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Foreword

118 The *NC-SI over MCTP Binding Specification* (DSP0261) was prepared by the Platform Management
119 Components Intercommunications (PMCI Working Group) of the DMTF.

120 DMTF is a not-for-profit association of industry members dedicated to promoting enterprise and systems
121 management and interoperability.

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Introduction

139 The *NC-SI over MCTP Binding Specification* defines new MCTP messages used to convey NC-SI Control
140 packets and Ethernet traffic over MCTP to allow NC-SI Pass-through traffic over MCTP. This specification
141 is based on the [DSP0222 1.0](#) specification and uses the same NC-SI Control packet definitions.

142 Document conventions

143 Typographical conventions

144 The following typographical conventions are used in this document:

- 145 • Document titles are marked in *italics*.
- 146 • Important terms that are used for the first time are marked in *italics*.
- 147 • Terms include a link to the term definition in the "Terms and definitions" clause, enabling easy
148 navigation to the term definition.
- 149 • ABNF rules are in `monospaced font`.

150 ABNF usage conventions

151 Format definitions in this document are specified using ABNF (see [RFC5234](#)), with the following
152 deviations:

- 153 • Literal strings are to be interpreted as case-sensitive Unicode characters, as opposed to the
154 definition in [RFC5234](#) that interprets literal strings as case-insensitive US-ASCII characters.

155

156

NC-SI over MCTP Binding Specification

1 Scope

158 The *NC-SI over MCTP Binding Specification* defines the bindings between NC-SI protocol elements and
159 MCTP elements in order for NC-SI Control and Pass-through traffic to be transported using MCTP.

160 Portions of this specification rely on information and definitions from other specifications, which are
161 identified in clause 2. Two of these references are particularly relevant:

- 162 • DMTF [DSP0222](#), *Network Controller Sideband Interface (NC-SI) Specification*, provides the
163 NC-SI base control that is to be bound over MCTP by this specification.
- 164 • DMTF [DSP0236](#), *Management Component Transport Protocol (MCTP) Base Specification*,
165 defines the MCTP transport on which the NC-SI Control and Pass-through packets are to be
166 conveyed.

2 Normative references

168 The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated or
169 versioned references, only the edition cited (including any corrigenda or DMTF update versions) applies.
170 For references without a date or version, the latest published edition of the referenced document
171 (including any corrigenda or DMTF update versions) applies.

172 Unless otherwise specified, for DMTF documents this means any document version that has minor or
173 update version numbers that are later than those for the referenced document. The major version
174 numbers must match the major version number given for the referenced document.

175 DMTF DSP0004, *CIM Infrastructure Specification 2.6*,
176 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0004_2.6.pdf

177 DMTF DSP0222, *Network Controller Sideband Interface (NC-SI) Specification 1.0*
178 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0222_1.0.pdf

179 DMTF DSP0223, *Generic Operations 1.0*,
180 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0223_1.0.pdf

181 DMTF DSP0236, *Management Component Transport Protocol (MCTP) Base Specification 1.2*
182 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0236_1.2.pdf

183 DMTF DSP0237, *Management Component Transport Protocol (MCTP) SMBus/I2C Transport Binding*
184 *Specification 1.0*
185 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0237_1.0.pdf

186 DMTF DSP0238, *Management Component Transport Protocol (MCTP) PCIe VDM Transport Binding*
187 *Specification 1.0*
188 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0238_1.0.pdf

189 DMTF DSP0239, *Management Component Transport Protocol (MCTP) IDs and Codes 1.2*
190 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP0239_1.2.pdf

191 DMTF DSP1001, *Management Profile Specification Usage Guide 1.1*,
192 http://www.dmtf.org/standards/published_documents/DSP1001_1.1.pdf

- 193 ACPI, *Advanced Configuration and Power Interface Specification Revision 4.0a*, April 5, 2010
194 <http://www.acpi.info/DOWNLOADS/ACPIspec40a.pdf>
- 195 IETF, RFC4122, *A Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) URN Namespace*, July 2005
196 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4122.txt>
- 197 IETF RFC5234, *ABNF: Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications, January 2008*,
198 <http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc5234>
- 199 ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*,
200 <http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink.exe?func=ll&objId=4230456&objAction=browse&sort=subtype>

201 **3 Terms and definitions**

202 In this document, some terms have a specific meaning beyond the normal English meaning. Those terms
203 are defined in this clause.

204 The terms "shall" ("required"), "shall not," "should" ("recommended"), "should not" ("not recommended"),
205 "may," "need not" ("not required"), "can" and "cannot" in this document are to be interpreted as described
206 in [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2](#), Annex H. The terms in parenthesis are alternatives for the preceding term,
207 for use in exceptional cases when the preceding term cannot be used for linguistic reasons. Note that
208 [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2](#), Annex H specifies additional alternatives. Occurrences of such additional
209 alternatives shall be interpreted in their normal English meaning.

210 The terms "clause," "subclause," "paragraph," and "annex" in this document are to be interpreted as
211 described in [ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2](#), Clause 5.

212 The terms "normative" and "informative" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [ISO/IEC](#)
213 [Directives, Part 2](#), Clause 3. In this document, clauses, subclauses, or annexes labeled "(informative)" do
214 not contain normative content. Notes and examples are always informative elements.

215 Refer to [DSP0236](#) for terms and definitions that are used across the MCTP specifications.

216 Refer to [DSP0222](#) for terms and definitions that are used in the NC-SI specification.

217 The terms defined in [DSP0004](#), [DSP0223](#), and [DSP1001](#) apply to this document. The following additional
218 terms are used in this document.

219 **3.1**

220 **Endpoint**

221 An MCTP endpoint unless otherwise specified.

222 **3.2**

223 **System Power States**

224 **S0 and Sx**

225 S0 represents an active system

226 Sx represents system power states S1 – S5, which reflects various levels of inactivity of a system.

227 The definition of the power states is as defined in [ACPI](#).

228 **4 Symbols and abbreviated terms**

229 The abbreviations defined in [DSP0004](#), [DSP0223](#), and [DSP1001](#) apply to this document. The following
230 additional abbreviations are used in this document.

231 **4.1**

232 **ACPI**

233 Advanced Configuration and Power Interface

234 **4.2**

235 **IANA**

236 Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

237 **4.3**

238 **FCS**

239 Frame Check Sequence

240 **4.4**

241 **MCTP**

242 Management Component Transport Protocol

243 **4.5**

244 **MC**

245 Management Controller

246 **4.6**

247 **NC**

248 Network Controller

249 **4.7**

250 **NC-SI**

251 Network Controller Sideband Interface

252 **4.8**

253 **RID**

254 PCIe Requester ID (Bus/Device/Function).

255 **5 Conventions**

256 **5.1 Reserved and unassigned values**

257 Unless otherwise specified, any reserved, unspecified, or unassigned values in enumerations or other
258 numeric ranges are reserved for future definition by the DMTF.

259 Unless otherwise specified, numeric or bit fields that are designated as reserved shall be written as 0
260 (zero) and ignored when read.

261 **5.2 Byte ordering**

262 Unless otherwise specified, byte ordering of multibyte numeric fields or bit fields is "Big Endian" (that is,
263 the lower byte offset holds the most significant byte, and higher offsets hold lesser significant bytes).

