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SFP-DD MSA Releases Specification for High-Speed, High-Density Interface

🕒 September 18, 2017 📁 Press Release



- *New SFP-DD pluggable form factor features additional 2 rows of electrical contacts*
- *Doubles the lane density and data speed in next-generation networking equipment*
- *Cage/connector system backward compatible to SFP electrical interfaces*

Gothenburg, Sweden – September 18, 2017 – The Small Form Factor Pluggable Double Density (SFP-DD) Multi Source Agreement (MSA) Group recently completed the initial hardware specification and drawings for the SFP-DD pluggable interface designed to enable high-speed, high-density networking equipment. Targeting support up to 3.5 W optical modules in an enterprise environment, the SFP-DD form factor addresses the technical challenges of achieving a double-density interface and ensuring mechanical interoperability for module components produced by different manufacturers.

The SFP-DD electrical interface expands on the existing SFP pluggable form factor, a widely adopted interface used in data centers and other networking platforms. The SFP single lane interface operates up to 28 Gbps NRZ or 56 Gbps PAM-4. The new SFP-DD electrical interface is designed to support two lanes that operate up to 25 Gbps NRZ or 56 Gbps PAM-4 per lane, providing aggregate bandwidth of 56 Gbps or 112 Gbps.

By doubling the lane density and data speed, the SFP-DD interface will help address demand for increased port density and scalability in next-generation applications, with a primary focus on the server side

interconnect. An SFP-DD server port along with QSFP-DD switch ports provides an overall doubling of the port density in network applications.

The SFP-DD hardware specification and drawings define key module, plug, and cage characteristics. SFP-DD modules and direct-attach cable plugs use a common mechanical outline. Modules and plugs provide a means to self-lock with the cage upon insertion. Network equipment based on the SFP-DD will support legacy SFP modules and cables, and new double density products, for optimal design flexibility.

SFP-DD Key Features

- A single port SMT connector and cage
- Heat sink options for thermal management flexibility
- Module mechanical definition
- Support for optical and copper interfaces, with physical layer specifications to be determined outside the scope of the SFP-DD MSA

SFP-DD Key Benefits

- Support for up to 3.5 W for optical modules
- Enables two channels of high-speed electrical interfaces connecting to host
- Backward compatibility to all current SFP style interfaces
- Developed by industry consortium to enable multi-vendor interoperability

SFP-DD MSA founding members include Alibaba, Broadcom, Brocade, Cisco, Dell EMC, Finisar, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Huawei, Intel, Juniper Networks, Lumentum, Mellanox Technologies, Molex, and TE Connectivity.

For additional information about the SFP-DD form factor or to download the hardware specification and drawings, please visit the MSA website www.sfp-dd.com.

Caution Concerning Forward-Looking Statements We are disclosing forward-looking information so that investors, potential investors, and other owners can better understand the mentioned Companies' future prospects and make informed investment decisions. The information in this press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. Any forward-looking statement made by the Companies speak only as of the date on which it is made. The Companies are under no obligation to, and expressly disclaim any obligation to, update or alter their forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, subsequent events or otherwise.



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Form-Factor Pluggable Interface

SFP-DD MSA Releases High-Speed, High-Density
Interface Specification v1.1

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ABOUT US

The **SFP-DD** MSA will define a new pluggable form factor that supports 2 high speed electrical interfaces connecting to the host. This will include a mechanical module, a 1×1 Cage with connector, thermal, pinout and management specifications. The **SFP-DD** will be able to support both optical and copper interfaces, but those

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"This MSA is open to any interested party who wants to join. All members will be provided a meaningful opportunity to participate in MSA's standards development on a non-discriminatory basis. In addition, MSA guarantees that the processes for participating in its standards development efforts will be transparent to all members."

physical layer specifications will be done outside of the MSA specification as is usual for form factor MSA specifications.

If you are interested in being a member, please contact us at: info@sfp-dd.com

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