

**ANSA PHASE III**

***THE LEADING EDGE  
IN DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING***

## **ANSA PHASE III**

**ANSA is an architecture for open distributed systems. It enables standardisation of components in enterprise-wide computing and realises the benefits of distributed processing. It allows full advantage to be taken of the inherent concurrency and separation in distributed systems to provide increased performance, decentralisation and reliability in applications. ANSA defines appropriate interfaces and management mechanisms for components to integrate heterogenous technologies which support the evolution of systems on an enterprise-wide scale.**

### **BACKGROUND**

ANSA was developed initially as a joint venture by eight major computer and telecommunications companies, known as the "sponsors", who set up a jointly-staffed co-located team at Cambridge, UK. A small company, Architecture Projects Management Ltd (APM) was established to operate and manage the laboratory. The first phase of ANSA determined the basic technical direction and produced a prototype implementation of the architecture. The second phase saw the application of the architecture to practical systems and the extension of its functions to accommodate a wider range of system requirements. The main part of this second phase is within an Esprit project called "ISA", which is due to be completed in February 1993. The third phase continues from that date and is now being actively planned and detailed.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the ANSA programme is to establish, through a process of research, advanced development and input to international standards, a world-wide architectural framework for the development of distributed systems.

In achieving this, Phase III of the ANSA programme will build upon emergent industry standards for distribution technology, including OMG's CORBA and OSF's DCE - both of which have been strongly influenced by ANSA.

During Phase III, working together through the joint team, the sponsors will:

- develop their understanding of how to use standard technologies to create practical distributed systems solutions
- develop requirements and designs for new programming models and services to extend and enhance those produced in the earlier phases
- make coherent, architecturally-based, proposals to incorporate these facilities into future generations of distribution technology will be developed and input to standards activities.

A summary of the technical programme is contained in the brochure "ANSA Phase III - Technical Objectives". More detailed descriptions of the operations and the workplan are in the brochures "ANSA Phase III" and "ANSA Phase III - Technical Workplan".

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The following companies have supported Phase II and are seriously involved in the planning of Phase III: BNR-Europe; Bellcore; BT; Coopers and Lybrand, Deloittes; DEC; Dowty; France Telecom/CNET; GEC-Marconi; GPT; Hewlett-Packard; ICL; Open Connexion. Several other major companies are considering sponsorship.

## **COLLABORATION MODEL**

The Cambridge laboratory will be staffed by a team of 20-25 people, consisting of roughly equal numbers of APM employees, dedicated to ANSA, and staff assigned ("seconded") for substantial periods of time by their companies.

The costs of supporting the laboratory are expected to be £100-£125K per year, per sponsor, assuming that there will be at least 10 major sponsors. Companies seconding staff are repaid for their services.

Small companies are encouraged to participate, by means of a low-cost sponsorship package.

## **BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION**

The principal benefits are access to the output of 20 well-qualified staff for the cost of just over one person, and the opportunity to direct their work; achieving a critical mass of expertise and sharing costs through the use of the collaborative laboratory; developing a more coherent view of a rapidly changing technology and marketplace; and participation in a global forum to discuss research issues in distributed computing.

Further benefits will result from enhanced contact between suppliers (for example, computer manufacturers), service providers (for example, telecommunications companies) and users.

## **TIMESCALES**

Prospective sponsors should plan to participate for three years initially, in order to obtain the full benefit of this long-term programme. Contractual commitment is on an annual basis, commencing at any time after 1st June 1992.

There are two contracts - a consortium agreement which binds the sponsors to one another and defines their rights and obligations, and a project management agreement which contracts APM to manage and operate the laboratory; these are currently being finalised.

Copies of these and the other brochures are available on request from:

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APM CO.104.01