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Ecma International starts TV White Spaces Standard

Cognitive Radio based Standard will innovate wireless access and multimedia distribution in TV White Spaces

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Ecma International started developing a high-speed wireless networking standard for use in the Television White Spaces, based on the contribution from Cognitive Networking Alliance (CogNeA). The standard will employ cognitive radio technology to avoid interference with licensed services and other incumbent users in compliance with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) regulatory rules.

The wireless networking standard will serve a broad range of applications, including in-home high-definition multimedia networking and distribution, and internet access for communities. Simply put, the new standard will deliver more robust wireless connectivity, extend the coverage range and result in cost effective networking solutions, both indoors and outdoors. Since the standard leverages frequencies allocated for television services in the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) bands, it inherits superior propagation characteristics to penetrate walls for improved coverage.

CogNeA contributed its specification to Ecma's [TC48-TG1](#) that will further develop it and plans to finalise the 1st edition for publication by the end of 2009. The Standard comprises Physical (PHY) and Medium Access Control (MAC) layers that include interference-avoidance mechanisms. The Physical layer, interference-avoidance and cognitive radio technologies, will be specified such that other wireless networking standards, looking to operate in the TV whitespaces, can use it.

"Our mission in Ecma international is to deliver the new wireless standard for use in TV white spaces to provide the robust and low cost wireless connections, while meeting the FCC requirements to protect incumbents. This standard will expedite commercialization of innovative wireless applications and stimulate wireless and IT industries," said **Dr. Kyutae Lim**, [TC48-TG1](#) convener.

"We will help spur innovation of the next generation low-cost, high speed wireless technology using TV White Spaces for novel applications for instance in underserved communities and convenient Multi-Media access. We hope to further develop a complementary relationship with CogNeA to ensure proper adoption and implementation," said **Onno Elzinga**, Ecma International's CTO.

About Ecma International

Since its inception in 1961, [Ecma International](http://www.ecma-international.org) (Ecma) has developed standards for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Consumer Electronics (CE). Ecma is a non-profit industry association of technology developers, vendors and users. Experts from industry and other organizations work together at Ecma to develop standards. Ecma submits its work for approval as ISO, IEC, ISO/IEC JTC 1 and ETSI standards and is a frequent practitioner of “fast-tracking” of specifications through the standardization process in international standards organizations. Ecma publications can be downloaded free of charge from the Ecma International website www.ecma-international.org.

About Cognitive Networking Alliance (CogNeA)

The CogNeA Alliance unites influential players in the consumer electronics, personal computing, home entertainment, semiconductor and digital imaging spaces in a unified effort to help drive the definition and adoption of industry-wide standards for low-power personal and portable wireless devices to operate over the TV white spaces. For more details, please see www.cognea.org.