

ETSI EP BRAN
Tampere, Finland,
July 1-3, 1997

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To: Mr. Vic Hayes, chairman of IEEE P802.11
Date: July 3, 1997
Subject: Cooperation concerning standards for the 5 GHz band

Dear Mr. Hayes,

The BRAN Project has noted the fact that your committee has decided on a PAR for the development of a wireless LAN specification for the 5 GHz U-NII band and intended to achieve a data rate in the range of 20 Mbit/s. We understand the objective is to develop a new Physical Layer specification for use with the Medium Access Control specification as given in the recently approved Wireless LAN specification for the 2.4 GHz ISM band developed by 802.11.

As one of its tasks, the BRAN Project is about to begin the similar work on the specification of a Physical Layer specification for HIPERLANs Type 2 and Type 3 which are intended to provide ATM and multi-media compatible access to wired infrastructure network. Here, the intended data rate is in the range of 25 Mbit/s and the frequency range is very similar.

Because of the potential commonalities between the objectives and specification activities, the BRAN Project considers it advantageous to work together with 802.11. Recognizing that different operational requirements may require different solutions to Medium Access Control, it seems that the Physical Layer should initially be the main subject of cooperation. However, we note that the existence of different Medium Access Control specifications requires consideration medium sharing issues that might arise. In this area too, cooperation could be beneficial.

The objectives of cooperation remain to be agreed but the following should be considered:

- a common Physical Layer specification would provide benefits in terms of economies of scale and therefore of product cost to end-users;
- a common Physical Layer specification could eliminate difference in certification requirements and so facilitate the cross-border (cross ocean) movement of HIPERLAN and U-NII/802.11 devices;
- a common Physical Layer specification could conceivably provide a common basis for world-wide standard for high speed wireless LANs.
- a common approach to medium access and sharing rules would facilitate efficient use of the spectrum;

As the understanding of the requirements and applicable techniques increases with time, the above cooperation could be extended to include Medium Access Control.

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In order to facilitate the above cooperation, we suggest to agree on:

- the appointment of a Liaison Official - Mr. Jan Boer of Lucent Technologies has been nominated for this role by the BRAN Project.
- the exchange of Terms of Reference and meeting reports and other relevant documents so as to foster understanding of the respective work of our committees. We point out that ETSI maintains a WEB site that includes a home page for the BRAN Project:
<http://www.etsi.fr/BRAN>.

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Jan Kruys
Project Manager,
ETSI Project BRAN