

IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee

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To: Joon-Nyun Kim, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 Chairman, Ho-In Jeon, WG1 Convener

To: Xie Quan, China ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 Head of Delegation

CC: Roger Marks, IEEE 802 Project 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee (LMSC) China Liaison Official

SUBJECT: Forwarding of China's submission N12687 to IEEE Project 802 for information

DATE: 21 January 2005

Thank you for forwarding China's submission N12687 to IEEE Project 802 LMSC in November 2004 for information. We understand that this was done by ISO/IEC to request consideration of this submission by IEEE Project 802 for the ISO/IEC 8802 document series. An LMSC subcommittee was formed to review submission N12687.

IEEE is the world's foremost technical professional association in electrical and electrical engineering, with more than 360,000 individual members in approximately 175 countries, and is a leading authority in technical areas including computer engineering, biomedical technology, telecommunications, electric power, aerospace and consumer electronics. Many Chinese professionals are members of IEEE and have been honored for their contributions. The IEEE Standards Association develops standards on a national and international basis and its standards provide the text for many standards in both IEC and JTC-1.

IEEE Project 802, recognized on a world-wide basis, is the premier forum responsible for development of local and metropolitan networking standards under the ISO/IEC 8802 document series. Within IEEE Project 802, the IEEE 802.11 Working Group is responsible for Wireless LAN standards. This working group receives contributions from individuals from all over the world, and has over 700 active participants from many countries. IEEE 802.11 Task Groups are actively working on many issues pertaining to wireless LANs, including High Throughput, Fast BSS Transition, Mesh Networking, and improved wireless LAN Network Management.

IEEE Project 802 LMSC and the IEEE 802.11 Working Group fully support China's desire to improve WLAN security. As Chairs, we invite and encourage Chinese participation in IEEE Project 802 LMSC. Participation includes working with committees within IEEE Project 802 LMSC to identify ways to incorporate submission N12687 into IEEE Std. 802.11 via LMSC's well-defined standards development process. If we can work together to incorporate the technical components described in submission N12687 into IEEE Std. 802.11, then it will be part of a future submission by IEEE Project 802 LMSC to ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 for inclusion into the ISO/IEC 8802 document series.

After receiving submission N12687 from ISO/IEC, the IEEE 802.11 Working Group sub-committee reviewed the submission and identified ways to incorporate submission N12687 into the IEEE Std 802.11. The analysis identified essential technical components of N12687 that could be incorporated as extensions to the IEEE Std. 802.11, and also uncovered impediments to incorporating submission N12687 in its current form. For example, submission N12687 as it stands does not provide for forward compatibility with other amendments now under development by the IEEE 802.11 Working Group, such as management frame security or MSDU aggregation, to enable high data rates over 100Mbps throughput.

Incorporation of essential technical components from submission N12687 in IEEE Std 802.11 will require experts from China to participate in committees within IEEE Project 802 LMSC so that the result meets China's needs, is backward compatible with the existing IEEE 802.11 and ISO/IEC 8802-11 standards, and forward compatible with other amendments already under way. Backward and forward compatibility is necessary for market success, enabling widespread technology deployment using a generally respected standard.

Thank you again for the opportunity to consider the best way towards a unified and consistent international standard. We suggest that the next step be to convene joint meetings in China, to discuss both the process and technical aspects of moving forward.

Sincerely

Paul Nikolich
Chair IEEE Project 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee

Stuart Kerry
Chair IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN Working Group