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HITACHI

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Re: Category 5e Support of IEEE 1000BASE-T (Gigabit Ethernet) Applications

To: Whom it May Concern

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the performance of Hitachi Cable Manchester, Inc.'s category 5e cables exceeds all of the requirements specified by IEEE 8023.ab for support of Gigabit Ethernet (1000BASE-T) operation over twisted-pair cabling. Furthermore, HCM guarantees that all of our category 5e and higher rated cables will support the 1000BASE-T application.

Hitachi Cable Manchester, Inc. confidently stands behind our applications support guarantee because the performance of our category 5e products provides significant headroom beyond the minimum IEEE requirements for 1000BASE-T operation. In support of this statement, please find attached a technical paper circulated by IEEE entitled, "Running 1000BASE-T: Gigabit Ethernet over Copper". This paper states, "Network managers and planners will be able to run 1000BASE-T over Category 5 cabling. The IEEE has written the 1000BASE-T Standard for Gigabit Ethernet operation over the Category 5 cabling systems installed according to the specifications of ANSI/TIA/EIA-568A (1995). Member companies of the GEA have demonstrated 1000BASE-T products operating on Category 5 cabling. There should be no need to replace existing Category 5 cabling to use 1000BASE-T. The primary goal of the IEEE 1000BASE-T Task Force responsible for the development of the 1000BASE-T standard was to support the legacy Category 5 cabling. According to the industry experts that made up the IEEE 1000BASE-T Task Force, any link that is currently using 100BASE-TX should easily support 1000BASE-T."

In addition, HCM's products have been extensively tested for 1000BASE-T throughput at the University of New Hampshire's Interoperability Lab and found to fully support the Gigabit Ethernet application. The Interoperability Lab's mission is to provide testing services for vendors of computer communications devices. You can learn more by visiting the Lab's web site at: <http://www.iol.unh.edu/general/welcome.html>.

Sincerely,



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