



IEEE to Develop Standard for Interoperability of Ethernet Passive Optical Networks

SIEPON Standard Will Target "Plug-and-Play" within Multi-Vendor Environments

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PISCATAWAY, N.J.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--The IEEE Standards Association announced today the approval of a new Working Group with the task of developing a new communications standard, IEEE P1904.1™, "Standard for Service Interoperability in Ethernet Passive Optical Networks (SIEPON)."

"We are very pleased to sponsor this project and are committed to supporting it with ComSoc technical activities, including providing the Working Group access to technical expertise that resides in ComSoc's many Technical Committees."

EPON (Ethernet Passive Optical Networks) is the leading technology for FTTx (Fiber to the x) access networks, with more than 30 million subscriber lines being served by 1G-EPON. It is expected that deployment volumes soon will reach more than 10 million new subscribers annually. In response to this rapid growth, the market is looking for open, international, system-level specifications that will foster multi-vendor interoperability. The SIEPON standard project will develop system-level specifications, targeting "plug-and-play" interoperability of the transport, service, and control planes in a multi-vendor environment.

The Working Group will be formed within the IEEE Communication Society (ComSoc), which has sponsored the project. "The IEEE Communications Society sees advancements in FTTx standards and technology as a crucial step toward promoting a sustainable future, efficient work environments, and advanced services," said Dr. Alexander Gelman, chair of the ComSoc Standards Board. "We are very pleased to sponsor this project and are committed to supporting it with ComSoc technical activities, including providing the Working Group access to technical expertise that resides in ComSoc's many Technical Committees."

The specifications developed in the course of this project will complement the existing IEEE 802.3™ and IEEE 802.1™ standards, which ensure the interoperability at the Physical layer and Data Link layer.

IEEE P1904.1 is being developed within the IEEE Standards Association Corporate Program in which each participating member entity (such as corporations or other institutions) has one vote. This industry-oriented program often allows for standards creation in one to two years, depending on participant commitment and the use of IEEE support services. The program also provides a route to international acceptance for a standard based on the IEEE's broad ties to the international standards community.

The Working Group expects to hold its first meeting early in 2010. All parties interested in participating in the P1904.1

project are encouraged to visit the SIEPON Working Group website at <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/1904/1/> for information about the registration process and proposed meeting schedule.

About the IEEE Standards Association

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of 900 active standards and more than 400 standards under development. For information on the IEEE-SA, see: <http://standards.ieee.org>.

About the IEEE Communications Society

IEEE Communications Society (ComSoc), as a member society of the IEEE, sponsors standards development to meet the needs of its membership, the IEEE at large, and the worldwide communications industry. The standards development activity is conducted in partnership with the IEEE Standards Board, with appropriate liaison with and contributions to other standards bodies. ComSoc standards activities are appropriately restricted to communications, networking, and related fields, as defined in the scope of the Society and the charters of its Technical Committees. <http://www.comsoc.org>

About IEEE

IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.), the world's largest technical professional society, is commemorating its 125th anniversary in 2009 by "Celebrating 125 Years of Engineering the Future" around the globe. Through its more than 375,000 members in 160 countries, IEEE is a leading authority on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. Dedicated to the advancement of technology, IEEE publishes 30 percent of the world's literature in the electrical and electronics engineering and computer science fields, and has developed nearly 900 active industry standards. The organization annually sponsors more than 850 conferences worldwide. Additional information about IEEE can be found at <http://www.ieee.org>.

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