



Restructuring of DGXIII

With the entry of seven new Commissioners to the EC's executive body at the beginning of 1993, there was a redistribution of portfolios and as a result of which the Commission is now in the process of restructuring its services. This will mean changes in DG XIII and DG III (Industry), both of which share the same Commissioner, Vice-president Martin Bangemann.

These changes affect essentially four services in DG XIII and can be set out as follows:

- What was previously Directorate XIII-A, the research and technological development programme for information technologies (also known as the ESPRIT programme), now becomes Directorate III-F.

- The Division dealing with normalisation (previously within Directorate XIII-C), has now become part of Directorate III-B (Regulatory policy and normalisation in telematics networks).

- Likewise, the Division dealing with the TEDIS (Trade Electronic Data Interchange System), and EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), CAD-DIA (Data exchange for the agricultural market) and INSIS (Interinstitutional information system) programmes (previously within Directorate XIII-F) is also now part of Directorate III-B.

- The Division for information technologies and telecommunications equipment analyses, forecasts and strategy (previously part of the Director-General's office in DG XIII), has become part of Directorate III-A (Industrial policy).

INTERNAL MARKET

European Commission outlines plans for Telecommunications services

On 28 April the European Commission presented an outline Communication on the situation in the telecommunications services sector, following several months of consultation.

The proposed timetable for action will provide a framework for the development of the EC telecommunications sector already worth more than 100 billion ecu for the service sector and about 30 billion ecu for the equipment sector - over the remainder of the decade and beyond.

Taking advantage of the Single Market and technical advances, the Commission is proposing to continue liberalisation begun with the 1987 Green Paper and subsequent 1988 and 1990 directives. Full liberalisation of services should be achieved by 1 January 1998, explained Commissioners Martin Bangemann and Karel Van Miert.

The Commission explained that consultations had produced a general consensus that the liberalisation of telecommunications services is both inevitable and necessary in order to meet technological and market demands. It was generally recognised that an adjustment period was required and that the 5 year period to 1998 was about right, although an additional transitional period will be possible for peripheral or less developed networks.

It was also agreed that a clear timetable should be established now. This will provide a phased approach to liberalisation with an appropriate preparatory period to carry out the necessary adjustment.

A number of issues now need to be addressed. These include:

- universal service ensuring availability, reliability and affordability of telephone services throughout the Community;
- maintaining the financial stability of the telecommunications sector, particularly to ensure that telecommunications organisations can provide a universal service by maintaining investments. The role of excess charges will have to be examined;
- transitional arrangements for peripheral regions and countries with small and less developed networks;
- developing the legal framework for licensing.

General concern was also expressed about international developments and, in particular, the GATT negotiations.

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The objective of the Commission is that the European telecommunications sector must have equivalent opportunities abroad to those offered to foreign businesses by liberalisation here.

The Commission is confident that the Community can achieve liberalisation by January 1998 on the basis of a commitment by Telecommunication organisations and regulators to rebalance tariff structures during the preparatory period.

The full application by Member States of existing Community legislation and, in particular, in relation to corporate networks and closed user groups is a priority objective. However the Commission also considers that the early use of infrastructures limited to own applications or to provision of capacity for corporate networks and closed user groups could substantially reinforce the effect of this legislation in this area, subject to additional study on the effects of such a measure. Such a measure would be essential for catching up with the United States and Japan particularly in the fields of high speed advanced applications, and the full use of the results of Community research programmes in this area. The Commission also believes that the use of cable-TV networks for the provision of currently liberalised services should be considered.

In addition, it is proposing to launch a discussion on the future role of public infrastructure with a Green paper by 1995.

The Council is expected to adopt the communication from the Commission at its next meeting, scheduled for 16 June 1993.

The Commission proposes a strategy in the field of satellite personal communications

The Commission has adopted a communication and a proposal for a resolution of the Council regarding satellite personal communications.

Important advances in development are being made in personal and mobile communication systems and in particular portable systems. A number of different technologies are contributing to

growth in this area. Up until now, one of the most innovative of these technologies has been used exclusively in the military sector. Instead of depending on the use of conventional geostationary satellites (36,000 km distant from the Earth), it depends on the use of networks of small and medium-sized non-geostationary satellites which gravitate on low orbits of between 700 and 12,000 km. Whence the name "LEOS" (Low Earth Orbiting Systems). This technology is expected to be taken up in the civil sector between 1995 and 2000.

The LEOS should prove to be particularly useful in Europe and other continents for the development of communications-including mobile communications-in regions of low population density and/or infrastructure. Likewise, there will be strong demand for many specialist services spanning a range of different areas, for example responding to the needs of long-distance lorry drivers or yachting crews (radio locations, transmission of data and so forth).

The development of mobile communications and their supporting technologies are of considerable strategic importance. Many changes are likely to affect not only satellite communications but telecommunications in general. For example the question raises itself as to how telecommunication services should be regulated in the future.

At the moment a group of mainly North-American companies are working on several LEO systems projects, and moreover the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the US has started preparatory work towards regulating this area. In the course of the last World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC 92), which took place in Torremolinos, Spain during February and March 1992, the US delegation presented a group of proposals covering frequency allocation.

For its part, on 9 and 10 November 1992, the Commission organised a public hearing on systems of non-geostationary mobile satellite. The main lesson to emerge is that the Community urgently needs to establish a policy. In addition the Commission has undertaken a number of consultations not just with Member States, but also with different interested parties such as ESA (European Space Agency) and ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) amongst others.

The communication by the Commission emphasises the need to develop a strategy allowing for the introduction of these new communication systems and the new services which will emerge if the right conditions are available for industry and European users. The geopolitical importance of the new systems and the necessity for awareness of their global dimensions in the context of any Community regulation, are stressed.

This strategy should be based on the following principles:

- to enable the Community to develop a common position in a number of areas relevant to LEOS (such as frequency spectrum sharing criteria, regulation, licensing). Particular attention should be given to standardisation issues in preparation for future discussions in an international context, for example the ITU (International Telecommunications Union).
- to promote the introduction of new mobile communication systems, taking account of Community telecommunications, trade, space and regional development policies in addition to competition rules.
- to encourage industry, users and the regulatory bodies of Member States to define a coherent common position to enable the establishment of a global Community policy in the field of mobile communications.
- to promote the necessary research and development activities in cooperation with Member States and the European Space Agency (ESA) in order to improve the competitive position of European industry.
- to develop contacts with other interested governments, and in particular the US government, to ensure that appropriate regulations for world-wide future systems are established.

The new satellite personal communications systems are, in effect, going to become global systems. Because of this, the many issues raised must be dealt with in the appropriate international fora. The Commission's proposed strategy is intended to enable the Community to start from a common basis in future discussions, whilst at the same time addressing the current imbalance between European industry and its competitors in this area.

European Commission Guidelines for the Fourth Research and Technological Development Framework Programme (1994-98)

The framing of a Community research policy is one of the key elements of the new guidelines put forward by Antonio Ruberti, EC Commissioner responsible for research and education, for the Fourth Research and Technological Development Framework Programme (1994-98).

Representing less than 4% of total government research funding in the 12 Member States, the Community's own research effort will only be able to respond to society's needs and help make businesses more competitive if it is developed in conjunction with the Member States' research efforts, the Commission says.

Mr Ruberti believes that this integration process should manifest itself in the closer coordination of the participation of European laboratories in major international programmes in such fields as the environment, the human genome or super computers and in a better dovetailing of Community research activities within other European frameworks such as Eureka, CERN, the ESA and the ESO.

To achieve this, a European instrument for technology assessment needs to be developed by networking regional, national and European activities

in the fields of forecasting, strategic technology, programme evaluation and RTD policies.

Mr Ruberti says the inevitable restrictions on financial and human resources mean that, in addition to improving integration and coordination, the Community will have to be more selective. Research activities will have to be concentrated on a limited number of generic technologies with a multisectoral impact capable of making Europe's industry more competitive and on subjects which concern society in general. In this context, two new areas of interest - research into transport systems and targeted socio-economic research, focusing on problems of the urban environment, social exclusion and education - are to be introduced into the framework programme.

To increase the impact of Community research, especially on small businesses, a special effort will be made to step up the dissemination and application of research findings.

Efforts will also be made to generate greater synergy between RTD policy and structural policies with the aim of technological potential of the less-favoured areas of the Community by networking them with existing centres

of excellence in the more advanced regions.

There is an urgent need for a qualitative and quantitative improvement in skills.

To gain a better grasp of current trends and make better use of national efforts, Mr Ruberti is proposing to launch research into education and training in Europe. This will concentrate on education and training requirements dictated by trends on the open labour market, and the methodologies involved (training aids, psycho-pedagogical aspects). Activities promoting the mobility of researchers and stimulating the setting-up of networks will be a further key feature of the fourth framework programme.

To enable the Community to respond more rapidly to developments in the scientific and technological system, greater flexibility will be sought both within the framework programme and within the specific and working programmes to overcome the problems or the protracted nature of the decision-making process.

Studies identifies winners and losers in regime

On behalf of DG XIII, a British consultancy Analysys, recently completed a study on "The Impact of Non-European Competitors and a Deregulated European Satellite Telecommunications Market". This analysed impact in particular with regard to three industry sectors: services, ground equipment, and satellite manufacturing.

The main conclusion is that immediate deregulation of European satellite telecommunications will accelerate the development of the market, and will not harm the overall prospects of European satellite telecommunications players, although their prospects in certain sections of the market are not good under any regulatory regime.

Deregulation, says Analysys, will be

beneficial to European service providers, increasing their opportunities and accelerating the development of the satellite telecommunications market. European players should be able to offer well-tailored services at a lower cost than non-Europeans, because of their proximity and awareness of individual customer requirements.

With regard to the manufacture and sale of satellite ground equipment, the study concludes that deregulation will increase the import of US and Japanese ground equipment. However, the opportunities for European ground equipment manufacturers will also be increased because total sales of European ground equipment will be greater in a de-regulated environment. Concerning the European satellite

manufacturing industry, Analysys notes that, with or without de-regulation, this sector faces major uncertainties in their future business projections. The impact of de-regulation on their current order books will be negligible.

The study concludes by recommending a set of measures that could be taken in order to strengthen the competitive position of European industry.

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Commission spells out position on HDTV

Further to questions raised concerning Advanced and High Definition Television, EC Commissioners Martin Bangemann and Joao Deus de Pinheiro clarified their position on this issue. They recalled that the action plan for the introduction of Advanced Television Services has gathered substantial support from the European Parliament, a favourable reaction from broadcasters and programme makers, and the backing of a majority of Member States in Council. The issue is currently under discussion in the Council awaiting a political decision. The Commission continues to believe that the adoption of the Action Plan is necessary for the future of European television.

