IEEE to establish circuit and physical design standards

Requirements for a IEEE circuit and physical design standard are being prepared by the IEEE Design Automation Standards Subcommittee. A working group, chaired by Steve Trimberger, has been actively preparing a standards requirements guide to evaluate the applicability of design languages which the IEEE may sponsor.

It is anticipated the requirements guide will be a working document (not a standard), and should be available for distribution by March 1986.

The requirements are anticipated to address the circuit and physical scope of integrated circuit and printed circuit board layout, including netlists, circuit primitives (both active and passive), logic gates, schematics, timing, and documentation. The subcommittee is still considering whether to include testing and analog circuit requirements.

The next meeting of the Circuits and Physical Design Working Group will be October 7 at the Rye Town Hilton Hotel, New York, in conjunction with the IEEE International Conference on Computer Design.

For more information, contact Steve Trimberger at (408) 942-1810.

EDIF users group meets

Approximately 150 participants attended the first Electronic Data Interchange Standard (EDIF) users group meeting held in conjunction with the ACM-IEEE 22nd Design Automation Conference in Las Vegas on June 27.

Six presentations on the use and status of EDIF were presented. The EDIF standard is rapidly being incorporated by many CAE and CAD vendors into their products to aid in establishing common interface formats.

Version 1.00 of the standard and a digest of the six papers presented at the EDIF users group meeting can be obtained from Pro Print & Services, 568 Weddell Dr., Suite 3, Sunnyvale, CA 94089.

Air Force requests IEEE sponsorship on VHDL standard

At a two-day meeting of the IEEE Design Automation Standards Subcommittee (DASS), Stan Wagner of the Air Force VHSIC office requested that the IEEE establish the VHSIC Hardware Description Language (VHDL) as a system-level IEEE standard. The DASS working group on system design will consider the request against the requirements for hardware description language standards currently being prepared by that group. Should the DASS sponsor VHDL, the language will enter the balloting process by July 1986.

According to Wagner, the VHDL language has stabilized as Version 7.0. Based on Ada, the language incorporates an object-oriented description approach, provides the capability to conveniently mix behavior and structural descriptions, and incorporates a consistent timing framework based on a cause-effect model. A users manual is now available.

For copies of the VHDL language reference manual and the users manual, contact Richard Wallace, AFWAL/AADE-VPO, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433.

IGES standard to incorporate electronic data

A major effort is under way to add electrical elements to the Initial Graphics Interchange Standard (IGES), Version 1, also known as ANSI standard Y14.

This standard currently supports only mechanical data formats, but the next version of the standard will incorporate electrical drafting data for integrated circuit fabrication, cable harnesses, printed circuit boards, integrated circuit masks, and other similar items. The standard will also include graphics design data for printed circuit and integrated circuit layout.

Of major concern to the IGES Electrical Extension Subcommittee is the incorporation of connectivity data and format standards. The new IGES standard incorporating electrical data will be Version 3 and will be submitted for ANSI approval later this year.

For more information, contact the subcommittee chairman, Larry O'Connell, (505) 844-1061.