Title: Completion of 802.1AX-REV Link Aggregation

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From: Glenn Parsons, Chair, IEEE 802.1 (glenn.parsons@ericsson.com)

Colleagues,

The 802.1 Working Group is pleased to inform you that the revision of IEEE 802.1AX Link Aggregation has completed and is expected to be approved prior to the end of the year. We are attaching the final draft (D4.54) for your information. We are informing you because we believe that it is relevant to ongoing work in your organizations.

802.1AX is a complete revision of the Link Aggregation document, including the widely-deployed Link Aggregation Control Protocol. This revision extends this protocol to define the Distributed Resilient Network Interconnect (DRNI), that supports up to three separate systems terminating each end of an aggregation of point-to-point links. Together, these "portals" appear to each of their attached networks to offer a single pathway to the other network, while maintaining their individual roles as members of their own networks. Of course, backwards compatibility with existing single-system-at-each-end LACP implementations is maintained. In addition, this revision adds the ability for non-DRNI systems to negotiate bi-directional symmetry.

Realizing that you are all very busy, we direct your attention to the opening sections of Clause 9 for a relatively brief exposition of the goals of the DRNI and an overview of its principles of operation.

Thank you for your attention. We will be glad to respond to any questions.

Best regards,

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