



**Broadband Forum Liaison To:**

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**From:**

Michael Fargano, Broadband Forum Technical Committee Chair <michael.fargano@centurylink.com>

**Liaison Communicated By:** David Sinicrope <david.sinicrope@ericsson.com>

**Date:** May 19, 2017

**Subject:** Liaison to IETF on Flex Ethernet for IP/MPLS Networks

At our 2017Q2 meeting in Taipei, the Broadband Forum initiated a new project entitled “Applicability of Flex Ethernet in IP/MPLS Networks”. This project addresses the architecture, requirements and use cases in IP/MPLS networks to deploy Flex Ethernet (a.k.a. FlexE) as a new type of nodal interface.

OIF published “Flex Ethernet Implementation Agreement” (IA OIF-FLEXE-01.0) in March 2016. Our project intends to use FlexE and its related aspects specified by that document including data plane characteristics and provisioning requirements in IP/MPLS networks, including:

- Interconnection between routers on FlexE interfaces in IP/MPLS networks.
- End-to-end MPLS LSPs on FlexE-based channels.
- Control plane protocols (e.g. RSVP-TE, PCEP) including their extensions and their applicability aspects for managing FlexE based MPLS LSP.
- Aspects of using FlexE interfaces and FlexE-based MPLS LSP as a network slicing instance.
- Co-existence of FlexE-based and other data link based MPLS LSPs and their operation.
- New services and applications that FlexE-capable IP/MPLS networks can enable.

We are sending this liaison to inform you about our intention.

We noticed that there are IETF drafts at CCAMP WG that propose to use GMPLS protocols with extensions to support FlexE based MPLS LSP; we are interested in learning the progress and status of the progress.

Sincerely,

Michael Fargano,  
Broadband Forum Technical Committee Chair

**CC:**

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**Date of Upcoming Broadband Forum Meetings**

A list of upcoming meetings can be found at <http://www.broadband-forum.org/meetings/upcomingmeetingsataglance.php>

**Attachments:** none

**Reference:** (r-t:Liaison to IETF CCAMP on FlexE-Cheng-Huawei)