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Secretariat: Germany (DIN)

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**Liaison report from ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3 to
IEEE 802.3 on P802.3ba to support extended distance (>100 m)
on multimode channels**

To: **IEEE 802.3**
Chairman
(Mr. David Law, David_Law@3com.com)

From: **ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3**
Following the 45th meeting
Lyon, France, 2008-10-20/23

Date: 2008-11-07

**Liaison Report to IEEE P802.3 regarding extended distances for
multimode fibre in P802.3ba**

At its October 2008 meeting in Lyon, France, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3 received a liaison report indicating that the baseline multimode proposals for 40G Ethernet and 100G Ethernet currently under development within P802.3ba will limit the supportable distance on OM3 fibre to 100 m.

While WG 3 understands that such proposals may fulfill the minimum distance objectives established for OM3 fibre within the specific project of IEEE 802.3, WG 3 urges IEEE 802.3 to consider the fact that in data centre environments the required distances routinely exceed 100 m.

WG 3 understands that the solutions offered within P802.3ba for channels exceeding 100 m are all for singlemode fibre and, that singlemode solutions, while technically feasible, may not be economically attractive as they are expected to cost far more than feasible multimode solutions. WG 3 believes that a cost differential, that is reported to be an order of magnitude higher at 100G Ethernet, would be so large that it casts doubt on the market acceptance of P802.3ba within data centres.

WG 3 understands that other multimode fibre solutions that have cost premiums that are only a small fraction of the baseline multimode cost are being considered by P802.3ba. WG 3 believes that support of multimode channels exceeding 100 m would be a highly attractive solution for customers and therefore improve the market acceptance potential of P802.3ba especially within data centres.

WG 3 urges IEEE 802.3 to continue exploring the feasibility of extended distance (>100 m) multimode alternatives towards their adoption within P802.3ba.

SC 25/WG 3 will have its next meeting in Mexico during 23rd to 27th March 2009, and looks forward to receiving a report at that meeting from IEEE 802.3 on its further consideration of this topic.