

To: International Telecommunication Union, Question 14 Study Group 4
Lakshmi Raman (lakshmi.raman@radisys.com)
CC: Robert Grow, IEEE 802.3 chair (bob.grow@ieee.org)
From: IEEE 802.3ah Task Force
Re: Liaison statement to IEEE SG15-802.ah EFM, Term issues on EPON
management

Approval: IEEE 802 LMSC Plenary meeting, March 2004, Orlando, FL

Contact: Howard Frazier (millardo@dominetsystems.com)

Date: March 17, 2004

The IEEE 802.3ah “Ethernet in the First Mile” Task Force thanks you for your liaison of March 5, 2004, regarding term issues on EPON management. We appreciate your careful reviewing of IEEE draft P802.3ah/1.732.

We found three occurrences of term “network termination” in definition sections of our draft 1.732. The term “network termination” was not used outside the definition sections, and, consequently was removed from the IEEE draft P802.3ah/2.1 released in October 2003.

We would like to inform you that at the March 2004 meeting, the IEEE 802.3ah task force has finished review of IEEE draft P802.3ah/3.1. We acknowledge that the term “Optical Network Terminal” never appears in this draft, even despite the fact that this term “is popular in the BPON (Broadband PON) management”.

We would like to emphasize that the scope of IEEE 802.3 is limited to Physical and Data Link layers as defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Basic Reference Model (ISO/IEC 7498-1: 1994).

Correspondingly, the IEEE P802.3ah standard draft neither mandates the target environment (FTTH, FTTB, FTTC, etc.) in which the specified architecture is to be deployed, nor defines what constitutes the “User Port function”. The IEEE 802.3ah task force believes that the term Optical Network Unit precisely reflects the focus of our efforts, as we only specify the Optical Network Unit portion of a broader specification required for an Optical Network Terminal device.

Howard Frazier
IEEE 802.3ah EFM task force chair

