

Microprocessor Standards Committee  
Chairmen's Report 11 July 2005  
Bob Davis

Successes:

1. New Project – P1953.1 Sequence Ontology – Suzanna Lewis will Chair.
2. New Revision Project – P1596 Scalable Coherent Interface – Dave Gustavson will Chair  
Congratulations to these groups. Please help support them in their efforts.

Items for consideration and discussion at this meeting.

1. Approval of the modified MSC P&P with the AudCom requested changes. The changes are only two, the insertion of the "Operating Procedures of the Microprocessor Standards Committee" in place of the "Policies/Procedures of the IEEE Computer Society" in section and the requested change to section 6.1 Quorum with the change of the sentence "A quorum is considered to be five [5], of the voting members of the Sponsor." To "A quorum is considered to be *a simple majority, or five [5], of the voting members of the Sponsor, whichever is larger.*"
2. Approval of the Bioinformatics Standards Committee (p1953) P&P adopted by the Working Group.

This will become a standard procedure for all new, and some old, committees. AudCom will approve all Sponsor P&P's and not permit PAR's to be submitted until the Sponsor P&P is approved. The approval of the MSC P&P allows us to continue to sponsor new projects. It then falls to the Sponsor to approve all working group P&P's.

There has been considerable work over the past 9 months by IEEE Staff, Mary Lynne Nielsen, several of the ProCom members, and several Sponsors, in the development of a set of Model Working Group Policies and Procedures. I have attached an early draft of this procedure that would be applicable to the MSC, ie my version, for your review, and hopefully, comments. When this Model MSC Working Group procedure is reviewed and approved by the MSC it will become our model for MSC Working Groups to adopt, or modify and adopt, with the approval of the final version, on a WG by WG basis.

The MSC P&P will also need to undergo at least one more revision, in the future. The MSC sponsors both Entity and Individual Working Groups, this needs to be better reflected in our procedures.

3. Electronic Voting between Meetings. This has been a hot topic and has been going back and forth to the IEEE Board Of Governors, SASB, and ProCom, we now have a good workable policy (2 years later):

"Electronic votes taken between meetings as part of the IEEE standards development process shall follow the provisions of IEEE Bylaw I-300.4(4). If the Sponsor so desires, it may establish subgroup(s) of interested persons who shall participate in an electronic vote related to specific subject matter. Such establishment shall be made through an announcement inviting participation in the vote in question; those who respond to the announcement indicating their interest shall be part of the voting group for that question. These groups shall exist only for as long as it shall take to conclude the vote in question; each group shall not apply to multiple votes unless the subjects of those votes are included in one particular announcement."

With this policy we can conduct votes on committee actions between meeting and have the probability of success of the ballot, either negative or positive.

4. Funding of Standards! The old method of funding the preparation and distribution of by charging for the paper copy of the standard is dead! Electronic distribution and the IETF

distribution methods have killed this as a revenue source for supporting the IEEE Standards Association in the future. New methods of funding of the activities related to the publication and maintenance of standards are needed as the costs have not disappeared along with the revenue.

I expect Jerry Walker, Director of Business Development for the Standards Association to address this issue in more detail. Basically there are several options:

- a. Corporate Sponsorship – being actively pursued by the Corporate Advisory Group (CAG) with several successful efforts such as the Laptop Battery Standard. The P1896 Scalable Memory Interface (previously Memory Channel) is an MSC project being worked with the CAG as an entity project.
- b. Branding – the development of a trademark associated with a standard and charging for the use of the trademark on a product – think of the “Intel Inside” style sticker with “IEEE 754 Driven” as an example. How about in the front bumper of a BMW!
- c. Development of test suites and charge for the validation of product as meeting the standard. This would then be “branded”.
- d. Grant proposals to fund distribution of standards.
- e. Any other ideas are really appreciated!!

I sincerely hope that we do not have to add a financial justification to the PAR as some other Sponsor groups currently do.

A reminder that a report on the working group activities is due to the MSC on a regular basis. I am guilty of being severely late on mine.. and will make amends.

5. New Groups – Does anyone know of potential new projects that are within the scope of the MSC that we can pursue?
6. Next Meeting is the election of officers for the MSC! Please bring forward any candidates for the position to be voted on:
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice Chairman
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. 2 IEEE Registration Authority Committee Representatives.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bob Davis July 11, 2005