

# IM

## Information Market Marché de l'Information Informationsmarkt Mercado de la Información

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Directorate General XIII: Telecommunications, Information  
Industries and Innovation.

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The European Patent Office is converting 24 000 pages of patent information into electronic form every day. An upgraded version of the Commission supported Transdoc experiment is being used.

# Commission deluged by new ideas for European Information market

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## Storming ahead

When the European Commission advised by representatives of users, information providers and governments proposed a Call for Declarations of Interest, it was considering a small number of high quality demonstration projects. Initially launching three, four or five such projects was thought to be sufficient to act as a beacon for the market.

The aim was to give a visible, high profile challenge to companies around Europe to create real Community wide information services. Combining parallel user groups in Member States — whether these were professional groups or the general public — can create new economies of scale and healthy growth. The information industry needs to overcome linguistic, cultural and national barriers to respond to Europe's needs.

The Commission is planning to help such projects to the tune of 10 to 20 million ECUs and attack barrier problems.

The most refreshing result of 690 or so replies to the Call demonstrates that Europeans can respond well to the challenge of a twelve nation brain storm.

In a truly European market, information services to professional groups, companies and individuals could be cheaper, more comprehensive and easier to use because of the greater number of potential customers and increased competition.

How can new services break through the legal, linguistic and psychological barriers to link up with user groups over the breadth of the Community market?

The European Commission took extensive soundings from European information users groups, information service providers and government advisers. It concluded that a small number of large scale pilot or demonstration projects could provide the necessary breakthrough in quality, performance and ease of use to demonstrate the potential of a single European information market.

On 17 July it launched a Call for Declarations of Interest for the European information industry and users to send in their own ideas how they could best participate.

The response has been overwhelming.

Some 690 parcels, packages and letters detailing proposals have been received. Ideas from all corners of the Community give proof to the extremely wide interest provoked by the Call. Some of the ideas are summarized on a single sheet of paper. Others take the form of complete files of potential projects. They have been sent in from all sorts of industrial compan-

ies, big and small, research centres, public agencies and private individuals, libraries, trade associations, publishers and professional firms.

Postal strikes in France and disastrous storms in the U K that disrupted communications have not deterred people's enthusiasm. Some proposals have come in by express carriers, others telefax,

post and telex. Officials at DG XIII/B have received many queries by telephone.

What is European industry proposing?

Before the evaluation by experts, it is only possible to describe them in general terms. The specifics of proposals will remain confidential. At this

continued on page 2

### Proposals received so far

<b>Belgium</b>	47	<b>Italia</b>	58
<b>Deutschland</b>	95	<b>Ireland</b>	13
<b>Danmark</b>	13	<b>Luxembourg</b>	8
<b>España</b>	73	<b>Nederland</b>	58
<b>France</b>	130	<b>Portugal</b>	8
<b>Ellas</b>	8	<b>UK</b>	175

The distribution does not include late arrivals, nor distinguish international companies which have applied from Brussels or London.



## Research ministers visit ESPRIT expo

Commission Vice-President Karl-Heinz Narjes (second from left) leads Research Ministers including the Danish Council President Mr. B. Haarder (left) and German Minister Dr. Riesenhuber (second from right) on a visit of the ESPRIT Technical Week exhibition. ESPRIT Director Mr. J.-M. Cadiou is on the right.

EURONET is a European network for scientific, technical, social and economic information which should be operational by 1978.

Published by Directorate-General SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

## EURONET NEWS

EURONET is a European network for scientific, technical, social and economic information which should be operational by 1978.

### MULTILINGUAL CONGRESS 1977

The definitive breakdown of language barriers existing between producers and users of information is the theme of the third European Congress on Information Systems and Methods, which will be held from 3-8 May 1977 in Luxembourg under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities, in cooperation with the other Community institutions.

Contributing authors and participants will consist of documentalists and linguists concerned with multilingual aspects of information science. In view of the anticipated exponential growth of EURONET [1], users, the present multilingual status of the great majority of data bases could well prove a hindrance to many users. The Congress will therefore cover analysis of present-day developments in language utilization, rapid access to teratological resources, computer-aided synthetic models, human and machine-mediated translation techniques, multilingual thesauri and information retrieval systems, and automatic translation.

Experts will then attempt to define the evolution and future applications of multilingual systems, which fall into four categories: terminological data bases, multilingual thesauri, controlled-, and free-lexicon automatic translation systems.

### Recent Appointments

Professor Anat Flitner, Paris University, as special adviser to Dr. Brunner, Member of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for Research and Technology. Professor Flitner's area of concern is a facilitation policy in the EURONET environment.

M. J. J. Grassie, France PTT Administration, as EURONET project leader for the PTT Consortium. The project team reports to the Consortium Management Committee and is responsible for the drawing-up of study contracts and the evaluation of subsequent recommendations.

(Continued on Page 2, column 1)

[1] The European network for scientific and technical information.  
[2] The European Informatics Network.

## euronet NEWS

Bi-monthly Supplement to Euroabstracts

Issue No 2 August 1976

EURONET is a European network for scientific, technical, social and economic information which should be operational by 1977.

### EUROPEAN INFORMATICS NETWORK SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

The European Informatics Network (EIN) started working on 23 May 1976 — exactly on schedule — after contractual tests were completed on the communications between the initial five computer networks based at London, Milan, Paris, Zurich and Ipra (Northern Italy). The Anglo-French consortium SESALogica was responsible for developing the packet-switching communications system and its installation and commissioning.

EIN is the first general purpose international network to be funded at government level. It is financed by the Signatures of the COST '71 Agreement<sup>1)</sup>, namely: Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, and Eastarom.

EIN technology adheres to relevant international standards and has been adopted by the PTT Administrations of the Member States of the European Communities as the basis for EURONET's telecommunications network.

### SEMINAIRE SODIM<sup>2)</sup>

Il est prévu de tenir à Luxembourg du 28 septembre au 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 1976 un séminaire d'information et de consultation de documents sur le SODIM.

Ce séminaire est destiné à donner aux indicateurs une formation appropriée pour l'indexation de documents d'intérêt pour le fonds documentaire du SODIM. L'accès sera mis sur la relation entre indexation et retrieval.

Les recherches couvrant autant que possible tous les sujets traités par le système et, particulièrement, elles tiendront compte des domaines spécifiques traités aux divers participants.

Le nombre de participants sera de l'ordre de 20, comprenant des indicateurs associés au système SODIM et initiateurs.

Le séminaire se tiendra au Centre de Calcul de la Commission des Communautés Européennes ou éventuellement des facilités de recherche en mode conversationnel.

### ESA - CEC AGREEMENT COMES INTO EFFECT

The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC) have agreed on a basis for immediate practical collaboration in the field of information and documentation. The aim of this collaboration is to make available via EURONET the information services run by the ESA host computer at Frascati, Italy.

