



Report by the President of the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA)

by Donald C. Loughry

Challenge for the New Millennium

New Year's resolutions may be established yearly if you are a believer in recognizing situations and establishing some resolves to address them.

Opportunities for "Millennial" reflections occur but once in a lifetime, if at all. Why should we look forward to the new millennium with eager anticipation, some level of concern, and new insights and awareness?

Just recently, I listened to a newscast aimed at emerging trends. The CEO of a major IT company observed that industry changes are taking place at an exceptionally rapid pace. Business opportunities are being created at astounding rates and evaporating equally fast. In fact, it is difficult to see very far into the future because of rapid changes such as mega-mergers, exploding e-commerce, and frequent surprises in the business world. In short, much is demanded of us these days in terms of visionary thinking, extensive flexibility, and creative responses to evolutionary and even revolutionary changes.

How does the IEEE-SA fit into the picture? This past year, we began to initiate some aspects of continuous processing of our standards (i.e., not bound by quarterly meetings). The IEEE

Industry Standards and Technology Organization (IEEE-ISTO) has been established to meet industry demand for more business-driven and market-oriented standards activities now addressed by consortia and alliances. These examples are just for starters.

We have not yet fully resolved the issue of just how we will evolve to full electronic distribution of our products, rather than depending on the "last millennium" staple of printed hard copy. What percentage of our standards is rapidly and thoroughly implemented in products? How well do we ferret out new standards initiatives, proactively engage the interested parties, coach them in the ways of productive standards development, and facilitate the completion of standards efforts? Can we hold effective standards meetings via video conferencing and significantly reduce the cost and time to market without reducing the quality of the product?

These and many more as yet unknown imperatives will face us sooner rather than later. How we meet the ever-changing demands will test our mettle. We must be responsive, flexible, and creative to serve the present and future needs of society. To do less will challenge our right to be in the standards business. I challenge each of us to be attuned to arising needs and to meet them effectively.

IEEE and Bluetooth™: Global Standards-Making

by Ian Gifford

The first project of the IEEE 802.15 Working Group for Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPANs) is a standard derived from the Bluetooth™ Special Interest Group (SIG) v1.0 Specification. This project is proving to be a major growth area for IEEE 802 standards.

One of the major goals for P802.15, as well as for the Bluetooth™ SIG, is global usage. A P802.15 WPAN/Bluetooth™ device will provide travelers with country-to-country usage.

One of the first applications for this wireless standard is coined "the ultimate headset." A cordlessly connected headset will keep hands free at all times. You can connect your headset to a mobile phone or any wire-bound connection to keep your hands free for more important tasks when

you're at the office, in your car, or in a train, airplane, or boat. This IEEE draft standard will truly be "Networking the World."

Because of this, much of the Bluetooth™ technology is focused on a single specification that meets worldwide regulatory requirements in two categories: security and spectrum/power. The radio link will contain private business and personal data/voice; hence, security is a requirement for this. As security is heavily regulated worldwide, the technology has to conform to or work with the various worldwide agents to ensure it meets these requirements. With regard to spectrum/power, the technology needs to travel with the user. These wearable devices must be designed such that a single technology meets the spectrum power requirements of the world.

This first P802.15 WPAN project effort is

fast-tracking a standard derived from the Bluetooth™ Specifications for wireless networking of portable and mobile computing devices, e.g., organizers, laptops, cell phones, etc., allowing these devices to communicate and interoperate with one another. The goal is to create a peer reviewed standard that has broad market applicability and deals effectively with the issues of coexistence with other wireless networking solutions.

For more information contact Bob Heile, Chair of 802.15, at bheile@bbn.com or Ian Gifford, Vice Chair of 802.15 and Chair of Task Group 1, at giffordi@ieee.org or view the Web page at:

• <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/802/15>.

Ian Gifford is Chair of Task Group 1 and Vice Chair of the IEEE 802.15 Working Group.

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