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Major progress for COSMIC FFP...

This newsletter reports significant achievements and developments for the COSMIC-FFP Method

- British Computer Society medal for COSMIC-FFP
- First Entry-level certification examinations for the COSMIC-FFP method

• New data gathering initiative with ISBSG to upgrade COSMIC-FFP based benchmarks

• 'KnowledgePLAN®' estimating tool accepts COSMIC-FFP input, and 'MeterIT'(a tool that supports the capture of COSMIC-FFP measurements and their use

for estimating) announces an upgrade. We hope you enjoy this newsletter

Charles Symons & Alain Abran (joint COSMIC project leaders)

Recognition and endorsement

Each year the British Computer Society makes an annual series of professional awards in conjunction with a trade journal 'Computer Weekly'. This year the COSMIC-FFP method has been honoured to receive a BCS medal in the category 'Technical Services'.

A medal is awarded after a detailed review by a panel of independent judges, focusing on the following criteria:

- The element of originality - the most important criterion
- The level of exploitability -

concerned with the benefits and potential for exploitation

• The level of usage to date, requiring references to real users.

Although most users of the method prefer to remain anonymous, ten organizations agreed to our using their names in the submission made to the BCS, from Australia, Canada, Finland, India, Japan, Netherlands and the UK. These organizations use the method for sizing and estimating in both the business and real-time software domains.

One global leader in the telecoms industry stated that various units had implemented the method as standard practice for their effort estimation and some were using it as a vehicle for software development productivity measurement and monitoring. Furthermore, they stated: "the results for improving estimation accuracy by means of COSMIC-FFP based size measurement are very encouraging, especially the larger an estimated item, the better the result that is achieved."

First measurement specialists certified

When a software sizing method such as COSMIC-FFP is used to input sizes to a cost estimating method in a software supply contract, the sizing method

becomes seriously important in economic terms. Both parties to a software contract wish to be assured of the credibility of the measurement method and

of the validity of the size measurements. As a consequence there is a strong market-driven demand for measurement specialists who



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*"The first pilot
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Software
Measurement
European Forum in
Rome, Italy in May
this year."*

are certified as competent in the chosen measurement method.

COSMIC therefore started over a year ago to prepare a professional certification programme. Two levels of certification are planned, namely an 'Entry' level and an 'Expert' level.

The first pilot Entry-level exam was held at the Software Measurement European Forum in Rome,

Italy, in May this year. The exam, based on multi-choice questions covering the definitions, principles and rules of the method, was taken and passed successfully by participants from six countries. A follow-up exam was held in Montreal and more are planned for certain software metrics conferences taking place this autumn.

For more details on these exams, the list of successful candidates, and the locations

of future exams, go to www.gelog.etsmtl.ca/cosmic-ffp and follow links to 'Certification'. Any organization, such as a national Software Metrics Organization wishing to hold a COSMIC-FFP Entry-level examination should contact Alain Abran.

In 2007, COSMIC aims to introduce the Expert-level exam which will include the requirement to analyse and size domain-dependent case studies

Re-run of ISBSG data collection

The International Software Benchmarking Standards Group (ISBSG) database now has data on over 100 projects from a wide variety of software domains where the functional size was measured using COSMIC-FFP. A report on the first set of benchmarks, established in 2003 is available from ISBSG - see www.isbsg.org.

As announced in the previous COSMIC News (January 2006),

an exercise is now underway jointly with ISBSG to gather more data so as to refine and extend the benchmarks. For existing users and for organizations that may be considering piloting their use of the COSMIC-FFP method this is an ideal opportunity to

- measure a sample of projects
- submit the data (anonymously) to ISBSG

- and then to receive a FREE individual report on how your submitted performance data compare against the updated benchmarks.

Those interested to participate should contact Ton Dekkers via ton.dekkers@shell.com.

Knowledge Plan® supports COSMIC FFP

The following announcement was provided to COSMIC by Software Productivity Research.

"Founded by Capers Jones in 1983, Software Productivity Research, LLC is a leading provider of software estimation and measurement services and

tools. In 1997, SPR introduced KnowledgePLAN®, a PC-based enterprise software estimation model that followed its earlier, pre-eminent tools Checkpoint™ and SPQR/20™.

KnowledgePLAN® is a highly configurable parametric software project estimation

tool founded on functional size metrics that produces detailed estimates of effort, defects, staff and duration at the project task and phase level. The core estimating engine, a knowledge base of historical information incorporated within the tool, now includes more than 11,000 projects - representing a rich

cross section of technologies, industries, and methodologies.

The latest version supports COSMIC-FFP as the basis for estimates, among others, as a size input parameter. Internally, KnowledgePLAN uses COSMIC-FFP size measurements by converting these to IFPUG Function Points

using published conversion formulae. The tool also allows users to calibrate the estimating method to use COSMIC-FFP measurements directly.

SPR now partners with the International Software Benchmarking Standards Group (ISBSG) to offer “plug-

in” data sets as alternatives to standard SPR Knowledge Bases. In this way, users of COSMIC-FFP can produce estimates based upon data collected from comparable ISBSG data.”

For more, contact: www.spr.com.

MeterIT upgraded

“The latest version [of Knowledge Plan®] supports COSMIC-FFP as the basis for estimates, among others, as a size input parameter”

Bernard Londeix, French representative on the COSMIC International Advisory Council, has announced a new version

1.5 of his MeterIT tool which supports the capture of COSMIC-FFP measurements and their use for project

estimating. For more information see www.telmaco.com.

The COSMIC organization

The COSMIC organization is structured into two different bodies: the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of 22 members from 15 countries and the Measurement Practices Committee (MPC).

The COSMICON web-site, www.cosmicon.com, is kept up to date and describes the COSMIC organization. It also provides complete background data on

functional size measurement, FSM methods, etc.

Further information

If you have any questions or require further information on COSMIC-FFP, please contact your national representative on the COSMIC International Advisory Committee (see www.cosmicon.com, IAC).

If you would like to publish an article in this newsletter relating your experience with COSMIC-FFP, please forward a draft to the editor at: serge.oligny@bell.ca