French National Body Report - June 1998

The French WG5 group met in early May in Paris (at AFNOR), and discussed future Fortran meetings and development work.

First, the good news: France will be able to host the WG5 1999 meeting. The proposed dates are the last week of June 99 (21-25). The meeting will be held in the chateau of Cadarache, which is part of the C.E.A. (National Centre for Nuclear Research) in Provence, in the south-east of France – near to Jean Giono's village of Manosque.

The following points deal with the 1998 meeting of WG5 in Sweden, to which none of the French group is able to go, due to lack of financial support.

The French group firmly wishes to promote its propositions on:

- Object-Oriented Fortran (document ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG5 N1188r3), also known as WG5 repository#88, a new release (N1188r4) of which is almost ready, tighter to M.Cohen's proposal.

- N1189 (WG5 repository)#89: Constructors and Destructors.

We then want to reaffirm our support to the following:

- Interoperability with C Technical Report: to issue as soon as possible, as it opens numerous doors to Fortran, concentrating on the "noble" computing tasks.

- The concept of MODULE, which allows sound programming practices, and through which new type-related concepts should be added (such as in Ada, for instance, the COMPLEX type AND module(package)). It can (should?) be used to implement the new interval arithmetic, though allowing it to stay outside of the base language (so saving time for the latter).

Also, we still remain strongly in favour of the following minor technical enhancements (MTE):

- COPY_IN (WG5#100)

- Give the TARGET attribute to array-valued built-in functions

- Define PRAGMAs (compilation directives), to optionnally direct compiler optimisation for instance, in a portable way.

The French WG5 group offers to provide a champion, if requested, for the MTEs it supports.

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