

To: Mr. David Law, Chair, IEEE 802.3 WG  
Copy: Adam Healey, Vice Chair, IEEE 802.3 WG  
Pete Anslow, Secretary, IEEE 802.3  
I. Dal Allan, Chair, SFF Committee  
Yongbum Kim, Broadcom  
From: Paul A. Suhler, Chair, SFF-8601 SSWG

Dear Mr. Law:

A number of storage vendors have begun to produce Ethernet-attached drives which are intended to be installed on backplanes. This has revealed an immediate need for a standard method of negotiating Ethernet speeds which vendors can implement solely using firmware changes. To define this method, the SFF Committee ( <http://www.sffcommittee.org/> ) has created a specific subject working group (SSWG) to create a new standard, which will be designated SFF-8601.

The SFF-8601 SSWG is, of course, very interested in the work in IEEE 802.3 standards related to backplanes and copper cables, at link speeds higher than 1 Gb/s, including the new 2.5 Gb/s and 5 Gb/s study area. We believe that these IEEE 802.3 specifications will become very relevant and we will need to coordinate and align our work with them.

We would like to establish a liaison relationship with the IEEE 802.3 Working Group to allow for formal and informal communications and to share relevant status and data as the work progresses in our respective organizations.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Suhler, PhD  
SFF-8601 SSWG Chair  
Research Staff Member  
HGST Research