264 **6 NC-SI over MCTP overview**

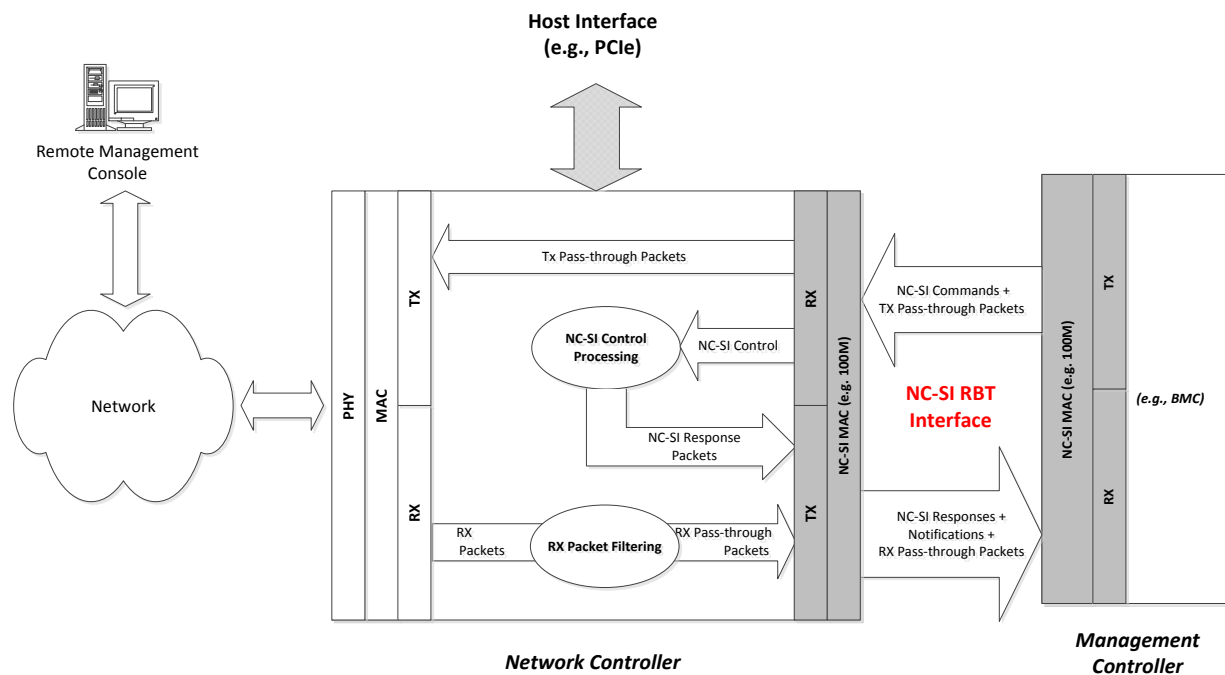
265 NC-SI over MCTP is based on DSP0222 (NC-SI). The NC-SI over MCTP Binding Specification replaces
 266 the RBT Protocol with a definition of NC-SI communications using MCTP. The MCTP Transport Bindings
 267 are defined in other companion specifications such as MCTP SMBus Binding Specification (DSP0237)
 268 and MCTP PCIe Binding Specification (DSP0238). Only the NC-SI command processing is inherited from
 269 DSP0222. Thus only parts of the NC-SI specification not related to the physical transport protocol may be
 270 relevant to this specification.

271 **6.1 NC-SI over RBT**

272 A Network Controller Sideband Interface (NC-SI) is a combination of logical and physical paths that
 273 interconnect the Management Controller and Network Controller(s) for the purpose of transferring
 274 management communication traffic among them. NC-SI includes commands and associated responses,
 275 which the Management Controller uses to control the status and operation of the Network Controller(s).
 276 NC-SI also includes a mechanism for transporting management traffic and asynchronous notifications.

277 Figure 1 depicts the NC-SI Traffic Flow Diagram as currently defined by NC-SI. As indicated, the interface
 278 is based on RBT. The figure depicts a single management controller and a single Ethernet device, which
 279 contains a single port. NC-SI comprehends multiple Network Controller devices (or “packages”) and ports
 280 (or “channels”).

281



282

283

Figure 1 – NC-SI over RBT traffic flow diagram

284

285 The [DSP0222](#) specification can be divided in three parts. The first two parts are defined as RBT:

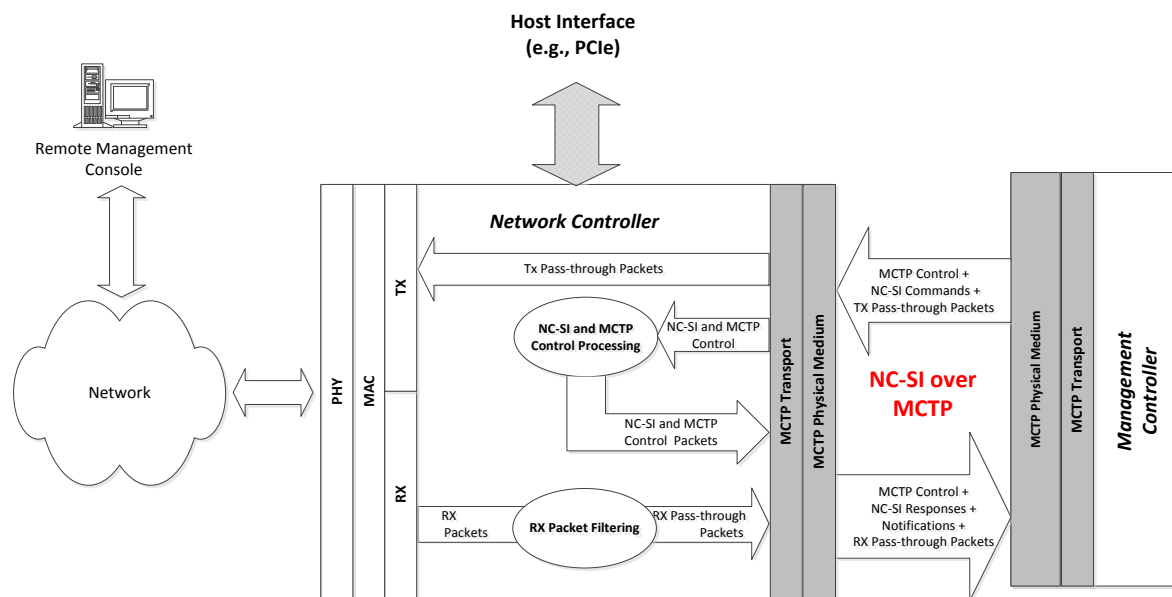
- 286 • A physical layer based on enhancements to the RMI specification.
- 287 • A transport layer based on Ethernet packets. This layer allows differentiation of control frames
288 based on a specific Ethertype (0x88F8).
- 289 • A control protocol defining a set of commands allowing an MC to configure and monitor Network
290 Controllers and their Pass-through channels for MC to network communication. The command
291 set functionality can be extended using OEM commands.

292 **6.2 NC-SI over MCTP**

293 NC-SI over MCTP replaces the transport layer defined in NC-SI with MCTP. The physical layer used is
294 one of the transport bindings on which MCTP can be bound (for example, PCIe or SMBus).

