Outside pressures. While Audley insisted SDI research is not shaped by political decisions, he acknowledged that many development and implementation problems will be addressed politically. "It's like a thermostat, controlled by humans," he said.

One pressure is the decision by many scientists not to work on SDI research. Audley told of some code used in an astronomy project that "had just what we needed, but the guy who owned the code restricted it so it couldn't be applied for SDI... It hurts. We need all the talent that we have."

On the other hand, the large SDI budget — $2.8 billion in 1986, compared to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's $5 billion and the National Science Foundation's $1.3 billion — has prompted some pressure from congressmen for immediate results. Recent footage of hardware tests released to the press is an example of a limited response to this pressure.

Audley stressed that the software effort must not be railroaded by such pressure. His major concern is introducing bugs. "We prevent bugs by design. We don't like to preplan the removal of bugs. The issue is not to get things going [now] because we [will] have lots of debugging to do [later]," he stressed.

SEI gets new director

The Software Engineering Institute has named Larry E. Druffel, vice president for business development at Rational, as its new director. Druffel replaces John H. Manley, effective September 15.

The two-year-old SEI is a federally funded research center whose mission is to accelerate the implementation of those software technologies that reduce costs and improve quality, particularly in defense software applications. The institute is headquartered at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Before joining Rational, a Mountain View, California-based software engineering firm that specializes in aerospace and defense work, Druffel was director of computer systems and software at the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Advanced Technology. He was the principal architect of the Defense Department's Software Technology for Adaptable, Reliable Systems (STARS) program.

Inman leaves MCC for startup firm

Adm. Bobby Ray Inman has announced he will leave his chief executive officer post at the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. research consortium in Austin, Texas. The resignation, announced September 3, is effective December 31. He will become CEO and president of Westmark Systems, a startup defense electronics firm backed by a Dallas holding company. Inman took the job as the 21-company consortium's founding CEO in 1982 and agreed to a three-year term, but extended his contract to a fourth year.

He is leaving the consortium because he feels it is now stable, said William Stotesbery, MCC's public affairs director. "He loves the thrills of building organizations," Stotesbery said, and MCC has been built. Before joining MCC, Inman served as director of naval intelligence, director of the National Security Agency, and deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

A search committee is looking for a replacement, which it hopes to find before Inman leaves December 31.

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