Harry Bims
Chair, IEEE 802.16 Working Group's HetNet Study Group
18 September 2012

To: Nan Chen, President, Metro Ethernet Forum
          Peter Meissner, Operating Officer, NGMN Alliance
          Gordon Mansfield, Chair, Small Cell Forum
          Declan Byrne, Chair, WiMAX Forum

cc: Roger Marks, Chair, IEEE 802.16 Working Group
          Paul Nikolich, Chair, IEEE 802 Executive Committee

Subj: IEEE 802.16 Activity regarding Small Cell Backhaul

The HetNet Study Group (within the IEEE 802.16 Working Group on Broadband Wireless Access) would like to bring to your attention its intention to initiate a new standardization project for enhancements to better address Small Cell Backhaul (SCB) applications and provide a cost-effective wireless backhaul solution.

The Study Group has agreed to forward a draft Project Authorization Request (PAR) to the appropriate approving entities and hopes to have the project authorized in December 2012. Once these approvals are granted, the standardization work will be authorized to proceed within the IEEE 802.16 Working Group. Please note that the Study Group is a temporary entity for the consideration of new work.

The draft PAR developed within the Study Group (IEEE 802.16-12-0587) references your organization's documentation.

Note that the focus of the intended project is to apply the IEEE 802.16 WirelessMAN-OFDMA air interface (as specified in IEEE Std 802.16-2012 and incorporated in ITU's IMT-2000) as an out-of-band non-line-of-sight backhaul solution for fixed or nomadic small cells that operate any sort of radio access network, such as IEEE 802.11, IEEE 802.16, or 3GPP. The solution would make use of IEEE 802.16's native support for Ethernet transport. While we believe that the existing WirelessMAN-OFDMA air interface is suitable for the application, we believe that enhancements in certain areas will optimize it for the new small cell markets beginning to take shape.

The PAR is not final. A Call for Contributions (IEEE 802.16-12-0588) has been drafted, including a request for comments on the draft PAR. Your comments are welcome. We are particularly interested in your views on the technical requirements for Ethernet services support and for physical layer capabilities.

The Study Group would appreciate your inputs prior to the deadline of 7 November. Our next opportunity to respond to a formal communication will occur at IEEE 802.16 Session #82 (12-15 Nov 2012 in San Antonio, TX, USA).

Please note that the Study Group's recommendations are being forwarded to the IEEE 802.16 Working Group for consideration on 20 September 2012. Depending on the results of its deliberation, the IEEE 802.16 Working Group may provide a follow-up statement including further information on the process and status.

Sincerely,

Harry Bims
Chair, IEEE 802.16 Working Group's HetNet Study Group