ETHERNET ALLIANCE HAILS ETHERNET'S GROWING MOMENTUM

Significant progress achieved at recent IEEE 802® Plenary meeting highlights Ethernet's increasing relevance in rapidly diversifying base of markets and applications

BEAVERTON, OR, JULY 30, 2015 – The Ethernet Alliance, a global consortium dedicated to the continued success and advancement of Ethernet technologies, today commended the progress made by the IEEE 802.3® Ethernet Working Group during its recent Plenary meeting in Waikoloa, Hawaii. With a variety of standards advancing to balloting and the formation of new study groups, the gains achieved at the meeting closely parallel the milestones as outlined in the Ethernet Alliance's 2015 Ethernet Roadmap. This growing momentum also points to the technology's increasing relevance and importance, and continued diversification amongst a broad array of emerging markets and applications.

"Ethernet is in a very dynamic period; there's an exceptional level of energy and excitement driving this technology forward into a diversifying range of rates, applications, and market spaces," said John D'Ambrosia, chairman, Ethernet Alliance, and chief Ethernet evangelist, Dell. "Our largest plugfest ever – representing a meeting of 23 different ecosystem partners – perfectly illustrates the expanding breadth of industry interest in the tangible benefits offered by Ethernet's ever-widening family of speeds, such as 40G/100G."

The IEEE 802 Plenary Session saw notable progress across a variety of Ethernet and Ethernet-related projects. A multitude of projects currently underway advanced, allowing them to move into various phases of IEEE's balloting process. Notably, IEEE P802.3by™, a proposed standard addressing 25 gigabits per second (Gb/s) operations for next-generation servers, maintained its fast-track status, advancing to Working Group (WG) ballot. In addition, propelled by Ethernet's mounting importance to and adoption by the automotive market, IEEE P802.3bw™, enabling 100 megabits per second (Mb/s) operations, received conditional approval to proceed to ratification.

The future of signaling was also determined, as the IEEE P802.3bs™ 400GbE Task Force elected to have all electrical and optical signaling supporting 50Gb/s or greater be based on PAM4. The task force, which adopted all of its baseline proposals, will shortly begin work on the first draft of the 400GbE specification.

IEEE 802 members approved the formation of new study groups. With today's quickly evolving data center architectures, a new IEEE 802 study group was formed to address low-cost, deep 2.5 Gb/s and 5 Gb/s Ethernet-based storage solutions to address object storage applications. The membership also voted in favor of establishing a study group devoted to exploring the development of next-generation Ethernet Passive Optical Network (EPON) technologies.

"With more than a dozen on-going projects, Ethernet is continuing its swift forward momentum. Important decisions are being made on how to best meet the needs of industry both now and in the future, in the most cost-effective way possible. The Ethernet Alliance supports Ethernet's continued evolution and diversification, and we look forward to the next generation of Ethernet technology innovation," remarked Mr. D'Ambrosia.

For more information about the Ethernet Alliance, please visit http://www.ethernetalliance.org, follow @EthernetAllianc on Twitter, visit its Facebook page, or join the EA LinkedIn group. Individuals who would like to receive updates on Ethernet Alliance, activities, and events may sign up for the organization's newsletter at www.ethernetalliance.org/newsletter.

About the Ethernet Alliance
The Ethernet Alliance is a global consortium that includes system and component vendors, industry experts, and university and government professionals who are committed to the continued success and expansion of Ethernet technology. The Ethernet Alliance takes Ethernet standards to market by supporting activities that span from incubation of new Ethernet technologies to interoperability demonstrations and education.

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