FAQ

What are the target applications of the CWDM4 MSA?

The CWDM4 MSA is an open group that targets a common specification for low cost 100G optical interfaces that run up to 2 km in datacenter applications.

What is the target architecture for the CWDM4 MSA?

The MSA will use CWDM (Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplexing) technology with 4 lanes of 25 Gb/s optically multiplexed onto and demultiplexed from duplex single mode (SMF) fiber.

Which companies have agreed to be part of the CWDM4 MSA?

The five founding members are Avago Technologies, Finisar, JDSU, Oclaro, and Sumitomo Electric. In September 2014, additional members were announced including: Brocade, ColorChip, Hitachi Metals, Juniper Networks, Kaiam, Mitsubishi Electric, Neophotonics, Oplink, Skorpios Technologies, and SiFotonics.

What is the target optical budget?

The MSA is targeting an insertion loss budget of close to 5 dB.

What specifications are the CWDM4 MSA targeting?

To meet the cost sensitive requirements of datacenters, the MSA is targeting receiver sensitivity and output power specs that enable high yielding products across a diverse set of technologies and differing module suppliers. The CWDM wavelength grid enables operation without the expense and power required for internal cooling, e.g. thermo-electric cooling (TEC).

What is the target form factor of the CWDM4 MSA?

Form factor will not be defined in this MSA, though the MSA’s expectation is that this interface would likely be highly adopted in the QSFP28 form factor.

When will the CWDM4 MSA specification be available? Where can I find a copy?

The CWDM4 specification revision 1.0 was released in September 2014. It can be downloaded from www.cwdm4-msa.org.

For more information, contact your local sales representative from Avago, Finisar, JDSU or Oclaro or visit our website: www.cwdm4-msa.org.