IEEE P802.19

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| Proposed liaison on LAA process |
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Abstract

This document contains a draft liaison for consideration by IEEE 802.19 for possible submission by IEEE 802.19 WG to 3GPP RAN and 3GPP RAN1 in relation to the LAA development process.

## Proposed liaison letter

TO: Dino Flore, 3GPP TSG RAN Chair, oflore@qti.qualcomm.com

 Satoshi Nagata, 3GPP TSG RAN WG1 Chair, nagatas@nttdocomo.com

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Paul Nikolich, IEEE 802 Chair, <paul.nikolich@ATT.NET>

SUBJECT: Review of 3GPP LAAA Specification

DATE: 15 May 2016

Dear Dino & Satoshi,

Thank you for supporting the ongoing cooperation over the last year between IEEE 802 and 3GPP RAN in relation to coexistence issues between LAA and 802.11 systems. This cooperation has increased the level of confidence of many stakeholders, including IEEE 802 members, that LAA can indeed be designed in such a way that IEEE 802.11 and LAA systems will coexist fairly in the future in unlicensed spectrum.

The 3GPP LAA Workshop in August 2015 laid the foundations for this increased confidence based at least partially on the 3GPP RAN participants at the Workshop strongly emphasizing the importance of consensus in developing the LAA specifications. This confidence was also supported by Workshop participants explicitly recognizing IEEE 802 (as well as the Wi-Fi Alliance and others) as a significant stakeholder in the LAA specification development and consensus building process. As part of this recognition, the 3GPP RAN Chair committed to:

* Liaising the LAA R13 CRs to IEEE 802 in December 2015
* Allowing IEEE 802 until early April 2016 to provide comments on the LAA R13 specification
* Working with IEEE 802 to resolve any comments by consensus, starting in April 2016

The early April 2016 deadline was chosen to ensure IEEE 802 had sufficient time to consider the LAA R13 specification properly and also to allow time for 3GPP RAN1 to make any necessary changes to LAA before the scheduled “freeze” of the LAA R13 specification. While not explicitly discussed at the Workshop, it is the expectation of many IEEE 802 members that the “freeze” of the LAA R13 specification will only occur once all significant outstanding issues are resolved. This reasonable expectation is based on the emphasis by the 3GPP RAN Chair and other 3GPP RAN participants at the Workshop of the vital importance of consensus in the LAA development process.

IEEE 802 sent 3GPP RAN a liaison dated 18 March 2016 containing twelve significant and detailed comments, along with associated suggestions, related to the draft LAA R13 specification. We understand that the Wi-Fi Alliance also a sent a liaison in early April 2016 supporting many of IEEE 802’s comments and suggestions, as well as making some additional comments and suggestions. We further understand that both liaisons were considered at the 3GPP RAN1 meeting in April 2016. Unfortunately, it appears that 3GPP RAN1 were unable to come to an agreement on responses to at least some of the comments liaised by IEEE 802 and by the Wi-Fi Alliance. We understand that 3GPP RAN1 is now planning to consider responses to all of the liaised comments again at their meeting on 23-27 May 2016.

In the meantime, we note that the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York sent a letter to 3GPP RAN, copied to IEEE 802, commenting on aspects of the LAA R13 specification. This letter raises a particular technical issue similar to one of the comments included in the IEEE 802’s liaison, but mainly highlights the importance of ensuring LAA does not unfairly interfere with important and extensive Wi-Fi based networks in New York City. This letter emphasizes the importance of achieving consensus from all stakeholders in relation to the LAA R13 specification.

While there remains *sustained opposition to substantial issues* (as documented in the IEEE 802 and Wi-Fi Alliance liaisons) by an *important part of the concerned interests* (IEEE 802 and Wi-Fi Alliance) and the process to *take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting argument* (the comment resolution process between 3GPP RAN1 and commenting stakeholders*)* has not yet completed, consensus cannot be considered achieved[[1]](#footnote-1). In this context, the IEEE 802.19 WG would appreciate an assurance from 3GPP RAN that the LAA R13 specification will not be “frozen” until all outstanding issues have been resolved by consensus of all stakeholders including 3GPP RAN1, IEEE 802 and the Wi-Fi Alliance.

Assuming 3GPP RAN1 is able to reconsider and respond to IEEE 802’s comments in May 2016, the IEEE 802.19 WG intends to consider 3GPP RAN1’s response (on behalf of IEEE 802) at the IEEE 802 plenary meeting in July 2016 and respond to 3GPP RAN1 as soon as practical afterwards. In the event that all *substantial issues* are not resolved by this time, the IEEE 802.19 WG would like to understand 3GPP’s intended timeline and process to finally resolve these issues and “freeze” the LAA R13 specification.

IEEE 802 looks forward to a continued, productive interchange between our organizations on this and other issues.

Regards,

/s/ Steve Shellhammer

Steve Shellhammer, Chairman, IEEE 802.19 WG

1. The text in italics is derived from the ISO definition of consensus in the context of standards development [↑](#footnote-ref-1)