

# Co-Packaged Optics Collaboration FAQ

## Group Information

*Q: Why are Facebook and Microsoft developing this specification?*

A: Co-Packaging has the potential to address the challenge of datacenter traffic growth by reducing the power consumption of the switch-optic electrical interface. A common, publicly available system specification is required to guide optical and switch vendors to quickly develop co-packaged solutions and allow for the creation of a diverse eco-system of suppliers.

*Q: Have others joined Facebook and Microsoft?*

A: Membership is open only to other hyperscale data center companies.

*Q: Where can I find more information?*

A: More information is available at a forthcoming website. For questions please email [info@copackagedoptics.org](mailto:info@copackagedoptics.org).

*Q: How is the Co-Packaged Optics Collaboration organized?*

A: The Co-Packaged Optics Collaboration is made up of:

- Member Companies - Microsoft and Facebook
- Working Groups - Member companies creating drafts on specific sections of the specification.

*Q: What are the steps for the Co-Packaged Optics to create this specification?*

A: The Co-Packaged Optics Collaboration will develop the specification in the following stages:

1. Guidance Document - Provides guidance on the requirements for co-packaged optical modules.
2. Draft - Accepted Pre-draft documents (and the basis of all future edits) by the Working Group and other contributors for particular section or subject
3. Working Group Approval - Approval of a Draft by the Working Group
4. Final Approval - Approval by Member Companies
5. Publication – Approved deliverable is made publicly available.

## What Will Be Defined By This Group?

*Q: What is the specification for Co-Packaged Optics? How do I get access to it?*

A: A draft guidance document will be published and we will solicit input from vendors prior to releasing the first draft. The intent of the guidance document is not to provide a detailed specification, but rather guidance on common requirements (e.g. optical link, electrical link, management interface...).

*Q: When will the guidance document be available?*

A: The Co-Packaged Optics Collaboration will announce the schedule for the specification mid-2019.

*Q: Where will updates on progress of the program be available?*

A: Updates on this program will be available through the website TBD We will also intend to provide informational sessions and progress updates at forums such as OCP.

## **How Can You Participate?**

*Q: How do I ask questions about the specification or making a proposal?*

A: Please check the FAQ on the website [www.copackagedoptics.org](http://www.copackagedoptics.org) or for email questions to [info@copackagedoptics.org](mailto:info@copackagedoptics.org).

*Q: How does a company make a proposal? Is there a “request for proposal” document?*

A: Information regarding making a proposal will be available on the website [www.copackagedoptics.org](http://www.copackagedoptics.org) including the details of how to submit a proposal.

*Q: Are proposals for partial solutions, such as optical engine or switch ASIC accepted?*

A: Partial solutions are accepted, but complete solutions are preferred.

*Q: Is the information submitted as a proposal visible to other parties?*

A: Only members of the collaboration will have access to the proposals. Suppliers will not have access to other suppliers' proposals.

*Q: Does the information submitted as a proposal remain confidential to the sharing party?*

A: Proposals to the working group are not considered confidential. Member companies are available separately for discussions under NDA to help refine proposals before submitting to the group.

*Q: How is IP handled? What is the legal framework for Intellectual Property rights?*

A: Information disclosed in connection with the project and any Working Group activity, including but not limited to meetings, contributions, and submissions, is not confidential.

*Q: What is the timeframe for making proposals? What is the deadline for submissions?*

A: The schedule for providing responses will be announced after the guidance document has been released.

*Q: What information needs to be provided in a proposal?*

A: Proposals should include:

- Name of company or companies submitting proposal

- Contact information including names, titles, emails and phone numbers of company representatives
- Fully executed *Feedback Agreement*
  - Can be provided on request
- Working Groups covered in a proposal:
  - Electrical interface
  - Optical module workstream
  - Standardize management interface of optic
  - Mechanical and Thermal
  - Reliability/FIT
- Proposal

*Q: After submission of a proposal, what is the method of communication?*

A: A schedule will be published before a call for proposals. Participants will be notified according to that schedule. Successful proposals will be invited for further discussion.