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**IEEE P802.15****Wireless Personal Area Networks**

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Project IEEE P802.15 Working Group for Wireless Personal Area Networks (WPANs)

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Title **Notification and Clarification of LOA**

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94063]

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Re: Revised Letter of Assurance (LOA) submitted by Silver Spring Networks

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Abstract Clarifies SSN intentions with respect to essential IP and notifies WG membership of submission of the revised LOA.

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Purpose Clarification to address concerns raised by TG4g participants in May 2009 Interim meeting.

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To: IEEE Standards Association  
IEEE 802.15 Working Group

From: Silver Spring Networks, Inc.

Date: June 1, 2009

Re: Revised Letter of Assurance (LOA) submitted to IEEE-PatCom

This communication is intended to notify members of IEEE 802.15 Working Group, and members of IEEE802.15 TG4g in particular, that Silver Spring Networks, Inc. ("SSN") has submitted a revised LOA to the IEEE PatCom which clearly and unambiguously states that any current SSN IP used in the TG4g PHY amendment standard will be made available to all free and at no cost. This action is intended to remove any misunderstanding or misconception among some TG4g members as expressed at the May meeting of TG4g in Montreal. SSN looks forward to similar commitments from other TG4g participants.

By taking this action, SSN believes it is contributing to expeditious development and adoption of open PHY standards by the IEEE for smart utility networks ("SUN").

On December 10, 2008, the IEEE SA approved a PAR for amending the PHY of the 802.15.4-2006 standard in order to incorporate PHY requirements for Smart Utility Networks (SUN). In January 2009, the 802.15 WG created a Task Group – TG4g – to develop the SUN PHY amendment.

Silver Spring Networks, Inc. ("SSN") has been participating in the 802.15 TG4g Task Group since its inception in January 2009. In accordance with IEEE Patent Policy governing such participation, SSN submitted an LOA to IEEE PatCom as a standard procedure. No SSN patents were identified in this LOA, since SSN did not and does not intend to include SSN-patented technology in the TG4g PHY proposals.

At the May 2009 Montreal meeting of TG4g, a participant brought up a matter that an LOA had been submitted to the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA), referring to SSN's submission. The participant told the TG4g members of a recent experience in a different (non-IEEE) standards development organization involved in developing the C12.22 standard, where another company notified the committee that it had patents that related to the C12.22 standard. Two participants at the same TG4g meeting, with significant background and experience in IEEE802 and IEEE-SA, responded by reiterating the IEEE patent policy, and emphasized the procedural rather than nefarious nature of LOA submission.

SSN's main objective continues to be development and practice of open standards for smart-grid applications. That said, this apparently irrelevant (non-IEEE) incident appears to be causing concern for some, and is creating the potential for unnecessary delay in the process.

With this in mind, and to enable IEEE802.15 to constructively and rapidly proceed with its SUN PHY amendment standards effort, SSN has recently submitted an amended LOA, to the IEEE PatCom, that clearly states that SSN will make available free and at no cost any existing IP that is applicable to the PHY amendment effort currently underway, if such IP ever gets included in the TG4g PHY amendment standard. SSN looks forward to similar commitments from other TG4g participants.

Submitted by:

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