



## COSMIC version 3 is here !

*"COSMIC version 3.0 represents the first major update of the COSMIC method in the past four years."*

*"Most importantly however, the basic model on which lies the foundation of the method has not changed since it was first published in 1999."*

*"The new material represents a major breakthrough [...] for the field of functional size measurement in general"*

*"These concepts will be especially relevant for usage in estimating methods and for all benchmarking activities"*

The Common Software Measurement International Consortium (COSMIC) is pleased to announce a major upgrade of the COSMIC Functional Size Measurement Method available under the designation "version 3.0". Consisting of three documents, COSMIC version 3.0 may now be downloaded free-of-charge from the website [www.gelog.etsmtl.ca/cosmic-ffp](http://www.gelog.etsmtl.ca/cosmic-ffp).

The three documents making up COSMIC version 3.0 are:

1. 'Documentation Overview and Glossary of Terms'. This document gives an overview of the structure of the COSMIC method documentation; it further lists and defines all terms that are common to all COSMIC documents,

2. 'Method Overview'. This document provides a beginner's introduction to the method. It will also be valuable to those interested in converting from so called "first generation" functional size measurement methods,

3. 'Measurement Manual'. This document constitutes the main reference document for practical use of the method.

A fourth document ('Advanced and Related Topics') dealing with subjects for experienced practitioners, like conversion of sizes from other methods for instance, will be published before the end of 2007.

COSMIC version 3.0 represents the first major update of the COSMIC method in the past four years. As the designation implies, the new documents contain important advances and clarifications of the measurement method. Most importantly however, the basic model on which lies the foundation of the method has not changed since it was first published in 1999.

The most significant advance in COSMIC version 3.0 is an improvement in the measurement process. This was achieved by explicitly defining an initial 'measurement strategy' phase designed to address the

question of *which* functional size to measure in a manner clearer than in previous versions. In this new 'measurement strategy' phase the measurer is lead to consider several parameters before starting a measurement in order to ensure that the results will be properly interpreted, used and compared with other measurements.

The new material represents a major breakthrough not only for the COSMIC method but also for the field of functional size measurement in general since the parameters proposed in the 'measurement strategy' phase are valid for all functional size measurement methods. These concepts will be especially relevant for usage in estimating methods and for all benchmarking activities.