IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
DRAFT Liaison Communication

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To:	Ed Frlan	OIF TC Chair efrlan@semtech.com
	Kimberly Naughton	OIF Liaison contact liaisons@oiforum.com
	Steve Trowbridge	Chairman, ITU-T Study Group 15 steve.trowbridge@nokia.com
	Peter Stassar	Rapporteur, ITU-T Q6/15 peter.stassar@huawei.com
	Steve Gorshe	Rapporteur, ITU-T Q11/15 steve.gorshe@microchip.com
	Hiroshi Ota	Advisor, ITU-T Study Group 15 hiroshi.ota@itu.int
CC:	Konstantinos Karachalios	Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors sasecretary@ieee.org
	Paul Nikolich	Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC p.nikolich@ieee.org
	Adam Healey	Vice-chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group adam.healey@broadcom.com
	Pete Anslow	Secretary, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group panslow@ciena.com
	John D'Ambrosia	Chair, IEEE P802.3ct Task Force jdambrosia@ieee.org
From:	David Law	Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group dlaw@hpe.com

Subject: Liaison letter to OIF and ITU-T Study Group 15 on P802.3ct Project

Approval: Agreed to at IEEE 802.3 interim meeting, Indianapolis, IN, 12 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 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 P802.3ct project,

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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 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

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 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