However, in the light of recent developments in technology and in the market, Commissioners Bangemann and Pinheiro have reflected further in order to contribute to the Council Presidency's efforts to secure a workable compromise. Their conclusions can be summarised as follows:

- Advanced services

There is general agreement that the future of television will be wide-screen in the 16:9 format regardless of the transmission medium, technology used or standard. This will be the foundation for a range of advanced services in the decades to come. To establish an infrastructure of wide-screen televisions, the first step is to encourage the introduction of high quality wide-screen services. Such services should be encouraged irrespective of the standard used or the means of transmission.

The initial transition from conventional 4:3 format television to wide-screen will not be easy for broadcasters, especially in the current economic climate. For this reason, it will be vital to ensure that the Action Plan is adopted rapidly, with suitable modifications to reflect the above considerations. The Action Plan offers Community incentives to cover part of the launch costs of advanced services.

- Programme production

Ensuring a rapidly increasing volume of wide-screen programmes in broadcasters' schedules will be critically important for the swift consumer take-up of advanced television products and services. Some programmes suitable for wide-screen already exist, but there is a need for new programmes which

combine the creative potential of wide-screen with the enhanced picture quality of advanced television systems to maximise the appeal of the new services to the viewing public. There is also a need for European producers to upgrade their production techniques in order to "future-proof" their programme catalogues. The Action plan will provide the means to encourage wide-screen programme production with this dual objective in mind.

- Digital technology is already playing an important role in television, notably in the areas of production and post production. Its use is growing in consumer electronics products too. Digital transmission will be used increasingly in the future and will offer many advantages. Digital techniques will therefore, when mature, transform the nature of television.

Digital transmission can be used for many different kinds of television service. The possibilities range from using digital compression for the more efficient delivery of conventional television by satellite, to full high definition television - transmitted by satellite, cable or terrestrial means. Different services will reach the market at different times. The digital transmission of conventional television services by satellite could begin in a couple of years, but the market system will take significantly longer. Timing will therefore depend upon the nature of the service, also upon technological maturity, price considerations and not least upon the interest of service providers and manufacturers to introduce any particular type of service. The Commission is convinced that an orderly approach to digital broadcasting is necessary. The aim must be to maximise the potential of this powerful new technique and reduce the risk of market fragmentation which a haphazard uncoordinated approach could bring. Community research programmes have already made significant contributions to the development of digital television technologies over the last few years. The Commission will now ensure that European research is intensified more tightly. Emphasis should be placed on coding, digital compression, modulation techniques and advanced display technologies, particularly liquid crystal displays (LCD). A common approach to standardisation should also be developed. Additionally, a suitable means of co-ordinating the different interests of the economic actors involved should be put in place.

- Cooperation with third countries

The Community has been a major participant in international standardisation for many years and the Commission is open to encourage co-operation with other countries on research and technical development of advanced television systems, particularly with those countries already active in these areas. Collaboration could include agreement on common elements within such systems and standards. At the same time it must be recognised that market conditions are different in other parts of the world. Ignoring these differences would be inappropriate; so different standards may continue to be used in different parts of the world, albeit with an increasing number of common elements.

Mobile communications under scrutiny

Three new studies have been commissioned by DG XIII's Telecommunications Policy directorate to provide information and analysis in the areas of mobile licensing procedures and trends, new methods of frequency management, and forecast developments and future trends in mobile communications up to the year 2010. Due to be completed in the third quarter of 1993, they will support the production of a green paper on mobile communications, expected to be published towards the end of this year.

This green paper will be the fourth major consultation document on EC telecommunications sector policy since the landmark 1987 green paper on development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment.

Since then the Commission has published a 1990 green paper on satellite communications and, most recently, a communication accompanying the 1992 review of telecommunications services.

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EC Commission gives itself one year to prepare the opening up of postal services

The Commission has adopted a Communication to the Council presenting the results of the wide-ranging consultation opened by the Green Paper on postal services.

Issued in June 1992, the Green Paper on postal services proposes measures aimed at opening up this sector to competition. Three scenarios were proposed: liberalization, status quo on a mixed solution, combining liberalization and harmonization, opening the debate to operators, users, public and other concerned organisations.

The new communication gives a review of this consultation out of which several point of convergence have been identified regarding:

- the concept of a universal postal service considered as fundamental;
- the need to guarantee a balanced evolution from this sector, combining

harmonization and opening of the market;

- the need to maintain a reserved area for postal administration;
- the improvement of services;
- the rationalisation of the financial compensation system between postal administrations;
- the principle of power separation between regulatory and operational competencies.

On the other hand, several points seem to be more controversial such as the definition of a "universal" service, the definition of "reserved areas" and their limitation, the schedule for the implementation of these measures.

However, the Commission suggests in its new communication, guidelines for future action. These are mainly:

- definition of universal service, reserved areas, quality norms and

implementation of a control system;

- promotion of harmonisation regarding area, conditions of networks and universal services, tariffs etc.

To do this, the Commission intends to present four proposals for directives from now to the 1 June 1994:

- a framework directive on postal services (defining the universal service);
- a directive on reserved services (defining which services are concerned and the criteria to identify them);
- a directive on quality of services (defining quality standards and creation of a control system);
- a directive on commercial and technical harmonization (defining global objectives to be achieved, mechanisms for action and the system giving mandates to standards organisations).

PROGRAMMES IN ACTION

Workshop addresses synergy between public and private sectors in the information market



The above workshop, held on 4 March 1993, brought together information service providers and users, publishers, and representatives of Member States' administrations involved in commercialising public data, as well as Legal Advisory Board (LAB) and IMPACT Programme Committee (IPC) members. It was conceived as a forum to produce concrete indications about the types of actions the marketplace (both public and private sectors) expects the Commission to undertake in this field.

Providing the basis for discussion were the issues explored in the PUBLAW 2 study team's final reports to the Commission, which revealed that the overall level of awareness of the Guidelines for improving the synergy

between public and private sectors in the information market was far from optimal among policy makers and market sectors across the Community. The Guidelines in their present form were felt to be appropriate as a broad policy document but could be augmented by practical advice, for example on identification, collection and management of information in electronic form, pricing and valuing procedures.

Also discussed were the PUBLAW 2 reports' findings that a strong demand existed for supplementary activities such as discussion forums to address practical issues, and Commission representation on pan-European committees involved at a sectoral or subject discipline level, to ensure coordina-

tion between policy-making bodies at sectoral level and the Commission.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop will be reported in more detail in the next issue of *XIII Magazine*.

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Interest in Impact programme booms



In his opening speech at the third Impact Information Day in Luxembourg on 22 January 1993, Mr Vicente Parajon Collada, Deputy Director-General of DG XIII, welcomed the overwhelming response to this year's event. The total of more than 250 participants in November 1991 was surpassed this year by almost 600 requests for participation including representatives from all the EC countries and EFTA. In addition more than 1000 requests for proceedings and related documentation were received. The growth in interest from actors in the market reflects increased recognition of the economic value of information and the vital role to be played by a Community information services market in strengthening the wider single European market

Mr Frans De Brüne, Director of DG XIII/E outlined the Commission's response to the problems of the European information services market. He said the first year of Impact 2 had seen the development of a central strategic theme, Info Euro Access - the "improvement of accessibility of information at the European level for all interested parties". A decentralised network of National Awareness Partners, backed by a Central Support Team, has been established in the Member States. Catering better to national and regional needs, this approach extends awareness of electronic information services and their benefits to a much wider number of potential business users. Transparency under the programme has been improved through the creation of an Impact Central Office which handles enquiries concerning Impact and related activities.

The day's programme included findings from the Information Market Observatory (IMO) which identified several trends including a slow-down in the growth rate of international markets for online information, reflecting global recessionary pressures; intra-EC trade in electronic information products seen as the fastest growing market segment between 1989 and 1990; and a declining number of active vendors in the European information market resulting from merger and acquisition activity.

Strategic information initiatives undertaken during 1992 were outlined.

A call for proposals in the area of interactive multimedia information services, launched in June, resulted in 317 proposals involving 1160 organizations from throughout the EC. Fifty-eight proposals were selected for Community support during the project definition phase and some 15 projects are expected to be co-financed over a 12 month implementation phase. A second call for proposals, for information services based on geographical information systems (GIS) technology, was launched in November, with a closing date of 1 March 1993.

Project contractors on four Impact 1 projects presented details of progress so far

- HYPP (Hypermedia System for Plant Protection) comprises an image bank with added value provided by the integration of hypermedia features and problem-solving capabilities for the diagnosis of plant diseases and deficiencies. The system, which will be available in six languages, aims to provide the agricultural industry with a better knowledge of pests, diseases, weeds etc. that will enable it to perform safer and more efficient crop protection treatment.

- Tecdoc, completed at the end of 1992, is an image bank project involving communication of technical information in the car manufacturing industry in five different countries. The system has already helped manufacturers to improve service quality and achieve greater cooperation with repair shops. The developer has been approached by other industries, including aerospace, information technology and shipbuilding, with a view to adapting the system to these environments.

- In the Eurostand-SGML project the main partners have been the French, British and German standardization bodies. A document type definition (DTD) and a common content model covering both text and graphics have been developed and are being proposed as international, European and national standards. Based on the standard generalized mark-up language (SGML), this work has been accompanied by the development from the full text of standards.

- Finally, the International Contract System (ICS) was described. Based on

the Teleroute computerized trading system for the road haulage business community, this system currently operates in nine European countries and in 1992 handled some 5 million transactions. Under Impact, an electronic contract is being developed which will enhance the existing information service by replacing paper contracts.

Mr Parajon Collada, closing the proceedings, emphasised the role of the Commission as a stimulator rather than an actor in the development of the European information services market and stressed that the Commission relies on the support of actors in the market who can have a direct influence on the direction of the policy adopted.

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ERRATUM

Value Relay Centre

The address of the Dutch Value Relay centre was omitted, due to a technical error, from the list of Relay Centres published in the last issue of News Review. Details are as follows:

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Impact 2 1993 Work programme



The 1993 work programme for the Impact 2 (Information Market Policy Actions) programme of DG XIII/E was approved by the Commission on 3 March 1993. In the run-up to the mid-term review, this year's work programme combines continuity and innovation. Adoption during 1993 of the central strategic theme of Info Euro Access ("improving the accessibility of information at the European level for all interested parties") reflects the increased emphasis placed on the demand side of the market. The limited availability of funds dictates that the role of bringing parties together, providing platforms for discussion and cooperation, coordinating between Member States, stimulating initiatives by market actors, and promoting the creation of human networks where useful.

Looking briefly at the four action lines in turn, under Action line 1, the IMO will continue with its established core activities and will orient new activities towards further improvement of strategic analysis, increased interaction with the network of national correspondents

and analysis of the effects of information usage on competitiveness.

