



November 5, 2004

Mr. Adrian Farrel, adrian@olddog.co.uk, IETF, CCAMP Working Group Chair
Mr. Kireeti Kompella, kireeti@juniper.net, IETF, CCAMP Working Group Chair

Re: New OIF Project on Interworking of ASON - GMPLS Network Domains

Dear Adrian and Kireeti,

I want to inform you of a new work project that was proposed and adopted by the OIF members at our 4Q Technical Committee meetings that took place October 26-28. The project will result in a design guideline document to assist vendors and carriers in optical networks where signaling interworking is required between OIF/ITU-T ASON and GMPLS RSVP-TE.

As we have seen in interoperability trials and initial deployments, vendor implementations sometimes use different control plane protocols, depending on the NE requirements and function within a network. The OIF and ASON control plane requirements were written with the knowledge that a network composed of multiple domains could support a heterogeneous set of protocols. An NE that exists at a boundary between network domains may support a different protocol on either side of the boundary (for example OIF UNI on the client side and GMPLS I-NNI on the network side).

An interworking design guideline was cited as a high priority by OIF member companies, both carriers and vendors. It is also our understanding that an interworking guide is not currently within the work scope of either IETF CCAMP or ITU-T SG15. An outline of the project plan is provided in the document [oif2004.442.01](#). Although the proposal illustrates an example network configuration (featuring GMPLS as I-NNI protocol), this is an example only and not meant to restrict interworking considerations to this model. In contrast to OIF Implementation Agreements (IAs), the design guideline will define optional interworking methods between existing optical control plane protocols. This will allow software stack vendors and system vendors to map information, messages and behaviors between different protocols while preserving the required functionality on each side of the interface.

We expect the OIF, ITU-T and IETF will continue to work together to minimize or eliminate differences between control plane signaling protocols. Given that different protocols currently exist to meet different requirements, an interworking guide can help ensure straightforward protocol interoperation. We welcome your input on this project and look forward to future collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James D. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Jones
OIF Technical Committee Chair

cc: statements@ietf.org

