

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL
RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY

COMPUTING DIVISION

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Background to High Performance LAN Standards

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 CBP/Networks/High Speed LAN Stds file

This note summarises the history of the document "Proposal for the Definition of a High Performance Local Area Network Standard" which is to be circulated for the Apr 29th meeting.

- Oct 82 First meeting held with Cambridge Ring manufacturers plus GEC and CAMTEC to discuss current generation ring standards.
- Dec 82 The ring specification group agreed that it would be worth working on long term slotted ring standards as well and that the current work should be seen as an "interim standard". Steve Wilbur of UCL offered to produce first draft of proposal.
- Jan 82 First draft of a high performance standard proposal discussed. Original participants plus DoI, Data Recall and Racal Milgo. The latter two were keen on the proposal because they had working rings but were clearly excluded from the "interim standard". It was agreed that the long term standard should be driven by manufacturers and standards bodies in the widest forum and should be a "slotted ring" standard, aiming at a degree of compatibility with IEEE 802.
- Mar 82 Meeting to further progress standard proposal. Former participants plus BT and Urwick Nexos (Jim Norton and John Yeomans, both on FOCUS LAN Project Team) Involvement of BSI and FOCUS discussed and relation to IEEE 802. Individuals take responsibility for redrafting sections of proposal for next draft.

Contributions collated and meeting planned for 8 Apr. Letter of invitation sent (by WPS) to people identified by FOCUS as having a potential interest.

Apr 82 First meeting presents draft proposal to wide audience, including representatives of all those interested in this new (Apr 83) initiative. CAP express great interest and take on responsibility for convening meetings, producing the paper etc.

Second meeting involving those actually interested. It is noteworthy that although they expressed interest the people working on high speed rings and interested in the Apr 83 initiative did not attend. Working groups formed on each part of the proposal. Steve Wilbur agrees to continue chairing the group in the absence of other willing candidates.

May 82 Third plenary meeting considers in detail the working group papers and forms a small management team to refine and complete the proposal for agreement by a plenary meeting to be held in July.

Jun 82 Management group meets. Bias towards academic membership apparent. Concern whether sufficient industrial commitment.

Jul 82 Proposal circulated (as circulated internally - Mar 83). Plenary meeting cancelled because of rail strike and not rescheduled.