

Subject: IEEE 802 Position Statement on IEEE 802.16 Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) Working Group Conflict of Interest with recent IEEE-ISTO announcement.

IEEE Standards are highly regarded throughout the world because they are developed in an open process with rigorous procedures to ensure that all voices are heard, and heard again, until the quality of the output is fully accepted. IEEE has shown that, with the support of dedicated teams, this process can quickly lead to superb results that are immediately accepted in the global marketplace. As a result of this quality control process, the name “IEEE Standard” is zealously guarded.

IEEE 802 strongly objects to ISTO’s formation of the Broadband Wireless Internet Forum (BWIF) and the associated press release because:

- 1) The press release implies an accredited standards process. The word “standard” appears 16 times (and “IEEE” 34 times) in the press release. This confusion cheapens the value of the highly-regarded IEEE Standards process. The confusion is enhanced by mention three times of affiliation between ISTO and the IEEE Standards Association. Nowhere does the announcement state the difference between specification produced by this forum and an authentic IEEE Standard.
- 2) Marketplace confusion has resulted because of the direct conflict with the scope of an IEEE-SA Standards Board Approved Project (802.16.3) that has been authorized to develop a broadband wireless access (BWA) standard according to accredited IEEE-SA rules and due process. The IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access developing these standards is open to full public participation. To date, well over 400 individuals from well over 100 companies have participated in the Working Group. The ISTO announcement of a “single, unified broadband wireless access industry standard” is in direct conflict (See Addendum for details)

IEEE 802 makes the following requests:

- 1) The IEEE Executive Director should act to ensure that the ISTO dissociates itself with the BWIF prior to the BWIF’s July 26, 2000 meeting.
- 2) The ISTO policies should be modified to avoid projects competitive with IEEE Standards projects unless requested by the IEEE Standards Sponsor.
- 3) The terms “IEEE Industry Standard” and “IEEE-ISTO Industry Standard” should be eliminated in favor of the term “ISTO Industry Standard.”
- 4) IEEE policy and procedures should clarify the difference between an ISTO-generated “Industry Standard” and an authentic IEEE Standard with a statement such as “ISTO is not accredited to write standards. It is separate from, and its actions do not affect programs in, the IEEE Standards Association.” IEEE should issue a press release clarifying these issues with regard to the BWIF announcement.

IEEE 802 will submit this position statement to the IEEE Executive Director, the IEEE-SA Board of Governors, IEEE-SA Standards Board, the IEEE Computer Society SAB, and the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society for their information and action.

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ADDENDUM

The ISTO press release mentions the following concepts that conflict/overlap with Project 802.16.3:

“...cost-effective, broadband wireless access”

The 802.16.3 PAR (entitled “Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems - LAN/MAN Specific Requirements - Air Interface for Fixed Broadband Wireless Access Systems in Licensed Bands from 2 to 11 GHz”) includes the following in its purpose statement: “To enable rapid worldwide deployment of innovative, cost-effective and interoperable multi-vendor broadband wireless access products.”

“...streaming audio and video content and voice”

The 802.16.3 PAR scope says: “The specification enables access to data, video, and voice services with a specified quality of service.”

“Multichannel Multipoint Distribution Service (MMDS) solutions”

The term “MMDS” refers to the U.S. FCC spectrum allocations within the “MDS” bands designated for public network access. These bands are all between 2 and 3 GHz.

According to its scope statement, the 802.16.3 PAR “applies to systems operating between 2 and 11 GHz” “in licensed bands designated for public network access.”

“Vector OFDM”

The 802.16.3 Task Group has received a contribution explaining the applicability of OFDM technology to its interoperability standard.