



Report and Call for Comments on Registration Authority Issues

Comment Deadline: **5 May 2006 AOE**

Abstract

This document reports of discussions with members of the IEEE Registration Authority Committee (RAC) regarding the need administration of the IEEE 802.16 Operator ID by the IEEE Registration Authority. It outlines a proposed letter to the RAC, for its meeting of 20 July 2006, and calls for comments on that proposal.

Background

IEEE 802.16-2004 specifies the use of a 48-bit Base Station ID, 24 bits of which are the Operator ID. This is specified in subclause 6.3.2.3.2, which says “The Base Station ID is a 48-bit long field identifying the BS. The Base Station ID shall be programmable. The most significant 24 bits shall be used as the Operator ID.” The Operator ID is also mentioned in IEEE 802.16e-2005, where subclause 6.3.2.3.47 says that the 24-bit Operator ID is a “Unique ID assigned to the operator.”

Clearly, the requirement for such a unique ID number for each operator requires a specified Registration Authority to assign numbers. Unfortunately, this requirement was not foreseen during development of the existing standard.

The IEEE 802.16 Chair, Roger Marks, and Vice Chair, Ken Stanwood, began addressing this issue in late 2005. This document reports that history. It also proposes an approach to rectify the problem as soon as possible, and it solicits comments on that approach.

IEEE Registration Authority

The IEEE-SA maintains the IEEE Registration Authority, which is supervised by the IEEE Registration Authority Committee (RAC) <<http://standards.ieee.org/regauth/racpublic.html>>.

Tony Jeffree is the RAC Chair. Geoff Thompson and Floyd Backes are the 802 representatives to the RAC.

Draft Letter to RAC

On 17 February 2006, the IEEE 802.16 Chair sent a note to Tony Jeffree and Geoff Thompson requesting their review of a draft of a letter to the RAC. The draft letter is available as document IEEE 802.16-06/016 <http://ieee802.org/16/docs/06/80216-06_016.pdf>.

Comments on Draft Letter to RAC from RAC Staff Administrator

On 2 March 2006, the IEEE 802.16 Chair received a comment from Angela Weaver, the IEEE-SA staff administrator for the RAC. She had reviewed the draft letter and recommended one change: from “IEEE Registration Authority” to “IEEE Registration Authority Committee” in the proposed footnote.

Meeting with RAC members

The IEEE 802.16 Chair scheduled a meeting that took place from 12:00-13:00 on 8 March 2006. Attending were Roger Marks, Ken Stanwood, Phil Barber, Tony Jeffree, Geoff Thompson, and Floyd Backes. The group

basically agreed with the general principles of the draft letter. After extensive discussion, the group agreed that it would be appropriate to make use of the existing OUI number space (Alternative 1).

The RAC representatives made the following points:

- The 802.16 WG should submit its suggestion to the RAC in the form of a letter like the one drafted. The details should be agreed by the RAC representatives in advance, to ensure that it is acceptable. It should then be delivered in time for consideration at the annual RAC meeting of 20 July 2006.
- The 802.16 WG should notify NesCom that the 802.16g project will be addressing a Registration Authority issue, in spite of the fact that the 802.16g answers “no” to the question “Is the sponsor aware of possible registration of objects or numbers due to this project?”
- The 802.16 WG must prepare a tutorial, for the web page <<http://standards.ieee.org/regauth/oui/tutorials>>, on the use of the OUI for 802.16 purposes. [Although the format was not discussed, perhaps the best solution would be an amendment to the IEEE 802 tutorial <<http://standards.ieee.org/regauth/oui/tutorials/lanman.html>>.]

Comments Solicited

The IEEE 802.16 WG solicits general comments on this topic as well as specific comments on the “Draft Letter to RAC” cited above. Submit comments using *Commentary* <<http://ieee802.org/16/docs/Commentary>>. Comments must be exported using the “(2) Save Data to File” button of the “Create and Submit Ballot” layout. Comments must be submitted as files named according to the format RAC_NameFamily_NameGiven.USR, where “NameFamily” and “NameGiven” are the family and given names of the submitter.

Accompanying document contributions may be submitted if necessary. Contributions of proposed tutorial materials are particularly encouraged. Contribution document numbers should follow the form “C802.16-06/XXX”, with corresponding file name “C80216-06_XXX.ext”, where “XXX” is the appropriate three-digit serial number. Submit comments and contributions by the **deadline of 5 May 2006** AOE <<http://WirelessMAN.org/aoe.html>> following the instructions at <<http://ieee802.org/16/submit.html>>. Upload contributions to the “WG” upload directory <<http://wg.WirelessMAN.org>>. Check the upload directory to see what number is available at time of upload. You can also reserve a serial number there.

Contributions will be considered non-confidential and will be posted for public access on the IEEE 802.16 Web Site <<http://ieee802.org/16>>.

For further information, contact one of the following:

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