295 Figure 2 shows a possible architecture that provides equivalent functionality to [\[NC-SI\]](#) over MCTP. The
296 NC-SI MAC block in each device is replaced by an MCTP block and a Medium-specific block. The MCTP
297 block handles MCTP messages. The Medium-specific blocks consist of whatever layers are involved in
298 mapping MCTP to an underlying medium such as SMBus, PCIe, or USB. Because the layering for each
299 medium may be unique in its constitution and terminology, a generic single block is depicted.

300



301

302

Figure 2 – NC-SI over MCTP traffic flow diagram

303

304 The differentiation between NC-SI Control and Pass-through packets is achieved by using two different
305 MCTP message types as defined in [DSP0239](#) and listed in Table 1.

306

Table 1 – MCTP Message types for NC-SI over MCTP

Message Type	Message Type Code	Description
NC-SI Control	0x02	Messages used to encapsulate NC-SI Control traffic (commands, responses, and AEN) over MCTP
Ethernet	0x03	Messages used to encapsulate Ethernet traffic (for example, NC-SI Pass-through) over MCTP

307

308 Both NC-SI Control and Ethernet types of MCTP messages can be conveyed over multiple MCTP
309 packets.

310 The encapsulation of NC-SI Control traffic in MCTP messages is described in subclause 9.1.1. The
311 encapsulation of NC-SI Pass-through traffic in MCTP messages is described in subclause 9.2.1.

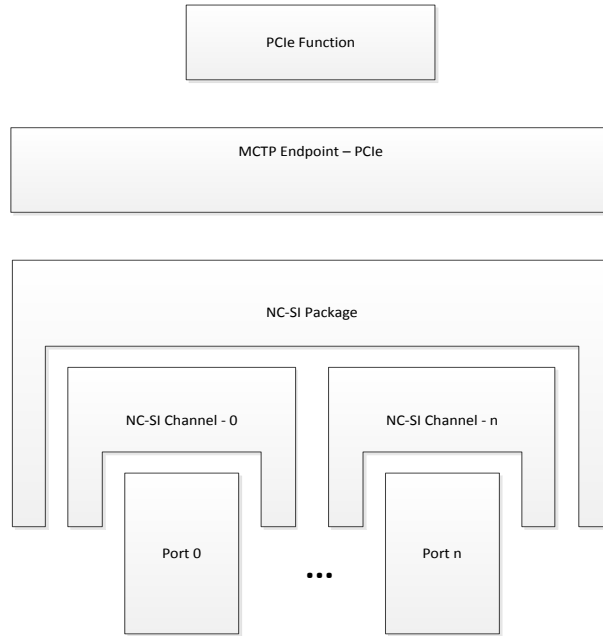
312 7 NC-SI over MCTP specific considerations

313 7.1 Packages and channels

314 The NC-SI specification defines different topologies using the concepts of channels and packages. A
315 channel is associated with a network port and a package is usually associated with a physical device that
316 exposes a single NC-SI bus. In an MCTP context, a package is related to an MCTP endpoint. Typically, a
317 package is identified by a single MCTP EID on an MCTP network.

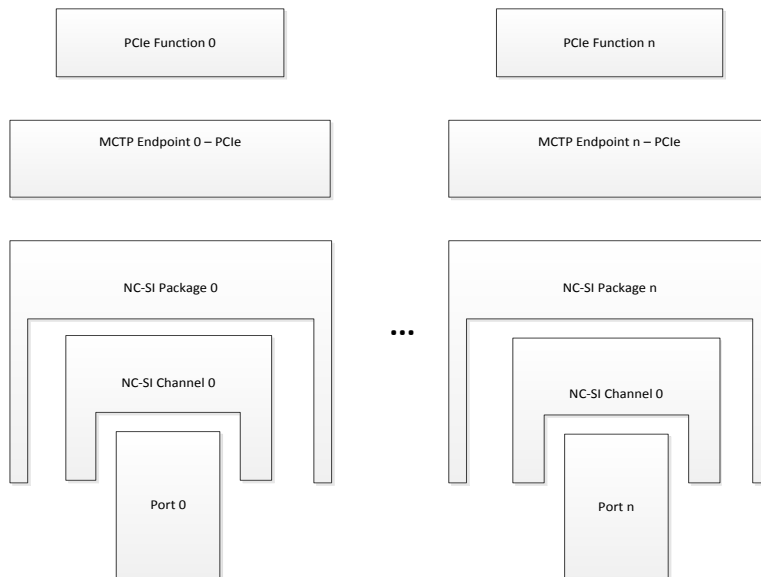
318 NOTE Each device may expose multiple MCTP endpoints on different transport bindings (for example PCIe and
319 SMBus). The EID on each transport binding may be different. In this case, the NC-SI package may be associated
320 with multiple EIDs but only a single EID shall be used for NC-SI over MCTP at a given moment.

321 For example, each MCTP endpoint is associated with a PCIe endpoint and its physical address (as
322 defined in [DSP0238](#)) in an MCTP over PCIe VDM transport binding implementation. A multi-function PCIe
323 device has multiple physical addresses available. Such a device may choose to expose one NC-SI
324 package with multiple NC-SI channels via a single MCTP PCIe endpoint (as described in Figure 3) or
325 multiple NC-SI packages, each package with a single NC-SI channel exposed via a dedicated MCTP
326 PCIe endpoint (as described in Figure 4).



327
328

Figure 3 – Single MCTP EID to multiple NC-SI channels mapping



329
330
331

Figure 4 – Multiple MCTP EIDs to multiple NC-SI channels mapping

332 Multiple MCTP transport bindings handling is described in subclause 7.8.

333 NOTE All the MCTP message segmentation and reassembly capabilities required are defined at the package level.

334 **7.2 Routing of NC-SI Pass-through traffic**

335 **7.2.1 Transmit NC-SI Pass-through traffic (MC to LAN)**

336 Because multiple NC-SI channels can share an EID, identification of channel is still based on the source
337 MAC address of the packet. Given the shared media behavior of RBT in multidrop configurations, packets

338 not destined to this package can be seen. In NC-SI over MCTP, the NC-SI pass-through packets are
339 routed over an MCTP network, thus packets destined to other packages should not be expected. The NC
340 should drop the received NC-SI TX Pass-through packets that are not destined to its package and count
341 them as transmit errors. These errors shall be included in the “Pass-through TX Packets Dropped”
342 counter as part of the Get NC-SI Pass-through Statistics Response.

343 **7.2.2 Receive NC-SI Pass-through traffic (LAN to MC)**

344 The forwarding of network traffic to the MC shall use the same rules as defined in [DSP0222](#).

345 **7.3 Multiple NC support**

346 **7.3.1 NC-SI arbitration support**

347 In the original NC-SI specification, hardware and command-based arbitration are defined as ways to
348 share an inherently point-to-point media between different NCs. With MCTP, the media itself may provide
349 other means to arbitrate between different NCs. Thus, there is no need to use NC-SI HW arbitration
350 method to arbitrate between multiple NCs on an MCTP network.

351 An NC supporting the NC-SI over MCTP binding shall retain the support for the ‘select package’ and
352 ‘deselect package’ commands to allow control of asynchronous transmission from the NC.

