

IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access

<http://WirelessMAN.org>



Roger B. Marks
Chair, IEEE 802.16 Working Group
rmarks@nextwave.com
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To: Ron Resnick
President, WiMAX Forum

Subject: Developing a liaison relationship between IEEE 802.16 and the WiMAX Forum

Dear Ron,

Taking note the recent information exchanges with the WiMAX Forum, the IEEE 802.16 Working Group (WG) would like to seek your views regarding the development of a comprehensive liaison relationship. We believe that our recent informal cooperation has been quite effective for some of our standards projects and we hope it has been helpful for the WiMAX Forum. However, in our view, it has become increasingly important to clarify and formalize the cooperation between the two organizations.

We would in particular like to call out some specific areas in which the relationship between the two organizations would benefit from increased coordination and communication:

IMT-2000

The IEEE 802.16 WG and the WiMAX Forum have collaborated successfully regarding the introduction of the OFDMA TDD WMAN radio interface into IMT-2000. This interface, following final approval, will require ongoing maintenance. According to procedures, both IEEE and the WiMAX Forum will play a role in such maintenance. It is essential that the IEEE 802.16 WG and the WiMAX Forum develop an understanding of responsibilities and maintain their communication regarding this activity. The IEEE 802.16 WG expects to also participate in the development of IMT-Advanced recommendations; this may entail further coordination activities.

Profiles

The IEEE 802.16 WG appreciates your response ([IEEE L802.16-07/047](#)) to our earlier request ([IEEE L802.16-07/030](#)) regarding the WiMAX conformance profile. As IEEE Std 802.16 continues to develop, we believe that maintenance of profiles will be important to ensure that certification activities and the underlying standard remain consistent with each other. Therefore, we expect that it will be important to communicate and coordinate effectively regarding the WiMAX Forum evolution of profiles and the addition of new ones.

Maintenance and Enhancement of IEEE Std 802.16

IEEE Std 802.16 continues to evolve. We understand that the WiMAX Forum may find that the standard may need corrections or may wish to recommend enhancement in some areas. We suggest that a communication process may be appropriate to handle these situations. For example, if the WiMAX Forum would point to concerns with existing material or needs for additional features, we expect that the IEEE 802.16 WG would be likely to review such requests and consider the timely development of solutions within existing projects. We also expect that the WG would be happy to provide drafts to the WiMAX Forum for review and comment under IEEE guidelines. We would hope that such liaison activity would provide us the ability to expedite solutions to time-critical problems.

Given these issues, the IEEE 802.16 WG believes that the relationship with the WiMAX Forum would benefit from a formalized liaison relationship. We welcome your thoughts and proposals regarding these suggestions.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Paul Nikolich, Chair, IEEE 802 Executive Committee