

Project Proposal for a New Standard

1 Source of the Project Proposal

1.1 Title

ATA/ATAPI Host Adapter Standard (ATA-Adapter)

1.2 Date Submitted

February 21 2001

1.3 Proposer

T13.

2 Process Description for the Proposed Project

2.1 Project Type

Development.

2.2 Type of Document

Standard.

2.3 Definition of Concepts and Special Terms

The terms are industry standard.

2.4 Expected Relationship with Approved Reference Models, Frameworks, Architectures, etc.

The standard addresses closed systems and has no relationship to NCITS Reference Models.

2.5 Recommended NCITS Development Technical Committee

T13.

2.6 Anticipated Frequency and Duration of Meetings

T13 presently meets up to six times per year and authorizes ad hoc meetings as warranted for the needs of the projects. It is anticipated that these meetings are adequate to address this standard development among the other agenda items for these meetings.

2.7 Target Date for Initial Public Review (Milestone 4)

January 2003.

2.8 Estimated Useful Life of Standard

10 years or more.

3 Business Case for Developing the Proposed Standard

3.1 Description

Development and documentation of a standard Open Host Controller Interface (OHCI) for ATA host adapters.

Currently the definitions of ATA host adapter programming interfaces are not well documented.

3.2 Existing Practice and the Need for a Standard

Information pertaining to the programming of OHCI adapters is currently contained in a variety of ad-hoc documents. This makes it impossible for host operating systems to implement a consistent and standard software driver. Similarly manufacturers of host adapters are not able to implement an industry standard product.

The scope of this standard is to document the different types of Host Adapters, methods for their identification and the programming interfaces used.

3.3 Implementation Impacts of the Standard

3.3.1 Development Costs

Implementation costs are born on a voluntary basis by industry. Members of T13 have indicated that their companies consider the detailed costs to be confidential information. In any event the cost is considered to be modest as the standard consolidates existing practices. Logistical costs for T13 are negligible since the standard represents about 5% of the T13 meeting agenda. Although the members consider the cost details to be confidential, they also consider the ultimate costs to be reduced by the benefits of the standard.

3.3.2 Impact on Existing or Potential Markets

The proposed ATA Host standard will provide an evolutionary growth path to the existing practices and investments. It is likely that any isolated negative impacts would occur in any case through non-standard evolution or revolution.

The target market of this standard is all systems that utilize ATA or ATAPI devices.

3.3.3 Costs and Methods for Conformity Assessment

No formal conformity assessment is undertaken. However each of the system manufacturers using ATA/ATAPI devices have extensive qualification testing which on a voluntary basis assures the methods are exhaustively tested in the industry. The incremental cost is modest.

3.3.4 Return on Investment

The estimated ROI for development of this standard and the conformity assessment costs associated with it greatly exceeds 1000 to 1.

3.4 Legal Considerations

3.4.1 Patent Assertions

T13 will make regular calls for patents in the meetings addressing the technical report

3.4.2 Dissemination of the Standard

Drafts of this standard will be disseminated electronically. Dissemination of the final standard will be restricted as the document becomes the property of NCITS, ANSI or ISO/IEC.

4 Related Standards Activities

4.1 Existing Standards

PCI Local Bus Specification Revision 2.2.

4.2 Related Standards Activity

T13/1410D (ATA/ATAPI-6).

4.3 Recommendations for Coordinating Liaison

None.

4.4 Recommendations for Close Liaison

PCI Special Interest Group; IEEE.