353 **7.4 Flow control**

354 **7.4.1 Flow control for MCTP packets**

355 A physical medium supporting NC-SI over MCTP communication shall be able to buffer at least one NC-
356 SI Control or Ethernet message at the rate of the physical layer. Flow control of MCTP packets between
357 the Network Controller and the Management Controller (if any) may be handled by the flow control
358 mechanisms that are specified for that particular MCTP Transport Binding for a physical medium. For
359 example, a network controller may use the SMBus clock stretching mechanism to delay the reception of
360 MCTP packets or may drop such packets.

361 **7.4.2 Flow control for NC-SI over MCTP Control messages**

362 Flow control of NC-SI Control over MCTP messages is handled by the request/response protocol used for
363 those messages. The Network Controller shall be able to process a single NC-SI command at a time from
364 the Management Controller. The Management Controller shall wait until getting a NC-SI response to that
365 NC-SI command, or for a response timeout, before sending another NC-SI command over MCTP to that
366 NC.

367 **7.4.3 Flow control for NC-SI Pass-through packets.**

368 The NC-SI Pass-through traffic flow control used in RBT is an Ethernet-specific technology that is not well
369 suited to an MCTP transport. An implementation of this specification may support Ethernet flow control,
370 but it will apply only to Ethernet messages (message type – 0x3) and not to messages of NC-SI Control
371 over MCTP type (message type – 0x2). The method used to control the rate of transmission of Ethernet
372 packets is beyond the scope of this specification.

373 **7.5 Interleaving of messages**

374 **7.5.1 Interleaving of MCTP Control and NC-SI messages**

375 According to the MCTP specification [[MCTP](#)], an endpoint shall accept MCTP Control messages that are
376 interleaved among NC-SI Control over MCTP or Ethernet over MCTP message packets. This is to avoid

377 scenarios where functions such as the MCTP bus owner are 'locked out' from managing the MCTP bus
 378 because of NC-SI Pass-through traffic.

379 Correspondingly, MCTP Control Message responses shall be able to be interleaved among incoming NC-
 380 SI Control over MCTP or Ethernet over MCTP message packet. However, the MCTP Control Message
 381 responses may be held up and transmitted between Ethernet Messages, provided that the MCTP
 382 command request-to-response timing requirements are met.

383 **7.5.2 Interleaving of NC-SI Control and Ethernet over MCTP messages**

384 NC-SI Control over MCTP and Ethernet over MCTP messages to the same EID shall not be interleaved.
 385 Similar to the [DSP0222](#) specification case, NC-SI Control and Ethernet packets are interleaved at the
 386 message level. An MC operating with multiple NC may interleave messages sent to different NCs.

387 **7.6 Ordering rules for NC to MC traffic**

388 The following table defines which type of messages should pass other types of packets to avoid
 389 deadlocks. The decisions are done at a message level. Interleaving within messages is defined in the
 390 previous sections. The following behaviors are expected:

- 391 • Yes—the second message (row) shall be allowed to pass the first (column) to avoid deadlock
 392 (When blocking occurs, the second message is required to pass the first message)
- 393 • Y/N—there are no requirements. The second message may optionally pass the first message or
 394 be blocked by it.
- 395 • No—the second message shall not be allowed to pass the first message. This is required to avoid
 396 out of order events.

397

Row Pass Column?	MCTP Control response (Col 1)	NC-SI response (Col 2)	NC-SI AEN (Col 3)	Ethernet Packet (Col 4)
MCTP Control response (Row A)	Y/N	Y/N	Yes	Y/N
NC-SI response packet (Row B)	Y/N	Y/N	Yes	Y/N
NC-SI AEN (Row C)	Y/N	Y/N	No	Y/N
Ethernet packet (Row D)	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	No

398 **Notes** (The letter and number indicates the row and column in the table above):

399

- 400 • **A1** This situation will occur only in NCs accepting multiple outstanding
 401 MCTP control commands.
- 402 • **B2** This situation will occur only in NCs accepting multiple outstanding NC-
 403 SI commands.
- 404 • **A3, B3** An NC-SI AEN may be blocked if the channel is disabled or the package
 405 deselected. Thus it should not block MCTP Control or NC-SI responses.

- 406 • **C3** AENs should be sent in order of occurrence to avoid cases where the
407 latest received status is obsolete. For example in the case of a link-down
408 event followed by a link-up event, the AEN on the link-up event must not
409 pass the AEN on the link-down event.
- 410 • **D4** Ethernet packets must be sent in order to avoid out-of-order events in
411 the upper layers.

412 **7.7 Assembly requirements**

413 According to the interleaving requirements described in subclause 7.5, the NC shall be able to assemble
414 a single NC-SI Control or Ethernet over MCTP message at a time. The maximum Ethernet packet size is
415 defined in subclause 9.2. The maximum NC-SI packet size is defined in subclause 9.1.

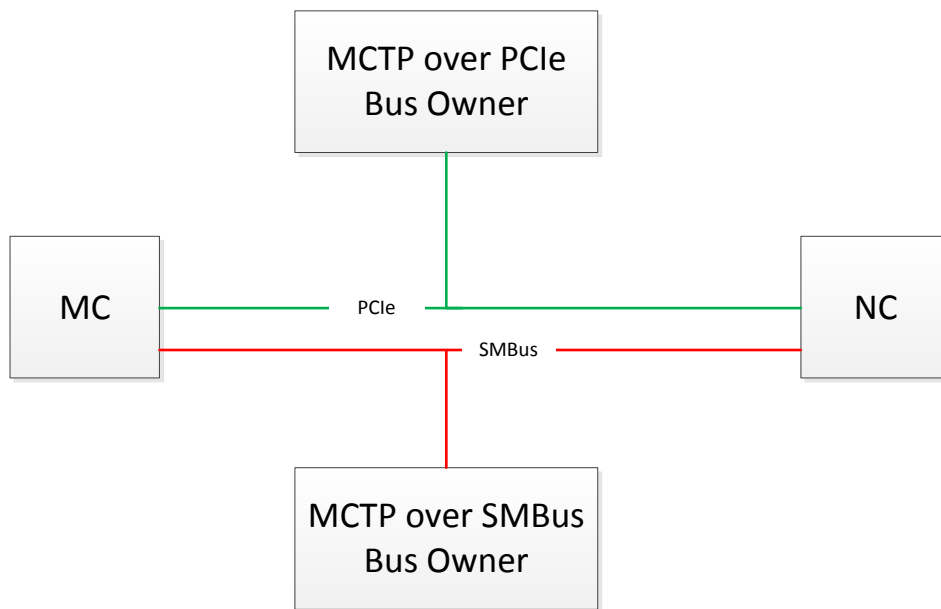
416 Buffering requirements for other message types are not covered in this specification.

417 **7.8 Multiple MCTP transport bindings**

418 In the [DSP0222](#) specification, the channels use a single physical interface all the time. In NC-SI over
419 MCTP, multiple MCTP transport bindings may be used at different times to convey NC-SI traffic to allow
420 tradeoffs between data rate and power consumption. The following requirements apply to those MCTP
421 transport bindings:

- 422 1) NC-SI control messages (identified by MCTP message type 0x2) shall be supported
- 423 2) Ethernet messages (identified by MCTP message type 0x3) may be supported

424 Figure 5 shows an example of multiple MCTP transport bindings using MCTP over PCIe VDM and MCTP
425 over SMBus. The types of NC-SI over MCTP traffic on each MCTP transport binding may vary as
426 described above.



