Communication Statement from the
IEEE 802.3ah "Ethernet in the First Mile" Task Force

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Subject: Progress of the Ethernet in the First Mile Task Force

Dear Chair and Members of Committee T1E1.4,

The IEEE 802.3ah "Ethernet in the First Mile (EFM)" Task Force thanks you for your liaison statements of December 2003 and February 2004. We would like to inform you that our draft standard is currently in Sponsor Ballot recirculation, and that we are on track for approval of the Draft by IEEE-SA Standards Board in June 2004.

Our document references American National Standard T1.424 in the specification of the 10PASS-TS PMA and PMD, it references ITU-T Recommendation G.991.2 in the specification of the 2BASE-TL PMA and PMD, and it references ITU-T Recommendations G.993.1 and G.994.1 in the EFM/Copper common specifications (TC sublayer and initialization).

The EFM Task Force met in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, this week to resolve comments received against IEEE Draft P802.3ah/D3.1 (Sponsor Ballot Recirculation). In addition to the comments received from Ballot Group members, the Copper Sub Task Force entertained two comments generated in reaction to your liaison statements.

Following actions were taken:

- In Table 61–10, the PMA_PMD_type signal now has the following new definition:

    Signal indicating PMA/PMD mode of operation.

    Defined values:

    00_{16} — 10PASS-TS CO subtype

01_{16} — 2BASE-TL CO subtype
02_{16}–$7B_{16}$ — reserved for allocation by IEEE 802.3
$7C_{16}$–$7F_{16}$ — reserved for allocation by ATIS T1E1.4

80_{16} – 10PASS-TS CPE subtype
81_{16} – 2BASE-TL CPE subtype
82_{16}–FB_{16} — reserved for allocation by IEEE 802.3
FC_{16}–FF_{16} — reserved for allocation by ATIS T1E1.4

- In Table 62–4, the mapping of VTU-R data register (eoc) #4 was updated to reflect the creation of a "performance" register in your latest draft of American National Standard T1.424. Certain bytes of this field (i.e., fast path related bytes) were declared outside the scope of our standard.

In consideration of the fact that the P802.3ah draft standard is now very mature, with publication pending final recirculation, the EFM Task Force respectfully requests that any changes to the T1.424-2004 draft be limited to those that will enhance alignment with the IEEE P802.3ah draft.

We have forwarded your request for a copyright release concerning your use of material from our TC sublayer and PME Aggregation function in your "Ethernet Bonding" standard to the IEEE-SA Manager of Contracts and Licensing.

The EFM Task Force thanks you for your continued interest in our work, and the spirit of cooperation that has led to the successful development of draft standards in both our organizations.

Any future correspondence should be directed to the IEEE 802.3 Working Group.

Regards,

Howard Frazier,   Hugh Barrass,   Barry O'Mahony,   Michael Beck,