The foundations of this agreement were laid by the first Community Action Plan in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation, adopted by the Council of Ministers on 18 March 1975, which lays emphasis on harmonization between information and documentation services in the Member States. The integration of data bases managed by ESA will represent a concrete step towards this goal from the supplier's side.

ESA's Space Documentation Service (SDS) gives on-line access to some fifteen data bases — including data primarily on aircraft, but also on astronomy, physics and other related fields. This service, in fact, forms a network of its own.

According to the agreement, the two parties will regularly exchange information on current activities and development plans. Furthermore, a mixed team of ESA and CEC officials will be set up to deal with technical questions arising from this cooperative effort. Discussions will take place on the best ways of associating, as far as possible, ESA staff and experts with the implementation of the EURONET programme.

The inclusion of these data bases into EURONET will provide widened access to SDS, without, however, infringing on the rights of present SDS users, including those from non-Community countries.

[1] COST '71 is the eleventh project on a list drawn up by the Group "Observation européenne dans le domaine de la recherche Scientifique et Technique".  
[2] Le Système communautaire de Documentation et d'Information en Métrologie.

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- ALSO SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT HOST AND DATA BASE LIST



ISSUE NO 15 DIRECT INFORMATION ACCESS NETWORK FOR EUROPE JUNE/JULY

## EURONET trials underway



DIANE hosts, Euronet PTT correspondents, French government representatives and the French press gathered recently in Paris to discuss the latest stage of development of Euronet DIANE, with Serge Lantier, Euronet DIANE promotion manager. More detail in centre page.

The first packets have now been sent across Euronet links during preliminary acceptance tests for the Euronet telecommunications network. The trials are being carried out by the PTT consortium's project team for Euronet in conjunction with national PTT administrations.

Now that the network switching equipment (packet switching exchanges and remote concentrators) has been set up in the countries of the European Community, tests are commencing on network modes, the high-speed inter-terminal lines (9600 and 4800 bit/sec) and the equipment itself.

The provisional phase should last one month or so before DIANE hosts can physically connect and test terminal-to-host computer interaction.

### HOW TO BECOME A SUBSCRIBER

(Viai, France, page 2 - see Deutsch, Seite 2)

Two basic steps must be taken to become a subscriber to EuroNet DIANE:

- 1) Obtain a Euronet telecommunication passport from your national PTT/Euronet correspondent. A list of names and addresses is included in the centre pages.
- 2) The PTTs will also be in a position to provide detailed information on data transmission modes, connection procedures and terminal/modem requirements.

Yvonne Salla has now joined the Launch Team on secondment from the CNRS Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. She will be responsible for all network news and information services to be provided in the Euronet DIANE operations. Please contact Louvenberg (152) 4022, ext. 3511.

### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

1. List of PTT Euronet centres
2. DIANE Host addresses
3. DIANE Host and their facilities
4. DIANE data base description

### SUPPLEMENT SPECIAL

1. Euronet PTT correspondents
2. Euronet PTT addresses
3. List of services DIANE hosts can provide
4. Euronet data base descriptions

### SOMMERANZEIGE

Liste der nationalen Postverwaltungen Euronet. Die Adressen der DIANE-Informationsschwerpunkte. Die DIANE-Informationsschwerpunkte und ihre Informationsmöglichkeiten. Eine kurze Beschreibung der Informationsbanken.

# Fifty issues? It feels like fifty

"A detailed design definition study on a telecommunications sub-network meeting the requirements of EURONET is now under way," announced the photocopied pilot edition of EURONET NEWS, June 1976. The newsletter was proposed as a bi-monthly supplement to Euroabstracts and was published by the Directorate General for Scientific and Technical Information and Information Management (DG XIII) of the Commission of the European Communities.

The study, the article continued, would provide the basis for the detailed planning,

scheduling and budgeting of the "subnetwork operation". Another commissioned study had estimated that the cost to the European taxpayer of the proposed Euronet system would be one-third to one-tenth of the cost if several separate networks were set up along side each other.

According to replies to a Community wide questionnaire, the total number of databases considered as being desirable for access via Euronet amounted to 123, whilst those offered by Member States was 95 (80 of which were offered by one country only). Of those desired, 81

were European, 30 were American and 12 international.

The ten most wanted databases in Europe were Chemical Abstracts Service, Medlars, INSPEC Physical Abstracts, INSPEC computing, electric and electronic abstracts, US Government research announcements (NTIS), Nuclear Science Abstracts, Compendex, Excerpta Medica, INIS and AGRIS.

Now sporting a green striped masthead and typeset, issue No 2 of Euronet News announced that the European

Informatics Network, adopted as the basis for Euronet, had started operation on schedule on 25 May 1976.

Dr R K Appleyard, the Director General was quoted as saying: "The principles of operation (on Euronet) are actually quite simple Common Market principles. We wish to create a Common Market in scientific and technical information with all the advantages of this can confer. Information is, after all, a commodity which can be bought and sold, even if its value does not diminish with use but rather the contrary. . . For the user it will give a better choice of



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Marché de l'Information  
Informationsmarkt  
Mercado de la Información

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incorporating **DIANE NEWS**

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2 Comments and inquiries to:  
Commentaires et renseignements à:  
Fragen und Bemerkungen an:

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177 Route d'Esch  
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Tel.: (352) 48 80 41  
Telex: 2181

## Deluge from page 1

stage it can be said that many proposals tackle European market challenges and problems by advocating solutions which

- create new intelligent interfaces between the unskilled user and complex information systems
- exploit the convergence of new printing, publishing and communications technologies
- offer new types of full text databases or information services in strategic sectors
- create new products using optical disc technologies
- propose computer aided automatic translation such as SYSTRAN to break down linguistic barriers.

Officials expect that in early 1988 the key elements of proposals will be extracted. These will be analysed to guide decisions on demonstration projects and other action to be taken.

STOP PRESS:

DIANE HOST SERVICES NOW ON EURONET... Base, ESA-IRS, Infineon, Telesystèmes... DIANE Enquiry Service and JRC, figure test facility... (see page 6 for explanation of acronyms)



NO. 17 DIRECT INFORMATION ACCESS NETWORK FOR EUROPE DECEMBER 1979

EURONET goes live

The Euronet on-line information network is now open for free customer access... A recent meeting of the consortium's Management Committee in Paris noted in particular that...

Nine PTT Administrations of the EC member countries and the Commission of the European Communities... the network from 15 November 1979, in anticipation of the full commercial opening...

Firstly, it is necessary to check whether the host operator is connected to Euronet and which services are available... Secondly, it is not possible to access DIANE hosts without making previous arrangements...

