

IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access<http://WirelessMAN.org>

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Dr. Roberto Macchi
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Dear Roberto:

Thank you for your note of 24 January (which I have filed as [IEEE 802.161-01/03](#)) in which you seek further information as background to a document you received “depicting the establishment of a new Broadband Wireless Internet Forum (BWIF) and stimulating possible mutual relationships with TM4.” Given your observation that “BWIF seems under IEEE umbrella,” I very much appreciate your concern over the relationship of that group to IEEE 802.16, and I thank you for giving us the opportunity to explain.

The projects of IEEE 802 are chartered by the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA). According to IEEE Bylaw 1-304.6, the IEEE-SA “shall establish coordinate, develop, approve, and revise IEEE standards and conduct other standards-related activities in fields of interest to the Institute. The IEEE-SA shall be the IEEE interface in standards-related matters with external bodies.” As you know, ETSI has a formal relationship with the IEEE-SA, as defined in the April 1999 “Co-operation Agreement between ETSI and IEEE-SA.” The IEEE-SA is accredited as a standards developing organization by ANSI.

The Broadband Wireless Internet Forum is organized under the IEEE Industry Standards and Technology Organization (ISTO). ISTO is not part of the IEEE-SA, although it does have a legal relationship to IEEE (the parent body of IEEE-SA). ISTO’s role seems to be in administering industry fora and consortia. It has no accreditation as a standards body, and it is not covered by the ETSI/IEEE-SA Co-operation Agreement. Activities organized by ISTO are industry programs, not standards programs. BWIF is one of a number of industry consortia attempting to promote its specifications in fields related to our work.

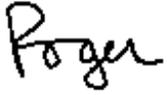
We fully sympathize with your concern over duplication of standards and your desire to avoid duplication of liaison efforts. We wholeheartedly appreciate the cooperation that has blossomed between our groups and hope to continue those fruitful interactions going forward. We hope that you continue to recognize IEEE 802.16 as the IEEE’s sole standardization activity in fixed broadband wireless access.

2001-01-26

IEEE 802.161-01/04

Please note that, with regard to your interesting technical letter of 12 January 2001, IEEE 802.16 is replying separately ([IEEE 802.161-01/05](#)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger".

Dr. Roger B. Marks
Chair, IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access

cc: Jim Carlo, Chair, IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee
Barry Lewis, ETSI WG-TM4 Liaison to IEEE 802.16
Marianna Goldhammer, IEEE 802.16 Liaison to ETSI WG-TM4

Reference: "IEEE 802 Position Statement on IEEE 802.16 Broadband Wireless Access Working Group Conflict of Interest with recent IEEE-ISTO announcement" <<http://ieee802.org/16/802/positionBWIF.pdf>>