Call for Participation
Media Changer / Data Transfer Element Interface Working Group
9:00 AM, Tuesday, November 6, 2001
Monterey, California

(Posted as T10/01-347r0)

Tape (and other removable media) drives installed in media changers typically are controlled by the media changer via a private RS-422 serial link. To date there is no widely-accepted protocol to be run over these links. This has meant that whenever a drive is integrated into a new library, new firmware must be written and debugged by the drive vendor or the library vendor or (usually) both. The results are delays in product introduction and sometimes customer problems.

We now have an opportunity to develop an open standard for drive / library communications. Adaptec, host of the November 2001 T10 Plenary Week in Monterey, California, has made available a room all day on Tuesday, 6 November, for an initial meeting. All interested parties – and especially manufacturers of media changers and removable media drives – are welcome.

The standard developed will NOT be an American National Standard; the meeting is being held during T10 Plenary Week purely for the convenience of the participants. Development of the standard must follow the commonly-accepted rules for due process, consensus, and notification of patent applicability. It is not anticipated that this effort will extend to licensing, development of test suites, or any form of compliance certification. It is not anticipated that this effort will be anything other than *ad hoc* – no formal membership, dues, etc.

To further clarify the scope of this interface, here are two scenarios of its use:

1. Independent media changer operation:

   Host issues MOVE MEDIUM to library to load drive
   Library robot inserts medium in drive
   Library polls drive status over RS-422 until drive is ready
   Library returns SCSI status for MOVE MEDIUM command

2. In a low-cost library without Parallel SCSI or Fibre Channel interface, drive with SCSI / FC interface serves as bridge to library:

   Host issues MOVE MEDIUM to LUN 1 at drive's target ID
   Drive sends MOVE MEDIUM to library via RS-422
   Library robot inserts medium in drive
   Library polls drive status over RS-422 until drive is ready
   Library returns SCSI status for MOVE MEDIUM command via RS-422 to drive
   Drive sends SCSI status to host via SCSI / FC

Proposed Agenda:

- Introductions
- Establishment of ground rules
- Support (e-mail reflector, draft document distribution, etc.)
- Selection of facilitator, editor, and secretary
- Presentations on requirements
- Presentations on proposed solutions
- Future meeting plans

Please come prepared to address as many of these items as possible.