427
428 **Figure 5 – Multiple MCTP transport bindings example**

429 **7.8.1 Supported message types over different MCTP transport bindings**

430 An endpoint may support different MCTP message types over different MCTP transport bindings. For
431 example, an NC may choose to support Ethernet message type over MCTP PCIe VDM transport only. It

432 is recommended that an MC initially determines the supported message types on a given medium during
433 the discovery phase using the Get Supported Message Type MCTP Control command prior to
434 transmitting MCTP traffic of specific MCTP message type on the medium.

435 **7.8.2 MCTP EID and physical address changes.**

436 The NC-SI package mapping of the NC or the MC to MCTP EID and/or physical interface address may
437 change due to the following reasons:

- 438 1) Changes in the MCTP transport medium used. For example moving from PCIe to SMBus
439 medium when PCIe becomes unavailable for MCTP communication due to change of
440 power state.
- 441 2) Changes in the EID to physical address mapping. For example when changing medium or
442 during re-enumeration process or in a multifunction PCIe device, if the function of which
443 RID is being used is disabled by the host, the MCTP endpoint may move to another
444 function.

445 In order to avoid breakup of network connections, and in order to avoid the need to reconfigure the NC,
446 the NC-SI connection should be kept alive during the transition. The MC is responsible for the
447 reconnection of the channel in case of address mapping changes. The next clause describes possible
448 flows that may be used to ease the re-discovery of an NC whose address has changed. A flow by which
449 the MC can expose a change of its own address to the NC(s) is described in subclause 7.8.4.

450 According to the _ specification, an MC or NC that has its physical address changed should send an
451 MCTP Discovery Notify command to the bus owner so that the routing tables can be updated.

452 **7.8.3 NC discovery flows**

453 The MC may use one of the following example flows to discover a NC whose address has changed.

454 **7.8.3.1 Full discovery**

455 The simplest and most time consuming method is to discover the NC partner by using the standard
456 MCTP discovery method. This method works with NCs that support at least MCTP 1.1 and NC-SI 1.0.

457 The following flow may be used:

- 458 • The MC detects a potential address update condition (for example: power state change, link
459 status change, or re-enumeration) or detects an NC-SI timeout condition (as defined in section
460 6.8.2.1 of [NC-SI](#)).
- 461 • The MC finds all the endpoints in the system by sending an MCTP “Get Routing Table Entries”
462 command to the bus owner and to any bridges in the MCTP network.
- 463 • For each device listed, the MC checks whether it supports the required MCTP message types
464 (NC-SI Control and optionally Ethernet) by using the MCTP “Get Message Type Support”
465 command.

466 For each potential endpoint discovered by using the method above, the MC checks whether it is the
467 original NC partner, for example by sending an “Get Version ID” NC-SI command to the original NC ID
468 and checking the response.

469 **7.8.3.2 UUID based discovery**

470 This method is based on the usage of the “Resolve UUID” MCTP command.

471 To use this method, the bus owner or bridge must support the “Resolve UUID” MCTP command and the
472 NC must support the “Get Endpoint UUID” MCTP command.

473 The following flow may be used:

- 474 • When the NC-SI channel is first established by using some proprietary method (for example by
475 using the flow from the previous section), the MC may send a “Get Endpoint UUID” MCTP
476 command to the NC. It then keeps the UUID information for future use.
- 477 • MC periodically sends a “Get Routing Table” Command to the bus owner to receive updated
478 endpoints addresses.
- 479 • The NC whose address changes or that wants to move to another active bus sends a “Discovery
480 Notify” MCTP command to the bus owner of the new bus.
- 481 • As part of the routing table update, the bus owner sends a “Get Endpoint UUID” MCTP command
482 to the NC and updates its routing table accordingly.
- 483 • The MC sends a “Resolve UUID” MCTP Command to the bus owner by using the previously
484 saved NC UUID. In response, it gets the list of EIDs matching this UUID.
- 485 • The MC can check if the relevant message types (NC-SI Control and optionally Ethernet) are
486 supported on the new bus by using an MCTP “Get Message Type Support” command.
- 487 • The MC may then send any NC-SI Command to the NC to communicate with the NC on the new
488 medium.

489 7.8.3.3 NC-SI based discovery

490 The NC must support the “Get Supported Media” NC-SI command as defined in clause 10.1 to use this
491 method.

492 The following flow may be used.

- 493 • The MC detects a potential address update condition (for example: power state change, link
494 status change, AEN from the NC, or re-enumeration) or detects a timeout condition on NC-SI (as
495 defined in section 6.8.2.1 of [NC-SI](#)).
- 496 • If the original bus is still available (for example, when transitioning from SMBus to PCIe), it may
497 send on the original bus a “Get Supported Media” NC-SI command. In the response, the NC will
498 provide information on the routing that should be used on the new bus and on the support for
499 Pass-through on this bus.
- 500 • The MC may then send any NC-SI Command to the NC to communicate with the NC on the new
501 medium.

502 This method may not be applicable when there is no active channel that can be used to send the “Get
503 Supported Media” NC-SI command over. In this case, one of the other methods should be used.

504 7.8.4 MC update flow

505 In the case where MC physical address or its MCTP EID changes, it may send an “Enable Channel” NC-
506 SI command to the NC. This command will update the MC EID and physical address used by the NC.

507 7.8.5 Transition between mediums

508 A transition of an NC-SI package from one medium to another can occur due to changes in the available
509 media. For example, a transition from SMBus to PCIe can occur when PCIe becomes available to provide
510 a larger bandwidth.

- 511 A transition of an NC-SI from one medium to another is achieved when the NC is deselected on the first
512 medium and selected on the second medium as described in subclause 7.9.
- 513 The NC may notify the MC about the state of a medium using an AEN.
- 514 1) Potential loss of a medium prior to losing the medium
515 2) Availability of a new medium
- 516 Alternatively, the MC may be aware of the medium change independently, for example, by detecting its
517 own PCIe bus became active, by interaction with the BIOS, and so on.
- 518 The MC may initiate the transition by using MCTP Control and NC-SI Control messages as described in
519 subclause 7.8.5.1.
- 520 A transition can be between mediums with different levels of support of Ethernet MCTP messages.
- 521 When an NC transitions from a medium on which Ethernet messages were supported to a second
522 medium on which Ethernet messages are not supported, the NC should stop sending and receiving
523 Ethernet messages on the first medium after the NC-SI channel had been deselected on the first medium.
- 524 The MC may transition back later to the first medium for communicating Ethernet messages. If the MC
525 transitions back to the first medium supporting Ethernet messages, it may resume communications of
526 Ethernet messages based on the previous configuration. If the configuration was lost during the
527 transitions, the NC shall return to the NC-SI Initial State (as described in section 6.2.4 of [DSP0222](#)).
- 528 Even if NC-SI Pass-through traffic (Ethernet messages) is supported over multiple mediums, Pass-
529 through traffic shall not be transitioned to a new medium before the connection between the MC and the
530 NC is re-established on the new medium. The NC shall support the following flows to initiate a transition
531 to the new medium:
- 532 • If the current medium is still active (for example when moving from SMBus to PCIe to achieve
533 better throughput), the NC shall keep its Pass-through traffic on the original medium (both MC to
534 network and network to MC). The NC shall also send outstanding NC-SI responses on the
535 original medium.
536 NOTE The MC can stop the traffic from the NC on the current medium by sending “Disable Channel” and
537 “Disable Channel Network TX” NC-SI commands to all the channels before the transition. In this case, it
538 shall send “Enable Channel” and “Enable Channel Network TX” NC-SI commands to all active channels on
539 the new medium, to allow the traffic to resume.
 - 540 • If the current medium is inactive (for example, when moving from PCIe to SMBus due to a power
541 transition), the NC shall stop transferring Ethernet messages. If a packet is being transmitted by
542 the NC when the original medium becomes unavailable, the NC shall not continue the
543 transmission of the packet and the packet may be lost. Outstanding NC-SI responses may be
544 discarded by the NC.
 - 545 • When any NC-SI command is received from the MC on the new medium (apart from “*Deselect*
546 *Package*”), the NC shall move to “Selected” state on the new medium (see subclause 7.9).
 - 547 ○ An NC-SI Rx Pass-through message to the MC on the current medium shall be
548 completed by the NC on the current medium and only after that shall the NC send the
549 NC-SI response to the MC on the new medium.
 - 550 ○ The next Pass-through message sent to the MC after a successful response to the NC-SI
551 command shall be sent on the new medium.

