

ETHERNET ALLIANCE MEMBERS CALL FOR IEEE 802.3 ETHERNET STANDARD TO SUPPORT 2.5G/5G BASE-T

Tens of billions of meters of installed Cat 5e and Cat 6 cabling need to support rates beyond Gigabit Ethernet

BEAVERTON, OR, MAY 14, 2015 – The [Ethernet Alliance](#), a global consortium dedicated to the continued success and advancement of Ethernet technologies, today announced, as part of its upcoming “*Ethernet 104: Introduction to 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet*” webinar, the growing support from its membership for the standardization activity within the IEEE 802.3™ Ethernet Working Group to develop a standard addressing 2.5 Gigabit Ethernet (2.5G) and 5 Gigabit Ethernet (5G) operation over today’s Cat 5e and Cat 6 cabling infrastructure. The webinar will explore the challenges, problems, and potential solutions in addressing this application space on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 10am PDT.

Since 2003, some 70 billion meters of Cat 5e and Cat 6 cabling have been sold. While the existing cable infrastructure can’t support 10GbE, new 2.5G/5G BASE-T speeds can provide the necessary bandwidth upgrade to support the deployment of the next generation of Wi-Fi® (IEEE 802.11ac™), enabling customers to extract the maximum value from their infrastructure investment. The Ethernet Alliance, the voice of Ethernet, is amplifying the statement of its members in this webinar, including Aquantia Corp.; Amphenol Corporation (NYSE: APH); Avago Technologies Ltd. (NASDAQ: AVGO); Broadcom Corporation (NASDAQ: BRCM); Brocade Communications Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: BRCD); Cadence Design Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ: CDNS); Cisco Systems, Inc.; CME Consulting; CommScope (NASDAQ: COMM); Dell, Inc.; Hewlett-Packard (NYSE: HPQ); High Speed Design Inc.; Huawei Technologies Company Ltd. (SHE:002502); Intel (NASDAQ: INTC); Ixia (NASDAQ: XXIA); Juniper Networks, Inc. (NYSE: JNPR); LUXSHARE Precision Industry Co., Ltd. (SHE: 002475); Marvell Technology Group Ltd. (NASDAQ: MRVL); Microsemi Corporation (NASDAQ: MSCC); Nexans SA (EPA: NEX); Panduit Corp.; QLogic Corporation (NASDAQ: QLGC); Spirent Communications Plc. (LSE: SPT.L); TE Connectivity Ltd. (NYSE: TEL); University of New Hampshire InterOperability Laboratory; and Xilinx, Inc. (NASDAQ: XLNX), who feel an IEEE 802.3 Ethernet standard will best serve the industry.

“The Ethernet Alliance is dedicated to promoting industry awareness of both existing and emerging IEEE 802 Ethernet standards. With this standardization endeavor targeting an estimated 90 percent of the installed cabling infrastructure, and deployment of IEEE 802.11ac technology, our upcoming webinar will provide the industry with an overview of IEEE 802.3 standardization efforts,” said [John D’Ambrosia](#), chairman, Ethernet Alliance, and chief Ethernet evangelist, Dell. “We, like our members, believe that an IEEE 802.3 standard for 2.5G/5G BASE-T

operation will accelerate its development and adoption, allowing the technology to proliferate and expand into new markets and applications.”

To learn more about 2.5G/5G technology and standardization related efforts, please join the Ethernet Alliance for its upcoming “*Ethernet 104: Introduction to 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet*” webinar on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at 10am PDT. Additional information is available, and registration is now open at <http://bit.ly/Ethernet104>.

For more information about the Ethernet Alliance, please visit <http://www.ethernetalliance.org>, follow [@EthernetAlliance](https://twitter.com/EthernetAlliance) on Twitter, visit its [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EthernetAlliance) page, or join the EA [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/123456789) group.

About the Ethernet Alliance

The Ethernet Alliance is a global consortium that includes system and component vendors, industry experts, and university and government professionals who are committed to the continued success and expansion of Ethernet technology. The Ethernet Alliance takes Ethernet standards to market by supporting activities that span from incubation of new Ethernet technologies to interoperability demonstrations and education.

For more information about the Ethernet Alliance, please visit www.ethernetalliance.org; follow [@EthernetAlliance](https://twitter.com/EthernetAlliance) on Twitter; visit the Ethernet Alliance [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EthernetAlliance) page; or join the Ethernet Alliance [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/123456789) group. Individuals who would like to receive updates on Ethernet Alliance news, activities and events may sign up for the organization’s newsletter at www.ethernetalliance.org/newsletter.

