



21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

Mr Michel Bouquain  
Convenor, IEC TC 86

Dear Mr Bouquain,

IEEE seeks to establish a Category B Liaison between the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group and IEC TC 86. IEEE is a legal entity that is not-for-profit and has multi-national membership that is open to any interested party.

The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group has widespread technical expertise in the topics addressed within IEC TC 86. The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group is responsible for development of Ethernet local area network specifications for selected speeds of operation from 1 Mb/s to 400 Gb/s using a common media access control (MAC) specification and management information base (MIB). The Carrier Sense Multiple Access with Collision Detection (CSMA/CD) MAC protocol specifies shared medium (half duplex) operation, as well as full duplex operation. Speed specific Media Independent Interfaces (MIIs) allow use of selected Physical Layer devices (PHY) for operation over coaxial, twisted-pair or fiber optic cables. Other specified capabilities include various PHY types for access networks and PHYs suitable for metropolitan area network applications. Further specified capabilities provide for power over selected twisted-pair cables known as Power over Ethernet (PoE).

If a Category B Liaison were to be established, the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group agrees to follow IEC procedures to conduct this liaison relationship and proposes Steven Swanson <swansonse@corning.com> to act as the liaison representative from the IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group to IEC TC 86. As IEEE 802.3 already has a Category C liaison with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3, who in turn has an internal IEC liaison with IEC TC 86, IEEE 802.3 will exclude cabling specified by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25/WG 3 from this liaison.

The IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group respectfully requests IEC to approve this Category B liaison. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your response.

Best regards,  
David Law  
Chair, IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Working Group