DRAFT IEEE-SA POSITION STATEMENT

**Contiguously Allocated Spectrum**

 Approved by the IEEE-SA Board of Governors (pending)

 (Date of Approval)

The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) supports the position that more contiguously allocated spectrum is needed for both licensed and unlicensed technologies to meet data demand growth. As consumers and industry increase their consumption of wireless data, increased access to commercially viable spectrum becomes vital to sustain the data growth.

The IEEE-SA is a major contributor to technologies used in conjunction with technologies developed by other wireless standard development organizations. In addition, the IEEE-SA develops wireless standards for various applications such as the IEEE 802.11 family of standards (inclusive of technologies known as Wi-Fi) and IEEE Standard 802.15.4 (inclusive of ISA100, WiSUN, and Zigbee), which primarily use unlicensed spectrum. The number of IEEE 802.11 enabled devices shipped exceeds 15 billion and by 2019 the number of IEEE 802.15.4 enabled devices are expected to reach 2.1 billion from a base of about 500 million.[[1]](#footnote-1) This high uptake of IEEE 802 enabled wireless devices is testament to the importance of unlicensed spectrum as a driver for innovation and economic growth.

As a respected standards development body that develops global wireless standards and corresponding enabling technologies, the IEEE-SA supports making more spectrum available for both licensed and unlicensed technologies to meet data demand growth, the proliferation of connected devices and to foster innovation. Furthermore, contiguous wideband spectrum is needed for both licensed and unlicensed technologies to economically meet data demand growth.

Wireless technology have and will continue to have profound impact upon humanity.

 For example, the use of wirelessly connected medical devices are expected to increase significantly in the near future.[[2]](#footnote-2) As a result, medical resources can be more rapidly dispatched to where they are needed and positively transform lives. IEEE has an important role to play in this future for the benefit of humanity and promoting access to these technologies is inherent in IEEE’s mission of fostering technology innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

**ABOUT IEEE**

The IEEE is the world’s largest professional association advancing innovation and technological excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community to innovate for a better tomorrow through its highly-cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities. IEEE is the trusted “voice” for engineering, computing, and technology information around the globe.

There are more than 420,000 IEEE members in more than 190 countries. IEEE publishes a third of the world’s technical literature in electrical engineering, computer science and electronics, and is a leading developer of international standards that underpin many of today’s telecommunications, information technology, and power generation products and services.

1. 802.11 device shipment – Wi-Fi Alliance; 802.15.4 device forecast - Telecompetitor report. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DigitalHealth/ucm512245.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)