16 July 2014

IEEE-SA Responses to IEEE 802® EC Queries on White Papers

On April 21, 2014, the IEEE 802 EC requested clarification on specific issues with regard to activities surrounding their development of white papers, including when these activities would be considered "duly authorized."

Question Presented:

IEEE 802 EC wanted to know what constituted a "duly authorized activity," and what mechanisms would be needed to determine whether an activity was "duly authorized" as an IEEE-SA activity. Apart from the general question, three specific questions were subsequently submitted with a request for clarification.

IEEE-SA Response:

Any duly authorized activity under the purview of the IEEE-SA has to be conducted within an IEEE-SA Program and approved by an IEEE-SA Board, or under IEEE-SA policies and procedures for that document's development managed by the IEEE-SA Managing Director. Any activities that do not fall under the purview of the IEEE-SA would then have to be developed in accordance with the IEEE Computer Society policies and procedures (as the IEEE 802 sponsor society). The IEEE-SA BoG provides oversight for standards-related activities in the IEEE, and if the intent is that there should be oversight by the IEEE-SA, then the development would have to be under IEEE-SA policies and procedures rather than under a particular Sponsor's policies and procedures. With regard to development of white papers within the IEEE-SA, the two processes that are currently available are the Industry Connections (IC) Program and programs overseen by the IEEE-SA Managing Director such as the IEEE Smart Grid Initiative. Indemnification by IEEE is available to claimants who were or are duly authorized volunteers engaged in duly authorized IEEE activities. Section I-300.3 of the IEEE Bylaws, available at www.ieee.org, sets forth the details of indemnification by IEEE.

Responses to Specific Questions

1. **IEEE 802 EC:** It is stated that any activity under the purview of the IEEE-SA has to be conducted within an IEEE-SA Program and approved by an IEEE-SA Board. Please could you provide a definition of an 'IEEE-SA Program', or provide a list of the available IEEE-SA Programs an activity can be conducted within.

Currently, IEEE-SA Programs with oversight of the IEEE-SA BoG are those conducted by the IEEE-SA BoG and its committees and subcommittees. Current programs are a) SASB - all standards related activities (subject to the IEEE-SA Ops Man, IEEE-SASB Bylaws, and IEEE-SASB Ops Man), including the Industry Connections Program; b) Registration Authority Committee (RAC registries); CAG; SEC (jointly with Educational Activities); Standards Information Network (jointly with Publications).

2. **IEEE 802 EC:** It is stated that an activity can be conducted as part of a program overseen by the IEEE-SA Managing Director. Please could you explain the process under which an activity, such as the development of a white paper, is chartered under a program overseen by the IEEE-SA Managing Director, and the fact that this has happened is recorded.

Programs overseen by the IEEE-SA Managing Director are presented by the Managing Director to the IEEE-SA BoG so that they are aware of the activities. These programs are usually initiatives approved by the BoD or presented to the IEEE Management Council and reviewed during budget development or initiative development. Programs overseen by the IEEE-SA Managing Director are a) ICAP Fostering; b) Smart Grid; c) Internet Initiative; d) OpenStand.

3. **IEEE 802 EC:** Subclause 8.3 'Public statements for standards' and 8.4 'Informal communications' of the IEEE 802 LAN/MAN Standards Committee (LMSC) Policies and Procedures, which have been approved by the IEEE-SA Standards Board, allows the IEEE 802 as the sponsor, and it subgroups, to issue public statements. A white paper seems to be one form of public statement by the Sponsor, or by a subgroup. Please could you supply the definition of a "Public statements for standards" (subclause 8.3) or "Sponsor public statements" (subclause 8.4) if this is not the case.

It is possible to make public statements within a white paper or other documents/media. It doesn't matter the medium of the public statement, it has to comply with the appropriate IEEE policies and procedures. Public statements are actually governed at the higher level by IEEE Policies (see Section 15). Position statements are a type of public statement with stricter rules governing them. The IEEE-SA policies on position statements (see 6.5 of the IEEE-SA Ops Man) comply with the IEEE Policies 15.3 for organizational units, and indicate how these statements become approved by the IEEE-SA. If position statements do not go through the IEEE-SA process, then they could be accomplished under another organizational unit's policies (e.g., TAB and the society rules). However, in the IEEE-SASB Ops Man it states, "Approval from the IEEE-SA BOG shall be obtained prior to a Sponsor requesting another IEEE entity (as defined in Section 15 of the IEEE Policies) to offer a position statement on a standards matter." Note that all activities have to comply with the IEEE Code of Ethics.