

# IEEE 802.11 Patent Pool Exploratory Forum

## Industry Connections Activity Initiation Document

Version: 2.3 (For BOG Approval), 20 February 2012

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### **1. Background and Purpose**

The purpose of the IEEE 802.11 Patent Pool Exploratory Forum is to promote the IEEE standard by promoting the availability of licenses essential to the IEEE standard on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. The goal is to bring together patent owners as identified by their LOAs filed with IEEE. The patent owners will discuss the merits of licensing administrators and related licensing issues to launch a patent pool for IEEE 802.11 (2012) and appropriate extensions. A similar activity is practiced by DVB for digital video standards.

### **2. Charter and Scope**

Within the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA), the IEEE 802.11 Patent Pool Exploratory Forum activity will be overseen by the IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BOG). The charter of the IEEE 802.11 Patent Pool Exploratory Forum may include the following activities:

- Identify patent owners for this specific standard by their LOAs filed with IEEE, or their intention to file an LOA within 90 days of attending a Forum meeting.
- Identify and engage additional patent owners for the standard which is subject to the Exploratory effort.
- Organize meetings of patent owners as well as identify an IEEE Convener and antitrust attorney. Send invitations to identified patent owners, and provide a means for registration.
- Patent owners work with IEEE Convener and Staff to identify the scope of the pooling effort (e.g., which extension of the IEEE 802.11 standard), and to establish a process for the selection of the best licensing administrator to manage the patent pool for this specific standard. After reaching consensus, the patent owners may develop an RFP for circulation to multiple licensing administrators.
- Patent owners may discuss other issues relating to the licensing of patents essential for the implementation of IEEE 802.11-related technologies (consistent with antitrust/competition rules).
- Discuss best practices in patent pool formation and administration, model/standardized contractual clauses, identifying the items commonly discussed as each patent pool is facilitated.
- Once a licensing administrator is selected, the IEEE 802.11 Patent Pool Exploratory Forum will consider whether to continue its activity.

### **3. Potential Markets Served**

The main beneficiaries of this work are the patent owners who are able to license their patents to a large number of licensees implementing this IEEE standard at a reasonable cost, and the licensees who are able to obtain licenses to implement the IEEE standard at reasonable terms and conditions.

### **4. Proposed Deliverables**

The anticipated deliverable from this IC activity is an identified licensing administrator to manage a patent pool, or a comparable outcome identified by the group, for IEEE 802.11 (2012) or a potentially extended application.

### **5. Funding Requirements**

Additional contracted services or other expenses that are currently anticipated, beyond the basic support services provided to all IC activities:

- Antitrust counsel support
- IEEE Convener support
- Meeting planning and logistics including room rental and catering

### **6. Initial Members**

Initial members with IEEE 802.11 and/or 802.11n LOAs (or intend promptly to make submissions):

<b><u>Entity Name</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail Address</u></b>
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**Revision History:**

<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Author/Editor</b>	<b>Revision Date</b>
1.0 (Draft)	Joe Alfred (AT&T)	23 June 2011
1.1 (Draft)	Edward Rashba (IEEE-SA)	28 October 2011
1.2 (Draft)	Edward Rashba (IEEE-SA)	03 November 2011
1.3 (Draft)	James Wendorf (IEEE-SA)	21 November 2011
1.4 (Draft)	Edward Rashba (IEEE-SA)	22 November 2011
2.0 (For BOG Approval)	Edward Rashba (IEEE-SA)	01 December 2011
2.1 (Draft)	E. Rashba & J. Wendorf (IEEE-SA)	30 January 2012
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