



Ethernet Alliance[®] Successfully Completes Industry's First Data Center Bridging Interoperability Event

Participating Members Work Together Toward Market-Readiness

June 1, 2009, Mountain View, CA – The [Ethernet Alliance](http://www.ethernetalliance.org) today announced the summarized results of the Ethernet in the DataCenter subcommittee interoperability plugfest for IEEE 802.1 Data Center Bridging (DCB). Member participants included Cisco, Dell, Finisar, Fulcrum Microsystems, Intel, NetApp, QLogic and Spirent Communications. The participants successfully conducted multi-vendor interoperability testing of DCB utilizing 10GBASE-SR and 10GBASE-LR optical interfaces.

The plugfest was held May 4 - 8 at the University of New Hampshire Interoperability Lab (UNH-IOL) and focused on interoperability testing of draft standards being developed by the IEEE 802.1 DCB task force. Testing was completed in two phases. In the first phase, participants completed individual tests of specific DCB features such as Priority-based Flow Control (IEEE P802.1Qbb), Enhanced Transmission Selection (IEEE P802.1Qaz), and DCB Capability Exchange Protocol (IEEE P802.1Qaz). The second testing phase included building a large DCB-based network and exercising higher layer protocols such as Fibre Channel over Ethernet and iSCSI.

The plugfest results were impressive considering that this was the first time multiple vendors had participated in testing products based upon the IEEE 802.1 DCB draft standards. Participants were able to demonstrate effectively the interoperability of their products and participate in a lossless Ethernet fabric simultaneously on the same network. These plugfests help to review the IEEE 802.1 DCB draft standards and to create interoperable products.

“The IEEE 802.1 DCB draft standards offer significant improvements in how data moves through Ethernet networks and permits convergence of multiple traffic types onto a single network,” stated Brad Booth, Ethernet Alliance Chair of the Board. “Ethernet Alliance sponsored plugfests help to prove the feasibility of the technology, to demonstrate interoperability and to prepare for the development of certification criteria.”

Additional information on the interoperability demonstration will be available in a white paper published later this month and can be found on the Ethernet Alliance Web site at www.ethernetalliance.org.

This plugfest is the first in a series that the Ethernet Alliance Ethernet in the DataCenter subcommittee intends to drive. A second plugfest, to be held later this year, will demonstrate interoperability of additional DCB features and will welcome additional industry participation.

More detailed information on this plugfest will be available in the coming months on the Ethernet Alliance Web site.

About the Ethernet Alliance

The Ethernet Alliance is a consortium that includes system and component vendors, industry experts and university and government professionals who are committed to the continued success and expansion of Ethernet technology. The Ethernet Alliance takes IEEE 802 Ethernet standards to market by supporting activities that span from incubation of new Ethernet technologies to interoperability demonstrations, certification and education.

For more information, visit www.ethernetalliance.org. Individuals who would like to receive updates on Ethernet Alliance news, activities and events may sign up for the organization's newsletter by [clicking here](#).