

## **Modular Multifunction Information Transfer System (MMITS) Forum September 10,11,12 1996**

The Modular Multifunction Information Transfer System Task Group conducted its third general meeting on September 10, 11, 12 1996 at the Mitretek Systems facility in McLean VA.

### **September 10, 1996**

The meeting opened at 8:45 AM

Opening Remarks - Joseph Mitola III Mr. Mitola reviewed the history of the MMITS Forum to date and presented an allegory cautioning Forum participants to be patient and cooperative and not merely try to protect proprietary interests.

### **Motivation - Mark Cummings**

Mr. Cummings reviewed the motivation for the MMITS Forum giving the rationale for the formation of the Forum from the perspective of the equipment suppliers, carriers, and government organizations that created the Forum. The equipment suppliers are concerned with market issues including reduced time to market and increased profitability, the carriers are seeking faster growth with lower risk and higher profitability, and the government groups want improved effectiveness with off-the-shelf capabilities.

- The MMITS Market, L. Brannan - BellSouth Wireless
- Software Radio API Issues, Mark Cummings - enVia
- Software Radios And Standards, H.S. Babbitt III - Tellabs

### **Keynote - Dr. Taylor Lawrence (DARPA)**

The basis of Dr. Lawrence's presentation was the question "How should the US Department of Defense promote open systems architectures in the research and development, acquisition, and fielding of advanced, user affordable, communications and information transmission capabilities for our warfighters?" He talked about the digitization of the battlefield and of commercial communications, the DoD budget environment and the need for savings resulting from the use of open systems, and the issues for the R&D and acquisition communities. He ended with a challenge to the Forum to facilitate a round-table discussion between Pentagon executives and their counterparts in industry.

### **Power of Open Systems - Stephen Blust (BellSouth Wireless)**

This presentation provided a view of open architecture concepts in commercial wireless systems from the perspective of benefit and need. It included an overview of what open architecture concepts encompass and where they are applicable. Mr. Blust discussed the importance of open architectures to consumers, service providers, and equipment suppliers, the definition of open architectures, required attributes, and applicability to wireless systems.

### **National Security/Emergency Preparedness - Dr. Dennis Bodson (NTIA)**

Dr. Bodson provided an overview of the National Communications System - its history, mission, and organization. Initially begun in response to the Cuban missile crisis, it serves as a focal point for industry/government planning for national security/emergency preparedness telecommunications, and its wireless work involves land mobile, cellular, and personal communications services.

## **Technical Committee Overview - Mark Cummings**

According to Mr. Cummings, the Technical Committee has created three subcommittees on Applications, Form Factor, and Architecture and has held biweekly teleconferences of the committee leadership. The Applications Subcommittee has further divided into working groups to study commercial, civil, and military uses for modular systems; the Form Factor Subcommittee has been inventorying potential standards and interfaces; and the Architecture Subcommittee has created work groups on base station, mobile, and handheld configurations. The Committees goals for this meeting are to set initial target standards and a schedule and work plan to achieve that target.

## **Marketing Committee Progress/Agenda - Stephen Blust**

The Marketing Committee is planning to release to the industry, in 2Q97, a MMITS Forecast Report defining marketplaces and categories of equipment with the intention of stimulating supporting industries to move forward with plans and development of software defined radios. Mr. Blust then presented a more detailed plan, quarter by quarter, of the committees proposed activities.

## **Operations Committee Progress/Agenda - Allan Margulies**

Mr. Margulies reviewed the activities of the Operations Committee in preparing for this meeting, in providing information within and outside of the Forum, and in planning a possible set of bylaws. Members have been sent several notices about the meeting, press releases have been issued to generate publicity for the group, and a web page has been established.

## **Name of Organization - Jim Hoffmeyer**

Some suggestions have been made to Mr. Hoffmeyer that the name of the Forum does not instantly convey the goals and focus of the Forum to those not already familiar with it. The Steering Committee has decided to put the need for another name to a vote of the membership tomorrow; Mr. Hoffmeyer presented several alternative names to consider (Multimode Software Wireless Systems, Software and Open Architecture Radio Systems, Multimedia Wireless Information Transport System, etc.) and said that members may also submit others.

