

NEXT ETHERNET ALLIANCE HIGHER SPEED NETWORKING PLUGFEST SET FOR DECEMBER 2018, AS INDUSTRY DEMAND FOR TRUSTWORTHY INTEROPERABILITY TESTING INTENSIFIES

With Ethernet amid historic transition, event enables equipment manufacturers, test and measurement professionals, etc. to verify interoperability at higher speeds

BEAVERTON, OR, NOVEMBER 5, 2018 – The [Ethernet Alliance](#), a global consortium dedicated to the continued success and advancement of Ethernet technologies, today announced its next Ethernet Alliance *Higher Speed Networking Plugfest* for port data rates ranging from 25 Gigabits per second (Gb/s) to 400 Gb/s. The weeklong event—beginning Dec. 3, 2018, at the [University of New Hampshire InterOperability Laboratory](#) (UNH-IOL) in Durham, New Hampshire—will allow Ethernet Alliance members, equipment manufacturers, test and measurement professionals, etc. to test and improve interoperability of their solutions. In addition, members of the [100G Lambda Multisource Agreement \(MSA\) Group](#) also are invited to attend the plugfest, under terms of a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) between that industry consortium and the Ethernet Alliance.

With demand for faster, more reliable high-speed connectivity exploding across market segments such as cloud, enterprise, telecommunications, financial services and internet exchanges, the Ethernet Alliance *Higher Speed Networking Plugfest* will provide a confidential, non-competitive environment for testing and verification of advanced Ethernet solutions such as new PAM4-based electrical and optical signaling. The December event comes quickly on the heels of a highly successful Aug. 13-17 plugfest at UNH-IOL, which proved to be one of the Ethernet Alliance’s most ambitious testing and debug events ever.

“With so much technology development underway and transpiring on different timeframes, industry is more and more often demanding opportunities for trustworthy interoperability testing for their solutions. This is a role for which the Ethernet Alliance has grown globally respected,” said Dave Chalupsky, plugfest chair and board member, Ethernet Alliance, and network product architect, Intel Corporation. “Ethernet is amid significant and historic growth, with so many new standards activities coming out over the last two years and still rolling out. Our plugfests allow Ethernet Alliance members to more rapidly iterate on product development and confidently deliver multi-vendor-interoperable products that their customers can rely on from Day 1.”

Ethernet Alliance plugfests are proven for bringing together the always-expanding Ethernet ecosystem to quickly meet the market’s growing appetite for robust and dependable connectivity and swiftly deliver upon the promise and benefits of the next generation of Ethernet speeds. The testing matrix for the December plugfest encompasses technologies based on both recently completed and soon-to-be-ratified standards. With the recent completion and/or expected approval of standards such as [IEEE 802.3bs™](#) and [IEEE P802.3cd™](#)—as well as specifications such as 100G Lambda MSA’s 100G-FR and 400G-FR4, which are based on 100 Gb/s PAM4 signaling and designed for data center connectivity over links of up to 2 kilometers—meeting demand for greater

Ethernet speeds while maintaining the technology's legacy of proven interoperability is increasingly important. Among equipment to be tested during the December event are Ethernet physical layer transceivers (PHYs); network interface controllers (NICs); switches; test and measurement solutions, and an array of optical and copper media at speeds of 25, 50, 100, 200, and 400 Gb/s.

Companies interested in participating in the December plugfest will need to join the Ethernet Alliance. Information regarding membership may be found at <https://ethernetalliance.org/about-us/how-to-join/>. For other information about the Ethernet Alliance, please visit <http://www.ethernetalliance.org>, follow [@EthernetAllianc](#) on Twitter, visit its [Facebook](#) page, or join its [LinkedIn](#) group.

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.

###

Media Contact:

Melissa Power

Interprose Public Relations

P: 401-454-1314

E: melissa.power@interprosepr.com