IEEE 802.21: Media Independent Services

Liaison Communication

## Source: IEEE 802.21 Working Group

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Subject: Liaison reply1 to China NB comments on the DCOR (Draft Technical Corrigendum) ballot on IEEE Std 802.21™-2017/Cor 1-2017

Approval: Agreed to at the IEEE 802.21 WG Plenary meeting, San Diego, CA, USA, July 11, 2018

Dear ISO/IEC JTC1 SC 6 Secretariat,

IEEE 802.21 would like to thank the China NB for their review and comments in DCOR (Draft Technical Corrigendum) ballot on IEEE Std 802.21™-2017/Cor 1 as part of the PSDO process. Please find below each comment and the response from the IEEE 802.21 Media Independent Services Working Group.

**China NB Comment CN1 on DCOR ballot on IEEE Std 802.21™-2017/Cor 1:**

This proposal is a corrigendum to IEEE 802.21-2017. China NB voted negatively during the ballot of ISO/IEC/IEEE FDIS 8802-21 (the FDIS text of IEEE 802.21-2017 submitted to SC6) with technical comments attached:

It is clearly stated in ISO/IEC/IEEE FDIS 8802-21 that this standard is implemented with IEEE 802.1X-2010 (please refer to 5.7.4), on which China NB has expressed objection and submitted detailed comments (please refer to 6N15555 etc.). IEEE has acknowledged the receiving of China NB’s comments, but there hasn’t been any technical improvements made on IEEE Std 802.1X and hence the defects still exist.

A protocol based on EAP is designed in ISO/IEC/IEEE FDIS 8802-21 text, and this protocol clearly states to use SHA-256 and AES algorithms as default. However, policy and regulation limitations on application of cryptographic algorithm differ from countries and regions. Therefore, it is improper to specify SHA-256 and AES algorithms as the default ones. It is also noticed that IEEE 802.21 WG responded in 6N16770. However, there were no corresponding technical changes to IEEE 802.21-2017 text.

Therefore, China NB believe it is unreasonable to proceed standardization activities based on IEEE 802.21-2017 at the circumstance that the technical comments to IEEE 802.21-2017 are not properly resolved.

**China NB proposed change 1 on CN1**

*None.*

***Response from the IEEE 802.21: Media Independent Services Working Group on CN1***

*The China NB voted “abstention” on DCOR ballot on IEEE Std 802.21™-2017/Cor 1 due to the reference of IEEE Std 802.1X-2010 in the base IEEE 802.21-2017 standards.*

*Unfortunately, the China NB has neither responded to the document under ballot nor proposed any changes to the document. On the other hand, the China NB’s comment does repeat assertions by the China NB in relation to alleged flaws in IEEE 802.1X and the use of default algorithms. These concerns have been addressed multiple times in responses to previous comments by the China NB including in the response (6N16770) to the China NB’s FDIS comments on IEEE Std 802.21-2017 (now ISO/IEC/IEEE 8802-21:2018).*

*Moreover, the China NB has never substantiated its concerns about IEEE 802.1X-2010, despite numerous requests from IEEE 802 over many years although IEEE 802 has responded to these alleged issues several times including a recent response to the China NB on IEEE 802.1Q-2014/Cor1-2015, IEEE 802.1AB-2016, IEEE 802.1Qca-2015, IEEE 802.1Qbv-2015, and IEEE 802.1AC-2016.*

*IEEE 802.21 Working Group invites the China NB to participate in IEEE 802.21 WG meetings and submit for consideration any additional technical details, beyond the issues that have already been resolved, that support their concerns. For reference, upcoming IEEE 802.21 WG meetings are mentioned below:*

* *Interim meeting: September 09-14, 2018, Hilton Waikoloa Village, Kona, HI, USA*
* *Plenary meeting: November 11-16, 2018, Marriott Marquis Queen’s Park, Bangkok, Thailand*

*Sincerely,*

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*Subir Das*

*Chair, IEEE 802.21: Media Independent Services Working Group*

1 This document solely represents the views of the IEEE 802.21 Working Group, and does not necessarily represent a position of the IEEE, the IEEE Standards Association.