Users see EURONET



The well-attended EURONET User Forum with Commission interpreters in the background to help overcome any language problems... user groups Euronet was used to demonstrate Infineon's file transfer facility...

New service open

The six-language on-line enquiry service for Euronet DIANE is now open, announced Barry Mahon, Head of the network's central Launch Team in Luxembourg... The service gives Euronet users a directory style list of the hosts and data bases...

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Call for DIANE shop... p.4
DIANE team UK... p.6
User survey suggests improvements... p.7



ISSUE NO. 32 DIRECT INFORMATION ACCESS NETWORK FOR EUROPE OCTOBER 1983

Οι Έλληνες συνδέονται με το Ευρωπαϊκό DIANE



The Ministry of Research and Technology, Mr G. Loukas (second from right) speaking at the Euronet Launch in Athens.

Greeks online with Europe... Greek based customers who want access to the 40 host organizations and 470 data bases of the Euronet DIANE system now have a fully online service... available to the network will be accessible free of charge until the official opening on November 15...

Οι χρήστες του δικτύου που δημιουργήθηκε στην Ελλάδα... Η Ελλάδα συνδέεται με το Ευρωπαϊκό DIANE... Η Ελλάδα συνδέεται με το Ευρωπαϊκό DIANE... Η Ελλάδα συνδέεται με το Ευρωπαϊκό DIANE...

Les utilisateurs grecs qui veulent avoir accès aux 40 bases de données d'Europe... La Grèce est connectée à EURONET DIANE... Les utilisateurs grecs qui veulent avoir accès aux 40 bases de données d'Europe...



ISSN 0258-5789

Information Market

Downstream from research Promoting the IMPACT of new information technologies... A new initiative is needed to continue the work of the European Commission as the prime innovator of the European electronic information market...

Information pour l'industrie... Information sur la biotechnologie... Edition électronique... Access to Euronet... The European Commission...

years...

supplier. For the supplier, a wider market."

Issue 7 of July 1977 reported the signing on behalf of the nine PTT authorities of an agreement to bring Euronet into operation by December 1978. A manufacturers consortium of SESA-Logica, Caradada, Italsiel, Christian Rovsing and SAIT agreed to create the network...

By October (Issue No 8) the Swiss, not being slow to spot a good thing, announced their intention to participate in Euronet as the first non-EC country. The advisory body for Euronet, the Group for Economic and Technical Aspects, held its first meeting with Mr F V Mahon (IIRS, Dublin) as chairman and Pierre Jégu (CEC) as secretary...

The first photo appeared in issue no 9 of December 1977: a Euronet display at the first International On-line Information Meeting in London 13-15 December.

The February/March 1978 issue announced an important Euronet breakthrough: for the first time a common, single distance-independent tariff for international data transmission would be established. Euronet would offer a reduc-

tion in charges of comparable services by a factor of between three and five to the benefit of thousands of users. The new tariffs were presented at a press conference in Brussels on 6 February.

Issue 13 (November/December 1978) brought the present blue and red colours - and a new title: Euronet DIANE News with its European Brain logo. "DIANE stands for Direct Information Access Network for Europe and represents the ensemble of information services available through the Euronet telecommunications network..."

The French network, Transpac, which pioneered the Euronet technology, opened to users in early 1979.

It was already clear from earlier issues that equipment availability problems would delay the launch of Euronet, foreseen as operational by 1977 in issue 1. Euronet trials were, in fact, signalled in the June 1979 issue and issue 17 of December was headlined "EURONET goes live".

The official inauguration had to wait to the next issue in March 1980 when Mme Simone Weil, President of the European Parliament, in the presence of Commission President Roy Jenkins and Dr Colombo, President of the

Council of Research Ministers, keyed into the network on a computer terminal. "Euronet is only a transport system and we must now create and develop a true information market within the Community," said Mr Jenkins.

"The first 700 users" was landmarked in the May 1980 issue followed by continued growth. Professor Georges Anderla, 60, director at DG XIII and an active promoter of Euronet, announced his resignation from the Commission in the September 1981 edition.

This paper, which was never afraid of polyglot reporting, added a few words of welcome in Swedish when Sweden joined Euronet DIANE in March 1982.

The July 1983 edition reported that after a seven year stretch as editor, Franco Mastrotodi had taken up a post at the Commission - at DG XIII in the area of new information technologies.

October 1983 saw the Greeks connected to Euronet. Succeeding issues saw the emphasis move to electronic document delivery and publishing and the need for a new generation of integrated, user-friendly information systems. The final plugs were pulled from Euronet on 31 December 1984. The network, however revolutionary in its concept of unified access procedures and distance-indepen-

dent tariff, was only planned to be temporary. The European PTTs had agreed to it on condition that it would eventually be replaced by interconnecting national networks.

This change was reflected in the new title that was sprung upon the readership in January 1986: Information Market.

The July 1985 edition (No 40) called for a rethinking of information market strategy: large catalytic projects were needed it said to unify the information market. An IMPACT programme could reinforce a single market through large scale translation or interpretation interfaces for business users or by unifying information facilities for European industrial or service sectors like travel, insurance, education or architecture.

The Commission's determination to break down internal barriers was recorded in Issue 42 with the unveiling of an information market policy programme.

With its growing circulation approaching 40 000 copies, Information Market gave a helping hand to the Call for Declarations of Interest which received a deluge of new ideas for the European information market.

The market is changing and, no doubt, this newsletter will continue to change with them.



See Page 4

## TED speaks Spanish and Portuguese

The full text of each tender listed in the TED (Tenders Electronic Daily) database is now available in both Spanish and Portuguese. The other bi-

ographical details concerning the type of tender, bid, procedure will be available in these languages in the near future.

## New material: DOMIS

A new database, DOMIS, giving information on technical consultancy services, printed publications and databases in the field of Materials is being loaded on ECHO.

A printed version on the file, Directory of Material Information Services, will be available at a later date.

## Infodial-Vidéotex



Monsieur Longuet, Ministre des PTT, 2<sup>ème</sup> à droite, a été accueilli sur le stand Euronet DIANE ECHO à Paris et on lui a brièvement décrit les activités du Groupe pour le développement du Marché de l'Information en Europe.

Au Palais des Congrès dans une atmosphère consacrée presque exclusivement au succès français, c'est-à-dire au Minitel, le ministre a reconnu l'utilité du Groupe, qui par ses activités ne se borne pas à un seul marché national d'information, mais couvre l'Europe entière et tout autre pays demandeur d'information.

1992 n'est pas loin . . . C'est en continuant sur cette lancée et suivant les règles établies par la Commission européenne, que l'Europe deviendra forte et offrira à tous et à chacun l'accès direct à l'information.