## **Affiliation/Formal Incorporation - Jim Hoffmeyer/Mark Cummings**

After researching possible affiliation with other industry associations and after speaking with two attorneys, the Steering Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Forum incorporate as an independent not-for-profit organization rather than affiliate with a specific organization. The reasons in favor of incorporating as a stand-alone group are: more complete control over mission, scope, etc.; our outlook is broader than that of other groups, incorporation is relatively easy, inexpensive, and quick; no single group satisfies all of our requirements and we can establish more efficient processes for document approval. The reasons for affiliating with an existing organization are: easier liaison with the parent group; administrative policies, procedures, and framework are in place; and a supporting administrative group is in place.

## **Nomination for Chair/Vice-chair - Stan Griswold/Dennis Weed**

Nominations were opened for Forum officers to be elected on September 11. Jim Hoffmeyer had previously been nominated for General Chair and Stephen Blust for Vice-chair. No other nominations were made from the floor

The Plenary Session adjourned for the day at 12:10 PM.

## **September 11, 1996**

The meeting opened at 8:40 AM

### **Vote on Chair/Vice-chair - Stan Griswold, Dennis Weed**

No further nominations were presented from the floor, so Mr. Weed asked for a voice vote. Mr. Hoffmeyer was elected General Chair by acclamation, and Mr. Blust was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.

### **Vote on Affiliation/Stand-alone Incorporation - Mark Cummings**

Mr. Cummings was asked which organizations had been considered for affiliation and he responded: CTIA, PCIA, TIA, and VITA/VSO. Mr. Schimmel commented that if the Forum remains independent, it can task standards groups to write standards for specific items. Mr. Blust concurred, saying that remaining independent allows liaison with many other groups through industry associations. Dr. Fette, after asking about the types of standards which might be necessary and being told that software and connectors were examples, concurred with Mr. Schimmel. Ballots were collected and the final vote was 46 in favor of an independent corporation and 9 in favor of affiliation.

### **Vote on Name of Forum - Jim Hoffmeyer**

Dr. Fette said that sometimes a name change can be confusing, but Mr. Cummings felt that the MMITS name isn't descriptive enough and it needs to distinguish the Forum from other groups. After a short discussion about a possible new name for the Forum, Mr. Hoffmeyer requested a show of hands as a straw poll on whether or not a new name should be sought. Approximately 40 members voted to retain the MMITS Forum designation, 6 wanted to change the name, and the discussion ended.

The Plenary Session closed for the day at 10:15 AM

## **September 12, 1996**

The meeting opened at 12:30 PM

### **Technical Committee Progress Issues and Workplan - Ron Vidano, Pat Tilley, Mark Cummings, Jim Koser, S. Vasudevan**

Mr. Vidano and Mr. Tilley discussed the Architecture Subcommittee, Jim Koser talked about the results from the Form Factor Subcommittee, and S. Vasudevan presented the results from the Applications Subcommittee.

### **Market Committee Progress Issues and Workplan - Stephen Blust**

Mr. Blust presented the results of the Market Committee meetings as a definition of the purpose of the Forecast Report and a description of the audience, tasks, and timeline for the report. The report will be a top-down forecast of the number of devices required over a seven year period to meet the market demand. It will be aimed at an audience of domestic and international decision makers, planners, and program managers in related organizations. The report will be synthesized from inputs on market segment definitions, survey data, outside data research, forecast numbers, and other data collections. It will be drafted over the next six months and will be released for comment in April 1997.

### **Operations Committee Progress Issues and Workplan - Allan Margulies**

Mr. Margulies presented a schedule for meetings over the next year (December 96- Milpitas, March 97-Atlanta, June 97- Boulder, September 97- Minneapolis), and he said that the bylaws should be kept simple with most of the procedural issues to be addressed in a set of policies and procedures.

Mr. Hoffmeyer announced that the next meeting will be held in California December 3, 4, and 5.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM