RMII Consortium Response to IEEE 802.5 Request for Information

The RMII Consortium appreciates the interest from IEEE 802.5 in recognizing our efforts as worthy of use within the High Speed Token Ring standard. Clearly there is some synergy between the goals we are trying to achieve and the goals you are trying to achieve. Unfortunately, there is a set of goals that are at cross purposes that we must resolve.

The RMII Consortium was founded on the basis of providing an interface which allows implementation of low cost Ethernet switches. All the engineering tradeoffs were made within this context. In general, our philosophy has been to exclude additional features from our set of requirements. Part of the reason for this is that the RMII Consortium controls only the interface specification and does not represent a body which controls 1. feature sets of PHYs and 2. code space within the IEEE 802.3u defined register space.

However, we feel it is important that we give as much exposure to the issue of commonality of functions between PHYs as possible. We suggest that inclusion of a normative annex to IEEE 802.5t spelling out your overall requirements for PHYs would go a long way towards solving the potential problem. We would be happy to add a section that spells out the relationship of our specification to IEEE 802. Within this section we can provide an informative reference to IEEE 802.5t that points the reader toward the proper set of requirements if they choose to be compliant to both applications.

 It is our hope that IEEE 802.5 will find this solution acceptable.

Regards,

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