«Connaissez-vous TED, M. le Ministre?» Non. Après une brève explication la réponse fut: «Je prends votre dépliant pour en parler aux responsables de nos industries.»

Les lecteurs qui ne connaissent pas encore TED peuvent recevoir ce même dépliant en écrivant à ECHO.

## ECHO makes life easier for ESPRIT and Eurêka too.

Companies, universities and administrators wanting information about research projects carried out under the Community's ESPRIT programme or the wider collaboration of Eurêka (see IM48 p 3) now have instant reference on ECHO.

The European strategic programme for research and development in information technology, ESPRIT, has successfully encouraged firms and universities to collaborate in research projects. One difficulty in arriving at a successful collaboration arises in trying to find a partner who has similar or complementary experience to offer.

That should be easier now that details of the specialities of ESPRIT teams and many nationally-funded groups are available on an easily searchable computer database.

The ESPRIT information exchange system data collections contains, in fact, three

databases. **SDC1** lists detail of publicly funded information technology projects. Eurêka projects have already been added to this file. **SDC2** lists the sites, resources and facilities of ESPRIT project teams and **SDC3** gives the different electronic mail addresses of ESPRIT participants.

When you access ECHO, use the publicly available password: **IES**. Regular ECHO customers can use their own password.

Then type **BASE SDC1** to obtain the projects database. An info file is at hand called **INFO ESPRIT** and there are other help files such as **INFO SDC1QUICK** to give you a rapid run down on how to search the projects databases.

A menu driven system is currently under development and should make access even simpler.

## Irish and Greek DIANE workshops

DIANE workshops to introduce new users to the convenience and usefulness of on-line information will be held in Dublin on 10-11 February 1988 and in Athens on 19 to 20 April 1988.

Those who are interested in participating should

Contact: Mr Guy Hoeberechts  
DIANE Workshops  
177 Route d'Esch  
L-1471 Luxembourg  
Tel: +352 488041  
Telex: 2181  
Fax: +352 488040

## Les initiatives d'emploi locales? Demandez Elise

Le réseau Elise a été créé en 1985 avec le soutien des Communautés européennes afin de permettre l'échange d'informations sur les initiatives locales de création d'emplois.

Il propose une banque de données bibliographiques diffusée sur ECHO qui vous branche sur le développement

local, la création d'activités, les jeunes entrepreneurs, la lutte contre la chômage, la formation professionnelle, les coopératives etc . . .

Chaque document présenté comprend le titre en langue originale et en français ainsi qu'un résumé de cinq à dix lignes rédigé soit en français soit en anglais.

ECHO, 177 Route d'Esch, L-1471 Luxembourg, Tél: +352 488041, Telex 2181  TED.  ECHO

Nom .....

Société .....

Adresse .....

## European statistics on diskette

EUROSTAT, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has launched in cooperation with the German company DSI, Data Service & Information, a new service for the dissemination of statistics. The most important economic indicators of the twelve member countries of the EC, the USA and Japan will be available on diskette.

Example:

Consumer Prices - General Index - Annual Variation					
Countries	Periods	03.87	04.87	05.87	06.87
Deutschland		-0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
France		3.3	3.5	3.4	3.3*
Italia		4.2	4.4	4.2*	4.4*
Nederland		-0.7	-0.7	-0.6	-0.3*
Belgique		1.3	1.4	1.7	1.7
Luxembourg		0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4
Untd Kingdom		4.0	4.2	4.1	4.2
Ireland		3.4	2.8	2.8	2.8
Danmark		5.3	3.1	3.3	3.4
Espagne		6.2	6.2	5.9	4.9
Grece		16.8	17.6	17.7	18.1
Portugal		9.8	8.9	9.5	8.9
EUR-12		3.1*	3.3*	3.2*	3.2*

An annual subscription of ECU 600 comprises the whole history of the 600 time series and the subsequent monthly updates. An order can be made for the data only (in all popular formats) or together with DSI's Maxdata software, which enables further processing of the data. The titles of the time series and the software will be available in English, French or German. The first clients of the new service will get special conditions.

Contact: EUROSTAT  
Mr. A. Szauer  
P.B. 1907  
L-2920 Luxembourg  
Tel: +352 4301-3526

## Photos online



Details about photographs dating back nearly 140 years may be traced in the ICONOS database on Questel Plus. The file includes photographic collections in France, names of professional photographers, public photo libraries such as archives, ministerial photo li-

braries, and private photo libraries including press agencies and publishers. Some 370 000 records are listed.

Contact: Télésystèmes Questel  
83-5 Boulevard  
Vincent-Auriol  
F-75013 Paris  
Tél: +33 1 45 85 43 08

## PAF - mark 2

SilverPlatter have announced an improved version of its CD-ROM Post Office Address File - PAF-ROM2. Business and residential identification markers are now added to the updated address

file and Ordnance Survey grid reference information links in with the postcodes.

Contact: SilverPlatter  
10 Barley Mow Passage  
London W4 4PH  
Tel: +44 1 995 8242

## Surveying electronic publishers

Organising conferences can produce other valuable market intelligence (See page 10). Online who organise the Electronic Publishing conference and expo have surveyed a number of the attendees and come up with a picture of the potential and actual electronic publisher.

One third of those surveyed come from companies with a turnover under £ 500 000 and 20% from large companies with turnover more than £ 50 million. Of current users nearly half use built-up systems from several suppliers and a third use complete systems from a single supplier. Sophisticated wordprocessing systems are used by 18%.

What do they use systems for? Current or potential users say promotional brochures (73%) reports (65%) news-

letters (62%) and to a lesser extent training material, technical reports, user documentation and forms.

What stops them buying is as often the difficulty of finding systems to meet their needs as much as the need for capital investment. Integration with existing systems is also important.

Why go for electronic publishing? Business services often go for cost saving and saving time. Whereas the publishing and printing industries are more attracted to the quality of output and flexibility.

Contact: Online Publications  
Pinner Green House  
Ash Hill Drive  
Pinner, Middlesex  
HA5 2AE  
Tel: +44 1 868 4466  
Telex: 923498

## Chemical Abstracts demands royalty changes

European and American hosts have reacted with consternation and dismay at the new licensing agreements which the Chemical Abstracts Service is demanding for 1988.

The new licences will entail a complex royalty arrangement in addition to simple connect time charges.

At a meeting in Paris on 22 September executives of five hosts, ESA-IRS, Datas-tar, Orbit Infoline, Télésystèmes Questel and Dialog met with CAS director Mr Jim Seales.

Mr Seales estimated that the new system would raise prices by ten per cent though he confessed that no one would really know until the new system

had started. Mr Pierre Buffet of Télésystèmes Questel said that the lack of notice of pricing gave his company only two weeks to perfect software in order to establish correct user prices for 1988.

