Project	IEEE 802.16 Broadband Wireless Access Working Group http://ieee802.org/16
Title	Editorial revision of subclauses 4.1 through 4.3
Date Submitted	2003-01-10
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Re:	Sponsor ballot P802.16.2a/D3
Abstract	
Purpose	Adoption
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Editorial revision of subclauses 4.1 through 4.3

Nico van WAes Nokia Wireless Routers

4.1 System architecture

Fixed BWA systems often employ multipoint architectures. The term multipoint includes PMP and MP-MP. The IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access (see Clause 2) has developed a standard containing a fully specified air interface for PMP (2-66 GHz) and MP-MP (2-11 GHz) systems. Similar standards have been developed within the HIPERACCESS and HIPERMAN working groups of ETSI Project BRAN. In addition, a number of proprietary fixed BWA systems exist for which the air interface is not standardized.

Fixed broadband wireless access systems typically include base stations (BS), subscriber stations (SS), subscriber terminal equipment, core network equipment, intercell links, repeaters, and possibly other equipment. A reference fixed BWA system diagram is provided in Figure 1. This diagram indicates the relationship between various components of a BWA system. BWA systems may be much simpler and contain only some elements of the network shown in Figure 1.¹ A fixed BWA system contains at least one BS and a number of SS units. In the figure, the wireless links are shown as zigzag lines connecting system elements.

Intercell links may use wireless, fiber, or copper facilities to interconnect two or more BS units. Intercell links may, in some cases, use in-band point to point (PTP) radios that provide a wireless backhaul capability between base stations at rates ranging from DS-3 to OC-3. Such PTP links may operate under the auspices of the PMP license.



Some systems deploy repeaters. In a PMP system, repeaters are generally used to improve coverage to locations where the BS(s) have no line of sight within their normal coverage area(s), or alternatively to extend coverage of a particular BS beyond its normal transmission range. A repeater relays information from a BS to one or a group of SSs. It may also provide a connection for a local subscriber station. A repeater may operate on the same downlink frequencies as those frequencies that it uses, facing the BS, or it may use dif-

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ferent frequencies (i.e., demodulate and remodulate the traffic on different channels). In MP-MP systems, most stations are repeaters that also provide connections for local subscribers.

The boundary of the fixed BWA network is at the interface points F and G of Figure 1. The F interfaces are points of connection to core networks and are generally standardized. The G interfaces, between subscriber stations and terminal equipment, may be either standardized or proprietary.

4.1.1 PMP systems

PMP systems comprise base stations, subscriber stations and, in some cases, repeaters. Base stations use relatively wide-beam antennas, divided into one or several sectors providing up to 360-degrees coverage with one or more antennas. To achieve complete coverage of an area, more than one base station may be required. The connection between BSs is not part of the fixed BWA network itself, being achieved by use of radio links, fiber optic cable, or equivalent means.

Links between BSs may sometimes use part of the same frequency allocation as the fixed BWA itself. Routing to the appropriate BS is a function of the core network. Subscriber stations use directional antennas, facing a BS and sharing use of the radio channel. This may be achieved by various access methods, including (orthogonal) frequency division, time division, or code division.

4.1.2 MP systems (Mesh)

Multipoint-to-multipoint (MP-MP) systems have the same functionality as PMP systems. Base stations provide connections to core networks on one side and radio connection to other stations on the other. A subscriber station may be a radio terminal or (more typically) a repeater with local traffic access. Traffic may pass via one or more repeaters to reach a subscriber.

4.1.3 Antenna subsystems

The antenna subsystems employed generally depend on the frequency band in use and the system type.

For microwave PMP SSs, the antenna subsystem is generally very highly directive, as LOS is typically required. Microwave MP-MP SSs typically employ multiple antennas of this type and employ a means for remote alignment.

For millimeter wave BSs, adaptive antenna systems may be employed to improve performance. For millimeter wave PMP SSs, the antenna subsystem is generally highly directive, though typically less so than for microwave PMP SSs as to enable near-LOS and/or NLOS operation to some extent. Millimeter wave MP-MP SSs typically use omni directional antennas.