

IES Data Collections

Please note that as of 1st September 1988 the public password 'IES' to the data collections service will no longer be operative. Access to these databases will remain free of charge but future users of the IES files will be required to sign a User Agreement form with ECHO before receiving passwords. For further information please contact the ECHO Help Desk on (+352) 48 80 41.

Advance notice of calls for proposals for pilot/demonstration projects aiming at the development of a community information services market.

On 17/7/87 the Commission published a general call for declarations of interest (Official Journal of the European Communities No 87/C 188/02), in order to identify appropriate subject areas for which a wide interest in the market exists and which offer potential to exert a strategic impact on the information services market. On the basis of the responses received, an initial set of priority areas in which pilot/demonstration projects should be implemented in 1989/90 has been identified.

Of the selected priority areas, the Commission intends to launch calls for proposals in the following areas: image banks; information on standards; road transport information; tourism information; intelligent interfaces to electronic information sources. Other priority areas may be considered at a later stage of the programme.

ROYAL VISIT



On the 24th June 1988, ECHO was privileged to have had the opportunity to show Prince Henri, the heir to the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, the facilities and databases on offer.

The Prince, who was making an official visit to the European Commission's installations in Luxembourg, was shown the TED database, the SDC data collections and also the EUREKA database.

Our photo shows (from L-R) Mr Michel Carpentier —

Director General DG XIII, Mr Vincente Parajon Collada the Assistant Director General of DG XIII with special responsibility for the Luxembourg directorates, Mr Karl Heinz Narjes the Commissioner responsible for IT and Prince Henri.

The European Commission has already submitted to the Council a proposal for a policy and a plan of priority actions for the development of an information services market 1989/90 (COM(87) 360 final/2). A major aspect of this action plan refers to the implementation of a limited number of large scale pilot/demonstration projects to be developed and executed in

close collaboration with the information industry. The projects should aim to achieve a breakthrough in the quality, performance and use of advanced information services in Europe, designed for users who are not experts in information technology.

The purpose of the advance notice of calls for proposals

(see p. 2)

CEE: XIII/51

(cont. from p. 1)

for pilot/demonstration projects issued on the 12/7/88 (Official Journal of the European Communities no. 88/C 182/04) is to identify those who are in principle interested in submitting a project proposal in one or more of the identified priority areas.

Expressions of interest must be made in response to the advance notice before the 15 September 1988.

For further information concerning the advance notice please contact the following:

Commission of the European Communities
Directorate General for Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation, DG XIII/B2, Office JMO-C4/033, L-2920 Luxembourg
Tel: (+352) 4 30 11
Telefax: (+352) 43 01 39 09

ICONE

(Inventaire Comparatif des Normes Européennes)
(Comparative Inventory of European Standards)

Both within Europe and on an international level there exists a distinct lack of harmonisation with regard to standards and technical rules.

As a result it is often difficult for European enterprises, particularly small and medium size firms wanting to market their products elsewhere without having to carry out thorough and time-consuming technical investigations, to identify the degree of equivalence between different national standards for a given product.

ICONE (Comparative Inventory of European Standards), is a database which has been developed following the initiative of the European Commission.

During the first development phase of ICONE a comparative index of national standards that have an equivalent European or international

standard were compiled. This phase involved the linking and comparison of 28.000 documents on national standards of Member States to 7500 key international and European harmonisation documents. This work was carried out under contract for the European Commission by the CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) in conjunction with national standards institutions.

The ICONE database contains the references and titles of approximately 110.000 pivotal European or international standards as well as the references of those national standards (some 330.000) which have a relationship with the pivotal ones.

ICONE is not currently available via ECHO or any other online service. Information can however be obtained by contacting the appropriate national standardisation institute in each Community and EFTA country.

A political decision should be taken by September 1988 as to how, where and when the ICONE database will be made available to the general public.

Please note that all ECHO Users and people that have inquired about ICONE will be notified about the availability of this database as soon as a decision has been reached.

Mailbox messages

The purpose of the Grips MAILBOX is to improve communications between Users and ECHO. It facilitates exchanges of information by allowing the User to send a message to ECHO directly from their terminal.

We would like to remind all ECHO Users that they should read and delete their mailbox messages on a frequent basis.