Hosts were concerned about legal implications of having to report on customers' online behaviour. Similar changes could be demanded by other database vendors. Hosts also expressed their concern about the monopoly retained by CAS on some strategically important CAS files, such as the abstracts.

CAS has also recently announced its exclusive offering of future National Materials Property Data Network (NMPDN) data-bases.

## Financial brokerage

The Investext database on Data-Star contains full text research reports of the world's leading brokerage firms and securities analysts. Such research reports are estimated to cost over £250 million per annum but cost only £4 per page online.

There are some 44 000 full text reports in the database, which is produced by Business Research Corporation. Cur-

rent analysis, opinion and forecast on 50 industrial groups and over 7 500 companies are offered with typically 3 to 10 page overviews on the company's financial health, management team, corporate goals, marketing strategies and competitors.

Contact: Data-Star  
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114 Jermyn Street  
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Tel: +44 1 930 55 03

# NETWORKS

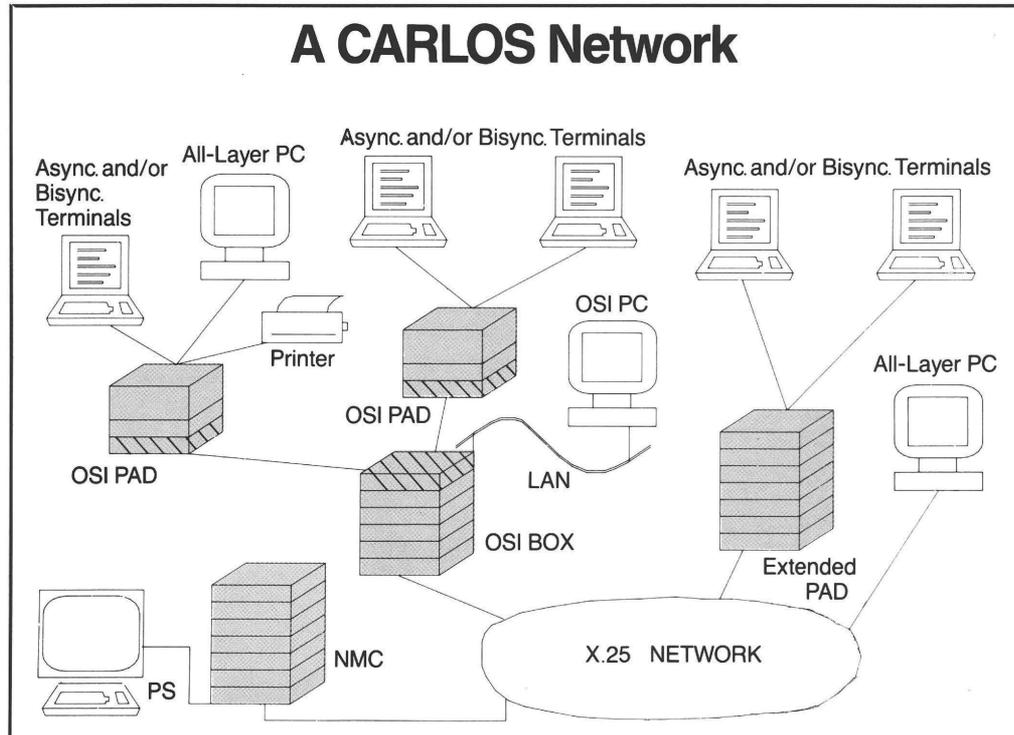
## Carlos: Connecting yesterday's terminal to tomorrow's systems

OSI avoids the need for manufacturer A having to create interfaces AB, AC, AD etc to systems made by manufacturer

B, C and D. Instead each of them interfaces to an open system: AO, BO CO etc. The ESPRIT project CAR-

LOS (Communications Architecture for Layered Open Systems) tackles the problem of where to put the software

that enables incompatible devices to communicate: how much should go into users' computers and how much should be built into the networks between them.



Carlos components can be installed readily alongside currently existing equipment. The modularity of the architecture allows the incorporation of alternative communications services such as X21 services or LAN subnetworks. The OSI-PAD connects to the network via the services of an OSI-BOX which provides five layers to work with the two layers of the PAD. The extended PAD with all seven OSI layers connects directly to an existing X25 packet switching network. Both PADs can be managed from the network management centre (NMC) which can detect failure of software, collect statistics and transmit configuration data to the components.

**Contact:** RC Computer  
Klamsagervej 19  
DK-8230 Abyhøj  
Tel: +45 625 0411  
Telex: 64169 rcrak dk  
Telefax: +45 625 0992

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INDEX. COSMIC. CPI. CURRENT BIOTECH. EDF-DOC. EDIN. EI MEETING  
ENERGYNET. ENVIROLINE. EUDISED. FOOD SCIENCE. FLUIDEX. HSELINE. INIS

### The European approach to Online Information

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## Network Nine for visiting onliners

British Telecom provides home-from-home accommodation for travelling onliners visiting London. Network Nine gives plug in access to PSS — no modem required. In fact you don't have to provide your own terminal; equipment for most applications is already there up to and including a DEC 11/750.

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**Contact:** Network Nine  
19 Stratford Place  
London WIN 9AF  
Tel: +44 1 629 9999

## Chemical info marriage

CEFIC, the European Council of Chemical Industry Federations, have begun implementing an electronic data interchange, EDI. Based on X.400 and EDIFACT standards, the Geisco system will facilitate the electronic exchange of business documents such as invoices and purchase orders between trading partners.

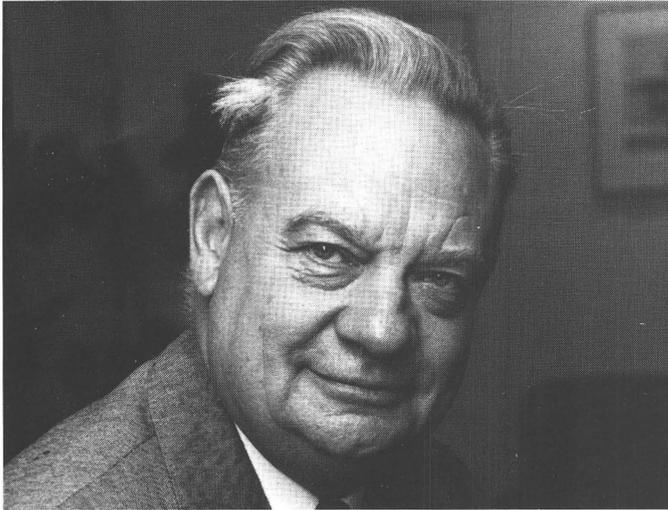
Geigy, Dow Chemicals, DSM, Dupont, ERT, Exxon, ICI, Monsanto, Montedison and Shell. The trial will provide access to Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

**Contact:** CEFIC  
250 Ave Louise Bte 71  
B-1050 Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 640 20 95

Participants in the first phase include Akzo, Bayer, Ciba-

# “Knowledge based industries are increasingly a Community priority”,

*interview with Director General Michel Carpentier.*



**Question:** Your responsibilities as Director General of DG XIII comprise both the former Information Technology Task Force at Brussels and the directorates at Luxembourg dealing with Information Market and Innovation. Research on telecoms and IT, hardware, software and information-ware and trans-European encouragement of innovation and ideas now fall within this ambit. How has this worked in practice?

