IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group[1]

To: J. Metz   Chair, SNIA
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          Anthony Constantine   Co-chair, SNIA/SFF TWG
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          Tom Palkert   Chair, SNIA/SFF TWG Transceiver subgroup
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CC: Alpesh Shah   Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board
                                     Secretary, IEEE-SA Board of Governors
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          James Gilb   Chair, IEEE 802 LMSC
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          Adam Healey   Vice Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
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          Jon Lewis   Secretary, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
                                     Chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad hoc
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          John D'Ambrosia   Vice Chair, IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad hoc
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From: David Law   Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
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Subject: Liaison to SNIA/SFF – "Ethernet Interconnect for AI" Assessment

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

Dear Mr Metz and Members of SNIA/SFF,

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

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 802.3.

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[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.

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 IEEE 802.3 NEA Ad Hoc encourages individuals with 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 look forward to any information that the SNIA/SFF community would be willing to share with us for this endeavour. 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