Under Action line 2, 1993 will be the year in which conclusions will be drawn and actions undertaken, with more stable two-way links established between market actors and the Legal Advisory Board (LAB). New subjects addressed will include the synergy between the public and private sectors in the information market and improving the transparency of licensing bodies.

Action line 3 activities will also build on previous preparatory work; actions will be launched in the areas of developing guidelines for the use of standards, awareness of existing information standards, and promoting quality assurance standards. In the information awareness, user support and training area, actions will be characterised by increasing decentralization enhancement of the National Awareness Partners network, expansion of European directories and preparatory work for the postgraduate training of information professionals to become intermediaries or providers of electronic information services.

Among other activities, Action line 4 will see the second phase of interactive multimedia projects, efforts to implement the Info Euro Access concept, the launching of a geographic information systems (GIS) initiative and follow-up to the strategic study on opportunities for publishers in the information services market.

Copies of the 1993 work programme, in all Community languages, may be obtained from:

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European Umbrella Organisation for Geographical Information begins to take shape



With geographical information used in a growing number of application areas by an expanding community of specialist users, the European Commission's DG XIII/E - Information Industry and Market: Language Processing - initiated an enquiry during 1992 into the desirability and feasibility of establishing a European umbrella Organisation for Geographical Information (EUOGI) that would operate within EC Member States and in major EFTA countries. The response to two questionnaires circulated by the appointed committee of four indicated a clear need for a EUOGI, whose tasks and role should be carefully identified.

This first exploratory phase culminated in a meeting on 22-23 October 1992 in Luxembourg attended by delegates from the major European GI organisations and the major interdisciplinary and monodisciplinary national organizations. The meeting confirmed that there was support for continued work to prepare a further meeting in 1993,

together with a business plan and a draft constitution.

At a successful follow-up meeting on 11 February 1993 it became evident that certain individual organisations were prepared to hold joint discussions and to work together with other individual associations in order to establish umbrella organisation.

Plans were already under way between AM-FM (Automated Mapping - Facilities Management), EGIS (European conference on Geographical Information Systems) and UDMS (Urban Data Management Society) to organise joint workshops in 1994 on the following themes: preparation of a joint conference in 1995; discussions on standards in GIS; cost-benefit studies; and teaching and training. The meeting also provided useful contact with vendors, who are also considering the formation of a vendors' club which could help the GI industry. Issues such as standardisation, training and consolidation are considered important.

Such ongoing activities reflect an encouraging step forward in developing a unified approach by the major European actors in the GI community. The next discussion meeting on EUOGI progress was due to take place on 31 March during the EGIS' 93 Conference in Genoa, Italy.

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New Databases Available on ECHO

IMPACT

Within the framework of the Impact programme, ECHO (European Commission Host Organization) plays a major role in promoting the use of electronic information services. Selected databases from the public sector are tested on ECHO for a limited time in order to prepare them for transfer to the private sector. The test period reduces the commercial risk for private sector organisations when they take them over. Some databases have already been transferred to the marketplace; recent additions loaded for testing include the following:

EMIRE (Poolkey EMIR)

The online version of the European Employment and Industrial Relations Glossaries, giving an introduction to national employment law and industrial relations systems through clear explanations of specialist terms in context. A useful working tool to assist more effective social dialogue in the Single European Market, helping administrators, legislators, managers, trade unionists and students.

Database producer: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin.

Accessible free-of-charge, using the ECHO public password.

EUROLIB-PER (Poolkey EL93)

A collective catalogue of periodicals available from the libraries belonging to the Eurolib group. Present sources include: European Investment Bank, College of Europe, Council of Europe, Court of Justice, CEC, European Parliament, European University

Institute, Council of Ministers, Economic & Social Committee, Court of Auditors, European Institute of Public Administration, CEDEFOP and OPOCE.

Database producer: Library of the European University Institute, Florence.

Accessible free-of-charge to registered ECHO users.

EURHISTAR (Poolkey EHAR)

European Community historical archives comprising the originals of documents (e.g., annual reports, notes, minutes of meetings) created by the EC institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg. These are augmented by private archive files deposited by European politicians and officials, along with documentation from European movements and organizations.

Database producer: European University Institute, Florence.

Accessible free-of-charge to registered ECHO users.

UNESCO databases

(1) UNESBIB (Poolkey UBIB)

Bibliographic references to 46,000 documents and publications issued by UNESCO on education, science, culture, communication, information and informatics. Documents include research, mission and conference reports; publications include monographs and articles from UNESCO periodicals.

(2) DARE (Poolkey DARE)

Referral database in social science including records on social science research, advanced training institu-

tions, professional societies and groups, social science specialists, periodicals, data and information services, training and research institutions in human rights, international law and peace;

(3) INDEX TRANSLATIONUM

(Poolkey XTRA)

Bibliographic references to translated books published in about 60 countries since 1979 in the fields of literature, science, social sciences, art and education;

Database producer (for the above three databases): UNESCO Library Documentation and Information section, Paris.

Accessible free-of-charge, using the ECHO public password.

Information on the above and other ECHO databases may be obtained from:

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Germany: 0130 823 456

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Luxembourg: 0800 3456

Netherlands: 060 223 356

UK: 0800 899 256

IMO working papers in 1993

The Information Market Observatory (IMO) plans to release six working papers covering issues and topics concerning the European electronics information services market as part of its 1993 work programme.

The first presents the results of a market survey on chemical information users. This survey, carried out during 1992, examined the need for availability, use and judgement of electronic information systems. While presenting general findings, the survey was developed to take into account the views of both chemists and information specialists engaged in chemical research.

The paper also offers a comparison between chemical information users in Europe and North America, as well as between the industry and university sectors. Among others, the findings show that the proportion of the total budget for information acquisition used for online searches is 29% in Europe and 41% in North America.

The second working paper will provide an overview of the market for professional information products on optical media. Emerging markets such as CD-I will also be considered. This paper will seek to identify appropriate market indicators in order to assess the

potential use of optical media in such areas as in-house data storage and multi-user access in networked environments.

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IMPACT : Interactive Multimedia Projects



The European Commission is granting EC support worth 2.8 million ECU to 58 projects under the Impact 2 programme on multimedia information services.

This follows a call for proposals launched by DG XIII/E last year to support the development of interactive multimedia information services. More than 300 submissions were received. Evaluation took place in August 1992 and 58 projects were selected. The contracts were signed in December 1992.

The projects are running during a definition phase until June 1993 when a further evaluation will take place to choose which will be supported for a maximum one-year implementation phase. This is the first time DG XIII has organized such a two-phase approach for the selection of projects. In the meantime, DG XIII held a workshop in Luxembourg in mid-March 1993 for project participants.

The objectives of this meeting were to encourage synergy between projects, present interim results, help solve prob-

lems encountered since the start of the definition phase and present details of new activities that might be useful in the future development of the projects.

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ESPRIT NEWS

ESPRIT: A NEW DIRECTOR

Mr George Metakides has been nominated as the new Director of the ESPRIT programme (DG III/F.)

George Metakides was born in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1945.

He received his Master of Science degree on Electrical Engineering and Doctor of Philosophy degree in Mathematical Logic from Cornell University in 1971.

He pursued an academic career in the US at Rochester University, Cornell and MIT until 1978 when he returned

to Greece to take the Chair of Logic at the University of Patras, Greece.

He has over 50 published articles and books in the areas of Mathematical Logic, Computer Science and Science Policy.

At different times during the last 5 years, he has held the positions of President of the Research Group of the Council of the EC, and member of the ESPRIT Management Committee and the NATO Science Committee.

He is currently Head of the Department of Basic Research and Scientific Relations in Information Technologies in the Directorate General XIII of the CEC.

He is responsible for planning and policy for the Framework programme for R&T 1994-1998.

He is an adviser to the Prime Minister of Greece on Research Technology and Development.

Esprit special interest group on peripherals studies displays and storage

The Esprit Special Interest Group on Peripherals (SIG-P) was established in 1991 by the Commission of the European Communities to form a group of experts in the field of peripherals with a common interest in establishing a stronger European R&D base and production activity.

One of its objectives is to ensure that "market pull" and "technology push" are aligned in the same direction. The work of the Group has revealed a wealth of European technological expertise and interest in the fields of peripheral devices, but has recognised that strengthening the European, industrial position in these technologies is a major challenge which cannot be met on every front simultaneously.

Therefore flat panel displays and storage have been selected as the two areas on which to focus the EC funds in the period 93-94 of the IT programme.

With the prospect of further R&TD activities in the Framework Programme, the SIG-P is now seeking contributions, advice and comments from all with an interest in either displays, storage, or other whether as developers, manufacturers, system developers or end-users researchers. In particular the SIG-P would welcome submissions on:

- * Status and chances for European competitive positioning and market share
- * Views of the formation of European

partnerships between "Leading Edge" customers and technology providers

- * Factors which favour willingness to innovate and to undertake mass production.

The SIG-P is inviting comments on these topics from anyone having European industrial interests or links in these areas. Comments should be submitted to:

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Rue de la Loi 200
BU 31 2/30
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EuropaNET: A new PAN-Europea multi-protocol backbone data network service



The Eureka development project Cosine, funded by the countries of both the European Community and EFTA, has as its central objective the provision of a pan-European telecommunications infrastructure for academic, industrial and governmental researchers.

Following completion of a public invitation to tender by Cosine, a multi-million ecu contract has been awarded to PTT Telecom of the Netherlands to provide a backbone data network and associated services supporting a range of communications protocols currently used in the research community. The three year contract includes performance and availability guarantees; these in themselves represent a major step forward in the procurement of international telecommunications services within Europe.

The network, to be known as EuropaNET, can be accessed directly at national points of presence within all the Cosine member countries and already currently offers a range of access speeds up to 2 Mbit/sec. Independent performance analysis which has just been completed indicates that the network can efficiently provide for transmission of both TCP/IP and X.25 packets, the standard communications protocols currently used in the European research commu-

nity. The major obstacle preventing the establishment of a truly pan-European backbone network which would meet the demands of all the national research networks in Europe has until now been that some of them have favoured X.25 and others TCP/IP. Since EuropaNET now offers native traffic in both these protocols, and gateways between them, both single-protocol backbone networks and the "protocol wars" which had been fought around them have effectively lost their relevance.

It is expected that all European national research networks will connect to EuropaNET, which will also have intercontinental connections to similar networks world-wide. EuropaNET has replaced IXI, the backbone network which has provided X.25 services to the research community across Europe for the past two years.

In addition to the multi-protocol backbone service offering both X.25 and TCP/IP interfaces, EuropaNET also provides the ability to interwork between different access protocols and a development path to a range of future interfact standards. It is based on an extensive investment by PTT Telecom in lines and infrastructure, with switching technology being provided by RC Electronics.