**M. Carpentier:**

First I would like to congratulate your publication on reaching its fiftieth issue. Euronet was a pioneer in the European information world: it brought single, Europe-wide tariffs and created the basis for a single European information market.

In some ways the directorate general has to face up to European information market problems on a small scale: we have directorates in Brussels and Luxembourg. On top of that we have to keep in constant touch with industrial concerns and government ministries throughout the Community. We know the need for a real European information market!

Officials in the directorate general who work more in offices than 200 km apart are getting to know each other, either through face to face contact, by telephone, telex,

telex, electronic mail, teletex, or through voice contact in teleconferences or videoconferences. With a service that represents European information industry, from the hardware, telecommunications networks through to knowledge based systems, we are obliged to use modern systems to communicate with each other. An increasing synergy is apparent.

**What are the main tasks for DG XIII now?**

The directorate general's responsibility is to put forward and carry out activities that will give the Community as a whole the ability to control its own future in all aspects of that vital commodity of our society — information. The whole information cycle — capturing, storing, forwarding, transmitting, applying and marketing information — this process requires a coherent drive and a continuous feedback of manufacturers and users. I mean here, hardware and software producers including networks, knowledge-ware producers, the market for services and the end user or consumer of information.

The technological activities of DG XIII such as ESPRIT and RACE are now well under way. Along with IT and telecoms standards, which are central to our European strategy, I am presently putting a priority on information ser-

vices, innovation and knowledge-based applications. This is increasingly a priority for the Commission and the European Community as a whole.

**Industrial firms sometimes complain at the heavy bureaucratic procedures of the European Institutions. How can the Commission respond quickly to industrial needs?**

The Commission does respond quickly. On ESPRIT, for example, we have received five times more proposals than the first-phase funding could cover, yet the programme is well ahead of schedule despite the vast amount of work required to select, coordinate and implement more than 200 sophisticated research projects bringing companies and research institutes together across frontiers for the first time. Community programmes would not be so over-subscribed if they were heavily bureaucratic.

We do not only respond quickly but we take the initiative in meeting industrial needs, for instance in launching the Green Paper on the European telecommunications market; in developing action programmes for new technology in health, education and road safety; in starting a special telecommunications action for regional development; in pushing ahead with electronic translation, and in many other areas. It is largely due to Commission initiatives that European industry can lead the world in the vital area of standardization.

It is simple-minded to confuse administration with bureaucracy. The Commission is a lean organisation — each Commission administrator is responsible for the management of more than 1 million ECU per programme, whereas his counterpart in the most efficient Member State only manages a quarter of that figure. The Commission's job is to remove red tape, not create it — for instance by replacing the 70 or so different customs forms in the Community by a

single administrative document. And I can assure you that the speed of response of this directorate-general compares favourably with that of any administration operating in similar conditions of complexity.

**What have been the principal achievements of ESPRIT I?**

Let me quote the “New Scientist” correspondent who covered the 1987 ESPRIT conference: “Judging by the noise and the atmosphere that pervaded last week's conference and exhibition, the one thing that cannot be disputed is that Europe's information technology community has proved it can work together”. That is perhaps the principal achievement of ESPRIT I, because the proof that we can work together in high technology now underlies the creation of a European Technology Community of very far-reaching significance. *continued on p 9*

## Directorate General XIII Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation

### Staff Plan

**Director General:** Michel Carpentier

**Deputy Director General with special responsibility for directorates B and C:** Vicente Parajon Collada

**Directorate A: Information technology — ESPRIT:** Jean-Marie Cadiou

**Directorate B: Information industry and market:** Cornelis Jansen Van Rosendaal

**Directorate C: Exploitation of research and technological development, technology transfer and innovation:** Albert Strub

**Directorate D: Telecommunications:** Tjekko Schuringa

**Directorate E: Support for sectorial activities:** Michael Hardy.

# POLICY

## A guide to IT programmes



### ESPRIT

The European Strategic Programme of research and Development in Information Technology, ESPRIT, began in pilot phase in 1983. The main programme 1984-89 had a budget of 750 Million ECUs from the Community on a 50% cost sharing basis with companies, universities and research centres. The major aims were to improve Europe's IT capability, to reinforce technological cooperation and pave the way to internationally accepted standards.

A second phase of the ESPRIT programme building on the achievements of the first has been proposed to the Council. It will have a budgetary envelope of 1 600 MECUs and concentrate on three sectors: microelectronics and peripheral technologies; information processing systems and thirdly, IT application technologies.

### RACE

Research and development in Advanced Communications in Europe — is designed to help create the telecommunications channels and infrastructure for the mid 1990s on. Such a broadband network will allow the digital transmission of both images and data. The 18 month definition phase, lavaged in 1985, studied the challenges and problems of the project itself. The main RACE programme will establish the technological base for the introduction of Community wide integrated broadband communications network, the equipment necessary and the definition of new standards.

The main programme should be launched by the end of 1987, on the basis of 550 MECUs from the Community budget over 5 years.

### AIM

A pilot phase of 20 MECUs over 18 months for a medical and bio-informatics pro-

gramme, AIM, is designed to contribute to the sustained improvement in health care for the 1990s within economically acceptable limits by exploiting new technologies. By then new techniques will include Telemedicine in which diagnostic services could be offered by use of advance telecommunications. Diagnostic packs could reduce the necessity of moving patients and improving access to the doctor. Open Hospital Care would provide care outside hospital through equipment interworking with telemetry and remote control systems. Tailoring and delivering drugs to specific patient needs through a customised pharmaceuticals approach could reduce side effects and speed recovery.

### DRIVE

DRIVE is a programme aimed at improving the efficiency of road transport and road safety and reducing its negative impact on the environment. With a budget of 60 MECUs over a 30 month period, the programme will develop a reference model, establish protocols and norms, promote a road transport information technologies and elaborate an action plan.

### DELTA

DELTA — Developing European Learning through Technological Advance — is aimed at harmonising the development of multimedia equipment, teachware and service in the field of learning systems, especially for professional training. The programme is to be launched in a pilot phase with 20 MECUs made available over an 18 month period. DELTA covers 5 action lines including Europe wide concertation on present and future needs, development of appropriate learning technologies, testing and validation activities, standards and evaluation of favourable conditions for the use of these learning technologies and systems.