The following commands will enable you to delete the MAILBOX messages stored under your personal password:
DEL MAIL=nr

deletes individual User messages (nr=1 to 99)

DEL MAIL=OWN
deletes all User messages

DEL MAIL=ALL
deletes all mailbox messages

DEL MAIL=nr to nr
deletes mail within a given range

INFO MAIL; DELETE
all mail can be viewed and afterwards deleted by 'CR'.
If you wish to keep the messages, type any other command followed by 'CR'.

For further information on how to use the mailbox, please consult your User manual.

ECHO training

ECHO INFORMATION DAYS

ECHO will also be organising a series of Information Days in various towns in Europe as a promotional exercise for introducing ECHO's databases and services either for people who are considering access to ECHO but who would like some further details or for non-Users of online information who would like to find out more about ECHO and its relationship to the European online scene.

LOCATION AND DATES

London 20 Sept 88
Lisbon 27 Sept 88

INTRODUCTORY-CCL

Amsterdam	7 Sept 88
(translators only)	
Amsterdam	8 Sept 88
London	21 Sept 88
Luxembourg	22 Sept 88
Lisbon	26 Sept 88
Stuttgart	6 April 89

DATABASE DAYS

Amsterdam	9 Sept 88
Luxembourg	23 Sept 88
Stuttgart	6 April 89

Users wishing to participate in any of the above events should contact the ECHO Help Desk at the address below:
ECHO Customer Service
B.P. 2373
L-1023 LUXEMBOURG
Tel.: +352 48 80 41 Tlx: 2181
Fax: +352 48 80 40



**PRESSE-MEDDELELSE · MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE · PRESS-RELEASE
INFORMATION A LA PRESSE · ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ
INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA · MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

New Community Programme to develop European information market

Professional electronic information services will be a decisive factor in achieving the Community's 1992 objective of a unified internal market. An action plan for a European information services market has therefore been given the go-ahead by the Council of Ministers, who agreed to allocate ECU 36 million to a development programme covering an initial period of two years.

The Community funds will be used to co-finance pilot demonstration projects to develop advanced information systems in collaboration with companies across Europe. A call for expressions of interest issued by the Commission last year has already brought in more than 700 responses. The funds awarded by the Council decision will now allow the first projects to be launched in early 1989.

Introducing the programme, Commission Vice President Karl-Heinz Narjes said that the emergence of a «European information market» would contribute to speeding the integration and growth of the European economies. This programme will create new vehicles for locating and using information in the workplace, to draw on the vast amounts of public information which are still inadequately exploited. It will benefit those who use – or can potentially use –

computer-based information for their work: from managers to engineers and workers to the shopfloor.

The European electronic information services market industry today employs some 100,000 people, who generate ECU 1.25 billion of annual revenue. This figure is expected to increase to over ECU 10 billion within the next decade. This growth rate of 20 to 30% is very significant, especially when compared to world economic growth figures of 2-5%.

The Commission has received project ideas from both private and public sector organisations in all member States. First priority areas concerned are: Image banks, standards information, road transport information, tourism information and intelligent interfaces to electronic information services.

Action under the information services programme also includes setting up a European Information Market Observatory, which regularly tracks trends in the information market, improve the quality of market data and provide better decision-making tools.