In order to encourage national research

networks to take advantage of the high performance 2 Mbit/sec. access, the Commission of the European Communities is making available enabling funding to assist networks with their subscriptions. Two networks have already connected at this speed and a further four, including three interfacing via TCP/IP, are expected to connect at this speed in the next few months.

Access to EuropaNET is being extended to Eastern Europe, with funds from the Community's PHARE programme, by a separate contract between the European Commission and PTT Telecom. As a result, researchers in Poland, Hungary, the Czech and Slovak republics, Bulgaria and Romania will be able to communicate with researchers world-wide using EuropaNET. It is expected that the Eastern European countries will be connected to EuropaNET during the course of this year.

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Boosting European productivity in software

Almost every industrial sector, and approximately 3 million people, in the European Community are currently engaged in producing software. The improvement of European software engineering practices - leading directly to higher productivity and a more competitive industry - is one of the major challenges which confront us today. While many aids to good engineering practice do exist, quite often there is inadequate knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses, at the level of the individual company.

To help accelerate the uptake of these aids by industry, the Commission has recently announced the European System and Software Initiative (ESSI) as a accompanying measure to the European strategic programme for research and development in informa-

tion technologies (Esprit). This industry-led initiative aims to give companies the chance to gain substantial experience of these novel approaches and to examine the effect which they will have on their software production. Once this experience has been gained, ESSI will then facilitate its dissemination throughout the industrial community. In the long term, education and training activities will also be taken on board.

The budget for this initial pilot action is around ECU 25 million which will be used to fund over 100 projects in garnering and disseminating experience in advanced software engineering. An official call for proposals was published in the Official Journal of the European Communities on the 24th April 1993, and the Commission expects to be able

to offer contracts to successful proposers by the autumn.

The Commission has taken care to ensure that ESSI fits well with the industrial policy and individual European companies, large and small. Its particular strength is that it is relatively "light-weight", requiring a minimal administrative overhead for the company. This allows the company to get on with the task at hand: enhancing the way they produce the software which goes in their products, be they dish-washers, aircrafts, or computer games.

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Language engineering initiative combine forces with Eureka

Today's business world demands an efficient exchange of information. This requires language communication to be improved within European industry and administrations as well as in society at large. DG XIII has gained valuable experience in a number of programmes and projects closely related to language engineering and information technologies, telecommunications and a telematic applications, including Systran, Eurotra, Esprit and LRE.

A 1992 report for the European Commission by a study group chaired by Mr André Danzin recommended a policy centred on a union of languages and computer science. Such a policy, which would be user-driven and consistent with the subsidiarity principle, should be targeted towards the creation of a "language infrastructure". The instrument of the policy would be "language engineering" and its objective the improvement of European competitiveness and social cohesion.

Since 1985 the European Community and Eureka have been supporting projects in the same area developed by industry and academic consortia. At the European Council Summit in Edinburgh last December, EC Heads of State called for increased synergy between the activities undertaken by Eureka and those initiated under EC framework R&D programmes. While Eureka should continue to be the main pivot for support of R&D activities closer to the market, Community support should be concentrated on generic and pre-competitive R&D. In response to this request, an Industrial Convention on Language Engineering, jointly organised by the European Commission and the French presidency of Eureka, was held at Pont-à-Mousson, France, on 16-17 February 1993.

Mr Henri Guillaume, President of the Eureka High Level Group, pointed out that, despite the modest number of Eureka projects linked to language engineering (currently five), the effort involved should not be underestimated, as the budget of more than 1 billion french allocated reflects the importance attached to them by industrialists. He explained that the objectives of the conference were to examine together with the European Commission the conditions necessary for developing European language engineering and facilitating meetings to develop partnerships and instigate industry pro-

jects. The importance of users was stressed, although the needs of industry must also be taken into account to create the most favourable conditions for partnerships.

Mr Vicente Parajon Collada, Deputy Director-General of DG XIII, stated that the Commission services observe daily the essential role language plays in information exchange and communication, and are particularly aware of the importance of language as an element of cultural identity. Consultation with users, industry and research workers has revealed that, in Europe as in the US, technical and linguistic knowledge has not been adequately exploited by industry. Technology-driven research efforts are not always the best way to increase competitiveness; attention must be paid to the needs of users. A concrete proposal is currently being prepared for a R&D programme uniting researchers with users and suppliers of information and telecommunication technologies. Projects to benefit from Community support would require a strong generic component (tools, resources, architectures, pre-standards, etc.) should conform to the goal of Community research and complement the aims of Eureka. Priority would be given to those with a clearly defined social and economic impact, leading to European competitive advantage, job creation and facilitating work in different cultural and linguistic environments.

Mr Eduard Brackeniers, the Director-General of the Computing and Translation Services for the European Commission, described the evolution from a relatively simple situation for the translation services at the outset when, with six countries and four languages, to the present. At present, with twelve countries and nine languages, the multiplicity of linguistic combinations has become a heavy burden for interpreters. In terms of translation, the volume of texts now handled makes it impossible to translate all documents into all Community languages. To address such problems, new technologies can intervene at three levels: to make translation more efficient through appropriate tools (ultimately the integrated workbench); for selective use of automatic translation where acceptable; and to standardise certain translation tasks (e.g. contracts, annual reports).

The workshop programme covered the

following themes: major national and Community programmes in language engineering; creation of linguistic resources as a force for development in language engineering; document processing and management; the role of SMEs in language engineering; document translation; and information services interactive communication and transactions.

It examined concrete actions already in existence, including Eureka's Eurolang machine translation project which aims to develop a range of user-friendly products to increase the productivity of technical translators. Also discussed were potential project areas for future joint actions between Eureka and the European Community. For example, international cooperation between lexical institutes in Member States and surrounding countries could help ensure coordination and continuity of lexical developments. Lexical database could build on existing text corpora developed by some national institutes or major commercial dictionary publishers. In addition, management tools for such resources would be required. Discussion touched on speech corpora for European languages and a managed translation network which would link translation services and users throughout Europe. It was suggested that existing speech translation initiatives should be extended to encompass other European languages. Reference was made to establishing a structure for terminological standards organised by the actors concerned in the different sectors. Integrated document handling systems, which are already being developed require considerable R&D effort for further improvement and sophistication.

In his concluding remarks, Mr Frans de Brüine, Director of DG XIII/E, indicated that a vital criterion in planning any future R&D programme would be the usefulness to society of a particular action. Proposals would be required to prove their contribution to a linguistic infrastructure which would enable better communication in spoken and written language in the public domain throughout the European Community.

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Commission unveils plan for Trans-European data cooperation

The European Commission adopted on 15 March a communication together with two proposals for Council Decisions - one on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations and the other on the adoption of a multiannual Community support programme - on the interchange of data between administrations (IDA).

This initiative, launched by Vice-President Martin Bangemann, represents the first application in the telecommunications sector of the Community's plans for trans-European networks.

This package of measures aims to encourage the efficient management of the internal market through the use of high-performance data communication networks.

The data communications networks linking administrations will help to ensure the rapid processing of case files on social security and promote personal mobility through a new network linking national employment agencies. Networks will also be set up to help in the prevention and control of natural disasters.

The budget for the IDA programme amounts to 180 MECU for five years, supplemented over the same period by 75 MECU in the form of a contribution to the development of the statistical information network (COMEDI project) and by 85 MECU for the development of various priority networks (taxation, veterinary and phytosanitary information, education and training, exports monitoring).

This contribution represents only a minute proportion of the investment needed to set up and operate data communications networks between administrations. According to initial estimates, Member States will be required to invest a minimum of 6,000 MECU over five years. In peripheral regions, the modernization and upgrading of data-processing and telecommunications equipment as a prelude to the introduction of these network would necessitate a further investment of 7,000 MECU over the next seven years. A detailed business plan a schedule of commitments dealing specifically with these investments will need to be drawn up jointly by all the user

administrations. Apart from Community budget financing, the master plans and the declaration of European interest will provide the basis for mobilizing the financing of the EIB and the European Investment Fund.

Like the trans-European transport and energy network projects, the proposal for a programme on the development of data communications networks between administrations comes within the scope of the growth initiative. In particular, it will facilitate the introduction of a network architecture which, given the necessary harmonization of specifications, will gradually upgrade the infrastructure and associated services in the least developed Member States, thus reinforcing the cohesion of the Community.

It will also help create a system for the administration of Community rules, particularly relating to fight against fraud and the internal market, and increasing speed and efficiency. The widespread availability within the Community of high-performance hardware and software tools will provide incentives for using data communications systems for the exchange of information - an activity currently inhibited by the absence of standards and by the incompatibility of basic national services.

The nature and extent of public investment should foster growth and contribute substantially to efforts to trigger economic recovery, in keeping with the priority objectives established at the Edinburgh European Council in December 1992.

The creation of high-performance data communications services and new applications should also produce spin-offs favouring the development of similar services by commercial operators. The plan will boost Community research programmes dedicated to the development of a new generation of enhanced-performance networks (ISDN, wideband).

With enlargement in mind, the Commission intends to devote special attention to the harmonization of administrative rules with the Community's partners, notably within the European Economic Area.

EDI : An agent for change in business

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is changing the way companies do business, both nationally and across international boundaries.

This is the key message from an international conference held in Brussels on 20-21 April to review the progress of the European Community's Tedis programme (Trade Electronic Data Interchange Systems programme). Over 200 representatives from a variety of industry sectors, governmental and non-governmental organisations attended the conference.

The social and economic impact of EDI was one of the major themes for the conference. Welcoming delegates to the conference, Mr Emile Peeters, Head of Unit 'Transeuropean Telematics and Telecommunications Networks,' within DG XIII of the Commission, declared that the implications for EDI in commercial and administrative activities - and indeed for society as a whole - are only now beginning to become evident. The results of the first phase of the Tedis programme (1988-90) show that EDI can make European businesses more efficient, more productive and more competitive. The second phase (1991-94) concentrates on the broader implications of widespread adoption of EDI.

The conference comprised three sessions:

Integration - EDI across industry boundaries

The speakers described progress made in overcoming barriers to the adoption of EDI, across different industries and countries. The development, and more importantly, the adoption, of standard messages is a vital factor in extending the use of EDI: Mr Richard Hill, United Nations Rapporteur for the Western European Edifact board, outlined his view of the short - and long-term future of the UN/ Edifact standard.

The Use of EDI across national boundaries has highlighted the inability of current legislation to handle all the legal implications, and much work is still required to harmonise European and international law, according to Mr Rob van Esch of Rabobank Nederland. Security has been seen in the past as a major issue; however, according to Mr Steve Mathews of PC Security, a survey carried out for Tedis revealed that for the majority of users or prospective

users, security is no longer perceived as a major problem - and in most cases security can be assured using readily available technology. However, reliability and performance are still major issues according to Mr Niels Korsholm Petersen of Fischer & Lorenz, and ones that underline the need for a Europe-wide ISDN network.

