

[Email This Letter](#)

22 March 2007

Paul Nikolich  
18 Bishops Lane  
Lynnfield, MA 01940  
p.nikolich@ieee.org

Re: P802.1AX - Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks – Link Aggregation

Dear Paul:

I am pleased to inform you that on 22 March 2007 the IEEE-SA Standards Board approved the above referenced project until 31 December 2011. A copy of the file can be found on our website at <http://standards.ieee.org/board/nes/projects/802-1AX.pdf>.

Now that your project has been approved, please forward a roster of participants involved in the development of this project. This request is in accordance with the IEEE-SA Operations Manual, Clause 5.1.2i under Duties of the Sponsor which states:

"Submit annually to the IEEE Standards Department an electronic roster of individuals participating on standards projects"

For your convenience, an Excel spreadsheet for your use has been posted on our website at <http://standards.ieee.org/guides/par/roster.xls>. Please forward this list to me via e-mail at [s.hampton@ieee.org](mailto:s.hampton@ieee.org) no later than 20 June 2007.

Please visit our website, IEEE Standards Development Online (<http://standards.ieee.org/resources/development/index.html>), for tools, forms and training to assist you in the standards development process. Also, we strongly recommend that a copy of your draft be sent to this office for review prior to the final vote by the working group to allow for a quick review by editorial staff before sponsor balloting begins.

If you should have any further questions, please contact me at +1 732 562 6003 or by email at [s.hampton@ieee.org](mailto:s.hampton@ieee.org).

Sincerely,

Sherry Hampton  
Administrator, Governance  
Standards Activities  
Phone +1 732 562 6003  
FAX +1 732 875 0695  
Email: s.hampton@ieee.org

CC: bob.grow@intel.com BCC: s.hampton@ieee.org, t.t.lee@ieee.org

**PAR Request Date:** 06 February 2007**PAR Approval Date:** 22 March 2007**PAR Signature Page on File:** Yes**Type of PAR:** New IEEE Standard**Status:** PAR for a New IEEE Standard**Root Project:****1.1 Project No.:** **802.1AX****1.2 Type of Document:** Standard**1.3 Life Cycle:** Full-Use**1.4 Is this document in ballot now?** No**2.1 Title**

Standard for Local and Metropolitan Area Networks – Link Aggregation

**3.1 Working Group Name**[Ethernet Working Group](#)**Working Group Chair**[Grow, Robert M](#)

Phone: 858-679-2077

Email: bob.grow@intel.com

**Working Group Vice Chair**[Law, David J](#)

Phone: +44-131-665-7264

Email: david\_law@ieee.org

**3.2 Sponsor**[IEEE Computer Society Local and Metropolitan Area Networks \(C/LM\)](#)**Sponsor Chair**[Nikolich, Paul](#)

Phone: 857-205-0050

Email: p.nikolich@ieee.org

**Name of Standards Liaison Representative (if applicable)****3.3 Joint Sponsor****4.1 Type of Ballot:** Individual**4.2 Expected Date of Submission for Initial Sponsor Ballot:** November 2007**4.3 Projected Completion Date for Submittal to RevCom:** April 2008**5.1 Approximate number of people expected to work on this project:** 200

**5.2 Scope:** Link Aggregation allows one or more links to be aggregated together to form a Link Aggregation Group, such that a MAC Client can treat the Link Aggregation Group as if it were a single link. To this end, it specifies the establishment of DTE to DTE logical links, consisting of N parallel instances of full duplex point-to-point links operating at the same data rate. This standard defines the MAC independent Link Aggregation capability, and general information relevant to specific MAC types that support link aggregation.

**5.3 Is the completion of this document contingent upon the completion of another document?** Yes

This project is to extract the specification of link aggregation from IEEE Std 802.3-2005 during the revision of that standard (P802.3REV). To assure that link aggregation remains specified by an IEEE 802 standard, the revision and this new standard are co-contingent.

**5.4 Purpose:** Link aggregation allows the establishment of full duplex point-to-point links that have a higher aggregate bandwidth than the individual links that form the aggregation. This allows improved utilization of available links in bridged LAN environments, along with improved resilience in the face of failure of individual links.

**5.5 Need for the Project:** It has been concluded between 802.1 and 802.3 that future development of Link Aggregation would be more appropriate as an 802.1 standard. Recent and current 802.1 projects specify queuing related information that should appropriately interact with Link Aggregation and in some cases operate over aggregated links. Ethernet Link Aggregation is currently defined in IEEE Std 802.3-2005. As part of the revision of IEEE Std 802.3-2005, the Link Aggregation protocol defined in Clause 43 will be separated out into this new standard, with necessary MAC support remaining in IEEE Std 802.3-2005. This project will form an initial base document for MAC independent Link Aggregation based on the current Ethernet specifications. It is expected that addition of any other MAC types to the document will be done as future amendment projects to this base document.

**5.6 Stakeholders for the Standard:** The stakeholders for this standard are the semiconductor manufacturers, system product manufacturers (e.g., switch and NIC), network providers (e.g. installers, support, enterprises), bandwidth providers (e.g., carriers), and users of Ethernet link aggregation as currently defined in IEEE Std 802.3-2005.

**6.1.a. Has the IEEE-SA policy on intellectual property been presented to those responsible for preparing/submitting this PAR prior to the PAR submittal to the IEEE-SA Standards Board?** Yes **Presented Date:** 2006-11-13

If no, please explain:

**6.1.b. Is the Sponsor aware of any copyright permissions needed for this project?** No

If yes, please explain:

**6.1.c. Is the Sponsor aware of possible registration activity related to this project?** No

If yes, please explain:

**7.1 Are there other standards or projects with a similar scope?** Yes

**If yes, please explain:**

IEEE Std 802.3-2005 includes the specification of link aggregation for Ethernet networks. This project will extract that specification into a stand alone document for future development and maintenance by 802.1. This document will have a much narrower scope than that of IEEE Std 802.3.

**Sponsor Organization:** CS/LM

**Project/Standard Number:** 802.3

**Project/Standard Date:** 0000-00-00

**Project/Standard Title:** Standard for Information Technology - Telecommunications and Information Exchange Between Systems - Local and Metropolitan Area Networks - Specific Requirements Part 3: Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) Access Method and Physical Layer Specifications

**7.2 Is there potential for this standard (in part or in whole) to be adopted by another national, regional, or international organization?** ? No

**Technical Committee Name and Number:**

**Contact person:**

**Contact person Phone Number:**

**Contact person Email Address:**

**7.3 Will this project result in any health, safety, security, or environmental guidance that affects or applies to human health or safety?** No

**7.4 Additional Explanatory Notes:**

**8.1 Sponsor Information:**

Is the Scope of this project within the approved scope/definition of the Sponsor's Charter? Yes

If no, please explain: