# **DRAFT: NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**IEEE Announces Formation of IEEE 802.11™ Light Communications Study Group**

*Group will drive global standardization efforts to advance light communications technologies as a solution to meet growing wireless capacity demands*

**PISCATAWAY, NJ, XX August 2017** – IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for humanity, and the [IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA)](http://standards.ieee.org/), today announced the formation of the IEEE 802.11 Light Communications Study Group. The new study group will directly engage with manufacturers, operators and end users in consensus building efforts and to create a Project Authorization Request (PAR) towards developing global wireless local area network light communications standards.

Light communications represent a readily available and very large source of wireless spectrum outside of the traditional radio spectrum, and utilizes LED lighting installations to transmit high bandwidth data as a wireless network. With the growing demand for wireless data, and the impending spectrum crunch, the technology has notable potential as a wireless solution that offers greater bandwidth and efficiency, security, and data density, while not being subjected to electromagnetic interference (EMI). With industry analysts projecting the Internet of Things (IoT) to grow to 20 billion connected devices by 2020, light communications is gaining ground through use cases that demonstrate its viability as a global wireless solution with initial applicability in EMI-challenged environments, such as hospitals, petrochemical plants, and airplanes, but also secure environments where RF is not sanctioned.

“In just a few short years, the interest in light communications has grown significantly and there is an enormous amount of valuable knowledge that vendors and operators can share as they work together to advance the technology globally,” said Nikola Serafimovski, chair of the IEEE 802.11 Light Communications Study Group. “It’s an exciting time for the light communications market sector, as it is poised for substantial growth over the next five years. We look forward to broad participation under the auspices of the IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN Working Group and the IEEE-SA as we work to develop the light communications market in line with industry needs, and to ensure best practices that drive market expansion.”

Deployment of technology defined by IEEE 802® standards is already globally pervasive, driven by the ever-growing needs of data networks around the world. New application areas are constantly being considered that might leverage IEEE 802 standards in their networks from wireless, through twisted-pair cabling, to fiber-optic cabling solutions. To better address the needs of all of these areas, IEEE 802 standards are constantly evolving and expanding. The success of IEEE 802 standards—from their inception through today—has been based upon their fair, open and transparent development process.

To learn more about IEEE-SA, visit us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/ieeesa), follow us on [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/ieeesa), connect with us on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieee-sa-ieee-standards-association) or on the [Beyond Standards Blog](http://www.standardsinsight.com/).

**About the IEEE Standards Association**

The IEEE Standards Association, a globally recognized standards-setting body within IEEE, develops consensus standards through an open process that engages industry and brings together a broad stakeholder community. IEEE standards set specifications and best practices based on current scientific and technological knowledge. The IEEE-SA has a portfolio of over 1,200 active standards and over 650 standards under development. For more information visit <http://standards.ieee.org>.

**About IEEE**

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