

**BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION
COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES (IST/5)**

UK National Activity Report presented to the meeting of
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG5 (Fortran), Victoria, July 27-31, 1992

The BSI Fortran Panel last met in May to consider its response to the ballot on future Fortran Standard development. The UK view was that decisions on specifying requirements for Fortran 2000 should lie firmly with WG5, that if requirements were specified adequately then much less time than envisaged would be needed for implementation and that a national body should act as the primary development body on the understanding that its remit was to implement the requirements as specified by WG5. The UK was happy that X3J3 be invited to act as technical development body for WG5. Further, the UK view was that the revision to take place by the year 2000 should be of modest size and should build on experience with Fortran 90.

It was considered that the intention of a proposed 'corrections only' revision of Fortran 90 in 1995 would be better addressed by annual corrigenda. It was decided to submit a first draft corrigendum to this WG5 meeting; this has been done (N786a).

As WG5 members will be aware, work has continued on the Varying Length String Module, edited by Lawrie Schonfelder. In the WG5 ballot the UK voted in favour of its being forwarded for processing as a CD and at the time of writing the SC22 ballot on adoption as a CD is in progress.

The panel has also produced a first draft of "Guidelines for Bindings to Fortran 90" (N776) for consideration by WG5, in accordance with Lund resolution L7.

There is concern in the UK at the price at which the ISO Fortran Standard is being sold by BSI. Published by ISO in Geneva at SFR 185 (ca £75), BSI Sales Department is quoting a price of £186.40. This matter is being pursued.

A rarely called upon function of the BSI Fortran Panel was brought into action during the past year when it was requested to give an interpretation of Fortran 77 to help resolve a dispute between a compiler vendor and one of its customers; the panel found that the vendor was correct.

The number of UK-based members of X3J3 is now two, John Reid and Lawrie Schonfelder having ceased to be members during the past year.

The British Computer Society Fortran Specialist Group continues to be the main open forum for discussion of Fortran matters in the UK. Regular meetings have been held, at each of which an X3J3 member has reported on the most recent X3J3 events, and at which there have been a number of presentations on Fortran-related matters. Mike Roth has been succeeded as chairman by Chris Lazou.

Those who attended the WG5 meetings at Hampden House, London in 1990 and 1991, or the ad hoc meeting in 1978, may be interested to know that BSI will be leaving Hampden House in the first half of 1994. They will move to a purpose-built conference centre at Gunnersbury, roughly half way between central London and Heathrow airport.

David Muxworthy
IST/5/-/5 (Fortran) Convenor
July 16, 1992