



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:
Marilyn Callaghan
Callaghan Communications
650-342-6087
marilyn@callaghan-com.com

Major Milestone in 10 Gigabit Ethernet Standard Accomplished at Record-Attendance Meeting

10 Gigabit Ethernet Standard On-Track for 2002 Ratification

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – July 17, 2000 – The 10 Gigabit Ethernet Alliance today announced that the IEEE P802.3ae Task Force overwhelmingly approved the core content of the 10 Gigabit Ethernet Standard during last week's meetings held in La Jolla, Calif. This completes an exhaustive 16-month technology evaluation process and marks the Task Force's first major milestone. Task Force editors will immediately begin writing the first draft of the standard.

"The approval of the core content provides a solid foundation for drafting the P802.3ae 10 Gigabit Ethernet Standard. The tremendous work and effort of the Task Force allows us to remain on track for ratification of the standard in 2002," explained Bob Grow, vice president and treasurer of the 10 Gigabit Ethernet Alliance and an Engineering Fellow at Intel. "The unprecedented attendance of this meeting exhibits the broad industry support for this 'white-hot' technology."

The IEEE meeting was held July 10-14 in La Jolla, Calif. and was attended by representatives from approximately 80 companies.

The core content of the 10 Gigabit Ethernet Standard, as adopted at last week's meeting, includes all of the major logic elements and media access for single mode fiber-based LAN and WAN PHYs (physical layer devices). This content includes the Media Access Control (MAC), the Physical Coding Sublayer (PCS), 10 Gigabit Media Independent (XGMII) and other optional interfaces, management and the various Physical Medium Dependent (PMD) interfaces. Selection of a multimode fiber PMD(s) is expected during the IEEE P802.3ae Task Force meeting, to be held in Boston in September 2000.

About 10 Gigabit Ethernet

Positioned as a high-speed, unifying technology for networking applications in LANs, MANs, and WANs, 10 Gigabit Ethernet will provide simple, high bandwidth at relatively low cost – "Ethernet Everywhere." In LAN applications, 10 Gigabit Ethernet will enable organizations to scale their packet-based networks from 10 Mbps to 10,000 Mbps, thereby leveraging their investments in Ethernet. In MAN and WAN applications, 10 Gigabit Ethernet will enable service providers and others to create extremely high speed links at very low cost. 10 Gigabit Ethernet will permit the use of SONET/SDH as a Layer 1 transport.

About the 10 Gigabit Ethernet Alliance

The 10 Gigabit Ethernet Alliance was organized to facilitate and accelerate the introduction of 10 Gigabit Ethernet into the networking market. It was founded by networking industry leaders: 3Com, Cisco Systems, Extreme Networks, Intel, Nortel Networks, Sun Microsystems, and World Wide Packets. Additionally, the Alliance will support the activities of IEEE 802.3 Ethernet committee, foster the development of the 802.3ae (10 Gigabit Ethernet) standard, and promote interoperability among 10 Gigabit Ethernet products. For more information, visit their Web site at <http://www.10gea.org>.

###