Fifth Canvass Process in 1994 Begins

The MUMPS Development Committee (MDC) is seeking recognition of its standard, MUMPS - X Window System Binding, as an American National Standard under the accredited canvass method of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Following the accredited canvass method, the sponsor (the MDC) conducts a canvass (or mail poll) of directly and materially affected persons (organizations, companies, government agencies, individuals, etc.) to gather evidence of consensus, which will be considered by ANSI in the approval of the standard as an American National Standard.

The MDC supports ANSI as the central body responsible for identifying a single consistent set of voluntary standards called American National Standards. ANSI approval of these standards is intended to verify that the principles of openness and due process have been followed in the approval procedure and that a consensus of those directly and materially affected by the standards has been achieved.

The MDC is conducting a canvass for:

MDC X11.4 MUMPS - X Window System Binding. This binding defines a functional interface between standard MUMPS routines and the X Window System. This binding was developed primarily to allow application development using the X Window System from MUMPS in a consistent and portable manner.

Users may write M routines that use the X Window System using this binding; these routines will be portable to any M vendors' products that support this binding.

Vendors of M products may offer this binding to encourage use of their products, and allow their customers access to the X Window System.

The MUMPS - X Window System Binding provides access to the X protocol, XLIB, XToolKit, and Motif layers of the X Window System from within M.

This MDC standard is a new proposal as an ANSI standard.

MDC News Briefs

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has announced the release of a validation test suite, and the availability of a validation service to test M implementations for conformance to the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Programming Language MUMPS (FIPS 125-1; ANSI/MDC X11.1-1990). The M validation test suite, which contains 3,592 tests, is available from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161. Phone: 703-487-5650; fax: 703-321-8547.

The MUMPS Development Committee (MDC) is now conducting canvasses for ANSI approval of its standards for X11.1 M Programming Language, X11.2 Open MUMPS Interconnect, X11.3 MUMPS/GKS binding, and X11.6 M Windowing API. The canvass ballot deadline is September 16, 1994.

NIST has begun its approval process for a FIPS for the proposed 1994 ANSI standard.

ANSI has begun its approval process for an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard for the proposed 1994 ANSI standard. The proposed standards also have been distributed to the MUG International Federation (MUG-IF) for its members' information and comment.

The MDC has been invited to send Kate Schell, as a member of the U.S. delegation, to the ISO SC22 meeting in The Hague on September 19, 1994.

Keep up-to-date on all the activity within the MUMPS Development Commitee by **subscribing to the MDC document mailings**. MDC meetings generate pre- and post-meeting materials, proposals, agendas, and minutes of the MDC, subcomittees, and task groups. Call Don Piccone, MDC Secretariat, for more information at 301-431-4070.

The next MDC meeting will be January 26-29, 1995, in Albuquerque, NM. **M**