From perception to action

Other speakers described their experiences in promoting EDI in local government, in industry, and especially among small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) - a group to which the Tedis programme pays particular attention.

Impact of EDI on society

Mr Ian Graham of the University of Edinburgh and Dr Juliet Webster of the Polytechnic of East London considered the social and economic impact of EDI systems and communities. Many successful implementations of EDI have gone hand in hand with a significant restructuring of procedures and business practices. Concrete examples of these changes due to EDI were described in detailed case studies presented by other speakers.

Giving a broad overview of the state of EDI in Europe, Ms Eliane Mackintosh of OVUM described an ambitious Tedis project - a Europe-wide Inventory of EDI communities - while Mr Ian Finch presented the results of a survey on EDI use in Europe.

Concluding the conference, Mr Emile Peeters said that a new community initiative in the realm of EDI would need to concentrate on 'horizontal' activities such as standardisation and legal aspects, but also on the development of EDI in the relations between the private and public sectors. This must be done in close cooperation with the IDA (Interchange of Data between Administrations) programme, recently approved by the Commission..

"Telematic Systems of General Interest": Call for Proposals

Telematics tools and services affect our daily lives, whether in business, at school or college or at home. Technologies develop rapidly and the possibilities for their application are transformed from dreams to viable products. Industry and commerce can use new techniques to improve competitiveness. New commodities can be launched onto new markets. Fundamental social services, the roots to a modern, educated, able and mobile workforce, can improve their own performance and cut costs.

In the internal market availability of such services, across national boundaries, raises the challenge of standards, national regulations and costs of the telematics systems in use. As Europe's competitors join the race to develop efficient and effective "Information Infrastructures", we in Europe must do the same, breaking down barriers created by language, borders and nationality.

The RTD Programme 'Telematics Systems of General Interest' is pioneering the development of a 21st century information infrastructure by conducting collaborative research and technical development in the following areas:

- * Trans-European networks between Administrations (ENS),
- * Transport (DRIVE),
- * Rural Areas (ORA),
- * Health Care (AIM),
- * Flexible and distance learning (DELTA)

The Commission launched a call for proposals particularly in the areas of Health Care (AIM) and Distance Learning (DELTA) which have been published. The closing date is 15th of June 1993.

The Health Care sub-programme focuses on the relationship and contact between a patient and the medical services, the quality, speed and availability of treatment. However the arteries of the treatment system, such as access to medical records, and transfer of information on patients or medicine over long distances, perhaps over national boundaries are also very important. In short, European medical researchers and industry are working as a team to lay the basis for a modern infrastructure for health care infor-

mation to back-up and support the personal skills of Europe's medical staff.

Education and training requirements are changing. The rapid pace of technological advance needs a highly skilled workforce. In the modern economy this can only be achieved by life long learning. Flexible and distance learning using new technology can increase accessibility and efficiency of educations and training services. This will be particularly the case for small companies and disadvantaged groups, such as people in remote areas. This programme aims to lay the groundwork for an infrastructure of flexible and distance learning services, based on telematics, offering training and education without frontiers.

The call for proposals offers 10 million Ecu for health and 6 million Ecu for distance learning research. It targets primarily already on-going projects and encourage the maximal coherence and direct connection between them. Furthermore, service providers and industries within the areas are encourage to join the research groups to provide "real life" conditions for testing and validating the results.

Request for further details on the specific areas covered by the call should be sent to:

For Health Telematics (AIM):

CEC, DG XIII/C, BU 29 3/56,
200 Rue de la Loi,
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Fax: +32 2 296 01 81

For Flexible and Distance Learning (DELTA),

CEC, DG XIII/C, BU 29 4/05
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Contact:

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"Telematic Systems of General Interest": Additional financial support

The Commission of the European Communities decided to reinforce some activities within the STIG programme (Research and Development programme "Telematic Systems of General Interest"). This programme supports areas of general interest. The areas which will benefit from this decision are: administrations, health care and transport.

In the case of **administrations**, the on-going programme supports research relating to the development of the interconnection of a wide range of administrations across the 12 member states.

The financial reinforcement now agreed will be used to directly link additional administrations into the work of the projects. This will ensure that the results obtained, will be those required by the administrators.

In addition, an accompanying measure is being initiated to prepare the handbook which will provide the

results of the programme in a readily usable form.

In **health care**, the research is directed towards improving the service rendered to patients, decreasing the paper work of doctors and nurses, and making the necessary information available wherever the patient is located. At the same time the research addresses the issue of preserving the confidentiality of the sensitive health data of citizens.

One project that was given supplementary funds deals with providing optimal and comparable information to professionals about the proper rehabilitation procedures for the elderly and the handicapped. Furthermore, activities will be launched to ease the dialogue between the developers, the vendors and those who are responsible for providing health care.

This dialogue will be concerned with future needs, standardisation of pro-

ducts and the assessment of their usefulness before they reach the market. Tax-payers should not pay for technologies that do not serve their purposes.

In the **transport** domain, the programme continues to take research and development towards implementation through pilot trials, so that public reaction and acceptance can be studied. One new pilot will assess the multi-modal aspects of an advanced booking system for ferries using Helsingør harbour on the busy route between Denmark and Sweden.

A key aspect of the programme will be piloted in a second project where traffic control centres in Germany and Belgium will be connected and the optimum interlinking assessed. In the safety field, studies will continue into the use of modular integrated on-vehicle electronic data recorders to monitor driver performance.

TIDE call for proposals

The Tide programme (Technology Initiative for Disabled and Elderly people) launched a call for proposals on 21 April 1993 (O.J.C 111.21.04.1993).

The call for proposals covers collaborative development work on the application of information and communication technologies in the following rehabilitation technology areas:

* access to communications and

information technologies and support for interpersonal communication;

* control technologies;

* restoration/enhancement of function;

* integrated systems technologies.

The technical work to be carried out is described in the TIDE Workplan 1993-1994. The required content and form of the proposals is described in the information package of April 1993.

The placing of contracts as a result of this call for proposals is dependent on a decision by the Council of Tide. The closing date for proposals is 18 August 1993 at 5pm.

Requests for information should be addressed to:

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Thesaurus guide

EUR 14006 - Thesaurus Guide - Second Edition
1993 - ISBN 92-826-4956-3

The Thesaurus Guide is an analytical inventory of more than 600 existing structured vocabularies available in at least one of the official languages of the European Communities. Most of the thesauri originate from the EC Member States, the USA or Canada.

The inventory comprises both bibliographic data and details on the content and structure of the different thesauri

(subject coverage, term relationships, display, implementation, etc.).

The Thesaurus Guide can help in selecting an appropriate documentation language for setting up a documentation of information retrieval operation, avoiding duplication of work and helping to harmonise different thesauri in the same subject fields.

The second edition, compiled by Eurobrokers in Luxembourg, is also available in database form (THESAURI) on the Commission's ECHO host.

The Guide is available from:

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
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1st TIDE congress

The 1st Tide Congress took place at the Palais de Congres in Brussels on 6th-7th April, 1993. It was opened by Mr Jean-Maurice Dehousse, Minister of Science Policy for Belgium and Mr Michel Carpentier, Director General DG XIII and gathered nearly 400 people from industry, universities, user organisations and professionals in the field, all of whom actively participated in the two days' work. This is the first time that an event in rehabilitation technology in Europe assembled so many people. It is an encouraging sign that the Commission can play a significant role in the creation of a single market in rehabilitation technology which will, in turn, play a major role in the integration of disabled and elderly people.

The Congress provided a unique opportunity to share the research & development results of the projects, discuss the prospects of the assistive devices market and service delivery in Europe which affects some 60 to 80 million people, and investigate methodology issues for research & technology programmes.

During the session dedicated to R&D results, the various papers and the debates highlighted the relevant possibilities of advancements for rehabilitation technology arising from the various areas of basic and applied research carried out within other Community or national programmes. Participants contributed towards identifying and debating the targets and the profile of developments and applications of rehabilitation technology to be explored by Tide. The impact of the results of Community R&D programmes, concerted actions and COST projects in the fields of new materials,

microelectronics, computer hardware and software, communications and bioengineering, and so forth on rehabilitation technology has to be seriously considered in the future. In this way Tide will not overlap with other EC initiatives, but will be an essential complement to them by applying R&D results to the daily needs of substantial segments of European society.

The session on market and service delivery explored solutions and models for the European rehabilitation technology market with topics such as: technology transfer, standards related action, information dissemination, legislation, consumers' involvement, distribution and maintenance, evaluation. The papers and the debates within the sub-sessions analysed these issues by means of practical questions relating to the complex factors now conditioning the rehabilitation technology market (including some empirical data, cases and results of studies).

The papers for the session on methodology of R&D programmes addressed the issue of how specific or crucial characteristics of disability or ageing conditions can influence R&D work. They also addressed the issue of how specific requirements for applications arise from the interaction between the elderly or disabled individual and the various scenarios of life, such as functional rehabilitation, learning, training, working, living at home, mobility, leisure and sport. Some papers also dealt with certain particularly challenging areas in rehabilitation technology from the point of view of technical difficulties or innovations required in production processes. Issues involving multidisciplinary, human factors and complex evaluation and verification

methodologies, not forgetting ethical aspects, were also treated by the speakers.

Running in parallel with the Congress was an exhibition where the results of the 20 Tide pilot action projects were presented. The exhibition, which was visited by Mr Dehousse and Mr Carpentier, was an opportunity for the general public to gain an idea of the state of the art in rehabilitation technology and the contribution that this technology makes towards the economic and social life of disabled and elderly people. It was also an opportunity for many operators in the field to exchange opinions and experiences and to set up links and, in many cases, to start planning the creation of new consortia for the second phase of Tide which has now been launched.

The prototypes displayed were developed during the projects' short lifetime and covered subjects such as personal communicators, adapted smart houses for elderly and disabled people, environmental control and communications systems, speech analytic hearing aids, robots for assisting the integration of the disabled, etc.

The exhibition was also very successful thanks to the efforts of the projects, even though the prototypes presented were the results of only one year's work, funded by a very limited budget from the Tide pilot phase and developed by consortia in their early stages, with an overwhelming participation of SMEs. The exhibition also included a stand from the Helios programme in DG V and the participation of a few companies from Europe and the USA not involved in Tide pilot phase projects.

RACE: call for proposals

A new call for proposals for work to be undertaken in RACE (Research in Advance Communications for Europe) has been published on 29 May 1993 (O.J.C. S104-29/5/93), to support both the extension of existing projects, and the creation of new projects addressing new tasks.

The total Community contribution to this new call will be 73 MECU.

The evaluation of all proposals will be coordinated with the annual technical audit of existing projects.

Therefore since the deadline for submission of proposals will be 3 September 1993, the deadline for submission of Annual Project Review Reports will also be 3 September.

