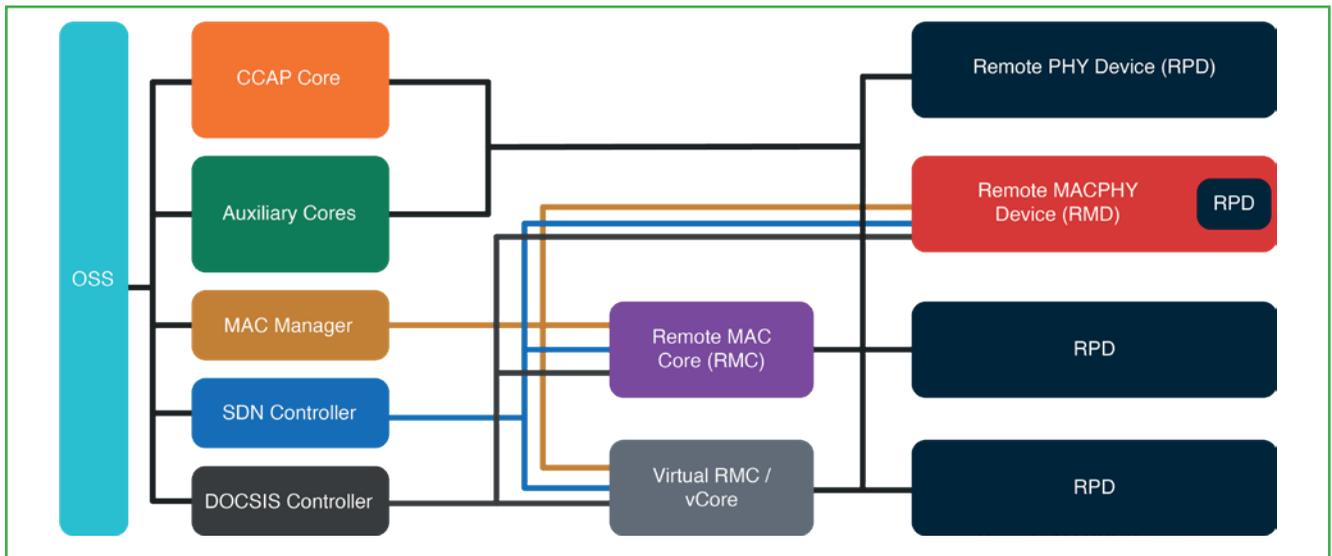


CableLabs hits another 10G milestone



Above: Fig 1: FMA and R-PHY architecture

On **30 September 2020**, CableLabs released the Flexible MAC Architecture (FMA) library of specifications along with the FMA MAC Manager Interface (MMI) and the FMA PacketCable Aggregator Interface (PAI) specs. This is the culmination of thousands of hours of work across the cable industry, on a global scale.

“The FMA project is a part of the larger Distributed Access Architecture programme at CableLabs. This programme includes Remote PHY (R-PHY) as well as other projects such as DOCSIS 4.0, Coherent Optics and others. FMA defines the standardisation of the complete disaggregation of the CCAP management, control and data planes. The specification provides standard interfaces between OSS/NMS/Orchestration and the FMA management and control planes as well as a standard interface abstraction layer to cable access equipment. All of this allows for vendor independence and equipment interoperability,” it told *Broadband Journal*.

As part of the suite of technologies which support the 10G platform, FMA is a key disaggregated access network

architecture that supports DOCSIS 4.0 requirements to achieve downstream speeds up to 10Gbps and upstream speeds up to 6Gbps. The FMA technology is complementary to the R-PHY technology and, together, they complete a toolset of disaggregated technologies to support an operator’s next-generation data services.

FMA specification work started in late 2017. When this project kicked off at the behest of the cable industry, CableLabs and its partner vendors worked with an operator steering committee to define the scope of the project that set the wheels in motion for the development of the specification and issued release.

“Issuing the specification is the initial step in a comprehensive process for CableLabs’ vendor partners to develop products and, ultimately, for operators to deploy those products and provide 10G services. We will continue to develop the specifications and it is our plan to begin FMA in-depth interoperability events in 2021,” it added.

If you would like to participate in the FMA working group activities, please make your request via workinggroups@cablelabs.com