

**IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access**

<http://WirelessMAN.org>



Roger B. Marks  
Chair, IEEE 802.16 Working Group  
[r.b.marks@ieee.org](mailto:r.b.marks@ieee.org)  
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To: Nan Chen, President, Metro Ethernet Forum  
Peter Meissner, Operating Officer, NGMN Alliance  
Gordon Mansfield, Chair, Small Cell Forum  
Declan Byrne, Chair, WiMAX Forum

cc: Paul Nikolich, Chair, IEEE 802 Executive Committee

Subj: IEEE 802.16 Activity regarding Small Cell Backhaul

The IEEE 802.16 Working Group (WG) on Broadband Wireless Access would like to bring to your attention its intention to initiate a new standardization project to amend IEEE Std 802.16-2012 for enhancements to better address Small Cell Backhaul (SCB) applications and provide a cost-effective wireless backhaul solution. The Working Group has forwarded a draft Project Authorization Request (PAR) ([IEEE 802.16-12-0587](#)) to the appropriate approving entities and hopes to have the project authorized in December 2012. Once these approvals are granted, the standardization work will be authorized to proceed within the IEEE 802.16 Working Group. We have referenced your organization's documentation in our development of the proposal.

Note that the focus of the intended project is to apply the IEEE 802.16 WirelessMAN-OFDMA air interface (as specified in IEEE Std 802.16-2012 and incorporated in ITU's IMT-2000) as an out-of-band non-line-of-sight backhaul solution for fixed or nomadic small cells that operate any sort of radio access network, such as IEEE 802.11, IEEE 802.16, or 3GPP. The solution would make use of IEEE 802.16's native support for Ethernet transport. While we believe that the existing WirelessMAN-OFDMA air interface is suitable for the application, we believe that enhancements in certain areas will optimize it for the new small cell markets beginning to take shape.

The PAR is not final. A Call for Contributions ([IEEE 802.16-12-0588](#)) has been issued, including a request for comments on the draft. Your comments are welcome. We are particularly interested in your views on the technical requirements for Ethernet services support and for physical layer capabilities.

The Working Group would appreciate your inputs prior to the deadline of 7 November. Our next opportunity to respond to a formal communication will occur at [IEEE 802.16 Session #82](#) (12-15 Nov 2012 in San Antonio, TX, USA).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Roger B. Marks'.

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