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## Nostalgia, experts and users

For those readers with a sense of nostalgia, reading the reprint of Prof J D Bernal's seminal contribution in 1939

**Scientific communication** may give pause to reflect: he advocates the publication of scientific papers on demand to supersede that of learned journals themselves. His and other efforts to deal with the burgeoning demands and production of scientific information are reproduced in a series of reprints called **The origins of information science**, edited by A J Meadows.

**Text retrieval**, an introduction edited by Ian Rowlands is a short guide designed to explain the need, benefits and practice (hardware and software considerations) of TR for an information department. Case studies of Scimate, STAIRS and CAIRS are included.

Pilots of the US space shuttle avoided using autopilot on landing because they didn't want to lose self esteem by

being the first to use it. An expert system was installed to indicate when autopilot should be used. In industry, some expert systems are regarded with too much awe when they should be considered to be no more than a nudge to the elbow for decisions. **Expert systems for decision-making** edited by Patricia Baird deals the appropriateness, limits and effectiveness of some systems.

**Online: information retrieval in practice** edited by Linda Dorrington is the proceedings of the 2nd UK Online User Group State of the Art conference, held in Bristol in 1986. Papers include topics on end-user searching, training, computer developments and document delivery. Verina Horsnell's final paper summarises a number of current problems and issues in information retrieval.

**Contact: Taylor Graham, Publishers**  
500 Chesham House  
150 Regent Street  
London W1R 5FA

## Carpentier interview from p 7

The facts are that ESPRIT I is focussed the work of some 3000 high-level researchers on the strategic technology European industry needs for the 1990s and impressive results have already emerged from some 50% of the projects, even though most of them have not yet reached completion. Many of the results were on show for the first time at this autumn's ESPRIT Conference, where more than 50 ESPRIT teams brought demonstrations. Industrial products resulting from ESPRIT work are already coming on to the market.

The 500 or so partners in ESPRIT I represent companies of all sizes, universities and research institutes from all over the Community, who are successfully working together across borders at all levels. The result is a considerable renewal of industrial confidence and technological ambitions, significant progress in strategic technologies and standardisation, and a change in the European IT landscape that is already putting us in a much better position to meet international competition in the 1990s.

**With Council agreement on the Framework Programme**

**defining the budgetary envelope for EC research and development programmes, the Commission has proposed a whole series of new initiatives: DRIVE in transport systems, AIM in medical informatics, DELTA in distance training and education as well as RACE on broadband telecoms and ESPRIT II. What's behind this spate of programmes?**

These are carefully-designed programmes — not a "spate" — which make up an overall, coherent, Community strategy aimed at providing the European economy with the necessary means for international competitiveness in advanced sectors with a high technological added value. They are closely allied to the completion of the internal market scheduled for 1992.

European action needs to address both technology and markets. Application programmes such as these are not only designed to bring the benefits of new technology more quickly into everyday life, for example in health care and education, but to accelerate the development of a Europe-wide market — offering major economies of scale

## Disc and database

British databases whether available online or on compact disc are listed in a slim volume jointly produced by the British Council and CICI. Thematic entries include marketing, management, finance, companies, medical and pharmaceutical, chemistry, pa-

tents and education. Some hosts details are given and a bibliography.

**Contact: Brian Green**  
British Council  
65 Davies Street  
London W1Y 2AA  
Tel: +44 1 930 8466

## BL R & D publications

The global structure of the electronic information services industry and a market survey of library users' needs in Cheshire **What kind of library?** are two of a broad range of reports, surveys and papers in the latest catalogue

of Publications from the R&D department of the British Library.

**Contact: British Library**  
R&D Publications  
2 Sheraton Street  
London W1V 4BH  
Tel: +44 1 323 7054

## Saturn for distance learning

A new pan-European association, SATURN, has been created between industries and universities. With the aid of a grant from the European Community's COMETT programme, Saturn has enlisted major distance learning organisations with the aim of sharing expertise, resources and training, identifying spe-

cific needs and keeping industry informed about distance learning methods and techniques. A brochure is available in French, German and English.

**Contact: Saturn**  
P O Box 564  
Walton Hall  
GB- Milton Keynes  
MK7 6DG  
Tel: +44 908 652108

for enterprises and greater choice for users — and to stimulate enthusiasm for innovation throughout that market, so that there is a faster take-up of new technology in the Community. Clearly Standardisation plays a key rôle, via these application programmes and throughout our strategy, in creating such a European market.

**Question: The Commission has also proposed a more modest action plan for 1989-90 to stimulate a really European information services market. Given that companies spend 10 to 100 times more money on the down market side than research, shouldn't more attention be given to creating European services and professional user groups?**

We're talking here more about knowledge based systems. These are yet a further development of the IT revolution. Databases have been with us for some time, but the market for individual professional information systems is still in its infancy. Certain sectors have of course developed more rapidly than others, the financial one, for example.

Other professional areas are just realising what the equivalent European or world economy of scale could bring as advantage. Some of these developments will depend on getting the right networks, hardware and software in place, before the information systems (or information-ware) can be properly exploited.

The recent Call for Declarations of Interest has given us a good indication on the huge potential for these markets. In the past when we have made a Call for proposals for new databases or advanced information systems we have received a greater number than we could respond to — perhaps 150 proposals. This time we asked for large scale demonstration projects that would indicate the potential of the single European market. So far we have received nearly 700 proposals and the officials concerned tell me that a large proportion of these are of very high quality.

We have obviously released a creative torrent of industrial applications. We will do our best to respond to them with the resources at our disposal. The first projects could be selected by early next year.

## A dash of colour



Do computer users prefer colour? Studies so far indicate that most users of VDUs do prefer it — even though there is little evidence that it improves their performance. But inexperienced users, for example, can be helped more by colour coding than practiced users.

Writing in **International Reviews of Ergonomics**, Vol 1, Jules Davidoff of the University College of Wales at Swansea, says that the nature of the task to be performed with a visual display is critical for decisions on the use of colour. For most detection and search

tasks, segmentation of a display by colour is useful, perhaps essential.

Colour is, however, of little use in identification, categorization (excluding naming) and memorization since such mental representations do not seem to require colour. After surveying the literature, Davidoff gives recommendations where colour can be effectively used.

**Contact: Taylor and Francis, Publishers**  
Rankine Road,  
Basingstoke,  
Hampshire RG24 OPR  
Tel: +44 256 840366  
Telex: 85 85 40

## New way to communicate

The conference proceedings of the symposium **Electronic publishing: the new way to communicate** (ISBN 1-85091-263-7) have arrived in a fully presentable, typeset form and between hard covers less than a year after the meeting. Edited by Franco Mastroddi the 344 page volume gives both a broad sweep and provocative insights to the subject. The CEC, which jointly publishes the volume, may envy the impact of the US Federal government which can stimulate its own market with an estimated \$ 1.5 Billion worth of electronic publishing procurement.

