

CWDM8 MSA Group Releases 400G 10 km Optical Interface Specification for Data Center Optical Links

Industry-first 400G optical interface that addresses extended reach intra- and inter-data center applications in compact and low power modules

San Jose, California – December 20, 2017 – The CWDM8 MSA (8-wavelength Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplexing Multi-Source Agreement) Group today announced the release of a new technical specification for 400 Gb/s optical links up to 10 km over duplex single-mode fiber (SMF). The specification is available for download at www.cwdm8-msa.org. The new specification represents the industry's first 400G 10 km interface specifically targeted for implementation in next-generation optical module form factors such as QSFP-DD or OSFP for high-density data center networking equipment. The new 10 km reach specification joins the 2 km reach 400G specification that the MSA Group released in November 2017. These 400G CWDM8 optical interfaces were developed to support a wide range of high-bandwidth networking applications in data center, campus, enterprise, and metropolitan area networks.

The CWDM8 MSA Group is now open to accepting new contributor member companies.

About the CWDM8 MSA Group

The CWDM8 MSA was formed to meet the bandwidth and expansion needs of modern data centers and support deployment of 12.8T Ethernet switches and other advanced networking equipment with 50G SERDES. MSA participants are developing optical link specifications that will enable cost-effective, low power consumption 400G duplex single-mode optics using 50G per wavelength optical NRZ modulation, while maintaining full compatibility with standard 50G PAM4 electrical interfaces. These optical interfaces can be implemented in next-generation module form factors such as QSFP-DD, OSFP, and COBO, and are believed to have significant time to market and performance advantages compared to other approaches. MSA participants expect to address industry needs by advancing unique technologies to create a diverse and competitive supply chain, while providing products that are optically compatible and interoperable.

Current members of the CWDM8 MSA are Accton, Applied Optoelectronics, Barefoot Networks, Credo Semiconductor, Hisense, Innovium, Intel, MACOM, Mellanox, Neophotonics, New H3C Technologies, and Rockley Photonics.

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Media Contacts

Rosa Nguyen
CWDM8 MSA
pr@cwdm8-msa.org