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ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6

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IEEE P802.11
Wireless LANs

Draft response to JTC1/SC6 liaison letter**Date:** 2008-03-05**Author(s):**

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Abstract

This document drafts a response to a liaison letter received by IEEE 802 from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6.

To: Professor Kim, Chair of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6
Professor Ho-In Jeon, Convenor of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 WG1

CC: JTC1/SC6 Secretariat Jooran Lee, for distribution to SC6 NBs
IEEE 802 LMSC
Terry deCourcelle, Jodi Haasz, William Ash, Michael Kipness
Jesse Walker

Subject: Response to Liaison Letter 6N13770 from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 WG1 to the IEEE 802 LMSC

Dear Professors Kim and Jeon,

Thank you for the liaison letter 6N13770, dated 5 November 2008, from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 WG1 to the IEEE 802 LMSC concerning the Partner Standards Development Organization (PSDO) agreement between ISO and the IEEE. The liaison letter to the IEEE 802 LMSC contains two requests:

1. It asks the IEEE 802 LMSC to consider continuing to progress its standards through ISO/IEC using the DIS fast track process defined in the JTC1 directives. The liaison letter expresses the position of SC6 WG1 that the use of the FDIS fast track process defined in the PSDO is not in the interest of the IEEE 802 LMSC or of WG1.
2. It asks that the IEEE-SA consider becoming a Category A liaison with SC6. The liaison letter notes there would be considerable benefit from such a relationship.

We have had a chance to consider the letter, and now can provide a response.

On the first issue, we have decided to utilize the FDIS fast track process as called for in the PSDO as the normal mechanism by which we progress IEEE 802 standards within ISO/IEC. We agree that the existing approval processes have worked satisfactorily over the last 20 years. The basis of this success has been avoiding changes to the ISO/IEC 8802 series that would cause it to diverge from the approved IEEE 802 version. We believe the PSDO represents an evolution of the process and builds upon the established foundation. In addition, this agreement was adopted by our respective parent organizations as the normal means to progress documents from the IEEE-SA to ISO/IEC, and we thus have an obligation to operate per the agreement.

Both the IEEE 802 LMSC and JTC1/SC6 have the opportunity to reflect upon lessons learned from our joint experience with our respective parent organizations, to refine and enhance the process going forward. One of the issues raised thus far is that the PSDO process does not define a mechanism for feedback from FDIS fast track ballots. We would like to emphasize that comments from the ISO/IEC community are greatly valued by the IEEE 802 LMSC. We continue to encourage JTC1 NBs to comment at any stage on any of our drafts under development.

On the second issue, the IEEE 802 LMSC does not plan to apply to become a Category A liaison to JTC1/SC6. It appears that becoming a Category A liaison affords only a subset of the privileges and responsibilities of the PSDO. Further, we understand that the ITTF is actively discouraging applications for Category A liaisons. Because of this, it is unlikely that the IEEE-SA or the ITTF would support such an action. If the PSDO is not renewed, or if it significantly modified, the IEEE 802 LMSC might consider other relationships between itself and JTC1/SC6, including pursuit of a Category A liaison.

We appreciate the suggestions in your liaison letter. The letter was instrumental in the development of the IEEE 802 LMSC position communicated herein. We look forward to a continued and fruitful collaboration between JTC1/SC6 WG1 and the IEEE 802 LMSC for the development of LAN/MAN

standards.

Sincerely

Paul Nikolich
IEEE 802 LMSC Chair