

**German National Activity Report
(DIN working group for Fortran)**

1. General

Since the joint WG5/X3J3 meeting in Las Vegas in February 1997, the DIN working group has held one meeting with an attendance of 7. Active membership has been around 12 to 14 recently, with members from universities and computer industry. There are no new Fortran compilers being built in Germany at this time. The typical attendance at meetings has been between 6 and 8.

Germany still perceives Fortran's role in the world of computer programming to be diminishing although there seem to be some signs in other parts of the world that maybe that trend is beginning to be reversed. The members of the German delegation at the Las Vegas meeting who invested quite a bit of effort in preparing that meeting were largely disappointed by the fact that most of their suggestions did not receive much attention. In particular, DIN is getting increasingly worried that requests by users in high-performance computing are not receiving sufficient attention and that, as a result, Fortran is falling behind in its principal application area. A substantial part of the technical requests presented in Las Vegas came from users of large computing centers, e.g. at the universities of Stuttgart and Karlsruhe.

2. Balloting

Germany voted to stick with the original decisions for a Conditional Compilation facility, that is, to finish developing the current CoCo proposal by David Epstein and to not add a macro facility.

3. Interval Arithmetic

There is unanimous support for an interval feature in Germany. Germany wants to see this work progressed as a major work item. Questions such as "intrinsic type" vs "intrinsic module" or part 1 vs part 4 are seen as crucial issues which have to be resolved as quickly as possible before the development work can progress smoothly.

4. Interoperability with C

There is unanimous support for the TR on "Interoperability with C" and Michael Hennecke's work in Germany, and DIN would like to see a review group formed to help finalize that document. DIN would also like to see subgroup time devoted to resolving open issues in this TR at the WG5 meeting in Vienna.