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STANDARDIZATION

CENELEC links up with consumer electronic manufacturer

The European Association of Consumer Electronics Manufacturers, EACEM, has signed an agreement to co-operate in standards-making with CENELEC, the electrotechnical standardization committee for 18 Western European countries.

Proposals from EACEM can now be taken directly by CENELEC and incorporated into new European Standards or amendments of existing ones.

"The intention of the co-operation agreement is to speed up the standardization process," explained an EACEM spokesman. "Standards are an important tool to develop the market for the benefit of both industry and the customer.

"New products are created on the basis of technical progress and good ideas. Modern-day examples are video recorders and their cassettes, CD players and their CDs, car radios and receivable traffic news, VCRs and VPS services, televisions and teletext services - all these apparatus and their interfaces.

"Specifications for these products are published as draft standards and sent for comments and voted upon. Once this process is concluded, the standard

is published and manufacturers ensure that their products comply with it. The customer makes his choice between various brands of different products and wants to be assured that they will operate together."

The agreement was signed by Dr Enrico Comellini, President of CENELEC, and Mr Richard E. Norman, EACEM Chairman, at CENELEC's Central Secretariat in Brussels on 23 March.

EACEM's field is rapidly progressing and offers many opportunities for new products, such as HDTV, multi-media applications and digital audio. It is a non-profit-making organisation which represents, at European and international level, the interest of the consumer electronics manufacturing industry established in Europe. Its members are the national federations, which represent manufacturers by country. EACEM's secretariat is in Brussels and the association has a structure comprising expert committees and working groups.

The association aims to promote, facilitate and contribute to the common interest of the consumer electronics industry in the European Community.

It contributes to European Community policies and regulations affecting the industry's customers and markets, as well as those on standardization and issues concerning trade relations and environmental protection.

For its part, CENELEC needs to keep pace with the new developments in EACEM's field and the co-operation agreement will help to improve the efficiency of the standardization process.

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G.J. Naumelaerts
EACEM General Secretariat
Rue d'Arlon, 69-71, bte 8
B-1040 BRUXELLES

Tel: +32 2 230 50 10
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1994 heralds European low-cost digital mobile telephone

Low-cost digital mobile telephone services could be available in Europe from 1994, using technology that will enable digital European cordless telephone (DECT) handsets to use GSM cellular networks.

ETSI, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute are expected to approve this year a standard for connecting European digital handsets to GSM.

An interworking standard would enable offers of these handsets access to most GSM features while within a DECT cell, such as a large building, site or campus.

GSM operators will be able to carry more traffic over their networks if plans to extend the service to residential and commercial mass markets succeed.

DECT, with its highly-efficient use of radio spectrum, can serve more than 100,000 subscribers per square kilometre.

GSM is less efficient, but offers cross-border mobility, combining the two could provide an attractive alternative to the public networks, developers stress.

The key to the success of the venture will be pricing. Observers say

that rates for the new service are likely to fall somewhere below those for GSM and above rates for conventional fixed telephony. The new handsets will also need to be low cost.

According to ETSI, Ericsson Business Mobile Networks in the Netherlands and Deutsche Bundespost are among two European businesses exploring this new service.

CENELEC signs co-operation agreement with the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Equipment

An important new agreement has been signed between CENELEC, the European electrotechnical standards organisation and EUROCAE, the European Organisation for Civil Aviation Equipment. The agreement gives EUROCAE full input into the development of relevant CENELEC standards.

The co-operation agreement, signed at CENELEC's Brussels-based Secretariat, means that CENELEC will be able to take specification documents from EUROCAE and incorporate them into future European standards or amendments to existing norms.

EUROCAE is a not-for-profit organization based in Paris which has been providing technical assistance and advice to national and international civil aviation regulatory authorities for many years. Its membership comprises mainly manufacturers of airborne and ground systems, and equipment (used for navigation, communication and sur-

veillance, and related air traffic management, airfield usage and safety matters), together with the aviation authorities of most major European countries.

Minimum Operational Performance Specifications (MOPS) have been developed by EUROCAE for a great deal of avionics equipment as well as for ground equipment such as Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and Microwave Landing Systems (MLS). The organisation has recently widened its scope to cover non-electronic equipment such as Passenger Protective Breathing Equipment, wheels and brakes.

The agreement, signed by CENELEC President Dr Enrico Comellini and EUROCAE Chairman Mr Allan Barrett, makes EUROCAE a "co-operation partner" of CENELEC.

"The constitution of EUROCAE, its working methods and the nature of its membership make it an ideal co-opera-

ting partner of CENELEC", said Dr Comellini. "Cooperation agreements with major European industrial organisations and federations - this is now our sixth - are a major step in the evolution of CENELEC and an example of our greater openness in recent years.

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EUROCAE Secretariat

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Rue-75783 Paris Cedex 16
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Fax: +33 1 45 05 72 30

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

EC-India cooperation in software: meeting the industry

As the 3SE Centre (Software Services Support and Education Centre), project has been officially launched, several meetings have already taken place in Germany, Belgium and France to discuss the objectives and the capability of Indian and European industry to work together and the benefits of such a cooperation.

A team of Indian software companies, under the aegis of the Department of Electronics, Government of India, held seminars in Bremen, Frankfurt, Berlin and Düsseldorf in the first week of March 1993 to focus on their capacity to work with different platforms and operating systems. Interested German companies had one-to-one discussions with the identified Indian companies, establishing good business contacts.

On 30 March, a first information session was held in Brussels, followed on

24 April by a similar meeting in Paris to provide information on the benefits of cooperation with the Indian software industry, the role and the contribution of the 3SE Centre and future participation of European and Indian companies in the Centre. Questions that were asked by these attending reflected a real interest in the operation as well as concerns about possible "unfair" competition due to the cost effectiveness of a highly qualified Indian software industry facing a European industry already in difficulty. This illustrated the need for an in-depth debate on the real reasons for the actual weaknesses of European industry, the way to face international competition and the potential benefits of international cooperation.

Meetings will follow in other European countries in the near future. An agen-

da will be published in 3SE India News, the 3SE Centre newsletter which can be obtained from Cesia - 3SE News - 80 Rue Lecourbe - 75015 Paris (France)

Contact:

Jean-Pierre Lebrun
CEC - DG XIII International Cooperation
Ave de Beaulieu, 9 (3/189)
B- 1060 Brussels (Belgium)

Roy Paul
Government of India, Department of Electronics
6, CGO Complex
Electronics Niketan
New Delhi 110003 (India).

EC embarks on closer cooperation in electronics with Japan

The European Commission has launched a pilot programme for closer cooperation between European and Japanese manufacturers of consumer electronics and their components.

Taking forward an industry-led test project in 1992 for plastic component suppliers, the Commission intends to allocate 3 million ECU over a two-year period to support a number of similar projects.

The main objective is to assess the potential of this type of cooperation as a model for other industries. Much of the finance provided will be used to encourage the participation of small and medium sized enterprise.

The programme was presented at a conference on 25 - 26 March 1993 in Brussels bringing together European and Japanese manufacturers.

The programme shows that competition and cooperation are not mutually exclusive, but are both needed to improve competitiveness", Vice-President Martin Bangemann noted. "This is particularly true in the context of the EC and Japan where problems have tended to overshadow the significant opportunities which exist for cooperation between our industries".

Mr Raniero Vanni d'Archirafi the Commissioner responsible for small and medium enterprises agreed: "Large manufacturers realise more and more that their competitiveness is directly related to the competitiveness of their component suppliers. Closer cooperation between the two is required to fully develop this symbiotic relationship", he said.

Mr Bangemann stressed that the programme will continue to be industry-led, with individual projects being "self-defined" by the participants and based on the specific needs of the companies and components concerned. He welcomed the excellent cooperation between the two main industry federations involved, the European Association of Consumer Electronics Manufacturer (EACEM) and the Electronic Industries Association of Japan (EIAJ).

The first project, for which participants have already been identified will be for certain types of printed circuit boards

used by consumer electronics manufacturers, and will involve a visit of European suppliers to Japanese companies in June.

The next step will be to identify priority areas for cooperation and to define collaborative projects in order to improve the competitiveness of the European component supply infrastructure.

EC and Japan cooperate on ISDN interconnection experiment

Ensuring that new digital networks and services are compatible world-wide is the aim of the EC-Japan Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) Interconnection Experiment, EJIX.

The proposal for a practical experiment to test interoperability of ISDN products in Japan and Europe was developed within the context of regular meetings on telecommunications held between the European Commission's Directorate General for Telecommunications and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in Japan.

Comparisons of both European and Japanese standards concerning group 4 (G4) fax had established that they could be connected via international ISDN using a telephone user part.

A first round of tests, using various types of ISDN terminal (digital telephones, G4 fax, etc.) was carried out on 5 February.

The participants were Alcatel N.V. and Belgacom from the EC and Canon, Fuji Xerox, Matsushita Graphics, Mitsubishi, NEC Ricoh and Toshiba in Japan.

Test documents (the CCITT test chart N°2) were transmitted and received successfully between each location via a round-robin system. The harmonisation of the B-channel protocol was

confirmed together with the interconnectivity of European and Japanese G4 fax machines. Further tests are planned.

EC/USA: Americans sanctions to be applied in Telecoms sector

In a partial resolution of the transatlantic dispute over public procurement, Sir Leon Brittan, Commissioner in charge of External Relations and Ambassador Mickey Kantor, US trade representative, reached agreement on a number of important elements, with the exception of telecommunications, set out in a Memorandum of Understanding between the EC and the USA.

As far as telecommunications are concerned, the US confirmed the application of certain restrictions on European firms' access to American public procurement. The EC has reserved the right to respond.

The agreement itself was reached following talks in Washington (19-20 April), and was described by Sir Leon Brittan as very balanced.

The main results can be summarised as:

1. Heavy electrical equipment: there will be general liberalisation on both sides.
2. Telecommunications: no progress was made here, and Article 29 of the EC's Utilities Directive will continue to apply. The US will be applying sanctions in this sector.
3. Transport and water: the US Administration will seek firm commitments from states and major municipalities to remove a wide range of "buy American" discrimination.
4. An independent study will look at a broad span of procurement opportunities arising for both sides under each others' public procurement procedures. The Council gave its approval to this agreement on 10 May 1993.

PUBLICATIONS

Rehabilitation Technology

Studies in Health Technology and Informatics

Proceedings of the 1st TIDE Congress, 6-7 April 1993, Brussels

E. Ballabio, I. Placencia-Porrero and R. Puig de la Bellacasa 1993, ISBN: 90 5199 131 2

TIDE is the CEC programme aimed at stimulating the creation of a Single Market in Rehabilitation Technology through cooperation in R&D Projects, standardization harmonization of technological products and services. Rehabilitation technology is the totality of technologies provided directly to elderly and/or disabled people, to enable them to live more independent lives and become integrated in the activities of their communities, preferably outside of institutional care.

