



Plastic Optical Fiber Trade Organization

January 15, 2009

Dear POFTO members and members of the POF community:

This letter is an invitation to participate in the development of a Global POF Infrastructure guide and to determine who is interested in helping to fund and develop the guide.

At the POF 2008 Conference in Santa Clara, California, there was a heated discussion regarding the current standards process and the role that the POF industry should and has played in trying to include POF in the standards. There has been a lot of success in POF standards, especially in the European community, but because of ingrained interests and control of standards activities by large competitive suppliers in other standards bodies, the road for POF has been excruciatingly slow. There are many standards bodies that are not considering POF, which we all know is a very versatile medium and should be included. It was also pointed out at the conference that the companies that write the standards control the industry.

To alleviate the problem, there was a recommendation that POFTO develop its own POF standards, but after many debates, the POFTO Board has come up with the idea of a Global POF Infrastructure Guide (GPOFIG)

In order to understand the various categories of products that have to be addressed, the first step we expect to take is to produce a list of companies and products for the Global POF Infrastructure Guide. The companies that elect to participate in the development of the GPOFIG will have the opportunity to include their POF products into this guide. If you do not respond or choose to not participate, please do not complain that you had no opportunity to be involved with your specific input. This will be a one-time invitation to members of the POF community in developing a Global POF Standard.

The Global POF Infrastructure Guide (GPOFIG) goals would not be to rewrite the current standards but to reference them as needed in our proposed guide. Our mission would be to provide the missing pieces to the overall POF architecture that would give the installers, OEMs, and others in need of product development the necessary information to build POF into their products and meet their needs and demands. A finished global infrastructure guide could help us get into other standards (such standards as the TIA). The standards working groups could then reference this document for the needed missing information and get approval, as this GPOFIG is an OEM and POF industry document, made with input from the whole POF community and thus less open to dispute. The other use of this GPOFIG would be to look at specialty POF products, for example, sensors, video, and lighting, and the topology of related products to them.

Responses to this invitation are requested by March 1, 2009. POFTO will develop a GPOFIG committee to form a business plan, defined by the companies that have replied and the products that they wish to include in this guide. This plan will be submitted to those who have expressed interest in participating in order to get their approval and share of the costs of their participation; this should occur by March 31, 2009. The other part of the business plan will be to determine alternate plans for funding and company participation. If approval is accepted and funding provided to proceed, POFTO will provide a very detailed plan, including an organizational chart showing how the products could be formatted into a working topology for a GPOFIG.

The POFTO GPOFIG committee then would form individual working groups to examine the potential impacts these products have and to develop the architecture recommendations, guidelines, technical specifications, and other documents to address the challenges and opportunities presented. These working groups will be established from the participating companies that have products involved within a specific working group, where they will qualify their products within that working group and give recommendations to the committee on how these products could work in Global POF Infrastructure Guide.

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Here is a concept of a home network working group. Others would have a similar structure.

Article I. POF Home Networks Guide

Section 1.01 Transceivers,
Section 1.02 Ethernet Switches/Media Converters
Section 1.03 Topology of the POF network: (installation guide)
Section 1.04 Fiber Types: SI-POF, GI-POF (PMMA) GI-POF (PF)
Section 1.05 Connectors
Section 1.06 Termination Methods
Section 1.07 Installation Hardware
Section 1.08 Test and Measurement Procedures

Thank You and Best Regards,

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You are invited to leave comments on this proposal in the Global POF Infrastructure Guide section of the new POFTO Forum:

<http://www.pofto.com/forum>

You may also directly contact me or any one of the board of directors of POFTO:

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