

IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force Informal Communication

Source: IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force ¹

To: Dr. Alan F. Benner, Chair, InfiniBand Trade Association ElectroMechanical Working Group (bennera@us.ibm.com)

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Subject: Informal communication to InfiniBand Trade Association ElectroMechanical Working Group from IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force

From: John D'Ambrosia, Chair IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force (jdambrosia@ieee.org)

Approval: Agreed to at IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force meeting, January 28, 2010

Dear Dr. Benner and members of the InfiniBand Trade Association,

The IEEE P802.3ba Task Force has been working on the development of the 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet amendment to the IEEE Std 802.3-2008. In this document the QSFP and CXP connector interfaces have been chosen for the 40GBASE-CR4 and 100GBASE-CR10 physical layer specifications. It is the feeling of the task force that given that these connector interfaces are employed in other standards, including InfiniBand, that we should share relevant information regarding the current and potential electrical performance of these connectors with the InfiniBand Trade Association.

Currently, the IEEE P802.3ba document is in Sponsor Ballot. During comment resolution of the initial sponsor ballot, held at the IEEE P802.3ba Interim meeting held the week of January 25, 2010 in New Orleans, LA, contributions were brought forward by a number of individuals that illustrated margin in the specifications that could be achieved via future performance improvements in each of the connectors.

The material may be found at the following URLs:

- http://www.ieee802.org/3/ba/public/jan10/kukita_01_0110.pdf
- http://www.ieee802.org/3/ba/public/jan10/mcsorley_01_0110.pdf
- http://www.ieee802.org/3/ba/public/jan10/fogg_01_0110.pdf
- http://www.ieee802.org/3/ba/public/jan10/fromm_01_0110.pdf

The IEEE P802.3ba Task Force recognizes the inherent desire of the industry to optimize available resources and minimize any duplication of efforts. We anticipate that for future developments efforts

¹ This document solely represents the views of the IEEE P802.3ba 40Gb/s and 100Gb/s Ethernet Task Force, and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802.3

related to 100 Gigabit Ethernet, 25Gb/s electrical signaling stands out as a clear candidate for inclusion. We would welcome feedback from the InfiniBand Trade Association and its members on its future plans regarding 25Gb/s electrical signaling. The Task Force feels that communications regarding technical development activities, including any decisions regarding connector selection, can be beneficial to the industry as a whole, as such decisions by any single body can potentially influence or be used by other organizations, as illustrated by activities related to the CXP connector.

Sincerely,

John D' Ambrosia,
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