

1977 ANNUAL REPORT

MACHINE COMPUTATION COMMITTEE

December 31, 1977

In 1977, Machine Computation Committee (MCC) membership reached 234, compared to 68 at the end of 1976. MCC met in Houston (March) and Denver (August). Meetings included a luncheon with attendance of 23 and 22, respectively. In action related to the formation of the Computing and Systems Technology Division, AIChE council dissolved MCC on August 27, 1977. MCC officers for 1977 were: Vernon J. Sterba, Chairman; Warren D. Seider, Vice-Chairman; and Robert J. Lackmeyer, Secretary-Treasurer.

This year MCC reached a major milestone toward which we have been working for the past several years: the formation of the Computing and Systems Technology Division. These formation efforts, however, did not hamper our energies in the many other areas we are active in. Highlights of these efforts follow.

A NEW DIVISION IS BORN - AIChE Council in action taken at the Denver meeting approved formation of the Computing and Systems Technology (CAST) Division. CAST supercedes MCC and will extend the scope of activities beyond MCC's into such areas as national meeting programming. CAST plans to further the application of mathematical and computer principles in all aspects of chemical engineering, such as in the analysis, design and control of process and management systems. This new division will 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. The chosen name is Computing and Systems Technology rather than Computers to emphasize the division's interest in applications rather than in the actual hardware. MCC members are indebted to Bob Morris and his formation committee for their many outstanding efforts which have made the CAST Division a reality.

The temporary executive committee of CAST met in New York at a transition meeting. Permanent officers will be elected and the new division will be in operation by the Atlanta meeting in 1978.

MEMBERSHIP - Primarily as a result of an MCC survey sent to all Code 76 (process control) and 77 (computers) AIChE members which explained some of MCC's activities, and also as a probable result of the division formation activities and associated publicity, MCC's 1977 membership list grew to 234, more than triple our 1976 membership. Also contributing to this increase was the distribution of CAST flyers in the computer-related technical sessions at the Denver meeting (only a few days after Council formed the division). All current MCC members are expected to become charter members of the CAST Division. Our membership chairman, Bob Harris, is currently responding to some 300 additional requests for more information regarding MCC and the new division.

LIAISON - Liaison has now been established with 18 other professional groups interested in computing. A list of our liaison representatives to these groups was published in MCC's midyear newsletter as were several news items which were prepared by these reps. Coleman Brosilow, MCC's liaison coordinator, will continue to expand this activity in order to keep MCC and AIChE members current in this rapidly changing field.

NATIONAL MEETING PROGRAMS - A total of nine technical sessions were planned for 1977 and were co-sponsored by the CAST Division Formation Committee and Area 1D or 5C. A similar schedule is planned for 1978, when areas 1D, 2L and part of 5C will be absorbed into the CAST Division Programming Board.

COMPUTER PROGRAM PUBLICATION - Charlie Ware is in charge of the review of computer programs and their associated documentations for the new journal, Computers and Chemical Engineering, which began publication in 1977. Three programs are currently in various stages of review, with the first scheduled for publication in 1977. A valuable feature of this activity is that card decks for these programs will be made available through National AIChE headquarters at a nominal cost.

TECHNICAL NEWSLETTER - Sig Lawrence, MCC's Newsletter Editor, published two excellent newsletters in 1977. The fourteen page newsletters represent the medium by which the readership can follow committee activities, review papers or meetings of special interest, become aware of standardization efforts, and much more. National Headquarters distributes it to all Code 76 and 77 AIChE members.

Respectfully submitted,



Vernon J. Sterba, Chairman
Machine Computation Committee