



January 13, 2003

Secretary, IEEE-SA Standards Board Patent Committee
IEEE
445 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08855

Re: Response to Solicitation of Letter of Assurance

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write in response to a letter we received from the 802.1 Working Group Chair, Mr. Jeffree, soliciting a Letter of Assurance for Essential Patents concerning IEEE Std. 802.1X.

We presume from a review of the November 2002 802.1 Work Group meeting minutes that the Alcatel patent which has come to the Chair's attention is U.S. Patent No. 6 339 830 ("the '830 patent"). We do not believe the '830 patent is standard essential within the terms of the IEEE regulations and do not believe a Letter of Assurance for Essential Patents is obligatory.

All claims of the '830 patent when properly construed require authentication of a user, that is, a person, based on the user's identification information. IEEE Std. 802.1X, in contrast, does not specify the nature of the authentication information exchanged, nor the basis upon which the Authentication Server makes its authentication decisions. Standard-compatible implementations, for example, authentication of a computer based on a machine certificate, are therefore possible. In these circumstances, providing a Letter of Assurance for Essential Patents to the IEEE would be inappropriate, and could even be seen as misleading.

Notwithstanding the lack of any obligation to do so, for the stated reason and others, we are nevertheless happy to confirm that we are willing to grant a license under the '830 patent on reasonable terms and conditions and on a non-discriminatory basis. Licensing enquiries in this regard should be directed to:

David Hawkes, Senior Licensing Manager
Intellectual Property Department
Alcatel
5 rue Noël Pons
92734 Nanterre cedex, FRANCE
Tel: +33 1 46 52 45 52
Fax: +33 1 46 52 43 99

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cordeiro".

David A. Cordeiro, Esq.
Lead IP Counsel

cc: Tony Jeffree
Working Group 802.1 Chair
11a Poplar Grove, Sale, Cheshire, M33 3AX, United Kingdom