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ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

“The establishment of new intermediate 2.5 and 5.0 Gbps Ethernet speeds is driven by increased bandwidth demands from wireless access points due to the prevalence of mobile devices across campus and enterprise environments, and applications dependent on fast, reliable and agile New IP networks. As an Ethernet Alliance member and a key supplier of wired network infrastructure switches optimized for our customer’s mobility edge devices, Brocade is in full support of the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group’s efforts to develop a single standard supporting multi-vendor interoperability for 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet.” – *Siva Valliappan, Vice President, Product Management, Campus Product Management, Brocade*

“Our industry depends on equipment working together and Cisco is committed to work towards standards-based interoperable solutions.” – *Mark Nowell, Senior Director of Engineering, Cisco*

“As a strong proponent of industry standards for structured cabling, CommScope recognizes the importance of standards as the key to interoperability and the efficient deployment of Ethernet technologies and ecosystems. Interoperability extends beyond the physical layer and we believe that a single standard, supporting multi-vendor

interoperability for 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet, is essential for customers to realize the benefits of this important technology.” – *Kevin St. Cyr, Senior Vice President of Enterprise Solutions, CommScope*

“Dell has a fundamental belief that the infrastructure of tomorrow will be based on standards-based hardware and software. Given our customers’ interest in deploying next-generation wireless LAN technology, we are committed to supporting the IEEE P802.3bz Task Force in developing a standard to address 2.5GBASE-T and 5GBASE-T.” – *Arpit Joshipura, Vice President, Product Strategy and Management, Dell Networking*

“HP Networking has a long history in embracing open standards because we believe customers come first and proprietary protocols limit organizations’ freedom to choose, ultimately restricting business agility, driving up cost, and slowing innovation. Mobility has become the cornerstone of user experience and HP Networking is committed to leading the industry with an open, mobile centric infrastructure. We are fully supportive of the IEEE Ethernet Working Group for 2.5/5G BASE-T Ethernet for the good of our customers and the industry.” – *Mark Carroll, Vice President Advance Technology Group and Chief Technology Officer, HP Networking*

“Huawei supports the development of an IEEE 802.3 standard for 2.5G/5G Ethernet. The standard will increase coverage through existing Class D / Category 5e infrastructure to meet the bandwidth connectivity needs from WiFi 802.11AC deployments. The standard enables fast WiFi network deployments and users via higher connectivity bandwidths at low cost points.” – *Wael Diab, Senior Director, Huawei*

“The success of multiple prior generations of Ethernet protocols and data rates has hinged on the standards formulated at the IEEE 802.3 and the multi-vendor interoperability that ensues. Marvell stands firm in its commitment to support the IEEE’s formulation of a standard for 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet.” – *Ron Cates, Senior Director, Marketing, Connectivity, Storage, and Infrastructure Business Unit, Marvell*

“Wi-Fi is no longer an optional service for enterprises, airports, universities and other public areas, but a standard service that customers expect. 2.5G/5G BASE-T will play an important role in enabling a higher bandwidth aggregation network for the emerging wireless access networks. Microsemi fully supports this development of a single standard for multi-vendor interoperability for 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet.” – *Uday Mudoj, Vice President, Marketing, Microsemi’s Ethernet Networking Technology (ENT) Group*

“Panduit supports the development of the IEEE 802.3bz standard for 2.5G/5G BASE-T to ensure performance and interoperability of the entire ecosystem of switches, servers, PHY, connectors and cable. This effort is critical for customers wanting to deploy an Enterprise Network that is low cost, provides Power over Ethernet (PoE), and offers the flexibility of backwards compatibility over multiple data rates.” – *Bob Wagner, Senior Product Line Manager, Panduit Corp.*

“BASE-T remains a dominant interconnect technology for Enterprise Access Ethernet links. Driven by the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group, a single standard to support multi-vendor interoperability for 2.5G/5G BASE-T Ethernet will accelerate its development and adoption, allowing its proliferation into adjacent markets and applications. QLogic is dedicated to promoting industry awareness of both existing and emerging IEEE 802 Ethernet standards.” – *Greg Scherer, Chief Technology Officer, QLogic Corp.*

“Xilinx supports the efforts for an IEEE 802.3 standard for 2.5G/5G BASE-T operation. We believe this new standard will open up and accelerate development of products and applications across a wide set of markets including wireless and data center. These applications will all benefit from the capabilities that the 2.5G/5G technology has to offer.” – *Curtis Pulley, Data Center Business Manager, Xilinx*