Those who attended the symposium (who also receive the volume) will also have a post conference contribution by Mastroddi and Page evaluating

the Commission's successful electronic document delivery and publishing experiments called DOCDEL. Other chapters deal with the impact, economic and user aspects and the future potential of DOCDEL.

Further sections cover broader aspects of electronic publishing, pre-press techniques, advanced telecoms, home based information systems in Japan and the minitel boom in France. The valuable discussions between expert participants have been summarised for readers as well as their replies to a questionnaire and their recommendations to the Commission for future action.

**Contact: Kogan Page**  
120 Pentonville Road  
London N1 9JN

## Chinese online

The second Beijing international symposium on computerised information retrieval "Database development and Chinese information needs" will be held 7-11 December.

**Contact:**  
Mr Wang Xiaozhu  
CSSTI  
PO Box 640  
Hepingli  
Beijing, China  
Tel: 46 47 46



# Knowledge.

## Databases for Science and Technology

Knowledge is the most important resource in all high-tech countries — for the facilitation of research and development. The direct access to information is via STN International, the Scientific & Technical Information Network. The user-friendly databases on science and technology offer up-to-the-minute information including architecture and building construction (ICONDA, RSWB, COMPENDEX), chemical technology (CAS Online, VtB-Verfahrenstechnische Berichte, DECHEMA), mathematics (MATH), physics (Physics Briefs/Physikalische Berichte), engineering (NTIS, INSPEC, COM-

PENDEX) or all fields of patent documents and utility models (PATDPA). The scope of available data is constantly expanded. STN International is operated cooperatively by FIZ Karlsruhe, the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (JICST).

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## The way forward

In formulating the the chapter on Research and Technological Development in the Single European Act, negotiations the Council proceeded quickly on various types of Community action such as programmes, coordination with national research and the creation of joint undertakings.

Divergence came on decision-making, says Richard Corbett in **The dynamics of European Union**, edited by Roy Pryce, (ISBN 0-7099-4327-X). The need for unanimity in adopt-

ing a multi-annual Framework Programme has caused present delays in many Community programmes.

The way forward writes Pryce is for two principles to be followed: no Member State or minority group should be able to prevent the majority moving forward; and secondly, no individual State should be obliged to subscribe to objectives to which it disagrees.

Contact: Croom Helm, Publishers  
Burrell Row  
GB-Beckenham, Kent  
BR3 1AT

## Información electrónica

Durante 1986—1986 la Fundación FUINCA ha promovido tres encuentros de especialistas con el ánimo de despejar algunas incógnitas sobre el futuro de la edición electrónica: EURIPA Open Meeting, las Jornadas sobre Venta de Información Electrónica y la Primera Semana de las Bases de Datos. La lectura de estas ponencias recogidas en este libro contribuirá a la cura de rejuvenecimiento del sector editor tradicional y

al mismo tiempo, servirá de señal indicadora a los nuevos editores de información electrónica.

Este mercado se presenta por el momento como un terreno peculiar dado lo intangible del producto. Expertos españoles y extranjeros examinan algunos de los elementos básicos de la estrategia comercial, conscientes de que en este terreno todavía no está todo definitivamente escrito.

## Nordic online

Databas '88, the Nordic online conference and exhibition, will open in Stockholm on Monday 25 January 1988 for three days. Topics are

aimed at beginners, information specialists and database producers.

Contact: Peder Jonsson  
KREAB  
Sköldungagatan 4  
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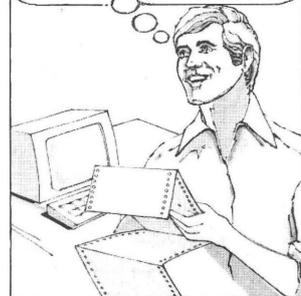
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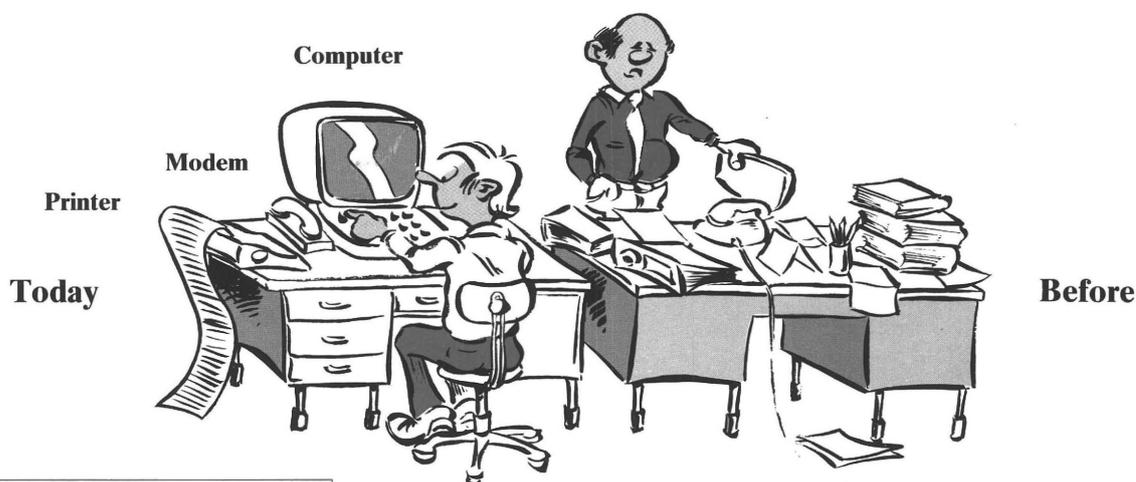
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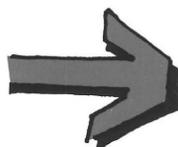
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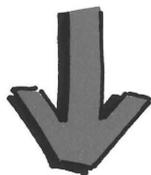
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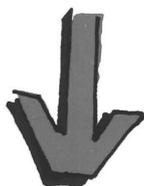
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help. The published version is  
called: **Directory of Library and  
Information Retrieval Software  
for Micro-computers** by Hilary  
Dyer, published by Gower Press



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in your area.

## General information

— To obtain general information (lists of hosts, PTTs intermediaries, user groups, etc.), write to:

ECHO  
177, route d'Esch  
L-1471 Luxembourg

— For specific questions or problems:

Telephone: Luxembourg (+ 352) 48 80 41  
Telex: 2181.

The ECHO team will call you back to save telephone costs.