IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group
Liaison Communication

Source: IEEE 802.3 Working Group[1]

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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.

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Subject: Update – "802.3 Ethernet for AI" Assessment

Approval Agreed at IEEE 802.3 Plenary meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 13 Nov 2025

Dear Colleagues,

We wish to provide a status update regarding the IEEE 802.3 NEA "Ethernet for AI" (E4AI) Assessment. This effort has focused on gathering information related to AI networks, performance requirements, market potential, and exploring the technical feasibility of 400 Gb/s electrical and optical signaling for different Ethernet interconnects. For your reference, all meeting materials for the IEEE 802.3 NEA E4AI Assessment are available at https://www.ieee802.org/3/ad_hoc/E4AI/public/index.html.

At the IEEE 802.3 November 2025 Plenary, the IEEE 802.3 NEA E4AI Assessment reported that two distinctive, but related efforts, have emerged in its activities: [1] 400 Gb/s electrical and optical signaling development targeting 400 Gb/s, 800 Gb/s, and 1.6 Tb/s Ethernet, and [2] Ethernet solutions targeting 3.2 Tb/s Ethernet and greater. As noted, the two efforts are related, but the priority would be on the development of 400 Gb/s electrical and optical signaling, as it would be a building block for the development of 3.2 Tb/s Ethernet or greater. See https://www.ieee802.org/3/minutes/nov25/1125_NEA_open_report.pdf.

Going forward, in addition to the scope outlined above, the IEEE 802.3 NEA E4AI will be used for consensus building on future "Call-for-Interest" (CFI) presentations to address these two topics. Please note that a CFI, if approved, results in the formation of a Study Group, which is then tasked with defining the future project.

A request was submitted for a CFI to form a study group on a 400 Gb/s per-lane Signaling Ethernet project after the November 2025 plenary meeting. The CFI will be held during the March 2026 IEEE 802 Plenary Session held from 9 to 13 March 2026 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Please see https://www.ieee802.org/3/cfi/request_0326_1.html for further information.

Sincerely,
David Law
Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group