

40 Gb/s and 100 Gb/s Ethernet Standard Project Goes to Sponsor Ballot

Approval of Related ITU-T Standard Also Pending

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PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, xx November 2009 -- The development of faster Ethernet communication standards through the IEEE Standards Association reached another major milestone this month when the IEEE 802 Executive Committee approved forwarding the draft of the next higher speed Ethernet standard for Sponsor balloting, the final of two stages of balloting.

The sponsor balloting phase will commence in November. "Once the Sponsor ballot has been completed, the standard will be submitted for approval by the IEEE-SA Standards Board as an IEEE standard," says John D'Ambrosia, Chair of the IEEE P802.3ba Task Force.

IEEE P802.3ba™ is known by its full name of "IEEE Standard for Information Technology - Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems - Local and Metropolitan Area Networks - Specific Requirements Part 3: Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) Access Method and Physical Layer Specifications - Amendment: Media Access Control Parameters, Physical Layers and Management Parameters for 40 Gb/s and 100 Gb/s Operation."

The project aims to extend the existing IEEE 802.3™ Ethernet protocol to operating speeds of 40 Gb/s and 100 Gb/s in order to provide a significant increase in bandwidth while maintaining maximum compatibility with the installed base of IEEE 802.3 interfaces, previous investment in research and development, and principles of network operation and management. The project is to provide for the interconnection of equipment satisfying the distance requirements of the intended applications.

In addition, a related standard, the International Telecommunication Union's Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) Recommendation G.709, "Interfaces for the optical transport network (OTN)," is being revised to support transport of 40 Gb/s and 100 Gb/s Ethernet over the OTN and is on track for approval by the end of 2009. "IEEE and ITU-T have formed a liaison relationship in the development of these standards, which is helping to speed the development of both standards," says David Law, Chair of the IEEE 802.3 Working Group.

For more information on the IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force, visit <http://www.ieee802.org/3/ba/>

About the IEEE Standards Association

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body, 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 900 active standards and more than 400 standards under development. For information on the IEEE-SA, see: <http://standards.ieee.org>.

About IEEE

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.), the world's largest technical professional society, is commemorating its 125th anniversary in 2009 by "Celebrating 125 Years of Engineering the Future" around the globe. Through its more than 375,000 members in 160 countries, IEEE is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. Dedicated to the advancement of technology, IEEE publishes 30 percent of the world's literature in the electrical and electronics engineering and computer science fields, and has developed nearly 900 active industry standards. The organization annually sponsors more than 850 conferences worldwide. Additional information about IEEE can be found at <http://www.ieee.org>.

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