Following extended evaluations to examine its effects on their overall approach to system development, several companies have started to use IStar on actual projects as the first stage of adopting it on a large scale. For example, two companies (Motorola in the US and Plessey Co. in the UK) who acquired corporate IStar licenses in late 1986 have each started pilot projects. While too early to quantify the resulting productivity and quality improvements, preliminary qualitative estimates are encouraging.²

British Telecom, which funded much of IStar's development and provided alpha and beta test sites, is at a similar stage, using it for two small (four- to five-staff-year) projects. Their intention is to progressively extend the use of IStar to cover much of their future software development.

At Imperial Software Technology, there has inevitably been an extended bootstrapping process, progressively adopting IStar to perform IStar development. Currently, the entire fourth-year development phase (about 30 staff-years) is under IStar project management, and use of IStar technical-development and data-management tools is increasing. ³

**References**


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Northrop Corporation's Defense Systems Division in Rolling Meadows, Illinois is the fastest-growing enterprise in an expanding electronic countermeasures industry. We offer professionals with a BSCS, BSEE, BS Math or Physics (or equivalent) MS preferred, and a minimum of 3 years experience, opportunities in the following areas: Management, Systems Architect, Technical Leaders and engineering assignments available.

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Our many varied applications require significant growth in our support capabilities. We need the best people with experience in:

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Mark Dowson helped found Imperial Software Technology, a London firm, in 1982. He recently moved to the Software Productivity Consortium in Reston, Va., where he is a principal member of the technical staff. His primary research interests are understanding and supporting the software process.

Dowson received an MS in experimental psychology from the University of Sussex, England. He is a member of ACM and a founding member and director of Ada UK.

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