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Your ref.
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**TO THE NATIONAL BODIES OF
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 AND
TO ALL ISO/IEC JTC 1 NATIONAL BODIES**

Date 2005-09-06

Fast-track processing of IEEE 802.11i and SAC's WAPI proposal

Dear Sir or Madam,

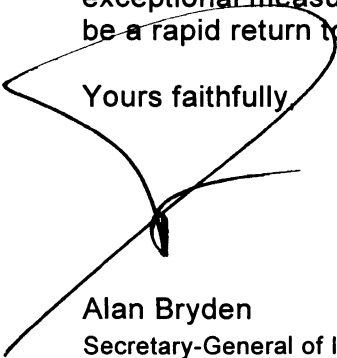
As you know, we hosted an exceptional meeting in Geneva on 17 May 2005 with concerned stakeholders regarding proposed changes to ISO/IEC 8802-11 developed by IEEE and SAC. A result of the session (see Meeting Resolution in Annex A) was to request that a special group be formed to attempt to resolve the relevant technical issues and to provide the result of this work to a meeting of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 that was held in St Paul de Vence (France) last week.


We have noted the resolution adopted by ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 (Annex B) calling for the parallel fast-track submission of IEEE 802.11i and SAC's WAPI proposal and we must concur that this would now seem to be the best method of proceeding. We would like to thank all concerned for their efforts in trying to find a way of harmonizing the two proposals prior to the ballot, but appreciate that in the circumstances this has not proved to be possible.

As was discussed at the SC 6 meeting, and as requested by a majority of its members, we concur to apply the JTC 1 process, i.e. to include the 30-day review period which shall start on 07 September 2005. This is on the understanding that, irrespective of the result of the review period, both proposals will now be submitted for parallel fast-track ballot on 07 October 2005 unless one or both submitters decide to withdraw their proposal. Similarly the voting on both will close simultaneously and the results will be addressed in a joint ballot resolution meeting, again unless one or both submitters decide to withdraw their proposal.

We appreciate that this has been an exceptional situation which has required some exceptional measures. Our expectation is that, by proceeding as outlined above, there will be a rapid return to the normal JTC 1 operating procedures.

Yours faithfully,


Alan Bryden
Secretary-General of ISO


Aharon Amit
General Secretary of the IE

Annex A

Resolution of exceptional meeting hosted by the ISO and IEC Secretaries General

The participants of the meeting (17 May 2005 in Geneva) resolve

to establish a special group, to be convened by a person appointed by the ITTF, and comprising representatives of the national bodies of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC 6, representatives of IEEE and representatives from the JTC 1 Secretariat and the Central Secretariats of ISO and IEC,

a desired objective of the special group is to develop a single technical solution acceptable to all parties,

the special group will review the technical content of the two proposals, i.e. IEEE 802.11i and the Chinese WAPI-proposal and make recommendations to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 on how best to proceed. The recommendations should cover possibilities for harmonized elements of the two proposals, co-existence or any conflicting technical issues requiring decision. The recommendations shall be developed at a meeting prior to the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC6 plenary meeting in August 2005, tentatively planned for 25-29 July 2005 in Beijing, China (was actually 8-13 August, 2005) and submitted to the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6 Secretariat prior to the committee's meeting in August 2005,

decides that the current ballot of Amd 6 to ISO/IEC 8802-11 shall continue to be suspended until the August 2005 plenary meeting of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 6,

prior to the SC6 meeting, SAC shall submit a document for potential fast-track ballot to ITTF to allow, if needed, initiation of a fast-track ballot on 07 September 2005,

should SC6 not be able to provide a recommendation acceptable to the ISO and IEC Secretaries-General, then the fast-track ballot on Amd 6 shall restart on 07 September 2005 with the SAC fasttrack document simultaneously initiated for fast-track ballot and to close at the same date,

at the conclusion of the fast-track ballots, a joint comment resolution meeting shall be held to review the comments received on both proposals,

IEEE and the JTC 1 secretariat note that exceptional steps are being taken outside the existing policies and procedures of the JTC 1-IEEE cooperative agreement,

notes that SAC indicated that it will reserve its consideration of further steps in relation to the appeal submitted to ISO and IEC on 21 April 2005.

Annex B

Meeting of ISO/IEC JTC1/SC6 on 02 September 2005

Resolution 6.1.6-A Wireless LAN Security

SC 6 resolves that the ISO and IEC Secretaries-General be requested to initiate the fast-track procedure as per the JTC 1 Directives as from the 7th September 2005 on ISO/IEC 8802-11/DAM6 and the WAPI proposal of the NB of China, it being understood that the vote will close on the same date and comments received will be addressed in a joint ballot resolution meeting.

- *Approved*

- *China: No with comments (China objects to this resolution because it deviates from the provisions and spirit of the Geneva resolutions, especially the extra one month review mandated by the resolution. It's a violation of the Geneva resolutions.)*

- *Czech Republic: Abstain*

- *France: Yes*

- *Germany: Abstain*

- *Korea: Abstain*

- *US: Yes*

- *UK: Yes*