

FROM: Dal Allan  
TO: X3T10 Membership  
RE: SFF Liaison Report

There have been two meetings of SFF since the last plenary. EIA CE-3.0 has re-structured the following SFF Specifications into the correct format for an ANSI standard, and are out to letter ballot. SFF members received a courtesy invitation to comment.

PN3556	SFF-8005	Small Form Factor 1.8" Drives	
PN3557	SFF-8006	Small Form Factor 1.3" Drives	PN3558
SFF-8010	Small Form Factor 15mm 1.8" Drives	PN3559	SFF-
8012	Power Connector Pin Dimensions		

There was extensive discussion over 'Second Sourcing' being an ambiguous term as connector vendors use it to mean interface mating compatibility but connector buyers preferred that it mean directly equivalent components. A goal was set to defined a limited set of back-end configurations:

Cable	One (common tooling to terminate all connectors)
Host	Two (provide for backplane and bulkhead differences)
Disk	Four (provide for variety of mechanical configurations)

AMP is hosting a SSWG (Specific Subject Working Group) to begin this activity on the SCA-2 connectors.

The suites of 82xx, 83xx and 85xx specifications include defined form factor dimensions for magnetic disks and 5 1/4" CD-ROMs, and their connector locations. Editorial changes for consistency between specifications were made by the SSWG. The only specification requiring extensive technical effort is 8342 for the SSA connector.

Molex submitted a proposal for a Unitized ATA connector.

The copy of SMART (Self Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology) submitted by Quantum was approved for publication as SFF-8035i.

There was extensive activity by the SCA SSWG on SFF-8045, 46 and 47. By reassigning pins, room was made for 3.3V and a new form of ESI (Enclosure Services Interface). The suggestion that 32V be provided on the same pins as assigned to 12V was not accepted because some mechanical interlock is needed to avoid burning up 12V drives plugged into 32V backplanes. There is a hope that the level of change to SFF-8046 for Parallel and SFF-8045 for Fibre Channel is close to an end.

A proposal submitted by Adaptec to specify a 25-pin Asynchronous SCSI connector was accepted as the SFF-8040 project.

SFF-8020 for ATAPI CD-ROM was Forwarded to X3T10 by ballot of the SFF members, and future revisions will be Information specifications. Rev 2.5 is almost completed as SFF-8020i.

Excellent progress was made on VHDCI (Very High Density Cable Interconnects) connector, as all previous proposals were consolidated into two at Harrisburg, led by AMP and Molex. The 8:5:1 poll at Harrisburg was 3:3:1 after the connector 'camps' were removed from the totals. As this did not represent a recommendation and there were questions on both proposals, AMP and Molex were asked to address them. The 8:4:3 poll yesterday was 4:1:3 after the connector 'camps' were removed from the totals. This was sufficient for the SSWG to justify a recommendation of AMP to the SFF Committee. A letter ballot of all members will choose the VHDCI connector.