NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Shuang Yu, Senior Manager, Solutions Marketing
+1 732 981 3424; shuang.yu@ieee.org

IEEE FORMS STUDY GROUP TO EXPLORE NEXT-GENERATION IEEE 802.3™ BASE-T

New IEEE 802.3 Group to Examine New Networking Requirements
in Server Connectivity and Other Applications

PISCATAWAY, N.J., USA, 23 July 2012 – IEEE, the world's largest professional association advancing technology for humanity, today announced the formation of the IEEE 802.3™ Next-Generation BASE-T Study Group. The new group is designed to measure industry interest and needs in the next generation of the IEEE 802.3 BASE-T family of technologies for Ethernet transmission over twisted-pair cabling.

Widely deployed for physical-layer connectivity in data centers, IEEE 802.3 BASE-T represents the highest-volume Ethernet port type today. IEEE 802.3 BASE-T technologies typically utilize server-uplink data rates of Gigabit Ethernet and 10 Gigabit Ethernet today, but platform transitions and systems innovation on all fronts are driving new networking requirements.

“Because of the ability of current IEEE 802.3 BASE-T technologies to interoperate with legacy versions via the standard’s ‘autonegotiation’ feature and thereby support cost-effective infrastructure upgrades, extension to 40 Gigabit Ethernet and higher speeds will be required in coming years, ,” said Bill Woodruff, chair of the IEEE 802.3 Next-Generation BASE-T Study Group and associate product line director with Broadcom. “IEEE 802.3 BASE-T continues to be one of the most successful technologies within the greater IEEE 802.3 family, and our new study group will gauge the timing and needs of extending the standard to support industry needs for server connectivity and other applications.”

Interested individuals are invited to contribute to the new IEEE 802.3 Next-Generation BASE-T Study Group. For more information, please visit http://www.ieee802.org/3/NGBASET.

“The formation of an IEEE 802.3 study group occurs when there is interest in developing a request to initiate an IEEE 802.3 Ethernet standards-development project,” said David Law, chair of the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group and distinguished engineer with HP Networking. “One of the reasons that IEEE 802.3 BASE-T has proven to be such a compelling technology over the years is because it frees companies to upgrade their networks strategically and cost-efficiently. That benefit of the standard is increasingly valuable, given the bandwidth demands and cost pressures that network managers today face.”

To learn more about IEEE-SA, visit us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/ieeesa, follow us on Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/ieeesa, connect with us on LinkedIn at http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1791118 or on the Standards Insight Blog at http://www.standardsinsight.com.

About the IEEE Standards Association
The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 900 active standards and more than 500 standards under development. For more information visit http://standards.ieee.org/.

About IEEE
IEEE, the world’s largest technical professional association, is dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Through its highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities, IEEE is the trusted voice on a wide variety of areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics. Learn more at http://www.ieee.org.

# # #

Supporting quotes

Mike Bennett, senior network engineer, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab: “The next-generation BASE-T effort is timely as 10GBASE-T becomes the typical network interface shipping with servers today. We need the next generation of twisted-pair Ethernet to be ready when server I/O technology advances to the next level. This technology will continue the low-cost, high-performance Ethernet we’ve come to expect from the IEEE.”

Brad Booth, director network architecture, Dell and previous chair of IEEE P802.3an (10GBASE-T): “One of the key values that 10GBASE-T provides to the end user is the ability to migrate their systems from 1 Gigabit Ethernet to 10 Gigabit Ethernet without requiring a forklift upgrade. The next-generation BASE-T will provide the ability to continue this migration capability.”

David Chalupsky, network hardware architect, Intel Corporation: “We are excited to see work begin on the next generation of the BASE-T roadmap. A higher-speed BASE-T will complement the rich family of Ethernet options, continuing to enable the growth and diversity of server networking needs.”

Wael William Diab, vice-chair of the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet working group and senior technical director at Broadcom: “As high-density 10GBASE-T switches become more common in data center and enterprise environments, the approval of this study group to review the next-generation BASE-T technology is timely. A next-generation BASE-T technology will complement the rich and diverse higher-speed Ethernet interfaces, ensuring that next-generation switch and server application requirements are addressed.”

David Koenen, server network technologist, HP: “Today’s 1000BASE-T and 10GBASE-T protocols on twisted-pair cabling offers a high-density, low-cost solution for the data center’s server-network edge. A next-generation BASE-T standard will provide an upgrade path to match the bandwidth demands of future applications.”
[David Koenen is pending final approval from HP]