

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION TO THE RMII CONSORTIUM FROM THE 802.5 COMMITTEE

The 802.5 working committee is currently undertaking the writing of the 802.5T standard, the 100mbit/s token ring initiative. The committee would like a formal response from the RMII group on the following issues.

- Support of the current function of the MII TX_ER pin either by reinstating the pin or by some other means. The draft standard performs the token ring abort function by generating the 4B/5B /H symbol. We require the equivalent functionality in a RMII device.
- A true programmable auto-negotiation selector field. The 802.5 committee intends to apply for a new selector field value from the 802.3 committee. Current devices claim that this is possible but in actuality this does not hold true.
- Larger elastic buffer, at least 40 bits to support the 802.5 standard largest frame size of 18,200 bytes.
- The CRS_DV function must be DV only. The 802.5 draft requires the use of the DV signal in the MII interface. The standard will not work properly work if it combined with the CRS function, which is not required by 802.5.
- After the detection of a code violation the PHY device cannot flush the remaining bits in the frame. In the 802.5 protocol this information is still used.
- Other allowances for 18,200 byte frames such as the ability to lengthen the scrambler-reset time.
- A bit to enable the above features.

Although several companies in the 802.5 committee have approached RMII alliance companies about these issues the 802.5 committee as a whole would like a formal response from the RMII group as a whole. 802.5 believes this is necessary for the following reasons.

- 802.5 has a fear that there may be interoperability problems between RMII devices from different manufacturers and between MII and RMII devices.
- 802.5 would like to have available devices from several manufacturers.
- 802.5 does not want these devices to be “special” token ring only parts.

The 802.5 committee would like a response from the RMII group by XXXX.