PLENARY MESSAGE TO THE
SPI-4 AD HOC

• AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF INTENSE AND
SIGNIFICANTLY DIVISIVE DEBATE AND INTERACTION THE
SPI-4 AD HOC ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2000 BY A
VOTE OF 5 TO 4 TO 5 APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION
TO HAVE A PROPOSAL FOR SIGNALING PARAMETERS
AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS INCORPORATED INTO SPI-4

• THIS RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE SOUNDLY
REJECTED BY THE SCSI PLENARY AS NOT BEING IN THE
BEST INTERESTS OF SCSI AS DETAILED IN THE
FOLLOWING SLIDES
PLENARY MESSAGE TO THE SPI-4 AD HOC

- THE PROPOSAL CONTAINS PROVISION FOR AT LEAST SIX VARIANTS WHICH ARE NOT INTEROPERABLE (SEE NEXT SLIDE)
- THE EXPLOSION OF VARIANTS IS MOSTLY A DIRECT RESULT OF ACTIVE DEVICE COMPONENT SUPPLIERS ATTEMPTING TO PRESERVE THEIR FAVORITE METHODOLOGY FOR THE SILICON INTERFACE DESIGN (PRECOMP VS AAF)
- THE NEEDS OF PASSIVE AND ACTIVE INTERCONNECT COMPONENTS HAVE BEEN MOSTLY IGNORED IN THIS PROCESS AND AS A RESULT THERE IS NO SINGLE SPECIFICATION FOR THE REQUIREMENTS ON INTERCONNECT AND NO EFFECTIVE WAY TO EVALUATE THE SIGNALS IN SOME CASES
PLENARY MESSAGE TO THE SPI-4 AD HOC

• THE SIX PROPOSED VARIANTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
  – HIGH LAUNCH SIGNAL  LOW LOSS INTERCONNECT
  – HIGH LAUNCH SIGNAL  NORMAL LOSS INTERCONNECT
  – HIGH LAUNCH SIGNAL  HIGH LOSS INTERCONNECT
  – LOW LAUNCH SIGNAL  LOW LOSS INTERCONNECT
  – LOW LAUNCH SIGNAL  NORMAL LOSS INTERCONNECT
  – LOW LAUNCH SIGNAL  HIGH LOSS INTERCONNECT

• NO PROVISION IS MADE ON HOW TO DETERMINE WHICH VARIANT IS APPLICABLE
  – NO MECHANISM TO SWITCH BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW LAUNCH
  – NO MECHANISM TO DETERMINE WHICH LOSS REGIME APPLIES
PLENARY MESSAGE TO THE SPI-4 AD HOC

• THE PRESENT PROPOSAL GUARANTEES CONFUSION IN THE MARKET PLACE AND IS ALMOST THE ANTITHESIS OF WHAT AN OPEN INTEROPERABLE TECHNOLOGY SHOULD ENBRACE

• ENEMIES OF SCSI SHOULD BE DELIGHTED THAT SCSI IS CONSIDERING HEXITURCATING ITS FORMALY RELATIVELY SIMPLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE REQUIREMENTS

• WHEN SSA AND FC WERE BATTILING A FEW YEARS AGO, SCSI WAS THE MAIN BENEFICIARY -- NOW SCSI IS CONSIDERING DOING THE SAME THING FOR ATA, FC, IB, AND GBE
PLENARY MESSAGE TO THE
SPI-4 AD HOC

• THE TIME URGENCY FOR SPI-4 CLAIMED BY SOME
FOLKS SEEMS TO NOT RESULT FROM MARKET
PULL FOR RAPID AVAILABILITY FOR ULTRA320 BUT
RATHER FROM A DESIRE AMONGST ACTIVE
COMPONENT SUPPLIERS TO NOT BE BEAT TO
MARKET AND TO NOT BE DEFINED OUT OF THE
STANDARD

• WHILE THESE PRESSURES ARE REAL FOR THESE
SUPPLIERS, THE PRICE FOR YIELDING AND
EFFECTIVELY ABDICATING THE RESPONSIBILITIES
OF THE SCSI STANDARDS BODY TO PRODUCE A
SIMPLE, INTEROPERABLE STANDARD IS TOO HIGH
• THE SCSI PLENARY SHOULD GIVE A STRONG MESSAGE TO THE SPI-4 AD HOC TO DELIVER A PROPOSAL THAT HAS THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:
  – A SINGLE SET OF REQUIREMENTS ON THE SIGNALS INDEPENDENT OF THE LOSS ENVIRONMENT
  – A SINGLE SET OF REQUIREMENTS ON THE LAUNCHED SIGNAL LEVEL
  – A SINGLE SET OF REQUIREMENTS ON THE INTERCONNECT THAT ARE ENFORCEABLE BY PRACTICAL MEASUREMENTS

• AS ALWAYS, CLOSED, ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS THAT USE OTHER PROPERTIES ARE NOT PRECLUDED BY THIS APPROACH

• THIS DIRECTIVE MAY PRODUCE SOME NEAR TERM “LOSERS” BUT WILL NOT DAMAGE SCSI AS A TECHNOLOGY -- THE TIME IT TAKES TO PRODUCE THE NEW PROPOSAL WILL BE WELL SPENT

• FAILING THIS APPROACH, THE MARKET WILL PRODUCE THE SAME LOSERS AND WILL DRAG THE REST OF SCSI DOWN AS WELL