



## State of the Network: 10GBASE-T Equipment Availability and the Future of Copper Media

While it may be so that good things come to those who wait, too much waiting can lead to uncertainty. Take 10GBASE-T networking products, for example. The 10GBASE T Standard<sup>1</sup> published almost six years ago and the long wait for network gear has provided fodder for the digital rumor mill to churn. This had led to the completely erroneous misperception that 10GBASE-T is the end of the line for copper balanced twisted-pair media and network equipment. The fact is that the extended time to market can be explained by the recent economic recession and the desire to integrate significant power efficiency enhancements into this new technology. These challenges have been overcome and all indicators are that adoption of 10GBASE T solutions is poised to take off in 2012.

This paper presents the truths behind the myths surrounding 10GBASE-T and the future of copper twisted-pair Ethernet applications.