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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25
INTERCONNECTION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT
Secretariat: Germany (DIN)

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ISO/IEC JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE 1

SUBCOMMITTEE No.25: INTERCONNECTION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT WORKING GROUP 3: CUSTOMER PREMISES CABLING

54th Meeting of WG 3
Ixtapa, Mexico, 2013-02-25/03-01

To: David Law; Chair, IEEE 802.3 (david_law@ieee.org)
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Liaison letter from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 25/WG 3 to IEEE 802.3 regarding a technical report ISO/IEC 11801-99-1 for 40 Gbit/s cabling systems

Dear Mr Law,

thank you for the liaison communication from your November 2012 meeting in San Antonio. This was considered at our meeting in Ixtapa, Mexico, held 25 February to 01 March 2013.

We are pleased to inform you of our progress with the ISO/IEC PDTR 11801-99-1 (Proposed Draft Technical Report) for 40G Cabling. This document received substantial support in a recent national review and 480 comments were received. An additional 6 comments were received from IEEE 802.3 members. All comments were resolved at our Ixtapa meeting and will now be implemented in an updated draft. A courtesy copy will be forwarded to IEEE 802.3, when available. We would like to bring your attention to our decision to replace all 25 m and 50 m channel lengths with a 30 m channel length. This decision was based on the reach objective adopted for 40GBASE-T, as reported by our liaison officer, Alan Flatman.

We also decided the following naming convention for the new categories:

Channel I of ISO/IEC/TR 11801-99-1 can be achieved by a reference implementation approach using Category 8.1 components.

ISO/IEC Category 8.1 components are backwards compatible and interoperable with Category 6_A.

Channel II of ISO/IEC/TR 11801-99-1 can be achieved by a reference implementation approach using Category 8.2 components.

Regarding the questions and comment posed in your communication:

1. We are aware of changes in data centre architecture and concur that a 30 m reach is highly appropriate for End of Row links. We are exploring what changes or extensions are necessary in our family of design, planning and installation standards in order to accommodate this requirement.
2. We are also addressing the support of "direct attach" links for Top of Rack applications based on the use of cords in the 5-10m range. Once again, we are exploring what changes or extensions are necessary in our family of design, planning and installation standards in order to accommodate this requirement.

3. The need for high transmission performance but low cable bulk and high connector density in the data centre environment is fully noted.

We anticipate that the next draft of ISO/IEC 11801-99-1 will be available in April 2013 and we have asked our liaison officer to request permission to present a tutorial on its content at your May interim meeting in Victoria, BC.

We wish you success with your plan to form a new Task Force to develop a standard for 40GBASE-T and look forward to supporting you.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Dr. Albrecht Oehler
Convenor SC 25/WG 3