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New IEEE P802.3bz™ Project Achieves Significant Milestone Towards Enabling Higher Speeds Over Installed Base of Twisted Pair Cabling

Fostering globally open collaboration, IEEE P802.3bz task force is developing specifications for 2.5GBASE-T and 5GBASE-T, increasing the Ethernet data rates supported on the installed base of category 5e and category 6 cabling

PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, XX Month 2015 – IEEE, the world's largest professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for humanity, today reports that the IEEE P802.3bz™ 2.5/5GBASE-T Task Force has reached a significant milestone at its first meeting by unanimously adopting baseline technology to be used for 2.5GBASE-T and 5GBASE-T specifications.

“There is a great deal of industry support for the development of a single IEEE 802.3™ standard enabling multi-vendor interoperability for 2.5GBASE-T and 5GBASE-T Ethernet,” said Dave Chalupsky, chair of the IEEE P802.3bz task force and network architect at Intel Corporation. “Swift achievement of consensus among participants has enabled the task force to move immediately into the next phase of the project, drafting the initial specifications.”

The IEEE P802.3bz task force is chartered with developing the specifications to amend the IEEE 802.3 base standard to add 2.5 Gb/s and 5 Gb/s MAC operating speeds, and define the physical layer specifications for 2.5GBASE-T and 5GBASE-T operating over category 5e, category 6, or better cabling. The project objectives include supporting energy efficient Ethernet and Power over Ethernet (PoE).

“Ethernet is seeing growth in diversity of rates to address different applications,” said David Law, chair of the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group and distinguished engineer with HP Networking. “2.5GBASE-T and 5GBASE-T serve this need at the edge of the network for a number of important use cases, such as satisfying the growing bandwidth needs of wireless access points supporting IEEE 802.11ac™.”

“Publication and adoption of IEEE 802.11ac-2013 has enabled significantly higher total throughput in wireless local area networks (WLANs),” said Adrian Stephens, chair of the IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN Working Group and Senior Principal Engineer with Intel Corporation. “I am glad to see the IEEE P802.3bz project moving forward to serve the Ethernet bandwidth needs of these IEEE 802.11ac wireless access points.”

Deployment of technology defined by IEEE 802® standards is already globally pervasive, driven by the ever-growing needs of data networks around the world. New application areas are constantly being considered that might leverage IEEE 802 standards in their networks from wireless, to twisted-pair cabling, to fiber-optic cabling solutions. 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.

For more information on the IEEE P802.3bz "Standard for Ethernet Amendment: Media Access Control Parameters, Physical Layers and Management Parameters for 2.5 Gb/s and 5 Gb/s Operation," visit <https://standards.ieee.org/develop/project/802.3bz.html>.

For more information about the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group, please visit <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/wg/WG802.3.html>.

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