

HISTORY OF FORMATION OF CAST

At the Denver meeting in August, Council formally approved the formation of the Computer and Systems Technology Division. C&ST will begin operating formally in January, 1978. The objectives of this division are:

- a. To further the application of mathematical and computing principles in all aspects of chemical engineering, especially in the analysis, design and control of process and management systems.
- b. To recommend to the Council of the AIChE positions or policies related to such applications.
- c. To provide suitable programs to inform Institute members about topics of current interest in these fields.
- d. To provide a communication medium for chemical engineers and other individuals to exchange nonconfidential information concerning all facets of mathematics, management science, computers, control and systems activity through meetings, seminars, courses and publications.
- e. To coordinate the Institute's activities with other societies active in this field.
- f. To act as a source of information for chemical engineers who are not actively engaged in the mathematics, management, computer, control or systems fields, and to bring to their attention the importance of these activities, the need for consideration of their use in the general practice of chemical engineering and opportunities for their use in research, development, design and operation of process and management systems.
- g. To encourage chemical engineering educators to place suitable emphasis on these subjects and encourage excellence in such teaching practices.

This new division has its roots in the Machine Computations Committee. In June 1974, Charles Ware reported on MCC activities to Council. One council member suggested that the scope of the activities indicated the advisability of the formation of a division. A subcommittee, headed by Robert Morris, with Oran Culberson, Herb Owens and Mike Tayyabkhan, was formed to prepare a specific proposal to the MCC at the Kansas City meeting in 1976. This proposal included: establish a division formation committee; draft division by-laws; solicit selected AIChE members for potential interest; prepare an operating plan and budget; and select a name for the division.

In August, 1976, Al Caselli, Council liaison, notified Council of MCC's plans to organize a division. By this time over 500 AIChE members had supported division formation, including 75% of Area 2L members.

The Division Formation Committee met for the first time in November 1976. It consisted of Bob Morris, chairman, with Brice Carnahan, Mary Ann Epstein, Bob Fisher, Dick Hughes, Al Johnson, Max Lee, Ted Leininger, Dick Mah, Herb Owens, Ted Peterson, Manoj Sanghvi, Warren Seider, Vern Sterba, Charlie Ware, Bob Weaver and Art Westerberg. Fisher led the By-Laws subcommittee. Seider prepared the budget. Sterba and Ware prepared the operating plan. The DFC did its work properly and several presentations were made to Council.

Since Council's formal approval at Denver, a nominating committee and an executive committee were formed. Bob Morris heads both committees. Candidates for the division offices were nominated and the election got under way. Only those who have paid C&ST Division dues were eligible to vote. The nominating committee included Mack Clark, Bob Fisher, Dick Hughes,