The following text is an individual contribution of text for a proposed communication from the IEEE 802.1 working group to the Wi-Fi Alliance. The text has not been reviewed or approved by members of the 802.1 Working Group, and the text does not represent a liaison.

Dear members of the Wi-Fi Alliance,

Over six years ago, specifications for Timing Measurement (TM) were added to the published IEEE Std 802.11, and well as the published IEEE Std 802.1AS-2011 protocol for time synchronization. The Wi-Fi Alliance has completed certifications of this TM feature for IEEE Std 802.1AS time synchronization (i.e. Wi-Fi CERTIFIED TimeSync™). Hardware support for this TM feature is common in Wi-Fi chipsets, but no known Router has shipped with support for the IEEE Std 802.1AS time sync protocol.

IEEE Std 802.11-2016 added support for the Fine Timing Measurement (FTM) feature. The FTM feature provides enhanced accuracy for time sync measurement. FTM is also used for measurement of location (i.e. Wi-Fi CERTIFIED Location™). An upcoming revision of IEEE Std 802.1AS will add support of FTM for time sync (not location).

For the upcoming revision of IEEE Std 820.1AS, there is an open question as to the conformance requirements for TM and/or FTM. The IEEE 802.1 Working Group is seeking the opinion of Wi-Fi Alliance members, toward the goal of encouraging the best long-term Wi-Fi technology for time sync.

The methods for obtaining and communicating opinion on TM/FTM for time sync are of course entirely up to the Wi-Fi Alliance, but the IEEE 802.1 Working Group suggests the following question.

Straw poll question (choose one):
What do you think is the most commercially viable time sync technology for Wi-Fi products?

1. TM
2. FTM
3. Both (TM is a good fit for some applications; FTM is a good fit for other applications)
4. Neither (I do not view time sync as an important Wi-Fi technology)

Thank you for your assistance,