

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
DRAFT Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group¹

To: Glenn Parsons Chair, ITU-T SG15
Cindy Montstream Chair TIA TR-42
Phil Irwin Chair TIA TR42.11
Derek Huffman Chair, TIA TR42.13
Jose O. Valenzuela Chair IEC TC 86
Richard Pitwon Chair IEC SC 86B
Mattias Fritsche Chair, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3
From: David Law Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group

Subject: IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group NEA “Ethernet for AI” Assessment (“E4AI”) –
“Next Generation Fiber Optic Connectors” Workshop

Approval Agreed at IEEE 802.3 Interim meeting, Munich, Germany, 14 May 2026

Dear Colleagues,

The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group’s NEA “E4AI” Assessment activity has focused on gathering information on AI networks, performance requirements, and market potential, and on exploring the technical feasibility of 400 Gb/s electrical and optical signaling for various Ethernet interconnects.

As part of this activity, the IEEE 802.3 NEA “E4AI” has been holding forum workshops for industry SDO’s and industry organizations to explore topics related to AI networks with the IEEE 802.3 community, such as “Fiber for AI” and “Header Compression.” For your reference, all meeting materials for the activity are available at https://www.ieee802.org/3/ad_hoc/E4AI/public/index.html.

The next forum workshop, Next Generation Fiber Optic Connectors, will explore next-generation fiber optic connector issues. The workshop will be held virtually on 3 December 2026, is open to all individuals to attend, and requires no registration. Potential issues to explore include:

- Generic/basic information about polarity and connector
- How new connector interface types (2-row Multi-fiber Push-On (MPO), Very Small Form Factor (VSFF) and Multi-core Fiber (MCF)) are more complicated than existing connectors

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.

- Standardization of the MCF connector with the MPO interface and polarity
- Next generation connector performance assumptions used for optical channel development.
- Other issues

The agenda of this workshop will be limited to presentations and contributions submitted by SDO's and industry organizations. IEEE 802.3 would like to extend an invitation to ITU-T, TIA TR42, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25, and IEC TC 86 to join the IEEE 802.3 community, in exploring the future of fiber optic connectors enabling 400 Gb/s/Lane signaling and beyond. All organizations are encouraged to consider participating in this event and to forward a liaison to the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group regarding the noted topics noted above. Please inform David Law [REDACTED] by 03 November 2026 of your organization's intent to contribute a liaison to IEEE 802.3.

Any questions regarding this event should be directed to John D'Ambrosia at [REDACTED] Chair of the IEEE 802.3 E4AI Activity.

Sincerely,
David Law
Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group

CC: Alpesh Shah Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board
Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors
[REDACTED]

James Gilb Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC
[REDACTED]

Adam Healey Vice-chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
[REDACTED]

Jon Lewis Secretary, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
Chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad hoc
[REDACTED]

John D'Ambrosia Chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA "Ethernet for AI" Assessment
[REDACTED]

Bob Voss Liaison Officer, IEEE 802.3 / TIA TR42
[REDACTED]

Diane Forbes Vice-Chair TIA TR-42
[REDACTED]

Jonathan Jew Secretary, TIA TR-42
[REDACTED]

Cheryl Thibideau TIA Technology Standards Committee Manager
[REDACTED]

Teesha Jenkins TIA Manager, Standards Secretariat Services
[REDACTED]

Peter Pondillo IEC TC 86 Secretary
[REDACTED]

Ryo Koyama Secretary IEC SC86B
[REDACTED]

Takui Uematsu Assistant Secretary IEC SC86B
[REDACTED]

James Withey Liaison Officer, IEEE 802.3 / ISO/IEC SC25 WG3
[REDACTED]

Albrecht Oehler Convenor, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3
[REDACTED]

Thomas Wegman Assistant Secretary, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3
[REDACTED]

Marco Peter Committee manager, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25
[REDACTED]

Hiroshi Ota Advisor, ITU-T SG15
[REDACTED]

Kazuhide Nakajima Rapporteur ITU-T Q5/15
[REDACTED]

Vince Ferretti Associate Rapporteur, ITU-T Q5/15
Secretary IEC TC 86
[REDACTED]

Fabio Cavaliere Rapporteur ITU-T Q6/15
[REDACTED]

Shikui Shen Associate Rapporteur ITU-T Q6/15
[REDACTED]

Steve Gorshe Rapporteur ITU-T Q11/15
[REDACTED]