552 • The NC shall accept Pass-through traffic from the MC on the new medium after the NC moves to
553 "Selected" state on the new medium and sends the first successful NC-SI response.

554 • The same algorithm as described above shall be used for the selection of the medium to use for
555 sending NC-SI AEN messages to the MC.

556 An NC that uses multiple MCTP transport bindings should support at least one of the UUID based
557 recovery or the NC-SI based recovery methods in addition to the Full Discovery mechanism.

558 7.8.5.1 MC transition flow

559 The MC can initiate a transition between mediums for one of the following reasons.

560 1) Loss of medium for NC-SI over MCTP communications. For example, system transitioning
561 into a low power state may make PCIe medium unavailable for NC-SI over MCTP
562 communications over PCIe VDM transport.

563 2) Reception of an AEN from the NC notifying a medium state change. For example, an NC
564 may notify the MC about the potential loss of the PCIe medium, triggering a transition to
565 SMBus.

566 The following flow can be used by the MC to initiate a transition between mediums:

567 • If the current medium is still active (for example when moving from SMBus to PCIe to achieve
568 better throughput), the MC can keep its traffic on the original medium until it discovers the NC by
569 using one of the flows described in subclause 7.8.3. If the current medium is inactive (for
570 example, when moving from PCIe to SMBus due to a power transition), the MC will stop
571 transferring Ethernet messages with NC until discovery of the NC.

572 • The MC can then send an "Enable Channel" NC-SI Command, or any other command to the NC
573 to select it on the new medium. The MC will then wait for the NC response before starting to send
574 packets on the new medium. The MC will complete transmission of the current Ethernet message
575 before sending the command and will not send Ethernet messages while waiting for the
576 response. The MC will accept Ethernet message on the original medium until the response from
577 the NC is received on the current medium.

578 • If Pass-through is supported by the NC over only a single medium, when transitioning out of this
579 medium, the MC will not send Pass-through traffic to the NC and will not expect to receive traffic
580 from the NC.

581 • If a medium becomes unavailable while an MC waits for an NC-SI command response, it can
582 assume the command was lost and retry it on the new medium.

583 7.9 Package selection

584 The "Selected" state of an NC-SI package is defined for each of the MCTP transports to which it can bind.
585 A package can be selected only on a single MCTP medium at a given point of time.

586 As in [DSP0222](#), a package is selected by reception of a "Select Package" on the MCTP medium or any
587 other command except "Deselect Package".

588 A package is deselected on a specific MCTP medium by reception of a "Deselect Package" command,
589 selection of the package on another medium or if the physical medium on which it operate becomes
590 unavailable. If the packet is deselected by an NC-SI command it should move to the deselected state only
591 after sending a response to the command.

592 A package is allowed to send Ethernet messages or NC-SI Control messages on an MCTP medium only
593 if in the "Selected" state on that medium.

594 An NC should use the source EID and source physical address received from the last received NC-SI
 595 command to respond to this command and as the destination of subsequent Ethernet messages. If a
 596 command is received during the transmission of an Ethernet message, the destination should change
 597 only at the beginning of the next message.

598 The channel selection state and all other NC-SI configurations may be kept during the transition from one
 599 medium to another. If the configuration is altered during the transition, the NC shall return to Initial State.

600 8 Supported NC-SI commands

601 The supported NC-SI commands when bound to MCTP is a subset of the commands in [DSP0222](#)
 602 specification. The subset of supported commands varies according to the supported messages as
 603 indicated in the response to the Get Message Type Support MCTP Control command. If only the NC-SI
 604 Control message type is supported, the commands related to the Pass-through traffic control are not
 605 supported. If both the NC-SI Control and Ethernet message types are supported, these commands are
 606 supported. Table 2 lists the supported commands according to the supported message types.

607 Optional commands may have different implementation over different media.

608

609 **Table 2 – Supported NC-SI commands**

Command Type	Command Name	Description	Response Type	Command Support Requirement NC-SI Control Messages Only	Command Support Requirement NC-SI Control and Ethernet Messages
0x00	Clear Initial State	Used by the Management Controller to acknowledge that the Network Controller is in the Initial State	0x80	M	M
0x01	Select Package	Used to explicitly select a controller package to transmit packets through the NC-SI interface	0x81	O3	O ³
0x02	Deselect Package	Used to explicitly instruct the controller package to stop transmitting packets through the NC-SI interface	0x82	O ³	O ³
0x03	Enable Channel	Used to enable the NC-SI channel and to start the forwarding of bidirectional Management Controller packets	0x83	M	M
0x04	Disable Channel	Used to disable the NC-SI channel and to stop the forwarding of bidirectional Management Controller packets	0x84	M	M
0x05	Reset Channel	Used to synchronously put the Network Controller back to the Initial State	0x85	M	M
0x06	Enable Channel Network TX	Used to explicitly enable the channel to transmit Pass-through packets onto the network	0x86	N/A	M