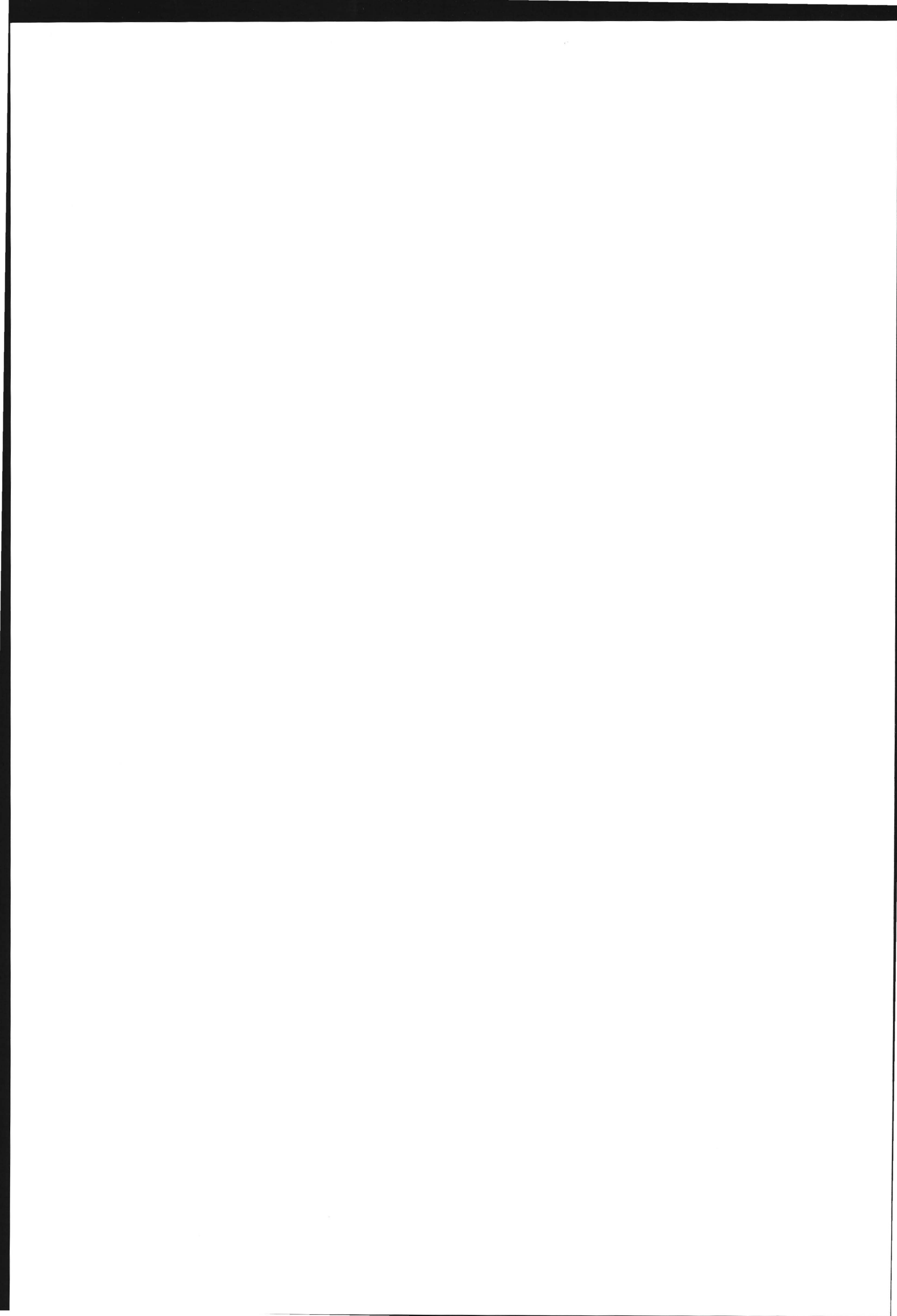
Other areas highlighted for special attention by the programme include better exploitation of publicly-held

information by the private sector, overcoming legal, administrative and technical barriers, simplifying information access methods and support for users of information services.

The calls will be issued only to those organisations which respond to an advance notice published in the Official Journal of the Community (N° C 182 of 12.7.88), asking for interested organisations to indicate the areas in which they intend to submit proposals. Responses to this notice must be sent to the following address by September 15, 1988:

**Commission of the
European Communities,
Directorate General XIII-B2,
Office JMO-C4/033
L-2920 Luxembourg
telefax +352 4301 3909**

**More about this programme
in the next issue of your
ECHO-News.**





QUESTION MARK

'Guidelines for an informatics architecture'

As a user of information technology (IT) for its own administration the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) has been — as it has to be — a forerunner and an example in applying a procurement policy based on standards. The CEC adopted this policy in 1980.

In order to share its experience with other customers, the IT industry and the standard-making bodies, the CEC has published the third edition of its 'guidelines for an informatics architecture'.

These guidelines will be revised regularly to respond to changes in the market place. Already since 1985 there has been considerable progress in the area of standardisation and a significant shift among major customers towards adopting standardised products.

Introduction

After decades of being locked into one or a few suppliers for all their computing needs, more and more corporate users in Europe, the United States and Japan are now switching to multi-vendor procurement policies based on standards. IT companies are responding to this user requirement by stepping up their own standardisation effort.

It is in the interest of all users to:
remain free to choose the best way to integrate new technology independently of the policy of individual manufacturers.

In addition, the European institutions have to cope with the complexity caused by different languages and

partners in remote geographical locations. This turns an interest into a necessity, and dictates a high degree of flexibility in implementing these technologies.

