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IEEE 802.16 Group Makes Key Decisions on Fixed Broadband Wireless Access

Broad industry support for worldwide systems interoperability in CPE, base stations

TAMPA, Florida, November 20, 2000 – The IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access, a unit of the Standards Association of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), announced it has reached several key milestones during its plenary meeting. During the session, attended by 215 people from more than XX organizations worldwide, the Working Group:

- reviewed 20 proposals for the physical layer for the “Air Interface for Fixed Broadband Wireless Access Systems in Licensed Bands from 2 to 11 GHz”
- initiated a Working Group Letter Ballot to approve a draft of “Recommended Practice on Coexistence of Broadband Wireless Access Systems” targeting 10-66 GHz
- processed all 584 comments to the consensus working version of the “Air Interface for Fixed Broadband Wireless Access Systems,” targeting 10-66 GHz, in preparation for Working Group letter ballot early 2001. The review document had been downloaded over 20,000 times.

”Our members support the rapid development of standards which are critical to respond to worldwide demand for wireless broadband service delivery,” said Roger Marks, Chairman of the IEEE 802.16 Working Group. “Global systems interoperability is an absolute must-have for widespread service provider adoption and ease of implementation.”

“Our Working Group effort concentrates on open development of accredited air-interface standards based on public consensus,” emphasized Dean Chang, Publicity Chair of 802.16. Historical precedents have favored the universal appeal of IEEE 802 standards. Worldwide acceptance of IEEE 802.3 Ethernet, IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN, and other ubiquitous network standards serves as strong evidence of this trend.”