Command Type	Command Name	Description	Response Type	Command Support Requirement NC-SI Control Messages Only	Command Support Requirement NC-SI Control and Ethernet Messages
0x07	Disable Channel Network TX	Used to explicitly disable the channel from transmitting Pass-through packets onto the network	0x87	N/A	M
0x08	AEN Enable	Used to control generating AENs	0x88	C	C
0x09	Set Link	Used during OS absence to force link settings, or to return to auto-negotiation mode	0x89	O	M
0x0A	Get Link Status	Used to get current link status information	0x8A	O	M
0x0B	Set VLAN Filter	Used to program VLAN IDs for VLAN filtering	0x8B	N/A	M
0x0C	Enable VLAN	Used to enable VLAN filtering of Management Controller RX packets	0x8C	N/A	M
0x0D	Disable VLAN	Used to disable VLAN filtering	0x8D	N/A	M
0x0E	Set MAC Address	Used to configure and enable unicast and multicast MAC address filters	0x8E	N/A	M
0x10	Enable Broadcast Filtering	Used to enable full or selective broadcast packet filtering	0x90	N/A	M
0x11	Disable Broadcast Filtering	Used to disable all broadcast packet filtering, and to enable the forwarding of broadcast packets	0x91	N/A	M
0x12	Enable Global Multicast Filtering	Used to disable forwarding of all multicast packets to the Management Controller	0x92	N/A	C
0x13	Disable Global Multicast Filtering	Used to enable forwarding of all multicast packets to the Management Controller	0x93	N/A	C
0x14	Set NC-SI Flow Control	Used to configure IEEE 802.3 flow control on NC-SI	0x94	N/A	O
0x15	Get Version ID	Used to get controller-related version information	0x95	M	M
0x16	Get Capabilities	Used to get optional functions supported by the NC	0x96	M ¹	M
0x17	Get Parameters	Used to get configuration parameter values currently in effect on the controller	0x97	M ²	M

Command Type	Command Name	Description	Response Type	Command Support Requirement NC-SI Control Messages Only	Command Support Requirement NC-SI Control and Ethernet Messages
0x18	Get Controller Packet Statistics	Used to get current packet statistics for the Network Controller	0x98	O	O
0x19	Get NC-SI Statistics	Used to request the packet statistics specific to the NC-SI interface	0x99	O	O
0x1A	Get NC-SI Pass-through Statistics	Used to request NC-SI Pass-through packet statistics	0x9A	N/A	O
0x1B	Get Supported Media	Used to return the media on which NC-SI can run and routing information for each medium.	0x9B	O	O
0x50	OEM Command	Used to request vendor-specific data	0xD0	O	O
Key: M = Mandatory (required) O = Optional C = Conditional (see command description) N/A = Not applicable					
1. The only part of the response that is relevant is the AEN control support field. 2. The only part of the response that is relevant is the Link Settings, AEN control fields and the Channel Enabled flag in the Configuration Flags. 3. The 'Select Package' and 'Deselect Package' commands impact only transmission of NC-SI Control and Ethernet over MCTP message types and do not impact other MCTP message types.					

610 9 Message types

611 The MC and the NC shall support the NC-SI over MCTP message type (0x02). The Ethernet message
 612 type should be supported if NC-SI Pass-through traffic is expected on this interface.

613 9.1 NC-SI message type (0x02)

614 This message type is used to carry NC-SI Control packets that are identified by the NC-SI Ethertype in
 615 the [DSP0222](#) specification. This includes command, response, and AEN packets.

616 The maximum NC-SI message payload size is 1500 bytes to keep the same limit as in [NC-SI](#). This
 617 includes the payload starting from the MC ID field.

618 9.1.1 Encapsulation

619 The encapsulation of NC-SI Control packets includes the packet as described in the Control packet data
 620 structure of [DSP0222](#) specification encapsulated in an MCTP header. NC-SI messages may be
 621 fragmented to multiple MCTP packets.

622 NC-SI control packets communicated over MCTP do not follow the Ethernet frame encapsulation defined
 623 in [DSP0222](#) for NC-SI over RMIIBased Transport (RBT) transport binding. NC-SI control packets over
 624 MCTP shall not include Ethernet frame header, Ethernet packet pad, and Ethernet Frame Check

625 Sequence (FCS). Instead, the encapsulation described in Table 3 shall be used to encapsulate NC-SI
 626 control messages.

627 NOTE The Control packets frames in [DSP0222](#) uses a DA, SA, and Ethertype MAC header. The DA and SA part
 628 do not contain any useful data and the Ethertype is used to differentiate between Control packets and Ethernet traffic.
 629 In NC-SI over MCTP, this Ethernet framing is not used, as the differentiation is achieved through usage of different
 630 message types.

631

632 **Table 3 –NC-SI messages encapsulation**

Bytes	+0								+1								+2								+3							
	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00..03	RSVD				Header Version				Destination Endpoint ID								Source Endpoint ID								S	E	Pkt		T	Message		
																								O	O	seq #	O	O	O	O	Tag	
04..07	IC	Message Type							MC ID								Header Revision								Reserved							
	0	0x02																														
08..11	IID								Command								Channel ID								Reserved				Payload Len			
12..15	Payload Length								Reserved																							
16..19	Reserved																															
20..23	Reserved								Control Packet Payload																							
...	...																															
...	...								Control Packet Payload								Payload Padding (as required)															
...	Payload Padding (as reqrd)								Checksum 3:1																							
...	Checksum 0																															

633

634 See [NC-SI](#) for details of the NC-SI Control packets format.

635 The following tables describe the value for the various fields of the message whose description differs
 636 from the description in the MCTP or NC-SI specification.

637 **Table 4 - MCTP Transport Header fields**

Field Name	Field Size	Value	Comment
Tag Owner (TO)	1 bit	Varies	Indicates that the Tag field value was generated by the message source = 0b Tag not from message source = 1b Tag from message source. Should be set for Commands and AEN packets. Should be cleared for Response packets.
Msg Tag	3 bits	Varies	The Tag field shall be set by the source of the message.

638

639

640

Table 5 – MCTP Specific Message Header field

Field Name	Field Size	Value	Comment
IC Bit	1 bit	0b	NC-SI over MCTP does not define message integrity check as it relies on the MCTP packet integrity check provided by the underlying medium or checks that are encapsulated in the message payload. This field is present only in the first packet of a message (SOM = 1).
Message Type	7 bits	0x02	Identifies the MCTP message type as an NC-SI Control over MCTP message. This field is present only in the first packet of a message (SOM = 1).

641 **9.1.2 Version**

642 The version that shall be reported for this message type in the Get MCTP Version Support response is
643 0xF1F0F000 (1.0.0)

644 **9.2 Ethernet message type (0x03)**

645 This message type is used to carry NC-SI Pass-through packets. Ethernet messages may be fragmented
646 to multiple MCTP packets.

647 The nominal Ethernet message size that shall be supported is 1518 bytes to accommodate a full Ethernet
648 packet including a VLAN but without FCS. If additional L2 tags are expected (for example, MACSec), the
649 supported packet size shall increase accordingly.

650 **9.2.1 Encapsulation**

651 The encapsulation of Ethernet packets includes the entire Ethernet frame from the Source MAC address
652 to the end of the payload, not including the FCS, prefixed with an MCTP header.

653 NOTE In [NC-SI](#), the FCS was required as part of the Ethernet encapsulation used over RMII. When Ethernet
654 packets are sent over other mediums, the medium specific error recovery mechanisms are used and the FCS is not
655 required.

656 The FCS should be added by the NC for packets sent by the MC to the network and should be checked
657 and removed by the NC for packets received from the network to the MC. Packets with a wrong FCS
658 should not be forwarded to the MC.

659 This behavior is consistent with the FCS offload provided by NCs to the host OS.

660

Table 6 – Ethernet messages encapsulation

Bytes	+0								+1								+2								+3							
	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
00..03	RSVD				Header Version				Destination Endpoint ID								Source Endpoint ID								S	E	Pkt	T	Message			
																								O	O	seq #	O	Tag				
04..07	IC	Message Type							Destination Address 5:3																							
	0	0x03																														
08..11	Destination Address 2:0																Source Address 5															
12..15	Source Address 4:1																															
16..	Source Address 0								Optional L2 tags																							
...	Optional L2 tags								Ethertype								Ethernet Payload															
...	Ethernet Payload (no FCS)																															

661

662 The following tables describe the value for the various fields of the message whose description differs
 663 from the description in the MCTP or NC-SI specification.

