



Wakefield, MA, August 10, 2021

Dear Secretary of the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group, Mr. Jon Lewis,

Please let us introduce the Innovative Optical and Wireless Network Global Forum (IOWN GF) to you and your members by sending you our first technical deliverable released in April 2021. The paper, titled "IOWN GF System and Technology Outlook," was published and made publicly available for the purpose of discussion.

IOWN GF and its members recognize IEEE 802.3's role in the industry and the standardization community and we would be interested to enter into a discussion with you by sharing our views and plans.

The IOWN GF System and Technology Outlook paper identifies technology gaps between current technologies and the key requirements of the use cases described in the previously released Use Case Interim Report. Based on the identified technology gaps, the paper proposes the concepts of a new heterogeneous infrastructure architecture, Data-Centric Infrastructure (DCI), and an open and disaggregated photonic network architecture, Open All Photonic Network (Open APN). The paper also presents work items to complete DCI and Open APN.

IOWN GF's objective is to accelerate innovation and adoption of a new communication infrastructure to meet our future data and computing requirements through the development of new technologies, frameworks, specifications and reference design in areas such as Photonics R&D, Distributed Connected Computing and Use Cases and Best Practices.

The IOWN GF and its members are fully aware of and supportive of the cooperative and open approaches in the scientific, technological, and standardization communities that have led to the successful innovation of services and solutions we are witnessing. IOWN Global Forum is determined to be an active member and good citizen of these communities.

With kind regards,

The President and the Board on behalf of the IOWN Global Forum

PS: To learn more about IOWN GF, download the Innovative Optical and Wireless Network Global Forum Vision 2030 and Technical Directions White Paper [here](#) or watch the "Looking Toward the Future – IOWN GF's Vision" webinar [here](#). Please send any questions and replies to liaison@iowngf.org

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