- Broad Market Potential
 - Broad set(s) of applications
 - Multiple vendors, multiple users
 - Balanced cost, LAN vs. attached stations
- There are multiple new projects both inside and outside IEEE 802 defining applications that require additional optional fields within Ethernet frames, but do not change the data field.
- The broad market potential was established by the approval of:
 - IEEE 802.1ad Provider Bridges
 - IEEE 802.1AE MACSec
 - ITU-T SG15 Ethernet Transport
- These are all driving the need to solidify a revised frame format, and associated management attributes

- Compatibility
 - Conformance with CSMA/CD MAC, PLS
 - Conformance with 802.2
 - Conformance with 802.1D, 802.1Q and 802
- The express purpose of this project is to retain compatibility between IEEE 802.1 Bridges and the IEEE 802.3 MAC, necessitated by the development of IEEE 802.1ad Provider Bridges and 802.1AE MACSec envelope information.
- This project will not affect compatibility of IEEE 802.3 networks with respect to the IEEE 802 Overview and Architecture or significantly effect compatibility with IEEE 802.2 LLC Services.
- We will only support enveloping protocols that use the type interpretation of the Length/Type field.

- Distinct Identity
 - Substantially different from other IEEE 802.3 specifications
 - Unique solution for problem (not two alternatives/problem)
 - Easy for document reader to select relevant specification
- The proposed project is the only one addressing the issue of expanding the IEEE 802.3 frame format.
- There is no existing means to support the expanded frame size requirements for:
 - IEEE 802.1ad Provider Bridges
 - IEEE 802.1AE MACSec
 - ITU-T SG15 Ethernet Transport

- Technical Feasibility
 - Demonstrated feasibility; reports working models
 - Proven technology, reasonable testing
 - Confidence in reliability
- There is no perceived technical challenge. Many proprietary implementations already exist that support the goals of this project.

- Economic Feasibility
 - Cost factors known, reliable data
 - Reasonable cost for performance expected
 - Total installation costs considered
- By including optional envelope information while maintaining the existing Ethernet frame format, this project will have no measurable impact on component or system cost.