664

Table 7 - MCTP Transport Header fields

Field Name	Field Size	Value	Comment
Tag Owner (TO)	1 bit	1b	Indicates that the Tag field value was generated by the message source = 0b Tag not from message source = 1b Tag from message source Should be set for all packets
Msg Tag	3 bits	Varies	The Tag field shall be set by the source of the message.

665

Table 8 – MCTP Specific Message Header field

Field Name	Field Size	Value	Comment
IC Bit	1 bit	0b	NC-SI over MCTP does not define a message integrity check because it relies on the MCTP packet integrity check provided by the underlying medium or checks that are encapsulated in the message payload. This field is present only in the first packet of a message (SOM = 1).
Message Type	7 bits	0x03	Identifies the MCTP message type as an Ethernet over MCTP message. This field is present only in the first packet of a message (SOM = 1).

666 **9.2.2 Version**

667 The version that shall be reported for this message type in the Get MCTP Version Support response is
 668 0xF1F0F000 (1.0.0)

669 **10 NC-SI support specific to MCTP transport**

670 The following command and AEN may be implemented as part of this specification to allow an
 671 implementation of the discovery flow described in clause 7.8.3.3.

672 **10.1 Get Supported Media command (0x51)**

673 This command is used to query a device about the Media on which NC-SI can be conveyed. This
 674 command is optional and is applicable only if more than one media is supported.

675 The Get Supported Media command is addressed to the package, rather than to a particular channel (that
 676 is, the command is sent with a Channel ID where the Package ID subfield matches the ID of the intended
 677 package and the Internal Channel ID subfield is set to 0x1F).

678 Table 9 illustrates the packet format of the Get Supported Media command.

679 **Table 9 – Get Supported Media command packet format**

Bytes	Bits			
	31..24	23..16	15..08	07..00
00..15	NC-SI Header			
16..19	Checksum			
20..45	Pad			

680 **10.2 Get Supported Media response (0xD1)**

681 In the absence of any error, the package shall process and respond to the Get Supported Media
 682 command by sending the response packet and payload shown in Table 10.

683 **Table 10 – Get Supported Media response packet format**

Bytes	Bits			
	31..24	23..16	15..08	07..00
00..15	NC-SI Header			
16..19	Reserved			Number of medias supported
20..	Media descriptors as described in Table 11. The number of media descriptors is according to the Number of medias supported field value.			
...	Checksum			
...	Pad			

684

685

Table 11 – Get Supported Media response media descriptors format

Byte	Description
0	EID. Should be 0x0 if Physical Medium Identifier is RBT.
1	Physical Transport Binding Identifier, according to MCTP ID specification (DSP0239). Should be 0x0 if Physical Medium Type Identifier is RBT.
2	Physical Medium Identifier, according to MCTP ID specification (DSP0239). This value is used to indicate what format the following physical address data is given in.
3.0	NC-SI Pass-through is supported. 0: NC-SI Pass-through is not supported over this medium. 1: NC-SI Pass-through is supported over this medium.
3.6:1	Reserved
3.7	Status 0: Medium is not available. 1: Medium is available.
4	Physical Address Size. Should be 0x0 if Physical Medium Identifier is RBT.
5:N	Physical Address. This field is not present if Physical Medium Identifier is RBT. If present, this field is valid only if the Status bit is set and its value is unspecified otherwise.

686 10.3 Medium change AEN

687 The Medium change AEN is used to alert the MC that there was a status change in one of the media
688 supported by the NC, or such a change is expected according to some external or internal condition
689 detected by the NC.

690 This AEN should be sent if any change occurred in the status of one of the media supported by the
691 device. It may also be sent for expected changes in the medium status, if the NC is aware of them.

692 For example, if while NC-SI package is active over SMBus, the PCIe bus becomes available, this AEN
693 should be sent. Another example, if while NC-SI package is active over PCIe, the NC detects that the
694 PCIe bus is going to be disabled, it may send this AEN also.

695 The media descriptors field reproduces the bit definitions defined in the Get Supported Media response
696 (Table 11).

697

Table 12 – Medium change AEN format

Bytes	Bits			
	31..24	23..16	15..08	07..00
00..15	NC-SI Header			
16..19	Reserved			AEN Type = 0x70
20..23	Reserved			Number of Medias supported.
24..	Media descriptors			
...	Checksum			
...	Pad			

698 **11 Packet-Based Timing specific to MCTP Binding**

699 Table 13 presents changes in the NC-SI timing parameters relative to NC-SI Packet-Based and Op-Code
 700 Timing Parameters Table in [DSP0222](#). Parameters not listed in the table below should be taken from the
 701 table in [DSP0222](#).

702

Table 13 – NC-SI Timing Parameters specific to MCTP Binding

Name	Symbol	Value	Description
Normal Execution Interval	T5	50 ms, max	<p>Maximum time interval from when a controller receives a command to when it delivers a response to that command, unless otherwise specified</p> <p>Measured from the rising edge of the first clock following the last bit of the command packet to the rising edge of the clock for the first bit of the response packet</p> <p>Note: When T5 passed, an extension of the timeout should be allowed and taken into consideration under the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Ethernet message or an NC-SI control message (AEN) being transmitted, 2. On a shared medium, the medium is occupied by other devices.

703

704
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ANNEX A (informative) Notation and conventions

707 A.1 Notations

708 Examples of notations used in this document are as follows:

- 709 • 2:N In field descriptions, this will typically be used to represent a range of byte offsets
710 starting from byte two and continuing to and including byte N. The lowest offset is on
711 the left; the highest is on the right.
- 712 • (6) Parentheses around a single number can be used in message field descriptions to
713 indicate a byte field that may be present or absent.
- 714 • (3:6) Parentheses around a field consisting of a range of bytes indicates the entire range
715 may be present or absent. The lowest offset is on the left; the highest is on the right.
- 716 • [PCIe](#) Underlined, blue text is typically used to indicate a reference to a document or
717 specification called out in "Normative references" clause or to items hyperlinked within
718 the document.
- 719 • rsvd This case-insensitive abbreviation is for "reserved."
- 720 • [4] Square brackets around a number are typically used to indicate a bit offset. Bit offsets
721 are given as zero-based values (that is, the least significant bit [LSb] offset = 0).
- 722 • [7:5] This notation indicates a range of bit offsets. The most significant bit is on the left; the
723 least significant bit is on the right.
- 724 • 1b The lowercase "b" following a number consisting of 0s and 1s is used to indicate the
725 number is being given in binary format.
- 726 • 0x12A A leading "0x" is used to indicate a number given in hexadecimal format.

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ANNEX B (informative)

Change log

Version	Date	Description
1.0.0	2013-08-22	
1.1.0	2015-03-21	Typos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed wrong message type in Table 6 Functional changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger requirement on NC-SI control messages encapsulation. • Added specific timing requirements. • Added ability to send AEN on upcoming media status changes.

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