

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
DRAFT Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group¹

To: Karl Bois Technical Committee chair, OIF
[REDACTED]

Kimberly Naughton Project Manager, OIF
[REDACTED]

CC: Alpesh Shah Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board
Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors
[REDACTED]

James Gilb Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC
[REDACTED]

Adam Healey Vice-chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
[REDACTED]

Jon Lewis Secretary, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
Chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad hoc
[REDACTED]

John D'Ambrosia Vice-chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad hoc
[REDACTED]

From: David Law Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
[REDACTED]

Subject: Liaison to OIF – “802.3 Ethernet Interconnect for AI”
Assessment

Approval Agreed at IEEE 802.3 Interim meeting, Phoenix, AZ, USA, 23 January 2025

Dear Mr. Bois and Members of the OIF,

The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group would like to inform OIF and its members that it has initiated an assessment of “802.3 Ethernet Interconnect for AI” with an emphasis on beyond 200 Gb/s signaling.

This effort will focus on gathering information related to AI networks & performance requirements; market potential; Ethernet interconnects for AI applications; priorities; exploring technical feasibility, and other relevant issues that arise during the course of the assessment. It should be noted that the role of this assessment will be to gather information, not make recommendations or initiate a new project within the IEEE.

This assessment will be performed within the IEEE 802.3 New Ethernet Applications (NEA) Ad hoc and will enable the generation of material that can be used for future reference by an appropriate related standards activity. The IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad Hoc operates using both face-to-face and teleconference meetings, at which the Ad Hoc encourages individuals with

¹ This document solely represents the views of the IEEE 802.3 Working Group, and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association, or IEEE 802.

relevant information to participate and provide input. The activity's website is http://www.ieee802.org/3/ad_hoc/e4ai/index.html, and a general overview can be found at http://www.ieee802.org/3/ad_hoc/ngrates/public/25_01/dambrosia_nea_01_2501.pdf.

We are aware of the OIF's recent initiation of the CEI-448G Framework Project and its focus on defining the next electrical data rate beyond 224 Gb/s, targeting 448 Gb/s. We would be interested in any output from this effort or any other information that the OIF community would be willing to share with us for this endeavor.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact John D'Ambrosia, Vice-Chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad hoc, who is cc'd on this liaison.

Sincerely,

David Law

Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group

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