**COSMIC adoption is accelerating...**

The Common Software Measurement International Consortium (‘COSMIC’) is organized informally, so there is no formal User Group. Nevertheless, we get reports of an ever-increasing number of satisfied users of the method. Recent cases include the following.

**The Taxation and Customs Union (‘Taxaud’) Directorate of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium** is now issuing Invitations to Tender to software suppliers stating that they must estimate the size of the software in their proposals in units of COSMIC Function Points. The size, measured on the basis of the final agreed specifications is used to fix a price-per-unit-size that remains fixed for the duration of the contract. This combination of a reliable size estimating method and elements of the ‘Southern Scope’ process (see www.ehyp.vic.gov.au) enables the Taxaud DG to control price/performance for its software acquisition.

Since mid-2006, Measures Technology Co. Ltd a consultancy based in Beijing, China (www.measures.net.cn) has successfully deployed the COSMIC method in more than 10 companies in China. “Frankly speaking, most of these companies recognize the method is very effective and gives them lots of help in resolving many issues when they do estimation, project planning, monitoring and control”, they report.

Typical cases include three CMMI Level 3 companies:
- **FOXCONN**

Dan Galorath has stated “I personally like COSMIC a lot and expect to see increasing use within SEER.”

A major software supply and integration company in Scandinavia, providing products and services to customers throughout Europe and in the USA, has decided to adopt the COSMIC method as its preferred means of sizing requirements. This decision was reached after trialing SLOC and IFPUG FPA as alternative approaches. Around 80 staff are being trained to use COSMIC when capturing requirements and throughout the software development process. The results will be used to improve planning, estimating, and requirements management, and to support high-maturity processes such as the implementation of organizational process performance models as a basis for quantitative project management. The company also expects to benefit from the use of COSMIC during the bid process and in negotiations with customers.

At the UKSMA Conference in October 2007, Peter Cotton, Risk Manager at Atos Origin UK, explained how his company has integrated the COSMIC method into an overall approach suitable for estimating in a tough, competitive, commercial environment. The current integrated approach was developed after earlier attempts using other sizing methods had failed to be effective. Now COSMIC-based estimating is used alongside ‘estimating by analogy’ and ‘task-based

**Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COSMIC adoption is accelerating</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing interest in COSMIC certification exam</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quickly updating document to version 3.0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The COSMIC organization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further information</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**“Measures Technology Co. Ltd a consultancy based in Beijing, China […] has successfully deployed the COSMIC method in more than 10 companies in China”**

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**We’re on the Web!**
See us at: www.cosmicon.com
Increasing interest in COSMIC certification exam

Since the first pilot [3] was held [...] in 2006, 46 individuals from 13 countries have passed the exam.

A rigorous process has now been established for holding the exam anywhere in the world, which requires a ‘sponsor’ to organize the exam and the appointment of an independent ‘proctor’ to supervise the exam itself. Any organization wishing to sponsor an exam should contact Professor Alain Abran at aabran@ele.etsmtl.ca.

Certification exams are currently scheduled for Bangalore, India (March), Milan, Italy (May) and Munich, Germany (November). Further exams will be held in 2008. For the latest exam schedule, visit www.gelog.etsmtl.ca/cosmic-ffp.

The current Entry-level exam is based on v2.2 of the COSMIC method. It is planned to upgrade the certification exam to be compatible with v3.0 of the method by the end of 2008.

Since the first pilot Entry-level certification examination in the COSMIC method was held at the SMEF Conference in Rome in 2006, 46 individuals from 13 countries have passed the exam. The largest groups of successful candidates have been from India and Spain.

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**Quickly updating documents to version 3.0**

With the publication of the ‘Advanced and Related Topics’ document at the end of 2007, the basic English-language definition of the method is now complete. The ‘A&RT’ document deals with three topics, namely:

- Early or rapid sizing using approximate variants of the COSMIC method
- Ensuring the comparability of size measurements at different levels of granularity and of decomposition of requirements
- Conversion of sizes measured with ‘1st Generation’ FSM Methods to COSMIC sizes.

Translations of the ‘Measurement Manual, v3.0’ into Dutch, French, Italian, Japanese and Spanish are underway and should become available over the summer of 2008; a translation into Turkish is targeted for end 2008. Work has also started on updating various case studies to v3.0. All COSMIC publications are available for free download from www.gelog.etsmtl.ca/cosmic-ffp.

The ISO/IEC 19761 standard for the COSMIC method, originally published in 2003 for v2.2 of the method, has been updated to v3.0 and submitted to ISO for approval. If it proceeds smoothly through the ISO process, it should become available later this year (from www.iso.org).

**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, 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, please forward a draft to the editor at: serge.oligny@bell.ca

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