IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group[1]

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From: David Law   Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
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Subject: Liaison letter to OIF and ITU-T Study Group 15 on IEEE P802.3ct Project

Approval: Agreed to at IEEE 802.3 interim meeting, Indianapolis, IN, USA, 12th September 2019

Dear Mr Frlan and members of OIF, Mr Trowbridge and members of ITU-T Study Group 15,

During our interim meeting in Indianapolis, the IEEE P802.3ct Task Force decided to split the effort into two projects. Specification of the new 100GBASE-ZR PMD for operation at 100 Gb/s for up to 80 km over a DWDM system will remain as part of the IEEE P802.3ct project, while specification of the new 400GBASE-ZR PMD for operation at 400 Gb/s for up to 80 km over a DWDM system is expected to move to a new project that will be designated IEEE P802.3cw. Details of how the work divides into the two projects can be found in:

http://ieee802.org/3/ct/public/19_09/dambrosia_3ct_01_0919.pdf

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[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.

This division is expected to allow development of the 100GBASE-ZR PMD specification on an earlier timeline.

This division of work into two projects has been agreed within the IEEE P802.3ct Task Force. It should be noted that this still requires approval by the IEEE 802.3 Working Group and IEEE 802 Executive Committee (expected at the November 2019 plenary in Waikoloa, HI, USA) and subsequent approval by the IEEE-SA Standards Board.

As part of the discussion of 400GBASE-ZR, we received a presentation from multiple individuals affiliated with major hyperscale centers, outlining the need for the PHY to support 75 GHz spacing for a total of 64 channels. It was recognized by the Task Force that additional information is necessary to resolve whether the PHY should support a channel spacing of either 75 GHz, 100 GHz, or both. We would like to request any information that the OIF or ITU-T SG15 has related to this that would help us to resolve this issue.

Sincerely,
David Law
Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group