In spring of 1993 the first TIDE Congress took place in Brussels. The results of the R&D projects were presented and critical issues and possibilities for the future of Rehabilitation Technology in Europe were discussed. Potentially there is a market of between 60 and 80 million people.

The book, written by experts from inside and outside Europe, contain contributions which cover the benefits from basic and applied industrial research carried on in the EC and in national programmes on rehabilitation technology. The impact on rehabilitation technology of information technology in areas like microelectronics, communications, bioengineering, computer hard and software and suggestions for targets to be explored in TIDE are discussed.

Furthermore the book presents topics on the methodology of R&D programmes:

- aspects that influence R&D orientation;
- the requirements resulting from interaction between elderly or disabled persons and the various scenarios of life;

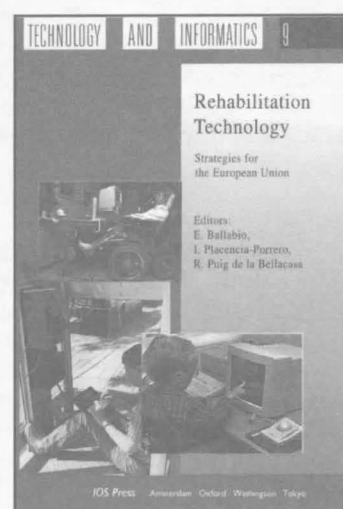
- challenging areas form the point of view of technical complexity and implications of multidisciplinary fields, human factors and complex evaluation.

Finally a chapter on market and service delivery contains subjects dealing with market issues such as technology

transfer, information dissemination, legislation, consumer involvement and cases or field studies.

Contact:

IOS Press
Van Diemenstraat 94
1013 CN Amsterdam (NL)
Fax: +31 20 620 34 19



Information technology in tomorrow's Europe: opportunities and dangers

Proceedings from the Paris Conference from June 1992

(Creis - Paris - 2 vol.)

The French "Centre de Coordination pour la Recherche et l'Enseignement en Informatique et Société" (CREIS) is publishing the proceedings of the conference it organized in Paris in June 1992 on the theme "Information technology in tomorrow's Europe: Opportunities and dangers."

This volume presents abstracts in French, English Spanish, German and Italian.

The first volume covers papers presented at plenary sessions, the second the proceedings of the six parallel workshops.

Contact:

Secrétariat du colloque Creis '92
Tour 55-56 Bureaus 309
Université Paris VI

4, Place Jussieu
F -75252 Paris Cedex 05
Tel: +33 1 44275877
Fax: +33 1 44276286

The Online manual

A practical guide to business databases

Jill Cousins & Lesley Robinson

Originally published as a book by Blackwell's in its second edition, this manual is now available as an innovative, user-friendly electronic version with an impressive array of features. Updated every six months, this new software tool helps online searching by offering some 60,000 sources listed by subject, source, geographic coverage, financial details, databases, host contact numbers, costs and access parameter

Contact:

Blackwell Publishers
Business Direct
108 Cowley Road
Oxford, OX4 1JF, UK
Tel: +44 865 791100
Fax: +44 865 791347

CPM PLUS: Catalogue of printed music in the British library to 1990 now available on cd-rom

The Catalogue of Printed Music in the British Library must be one of the largest, oldest and most comprehensive collections of music in the world.

For the first time, the 600,000 plus individual items in this famous collection are now accessible electronically. Leading reference publisher Bowker-Saur has taken the data in the CPM, along with the Current Music catalogue covering printed music post 1980 and the CPM Supplement (an unpublished catalogue of printed music pre-1981) and placed it all on one CD-ROM.

CPM in its new CD format is transformed into a multiple access research tool. CPM Plus can be searched using one of 12 different data elements, any of which can be combined. The system allows instant access to around 1 million entries and cross references.

Records can be browsed through their original CPM hard copy order or searched in seconds by composer, arranger or editor, title, series title, keyword, place and date of publication, publisher, plate number, force, voices or language.

Contact:

Cliff Guy
Bowker-Saur
60 Grosvenor Street
London W1X 9DA (UK)
Tel: +44 71 4935841
Fax: +44 71 5804089

The common market for information

Proceedings of the annual conference of the Institute of Information Scientists

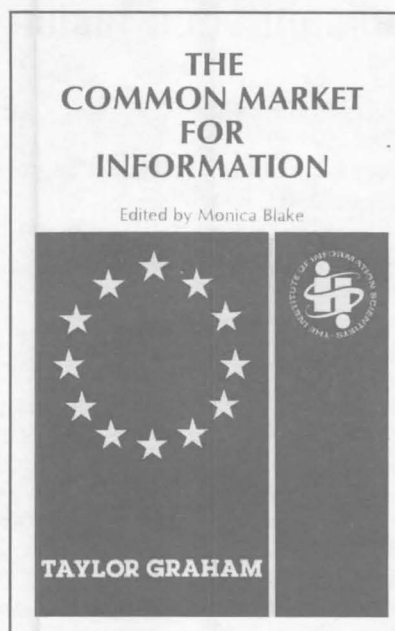
Monica Blake - Bedford, 1992 - ISBN 0-947-56856-5

This book brings together most of the papers presented during the IIS annual conference held at Bedford from 4-6 June 1992.

The conference was planned as a response to the increasing need for information professionals in the UK to be aware of, and anticipate developments in information handling on a transnational level, with an emphasis upon the European Community and the implementation of the Single market.

Contact:

Taylor Graham Publishing
500 Chesham House
150 Regent Street
London W1T 5FA
UK



Cooperation among organizations

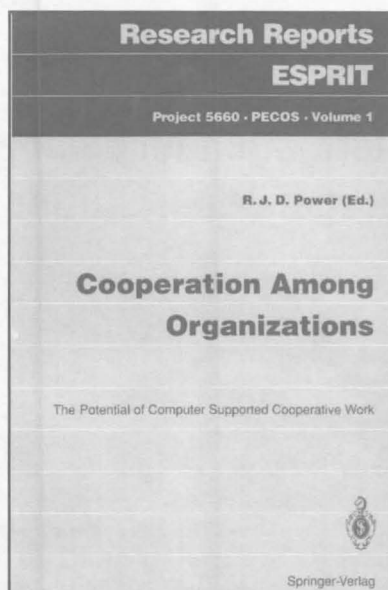
The Potential of Computer Supported Cooperative Work

R.J.D. Power (Ed)
(Research Reports Esprit-Project 5660 Pecos Vol.1)
1993 - ISBN 3-540-56263-X/ ISBN 0-387-56263-X

This book reports research conducted in the Esprit project Pecos, which investigated the requirements for effective CSCW (Computer Supported Cooperative Work) with special reference to cooperation among organisations in large projects. It indicates commercial areas where CSCW technology can be applied and examines such methodological issues as enterprise modelling, system architecture and the incorporation of artificial intelligence techniques.

Contact:

Springer-Verlag
Heidelberg Platz 3
D-1000 Berlin 33



La diffusion de l'information spécialisée Japonaise en Europe

Collection Sciences de l'Information (Série Recherche et Documents) - ISBN 2-901046-52-5

Japan is the world's second largest producer of scientific, technological and economic information.

More and more Europeans are using such information, but language and a misunderstanding of Japanese sources

represent a major obstacle to wider use. This study, which is only available in French, presents a very detailed overview of this information, listing sources of information, diffusion policies, data bases in Japan and explaining how to use Japanese sources in Europe.

Contact:

Association Française des
Documentalistes &
Bibliothécaires spécialisés
25 Rue Claude Tillier
75012 Paris
Tel: +33 1 43 72 25 25
Fax: +33 1 43 72 30 41

Information systems for end-users

Research and development issues

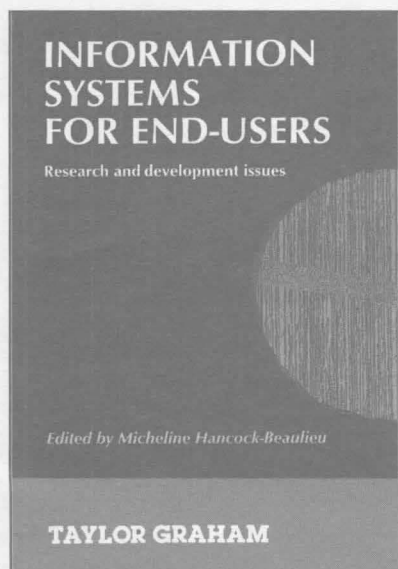
Micheline Hancock - Beaulieu
1992 - ISBN 0-94756857-3

Database producers and online hosts have been keen to exploit the end-user market for bibliographic databases as well as for a whole range of new electronic information products.

These include information as diverse as real time financial information, full text news reports, census data, ordinance survey maps, chemical compounds dictionaries, encyclopaedias and anthologies of poetry.

Whilst there has been much initial enthusiasm for the technology, the hope of lucrative markets and greater access to information, end-user searching has encountered a number of limitations. These include problems such as user needs and requirements, system design and human-computer interaction, costs, organisational constraints and user training.

This book is a collection of papers presented by researchers, practitioners and databases producers to examine these research and development issues from different perspective.



First edition of European Information Technology Observatory just out

The first edition of the "European Information Technology Observatory (EITO)" has been published

Presented to the public by Michel Catinat of the European Commission's Directorate General for Telecommunications, DG XIII, and Dr. Bruno Lamborghini, President of EUROBIT (European Association of Manufacturers of Business Machines and Information Technology) and Chairman of the EITO Sponsor Group, the EITO report presents the most comprehensive data available about the European information technology (IT) market.

It forecasts technological trends in the IT industry and presents detailed statistics on the full spectrum of market developments.

The report contains special studies about the European software market, the market potential of Eastern Europe and the scenario for IT standardisation. It also analyses the environmental framework and policy requirements for the European IT industry.

The statistical parts of the EITO have been produced in close cooperation with International Data Cooperation.

The EITO is a joint initiative by the EC Commission, EUROBIT, and the European trade fairs CeBIT Hanover, SIMO Madrid and SMAU Milan.

Contact:

European Information Technology
Observatory (EITO)

c/o EUROBIT

Lyoner Str
D-6000 Frankfurt/M. 71
Tel: +49 69 6603 530
Fax: +49 69 6603 510

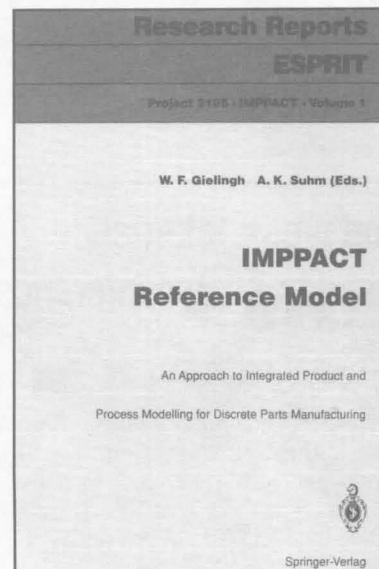
IMPACT reference model

An approach to integrated product and process modelling for discrete part manufacturing

W.F. Gielingh - A.K. Suhm (Eds)
(Research report Esprit - Project 2165 Impact - Vol. 1)
1993 - ISBN 3-540-56150-1 / ISBN 0-387-56150-1

This book presents one of the principal results of the Esprit II project Impact (Integrated Manufacturing of Products and Processes using Advanced Computer Technologies): the reference model for the sharing of data by CIM applications. It is an informal but easier-to-understand description of the reference model more than a detailed formal information model.

