

IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

To: Chairman ASC T1P1
Title: Liaison Statement
Date: 14 March, 1991

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) is a USA based international professional organization with over 250,000 members representing a broad segment of the computer and communication industries. IEEE 802 is chartered by the IEEE to produce standards for Local, Metropolitan and Integrated Voice/Data communication networks. These standards provide for data transfer between computers at signaling rates of 1 to 20 Mbit/s on wire, optical and radio media.

To date, IEEE has developed several widely recognized standards. Many of these have been forwarded to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and have been subsequently accepted as International Standards.

Working group 802.11 was formed in September 1990. The purpose of the group is to develop standard Medium Access Control (MAC) and Physical Layer (PHY) specifications for wireless connectivity for fixed, portable and moving stations within a local area. The attendance of individuals from some 84 different companies and an interest mailing list over 200 individuals demonstrate the breadth, intensity and scale of interest in the development of open standards for wireless LANs.

The vision of IEEE 802.11 is to create an international standard for wireless local area data networks. In achieving this goal there will undoubtedly be many challenges in the technical, standards and regulatory areas.

Working group IEEE 802.11 believes that there is a need for ubiquitous connectivity both in local area networks (LANs) as well as wide area networks (WANs). Since the major standards groups in the US addressing this need are 802.11 and T1P1 respectively, we believe that a liaison between these two groups would be constructive in achieving the ubiquitous connectivity required by wireless computers in the future.