

Mr. Glenn Parsons
Chairman of the IEEE 802.1 Working Group
(sent via email)

EtherCAT Technology Group
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Liaison request and access to IEEE P802.1 Drafts

Dear Mr. Parsons,

With more than 4500 member companies from 65 countries the EtherCAT Technology Group (ETG) is the largest Ethernet Fieldbus organization. Information about our organization can be found at https://www.ethercat.org/en/tech_group.html.

EtherCAT uses Ethernet (100BASE-TX and 100BASE-FX) and a bridging technology defined in IEC 61158-3-12 and IEC 61158-4-12 for direct interconnection of EtherCAT devices to Ethernet Nodes. ETG is in process of defining access methods to connect a group of EtherCAT devices to an end node in an IEEE 802.1 network.

The main application scenario is to provide access to an Ethernet based transport backbone in an automation environment. ETG intends to specify a profile for streaming EtherCAT protocol data units in 802.1Q compliant networks as streams between unmodified EtherCAT devices making use of a stream adaption function.

As EtherCAT enables smart, robust time sensitive systems we need such a TSN profile to provide a reasonable level of service quality in this environment. There is a demand from end users to release such a profile as soon as possible.

ETG would like to establish a liaison with the IEEE 802.1 Working Group to ensure that the IEEE 802.1 standards and drafts can be used to meet the conformance requirements of both groups. Dr. Karl Weber has agreed to serve as ETG liaison officer in the IEEE 802.1 working group. Dr. Weber is senior technical expert in the ETG headquarters and member of the IEEE 802.1 working group.

ETG also asks IEEE 802.1 Working Group to grant the members of the ETG access to the following draft documents in order to review the streaming profile and expedite trial implementations:

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| - IEEE802.1AS-REV | - IEEE802.1CS |
| - IEEE802.1CB | - IEEE802.1AX-REV |
| - IEEE802.1Qcc | - IEEE802.1AR-REV |
| - IEEE802.1Qcp | - IEEE802.1Q-REV |
| - IEEE802.1Qcr | |

ETG is aware that these documents may undergo changes at any time before being published.

ETG is looking forward to working together with the IEEE 802.1 Working Group on applying TSN technologies to EtherCAT networks.

Best Regards,



Martin Rostan

Executive Director, EtherCAT Technology Group

cc: Dr. Karl Weber