

June 2, 2004

**Subject: Request for mutual liaisons between IEEE
Media Independent Handover Services Project (IEEE
802.21) and 3GPP**

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Dear Mr. Andersen,

IEEE 802.21 working group is developing a standard to enable mechanisms for handover across heterogeneous networks. At the recent IEEE plenary meeting in Orlando Florida, an action was taken to establish a liaison with the relevant working groups in 3GPP that will be interested in establishing common interfaces to higher communication layers facilitating fast handover of data sessions across heterogeneous systems, such as IEEE 802.11/802.16/802.20 and UMTS or GPRS.

The scope of the IEEE 802.21 project is to develop a standard that will define media independent mechanisms. These mechanisms would enable the optimization of handover, of handover-capable upper layer entities (e.g. Mobile IP sessions) between heterogeneous media types, both wired and wireless. IEEE 802.21 is expected to develop a standard that helps optimize the detection and selection of network attachment points. We don't anticipate developing the handover algorithms themselves but rather provide all the information for an intelligent entity that we expect to reside above layer 2.

One of objectives of the IEEE 802.21 project is to facilitate mobile devices to handover between IEEE 802 media types and 3G cellular networks and to make it possible for mobile devices to perform it seamlessly when the network environment supports it. This will improve the user experience of mobile devices by improving the available network coverage through the support of multiple media types, preventing the interruption of data flow as well as upper layer sessions during handover.

We are currently in the process of writing the systems requirement for the project, which I anticipate to be completed in the next couple of months. We expect to complete the first draft of the standard by October 2005, with a target to publish the final standard by March 2006.

In order to assist us in establishing a working liaison with 802.21 working group:

- Please let us know the specific groups that the liaison will be established with

The next 802.21 WG Plenary meeting is starting on July 11, 2004. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience and having a close working relationship between IEEE 802.21 and 3GPP. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ajay Rajkumar
Chairman, IEEE 802.21
Working Group on Media Independent Handover Services

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