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To: SPI Working Group

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Subject: STA Request for full SCSI support with LVDS

The SCSI Trade Association (STA) Will hold its general meeting Monday, January 8 at the X3T10 meeting site in Dallas, from 10-2 pm. At that time a technical committee will be created to advise the STA on technical issues involving the continued evolution of parallel SCSI. The first meeting of that committee will be the following day, Tuesday, from 2 - 5 pm.

The technical committee will NOT perform the same work as X3T10. It will try to find ways of positioning and marketing the technology we generate from the bottom up, and, through examining the general market and specific customer requests, generate a priority list of problems that need technical solutions. It will discuss and debate the form of solution, particularly trade offs between pure technical merit, material cost, development cost, and infrastructure support. But it will not work on the details of the solution - that is best left for other, more purely technical, forums.

As an example of the type of work it will do, one item for discussion in January concerns the degree to which Fast-40/LVDS will support other features of parallel SCSI. The market requirement is to reduce the number of SCSI variants, reducing customer confusion and lowering costs. Towards that end it may make a recommendation to avoid a pure LVDS solution, as opposed to the Universal (Single ended and LVDS in the same IO) solution.

The reason for this recommendation would be the lack of current support in a pure LVDS solution for some SCSI features such as SCAM. It would also allow someone to plug in a single ended device into a LVDS system and possibly damage a component, and at the minimum not work in a manner that would be difficult to diagnose and repair. Note that such a recommendation, if adopted by STA, would not have a direct impact on the work of the standards organization. But it would alter the attractiveness to customers of particular technologies, and so effect the size of the market for particular products. Obviously technical input would be desired before making such a recommendation.