More and more organizations understand why a vendor-independent strategy based on standards is feasible, economic and necessary.

* It is feasible through an evolutionary path: proprietary interfaces can be phased out and replaced with standard ones.

* It is economic because expensive interface adaptations can be eliminated and costly conversions avoided. Once users are no longer locked into vendors, competition in an open IT market brings prices down.

* It is necessary if organisations are to communicate and interwork effectively.

Standards contribute to market growth

The limiting factor in market growth is not technological progress: customers are often offered more than they can use. Instead, it is the ability of users with different hardware and software to interwork — this ability is only offered by standardisation.

This demonstrates that the market for standardised products is a growth market: standardisation has a multiplier effect. The more people can communicate and services can interwork, the greater the volume of information they exchange — and the larger the IT market becomes.

Industry and standard making bodies must adapt to customer priorities.

Industry and the standard-making bodies should listen to the requirements of customers for standards and understand the difficulties they have in implementing them; the risk of not doing so is to offer standards which cannot be sold, while other standards may be badly needed. In the standard-making process, this means missing windows of opportunity when these present themselves.

For these reasons, customers must coordinate their activities in formulating their standards requirements and make their voices heard so that industry will fulfil them.

The CEC sees with satisfaction a growing number of customer associations taking the lead in standards implementation. The CEC as a customer wishes to encourage their efforts, contribute with professional information and experience and support proposals of common interest.

European users should lead the world in demanding standard products. If the IT industry in Europe supplies the solutions to such a receptive market, it can become competitive on a world-wide scale.

An architecture is more than standards.

Defining guidelines for an evolutionary architecture for the next decade is not an easy task. Most architectures have been designed by the computer manufacturers to match their present and future product ranges. Such architectures are, generally speaking, mutually incompatible even where standards are used. A vendor-

independent architecture can only be developed by the customer — but no single customer has the power to impose a given architectural design on industry. Consequently, such an architecture must emerge from the ongoing process of supply and demand.

This is the spirit in which these architectural guidelines have been prepared. They reflect neither specific customer needs nor particular design concepts; moreover, they take into account the availability of products on the market. This is an additional reason why the guidelines themselves are subject to constant review and correction.

Priorities for standards

All new standards are a matter of urgency, but in setting priorities one must bear in mind the right time for

these standards to have an impact on the market. Some proposals which were once urgent have missed this window of opportunity because customers and the industry had already decided on intermediate solutions. For this reason, the CEC, as a customer, considers the following five aspects as having priority:

1. Interactive access to remote databases

As long as PCs do not have worldwide access to remote databases with standard page mode communication through the data network there will be no low cost distribution channel for the information market.

2. Document architecture

Electronic mail and, consequently, data networks will not develop to any great extent as long as there is no

compatibility between word processing software from different suppliers. Approval of a minimum subset of ISO DIS 8613 covering the functionality of the installed base of word processing systems is therefore a matter of urgency.

3. Common applications environment

In order to create a large and open market for low-cost minicomputers and PCs based on UNIX, the POSIX and X/OPEN proposals must be harmonized and obtain official standards approval.

4. Human interface

Without the development of a standard human interface the user will very soon be put off by the continuing proliferation of software and services.

5. Security

The achievements of the OSI model in creating an open and competitive market could be jeopardized if, at the same time, national de facto security standards penetrate the different OSI layers.

ECHO

ECHO News is a bi-monthly publication of the
European Commission Host Organisation
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Phone: (+352) 48 80 41 Telex: 2181
Editor: Bernice Sweeney
Printed by : Imprimerie Zierden, s.à r.l., Luxembourg

New address - New subscriber

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New address

Name _____

Address _____

Former address (attach incorrect address label)

New subscriber

Name _____

Address _____

Diary dates

ECHO will be represented at the following workshops, seminars and exhibitions over the coming months:

Exhibitions:

Paris 20-23 Sept '88
INFODIAL

Lisbon 28-30 Sept '88
MICROLIB

London 6-8 Dec '88
IOLIM '88

EURONET-DIANE WORKSHOPS:

Geneva 8 Nov 88
Zurich 10 Nov 88

TED PRESENTATIONS:

London 11 Nov 88
INSPEC

Cork 24/25 Nov 88
Annual Conference
Small Firms Assoc.