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# IEEE 802.11™ PRE ASSOCIATION DISCOVERY TASK GROUP CREATED

*New task group to explore scope of future amendment to IEEE 802.11 standard  
that would be intended to further improve user experience of WLAN technology*

**PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, XX Month 2013** – IEEE, the world's largest professional organization advancing technology for humanity, today announced the creation of an IEEE 802.11™ Pre Association Discovery (PAD) task group. The group will explore the scope of a future amendment to the IEEE 802.11[[1]](#footnote-1) standard that would be intended to improve user experience, by providing information about network devices and services beyond the access point prior to full connection establishment of a device to a wireless local area network (WLAN).

“The WLAN environment is evolving; no longer are stations merely looking for access to Internet service. This creates opportunities to deliver new services, as the IEEE 802.11 standard needs to be enhanced to better advertise and describe these new services,” said Stephen McCann, chair of the new IEEE P802.11aq™[[2]](#footnote-2) task group. “The proposed amendment will provide mechanisms that assist in the pre-association discovery of services, by addressing the means to advertise their existence and enable delivery of information that describes them.”

There exist higher-layer approaches for service discovery (e.g., UPnP and Bonjour), as well as mechanisms to deliver information in pre-association states. The proposed amendment would look at basic advertising for services that would leverage such existing approaches.

Individuals from equipment and silicon suppliers, service providers, carriers, systems integrators, consultant organizations and academic institutions are invited to participate in the development work. The IEEE 802.11aq Pre Association Discovery (PAD) task group meets during IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN Working Group meetings, the schedule for which can be found here <http://www.ieee802.org/11/Meetings/Meeting_Plan.html> . For more information about the IEEE 802.11aq task group, visit <http://www.ieee802.org/11/Reports/tgaq_update.htm>.

IEEE 802.11 defines the technology for the world’s premier WLAN products. IEEE 802.11-based products are often branded as “Wi-Fi®” in the market. IEEE 802.11 standards underpin wireless networking applications around the world, such as wireless access to the Internet from offices, homes, airports, hotels, restaurants, trains and aircraft. IEEE 802.11’s relevance continues to expand with the emergence of new applications, such as the smart grid, wireless docking and the “Internet of Things.” For more information about the IEEE 802.11 working group, visit http://standards.ieee.org/develop/wg/WG802.11.html.

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**Deployment of technology defined by IEEE 802 standards is already globally pervasive, driven by the ever-growing needs of networks around the world. New application areas are constantly being considered that might leverage the IEEE 802 family of standards in their networks. To better address the needs of all of these areas, IEEE 802 standards are constantly evolving and expanding. The success of IEEE 802 standards — from their inception through today — has been their fair, open, and transparent development process.**

**About the IEEE Standards Association**

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 900 active standards and more than 500 standards under development. For more information visit <http://standards.ieee.org/>.

**About IEEE**

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1. IEEE 802.11™-2012 “Standard for Information technology--Telecommunications and information exchange between systems Local and metropolitan area networks--Specific requirements Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. IEEE P802.11aq™ “Draft Standard for Information technology--Telecommunications and information exchange between systems Local and metropolitan area networks--Specific requirements Part 11: Wireless LAN Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) Specifications Amendment: Pre-Association Discovery” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)