To: IETF Benchmarking Methodology Working Group (BMWG)
Al Morton, BMWG Chair
and bmwg@ietf.org

From: IEEE 802.1
Tony Jeffrey, IEEE 802.1 Chair
Pat Thaler, Data Center Bridging Task Group Chair

CC: Paul Nikolich, IEEE 802 Chair
Eric Gray, IETF Liaison Manager for IEEE 802.1
Ron Bonica, OPS Area Director, BMWG Advisor
Dan Romascanu, OPS Area Director

RE: Proposal to update RFCs 2544 and 2889 to address the
Per-Flow Control capabilities of IEEE 802.1Qbb

Thank you for informing us of your proposed work on updating RFCs to take into account the operation of IEEE P802.1Qbb.

In answer to your questions:

There is no overlapping work planned in IEEE 802.1

IEEE 802.1 is interested in continuing liaison on this work. We already have a liaison relationship with IETF and don't need to create a new formal relationship for this.

We have some comments on the following draft proposal:
http://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-player-dcb-benchmarking-01

5.1.4.1 Includes frame sizes that are beyond the maximum frame size allowed by IEEE 802.3. We cannot support the use of frame sizes that violate IEEE 802 standards. Use of significantly larger frame sizes can interfere with latency requirements of traffic in strict or credit-based shaper priorities. There also may be impacts that we have not studied of the larger frame sizes on IEEE 802.1Qau and P802.1Qbb network performance.

The title of the liaison and the draft only mention IEEE 802.1Qbb, but the text of your liaison says, "when testing devices that implement three new IEEE specifications: priority-based flow control (802.1Qbb); priority groups (802.1Qaz); and congestion notification (802.1Qau)." IEEE 802.1Qau can also affect throughput while reducing or eliminating frame drop and should be included.

We look forward to cooperating with you on this work.

IEEE 802.1 Data Center Bridging next meets 13 September 2010 in York, UK.