Lawrence D. Eicher Award 2004 – Call for nominations

Dear Sir or Madam,

You will be aware that, as a tribute to the late Secretary-General, Lawrence D. Eicher, Council has established the Lawrence D. Eicher Leadership Award for Excellence in Creative and Innovative ISO/TC/SC Services and Initiatives and that the award is presented annually during the General Assembly.

In accordance with the procedures approved by Council and the Technical Management Board, we are accordingly pleased to issue a call for nominations for the 2004 award and should be grateful to receive nominations by 31 May 2004.

In order to facilitate the evaluation and comparison of nominations, you are kindly requested to submit nominations using the attached template, but additional information may be attached to it if necessary. We are also attaching the address by the ISO President on the occasion of the presentation of the first award during the General Assembly in Buenos Aires in September 2003, as guidance with regard to the criteria by which committees may be considered to be candidates for the award.

We should be grateful if nominations could be returned to the undersigned. They will then be reviewed by the relevant Technical Programme Manager of the ISO Central Secretariat, following which all nominations will be reviewed by a sub-group of the Technical Management Board which will select the successful candidate.

Yours faithfully,

Michael A Smith,
Director
Standards Development and Production

Enclosures
Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher leadership award for excellence in creative and innovative ISO/TC/SC services and initiatives - Template for nominations

Purpose
To recognize ISO TCs and SCs (that is, all those involved: chairs, secretaries, member bodies, delegates and experts) for excellence in creative and innovative services and initiatives to support their work and their constituents. This award is presented to the committee as a whole and provides an opportunity to publicize and share best practices among ISO committees.

Nomination
I nominate ISO (ISO/IEC) committee ..........................................for this award according to the criteria below.

Justification and special achievements in support of the nomination
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Acceptable criteria (please put a cross against those criteria which you believe are relevant for the committee you are nominating)
- Mechanisms for systematic priority setting and assuring global market relevance of new and ongoing work;
- Proactive application of project management concepts and techniques to ensure timely production of standards;
- Periodic re-evaluation of the need to maintain standing TCs, SCs and WGs;
- Cost management techniques;
- Exploitation of ICT enabling potential;
- Supporting and enhancing participation of developing countries;
- Committee newsletters;
- Information workshops relevant to the technical work;
- Special documents and publications relevant to the technical work;
- Rotation of meeting location to share travel burden and cost across all member bodies;
- Leadership (chair, secretariat) sharing initiatives with other countries, especially developing countries;
- Convening meetings only when there is legitimate “critical mass” of business;
- Approval of NWIPs or decisions to elevate CDs to DISs taken by correspondence rather than at meetings (to not disadvantage countries that cannot attend the meeting);
- Not taking actions at meetings without adequate notice and documentation prior to the meeting;
- Cooperative efforts with the TC chair/secretary in the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the business plan (subcommittee chairmen only);
- Ensuring the appropriate and consistent implementation and application of the committee’s business plan to the activities of the TC or SC and its work program;
- Use of editing committees and the project leader approach;
- Monitoring participation in the work of the committee, and in particular taking appropriate actions when a P-member has been persistently inactive and failed to meet its obligations;
- General knowledge, application and correct interpretations of the ISO Directives, the ISO/CEN Vienna Agreement and its implementation guidelines and other relevant ISO documents.

Name and function of nominating person.............................................................................................................

Date .....................................................................................................................................................................
ADDRESS
by ISO PRESIDENT, MR. OLIVER R. SMOOT
under AGENDA ITEM 7.2 of 26th ISO GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
17-19 September

ISO Members,
ISO Officers,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

You may recall that Council, in 2002, set up the Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher Leadership Award for Excellence in Creative and Innovative ISO/TC/SC Services and Initiatives to honour Dr. Lawrence D Eicher, ISO Secretary-General for 16 years, who passed away in March 2002.

This award is presented by the President at the ISO General Assembly. Nominations for the award are made by the Technical Programme Managers at the ISO Central Secretariat, on the basis of proposals coming from relevant sources, and are subject to selection and confirmation by the TMB. A subgroup appointed by the TMB to consider the nominations applies the criteria established by the TMB, namely:

outstanding performance and innovative and efficient approaches in the management of committee work, and contribution to the dissemination of practices of excellence to other committees.

It is my pleasure to announce to you today that the TMB has confirmed as recipient of the inaugural Dr. Lawrence D. Eicher Leadership Award for Excellence in Creative and Innovative ISO/TC/SC Services and Initiatives:

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29, Coding of audio, picture, multimedia and hypermedia information, whose secretariat is held by Japan (JISC), with Dr. Hiroshi Watanabe as Chairman and Ms. Yukiko Ogura as Secretary.

When you open your computer, there is every chance that all the audio and video applications you use are based on standards that have been developed by this subcommittee, and thus, discreet and unseen, the whole world can be grateful to their work. This is a front line IT committee that develops standards from Research and Development in the multimedia environment, and that is responsible for the outstanding development and worldwide implementation of International Standards in the IT environment, i.e. MPEG, JPEG, JBIG. The very efficient organization and control of the work of SC 29 has ensured that, for example, all the groups are structured with project editors, editing groups and other special groups to enhance the development and quality of the projects. This subcommittee has successfully engaged the important stakeholders and clearly understands how to identify and fulfil existing and emerging market needs. They can also efficiently work with a great
number of experts in the working groups (between 150 to 300 participants). Finally, they work successfully as a joint ISO/IEC subcommittee and collaborate with ITU Telecommunications and Radio Standardization Sectors, to meet all the stakeholder needs. Current examples of this are in the area of MPEG, and developing standardization in Digital Cinema.

The second criteria, that the award should contribute to the dissemination of practices of excellence to other committees, has also been largely met, with tight project management applied with IT tools, e.g. all the working groups have websites. The subcommittee has also demonstrated its capability of working with schedules that allow the work to be completed within tight target dates, and it enjoys excellent support from a well trained secretariat who exercise very strict target dates; review the project development on a regular basis; apply the ISO/IEC Directives by careful interpretation within the set framework; and, especially, regularly update and use the Business Plan as a strategic and monitoring tool. ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29 provides regular press releases after each meeting and submits material, articles etc to promote the work. Workshops are an integral part of the work cycle of the committee. The subcommittee has created an independent body, external to it, to help to resolve Patent issues.

Thus, here we have an excellent example in the IT environment where companies are supporting the standardization work in ISO/IEC/ITU environment without turning to Consortia. The deliverables are meeting market requirements.

May we wholeheartedly congratulate ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29, its chair, its secretariat and all the delegates and participants who have helped to create the synergies and build a team that works efficiently, effectively and harmoniously with a view to developing the right documents for a volatile and fast-moving IT world in great need of good, timely and reliable International Standards.

We are fortunate to have with us today the Secretary of the subcommittee, Ms. Yukiko Ogura to whom I am pleased to present the Award Certificate on behalf of ISO, and to whom we offer our sincere congratulations and thanks for the work achieved.