EDIF Standards Committee requests IEEE standardization of EDIF

The EDIF Standards Committee has made an informal request for IEEE sponsorship. Within the next few months a DASS subcommittee similar to the VASG will be created to review the EDIF standard proposal as submitted by them, and prepare a draft IEEE EDIF standard suitable for balloting.

The IEEE draft of EDIF is not expected until early or mid-1987. Persons interested in participating in this effort should contact Ron Waxman, DASS chairman, at (703) 367-2167.

VHSIC Hardware Description Language standards efforts

The IEEE has begun two major efforts to standardize VHDL: One effort is by the Unit-Under-Test description subcommittee of the IEEE SCC-20, while the other is by the VHDL Analysis and Standardization Group (VASG), a subcommittee to the Computer Society Design Automation Standards Subcommittee (DASS). Both the DASS/VASG and the SCC-20/UUT committees are attempting to create a VHDL standard as a general-purpose hardware description language useful for design and test of electronic systems at the behavioral, structural, and logical levels. Since there is apparent duplication of effort between the two groups, attempts are underway to provide close coordination between them.

The SCC-20/UUT committee conducted a straw vote in November 1985, on adopting VHDL as the candidate standard for a UUT description language. The consensus appeared to be that the VHDL language showed great promise, but changes to the current DoD Version 7.2 form of the language were necessary.

The DASS/VASG has, with the able assistance of the consulting firm CAD Language Systems, defined a number of items requiring review and potential change to Version 7.2 before submitting it as a draft suitable for voting. This effort is also in close coordination with the SCC-20/UUT committee. Attempts are being made to complete a VHDL draft standard by July 1986. For more information about the DASS/VASG, contact its chairman, Larry Saunders, at (507) 286-2509.

Electrical and electronic standards in IGES

A major effort is underway by the Initial Graphics Exchange Specification (IGES) standards committee to add electrical design information to their suite of international CAD standards. One such project is the Product Data Exchange Specification (PDES), which aims to provide an overall standard addressing the development of modelling methodologies, physical format definitions, wireframe geometries, and "intelligent" annotation entities. In the future, the standard is expected to be extended to cover solid modelling and administrative data. PDES is essentially the American contribution to STEP, the ISO Standard for Transfer and Exchange of Product model data.

An Electrical Applications committee has been formed to address electrical and electronic product model data as a part of the PDES effort. This committee met for the first time on April 17, 1986, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to discuss specific electrical product modelling issues as they relate to PDES. The first release of PDES, anticipated within the next few years, is expected to restrict its attention primarily to printed wiring boards; other electrical technologies such as integrated circuits, hybrids, flexwire, wirewrap, and 3D harnesses, will be integrated into future releases.

For those interested in the IGES/PDES effort, representatives will be participating in a panel session at the Design Automation Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 29-July 2. Of interest will be the apparent duplication of effort between IGES/PDES and the independent Electronic Data Interchange Format (EDIF) standardization effort. In addition, an informal workshop on PDES is planned for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the closing day of the conference. For further details, contact Larry O'Connell at (505) 844-1061.