To: X3T10 Members
Subject: ANSI International Participation Fee Levy

At the San Diego plenary meeting of X3T11 in December, the members discussed
the levying of IPFs (International Participation Fees), and what actions to
take concerning their unfair nature. The proposal considered covered several
scenarios, because companies have different ways of handling invoices.

The discussion started when the suggestion Bob Snively made in Palm Springs
of establishing an escrow for IPFs was discussed. The concept was greeted
well by the members because X3 and ANSI have refused to change the program
despite extensive discussions with Roger Cummings and John Lohmeyer.

Since much of the reluctance is due to loss of revenue concerns, it was felt
that several thousand dollars deposited to an escrow account would be an
inducement for X3 and ANSI to respond to member concerns.

There is a strong feeling amongst the members that X3T* committees are being
used as a revenue source to fund ANSI's international activities on behalf
of other committees.

Gary Stephens drafted the following principles based on X3T11 input as to
how members may want to proceed as individuals with regard to fees.

 1. Payment of Fees to X3 Secretariat

  a) Members involved in only one X3 committee pay only the X3 fees portion
     of their bill and exclude the IPF fee, accompany the bill with a
     letter explaining that non-payment of the IPF based on supporting the
     principle of a single IPF per individual participating in X3.
  b) Members involved in more than one X3 committee pay only the X3 fees
     portion of their bill and exclude the IPF fees, and accompany the
     payment with a letter explaining that non-payment of the IPF based on
     supporting the principle of a single IPF per individual participating
     in X3.
  c) Members who are involved in one or more X3 committees but have paid
     all the fees already (or work for companies which will not make
     partial payments) send X3 a letter expressing support for the
     principle of a single IPF per individual participating in X3.

2. Payment of Fees to an Escrow Account

  a) Members who have paid X3 fees to the Secretariat pay one IPF amount
     into an Escrow account pending successful resolution of discussions
     with X3 related to the IPF.
  b) Members pay all their fees for X3 to the Escrow account, and the X3
     fees are forwarded to the Secretariat. This simplifies invoice
     payments in some companies, but requires that members who want to do
     so contact Dal Allan to obtain an Invoice from the Escrow account.

3. Should any portion of the IPF amounts in escrow not be paid to the X3
   Secretariat, the X3T* committees will propose where and when to spend the
   funds including any accumulated interest.

Members who had already paid their fees or were in the process of doing so

were encouraged to write a letter expressing their dissatisfaction with the IPF. A sample letter was distributed over the reflectors.

There was extensive discussion on what it is that the members want to see as an outcome of this effort to draw attention to the inequity of the present situation ($300/committee is small compared to T&E costs of participation but there are important principles involved). The following represents what X3T11 members consider an acceptable resolution.

Successful Resolution

  a) Members are supplied with budget information indicating the sum of
     IPFs collected, and the use of the IPF funds.
  b) Members receive information about the basis for collection of fees
     from other Accredited Standards Committees and the relative scale of
     the sums involved.
  c) Justification as to why editors are required to create two differently
     formatted standards, one for ANSI and the other for ISO (ANSI agreed
     to adopt the ISO format years ago, but has produced its own unique
     style despite this).
  d) X3T* members will approve any final resolution. If the final
     resolution should be to pay the IPF fees, any funds held in escrow
     will be forwarded to X3 along with an accounting of who paid the IPFs.

The drop dead date for payment of fees is March 1. Since X3T11 has a plenary in February, formal action on establishing an escrow is to be delayed until X3 and ANSI have an opportunity to respond.

X3T10 has to make a decision in January plenary with regard to the level of support for the X3T11 recommendations.

It is hoped that John and Roger will have an update on the reaction by X3 and ANSI which may prove more useful than the written response sent to Dal Allan. This letter stated that ANSI decided long ago to levy the IPF by American committee participation and no change would be considered.

When X3T13 forms in January, all members who also belong to X3T10 will find themselves billed for IPFs. X3T13 can decide not to participate in ISO activities and thereby avoid the IPF levy. Roger Cummings is to investigate what is involved in X3T11 withdrawing from ISO SC23/WG 4 activity.

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Sample letter to: X3 Secretariat   202-638-4922Fx
                ITI Council
                1250 Eye St #200
                Washington DC 20005

  All the interface projects in X3T10, X3T11, X3T12 and the soon to be
  formed X3T13 are covered at ISO SC25/WG4. As a member of these
  committees, I am therefore participating in only one international
  activity i.e. ISO SC25/WG4.

  Whether I participate in one or more Accredited Standards Committees does
  not add anything to the costs incurred by ANSI in its role of JTC/1 to
  ISO activities.

It is improper to levy X3T* members and Observers on the basis of their American standards efforts for a single ISO working group. There is not even strong international support for X3T* projects, several proposed as New Work Items have failed through lack of support by enough countries.

The benefits which flow to X3T* from participating in SC25/WG4 are very small. The present method of levying fees is an inequitable distribution by which funds raised from X3T* IPFs are being used to underwrite ANSI support of other standards groups.

I support the effort by X3T* committee members to restructure the IPF to be levied on the basis of one fee per individual per international activity they are involved in.