces is a Wide Area Network compatible PHY at a data rate which is compatible with the payload rate of OC-192c/SDH VC-4-64c. It is intended that this PHY will operate as a Path tributary to 10Gb or higher digital SONET, SDH, or WDM transmission systems. This PHY will provide for 802.3 Ethernet MAC frames to be mapped directly into the path payload envelope without alteration.

We expect to have an authorized project and be sufficiently far along in the definition stage to be able to make our formal request for allocation of a signal label (C2 byte) code point by the completion of the March, 2000 meeting. If there is any groundwork that needs to be laid please let us know. If there are any questions regarding our work please get back in touch.

Thank you very much.

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