The project was initiated to develop and demonstrate a new generation of integrated modelling systems for products design, process planning and generation of machine control data. The software developed were demonstrated at two sites, a ship propeller manufacturer LIPS dealing with complex shaped parts and an aircraft spare parts factory HAI which manufactures sheet metal parts.



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Springer-Verlag
Heidelberg Platz 3
D-1000 Berlin 33

Contact:

Taylor Graham Publishing
500 Chesham House
150 Regent Street
London W1R 5FA (UK)

AGENDA

Conference to examine EC data protection law

The Privacy Laws and Business 6th annual conference will be held in St. Catherine's College, Oxford, UK, from 28-30 June 1993 on the theme "Data protection law in the EC Single Market - The essential management issues".

The main items to be discussed in plenary and/or parallel sessions include: UK and international data protection, new laws in Belgium, Spain and Switzerland, the amended EC proposed directive on data protection, transborder data flows contractual solutions, maintaining personal data exchanges with non EC-states, EC and national telecoms privacy policies, data security - UK and EC requirements, measuring the performance of data protection systems, measuring employees' awareness of the law.

There will be also some place available for stands (eg. software demonstrations) in the conference centre.

Contact:

Steward Dresner, Conference Director
Privacy Laws & Business
3 Central Ave
Pinner, Middlesex HA5 5BT (UK)
Tel: +44 81 866 8641
Fax: +44 81 868 2915

Stop press: telematic based training conference

26-27 October 1993

This conference on telematic applications of the Delta programme will be located at 7 different sites in Europe. All plenary sessions will be transmitted live by a EUTELSAT satellite.

Contact:

Delta Control Office
Marco Fernandez
Tel: +32.2.296.34.84
Fax: +32.2.296.23.92

OSTC to hold open systems conference in June

Open Systems Testing Consortium (OSTC) has a unique perspective of the requirements of the open systems IT and telecommunications community having specialised in the validation of quality products for more than six years. Now OSTC is offering the benefit of this experience through the medium of a major international conference that will deal with a range of IT and Telecommunications issues to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, on 24 and 25 June 1993.

The conference will examine political and technical matters that are shaping the successful development and procurement of IT and Telecommunications open systems products. One-stop approval and EEC Directive 91/263 will be discussed. It will also provide practical examples and expert advice on how open systems solutions are being implemented.

The conference will interest all who recognise the contribution OSTC testing makes to harmonisation, to the achievement of worldwide one-stop testing and certification, to satisfying evolving procurement needs, and to the development of economic open systems solutions.

Participants will include manufacturers and users, product development managers, systems engineers, test laboratory manager, public procurement officials, equipment test engineers, open systems management consultants, government officials, officials from the European Commission, standardisation institute officials, accreditation organisations and certification bodies.

Contact:

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Organised for Open Systems Testing Consortium (OSTC)

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Tel: +44 71 228 8034
Fax: +44 71 924 1790
Telex: 917712 POLYBS

MEDIANET 93

MediaNet is a major international specialist market for audiovisual, electronic and digital media.

Since its launch in 1989, 10,000 professionals from more than 25 countries have participated in its meetings. This year, MediaNet 93 will be held at the Munich Exhibition Centre from 6-9 July 1993.

In order to facilitate the orientation for producers distributors, buyers, industrial users and professional visitors, MediaNet 93 has created a new, transparent structure: all programmes, whether audiovisual or multimedia interactive will be shown over four days in more than 30 screenings.

These will be organised in 12 categories, from art to natural sciences and from marketing to management training.

In parallel, information, buyers and cooperation sessions, and a Multimedia workshop will provide opportunities to participants to meet, discuss and exchange views and experiences.

The MediaNet exhibition will feature all current CD formats, operating systems and network applications.

This trade exhibition offers a comprehensive and representative overview of software tools, multimedia programmes and hardware solutions by world leading companies.

Contact:

MediaNet

Kaiserstrasse 39
D-8000 München 40
Tel: +49 89 38190433
Fax: +49 89 38190426

Open University explores diversity of programming languages

The Open University Computing Department is organising a workshop on programming languages from 29-30 September 1993.

The aim of the workshop is to develop criteria and techniques to judge the suitability of different languages for particular uses, and examine the relevance of standards and implementations. It is primarily for those involved in higher education but will be of relevance to practitioners in industry and business. Both established and new store-imperative and object-oriented languages will be discussed, together with mathematically-based approaches. The Open University Computing Department is about to begin a major course development project to replace its introductory course in software development which attracts 3,000 students a year. The issues confronting the course team in choosing a language for this course encompass those mentioned above as well as the problems of distance teaching, course longevity, industrial relevance and volume-related costs. The workshop on programming language choice has been organized in order to assist in the decision making process and a primary objective of the workshop is to establish selection criteria. This is the fourth in a series of workshops in the curriculum, teaching technologies and educational principles.

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Val Kirby
The Open University
Computing Department
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Milton Keynes MK7 6AA
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Fax: +44 908 65 21 40

International IFIP conference on open distributed processing

Open distributed processing (ODP) functions are among the main concerns of the standardization activities in ODP. The 1993 ICODP Conference, will be organized by IFIP in Berlin from 14-17 September 1993. This year conference will have a special emphasis on ODP applications, serving as evaluation for ODP modelling techniques and ODP-Functions. Applications in medicine, telecoms, telepublishing and multimedia will be discussed.

ICODP'93 will provide an opportunity to exchange experience and information about the recent activities of standardization bodies such as ISO, CCITT, ETSI; projects within R&D programmes like Race, Esprit and Aim; and interest groups like CSCW and TINA. Leading experts will open sessions where refereed papers document current research trends. Shorter position statements will be targeted especially to industrial participants, either to present recent developments or to articulate problems for which support is requested. Facilities for tool demonstrations will also be offered.

Deadline for submitted papers: 14 May
Final version: 31 August
Deadline for submitted position statements: 9 July.

Contact:
Jan de Meer
GMD Fokus - "ICODP'93"
Hardenbergplatz 2
D-1000 Berlin 12 (Germany)
Tel: +44 30 254 99 200
Fax: +49 30 254 99 202
+49 30 254 99 286

COMADEM 93: 5TH International congress

COMADEM - Condition monitoring and diagnostic engineering management - will hold its 5th international conference at the University of the West of England, Bristol (Bristol Polytechnic) from 21-23 July 1993.

The conference covers the broad field of condition monitoring, providing attendees with "state of the art" developments in this area.

Its objectives are to promote condition monitoring and diagnostic and management methods in all relevant areas, to bring together the experts to present and discuss their achievements, and to strengthen the link between academic researchers and practising industrial engineers.

There will an exhibition associated with the conference, providing an opportunity for equipment suppliers to reach an interested audience.

Contact:
G.J. Trmal

Comadem
Faculty of Engineering
University of the West of England,
Bristol
Frenchay Campus
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol BS16 1QY

Neuchatel hosts conference on computer science and society

The Swiss Informations Society SIG Informatics and Society and Swiss Society for Sociology SIG Informatics, Telecommunications and Society are organising the first interdisciplinary conference on Computer Science, Communications and Society to be held from 22-24 September 1993 at University of Neuchatel, Switzerland. The conference aims to encourage the discussion of different perspectives and

provide a starting point for a collaborative network between the participants. Four themes will be discussed:

- The socio-cultural roots of the information society.
- Information technologies in action.
- The computer as an object, the computer as a tool.
- Social scientists and computer scientists working together.

Contact:

Joint Conference SI/SSS
c/o Swiss Information Society
Schwandenholtzstr. 286
CH-8046 Zurich
Tel: +41 1 371 73 42
Fax: +41 1 371 23 00

World Transputer Congress '93

The first World Transputer Congress - WTC '93 - will be held in Aachen Germany from 20-22 September 1993, sponsored by The Transputer Consortium (TTC). Formed by the permanent merger of the established and highly successful Transputer Applications and Transputing conferences, the annual World Transputer Congress will be the leading international transputer conference and exhibition. Each World Transputer Congress will be held in conjunction with a local partner. The local partner for 1993 is the German TAT '93 (Transputer-Anwender-Treffen) conference. WTC '93 will provide state-of-the-art coverage of transputer-based parallel processing applications in practice and theory. Papers will cover a complete range of applications including CAD/CAM, computational mechanics and engineering, continuous and discrete simulation, educational software, graphics, hardware emulation, image processing, industrial inspection,

instrumentation, molecular and particle modelling, music synthesis, neural nets, networking, operating systems, programming environments, programming tools, real time control and signal processing.

As part of the World Transputer Congress '93 a series of technical sessions will be held at the Eurogress Conference Centre in Aachen. The distinct identities of WTC '93 and TAT '93 will be preserved with the proceedings for each conference being published separately.

An associated exhibition attracting the world's leading suppliers of transputer-based hardware, software and application products will be held at the Eurogress Centre.

The Transputer Consortium (TTC) has been established by 5 European companies (ACE, Inmos, Parsys, Parsytec and Transtech) to raise the awareness

of and promote the transputer and related products, to a wider commercial market, outside of its current academic biased position. To achieve these objectives TTC will publish a journal, Transputer Applications, twice a year which will focus on real commercial applications of transputers and run at least one major International Conference. The World Transputer Congress, each year. WTC '93 is the first of the TTC's annual conferences. The TTC Secretariat is based at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) in the UK.

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Fax: +44 235445893

DG XIII participation in technology exhibitions

ENTERPRISE 93 (General DG XIII)
Boston
16-18 June

EVA 93 (Esprit ABHS-P)
London
26-27 July

IJCAI 93 (Esprit IPSS)
Chambéry
29 Aug. - 3 Sept.

SMAU (Esprit ABHS-P)
Milan
30 Sept. - 4 October

COMPAT (Tedis)
Birmingham
5-7 October

FOROTECH 93 (Esprit IPSS)
Bilbao
20-23 October

XIII Magazine and XIII News Review are published every three months by the Directorate - General for Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation (DG XIII) of the Commission of the European Communities.

The opinions expressed in these publications do not necessarily reflect those of the Commission. All correspondence should be addressed to :

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