IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
<mark>DRAFT</mark> Liaison Communication

Source:	IEEE 802.3 Working Group [1]	
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From:	David Law	Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group ███████████████
Subject:	Liaison Reply to TIA TR42 on Insight regarding 2-row MPO MDIs liaison slides	
Approval:	Agreed to at IEEE 802.3 Closing Plenary meeting, March 12, 2026	

Dear Ms. Monstream,

Thank you for your liaison letter dated March 2026 regarding the polarity of structured cabling applications using the 2-row MPO MDI in TIA-568.3-E.

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[1] This document solely represents the views of the IEEE 802.3 Working Group, and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802

The first question in the liaison letter concerned Option 1 or Option 2 and lane numbering. We confirm that both Option 1 and Option 2 work for existing applications such as SR10, and we do not have a preference regarding these existing applications. However, it should be noted that while SR8, SR10, and SR16 using 2-row MPO MDIs existed, they were not adopted for high-volume cases, with single-row MDI types mostly taking their place.

Regarding the second question about future applications, no current 802.3 projects have adopted 2-row MPO MDIs.

Based on previous success with IEEE 802.3 New Ethernet Applications (NEA) workshops, we are planning to organize and host a virtual workshop to address this topic, with forthcoming details. The agenda for such a workshop would be to consider liaison contributions from Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) and industry organizations on this topic. The virtual workshop will be open to all, and no registration or registration fee will be required.

Sincerely,

David Law

Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group