

Fulbright competition in progress

Opportunities for American colleges and universities to host a visiting scholar from abroad for all or part of the 1988–89 academic year are available through the Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program. In addition, the Council for International Exchange

of Scholars is still accepting applications for 1988–89 Fulbright grants.

For information, call or write CIES, 11 Dupont Circle, Ste. 300, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202)939-5401.

Following a section on state standards bodies with addresses of state purchasing agencies, there is a list of sources of commercial, private, and public standards. In addition to U.S. government sources, there are commercial sources that supply English translations of foreign standards such as the DIN (German) and foreign standards worldwide. For those with low budgets, libraries that supply copies of various types of standards are also listed.

The book winds up with tables of standards organizations listed by subject category and by acronyms, even noting those that have changed their names or have left no forwarding addresses.

For anyone seriously interested in standards, *Standards Activities of Organizations in the United States* is a must. It is an overwhelming but incredibly useful document.

—Robert E. Parks

Fiber optic standards

Fiber optic systems and components standardization will provide the focus for a three-day symposium covering such topics as standards for digital and analog systems, active and passive components, test methods, national and international quality assurance programs, and DOD/commercial standards and evaluation. In addition, keynote sessions will highlight recent technological developments and market trends.

The December 7–9 meeting, to be held in Arlington, Va., is cosponsored by the Department of Defense, the American National Standards Institute, and the Electronic Industries Association. For information on attending or presenting a paper, please contact EIA coordinator Hal Berge, 2001 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; (202) 457-8737.

STANDARDS

Everything you ever wanted to know about standards . . .

For the last several months we have been dealing with rather specific optical standards subjects. For a complete change this month, we feature a very general and weighty volume (some 575 pages) titled *Standards Activities of Organizations in the United States* (PB85–106151). This paperbound book [published in 1984 by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), Springfield, Va. 22161; (703) 487-4650, costing \$42.95, plus \$3 for handling] lists just about anything anyone would ever want to know about federal, nongovernment, and state standards writing activities.

The book contains so much useful information about standards policies, standards writing organizations, and sources of standards that it should be on the bookshelves of design engineers, purchasing agents, and quality assurance directors. A brief outline of the contents of this enlightening compendium of standards information will show why.

The book begins with a history of the publication—the fifth in a series started in 1941—and a review of the scope of standards activities included. According to the overview of existing standards, some “420 nongovernment organizations maintain an estimated 32,000 standards.” The Amer-

ican Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) has published the greatest number of nongovernment standards—about 7,200. By contrast the U.S. government maintains about 38,000 military specifications and standards.

The next section discusses the “National Standards Policy,” developed to establish a “centralized private sector focus” for standards coordination and a similar government focus. Those foci are now the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Office of Product Standards Policy at the NBS, respectively.

The 420 nongovernment standards organizations are listed with addresses, officers, and the scope of each group. The Optical Society, among others, is listed as a source of standards on colorimetry.

A compilation of federal organizations with standards-writing authorization describes the scope of the authority and sources for further information. For example, there are about 100 offices in the Department of Defense involved in standards development. Their addresses are listed in the *Standardization Directory, SD-1*, available from the Naval Publications and Forms Center (NPPFC), 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19120.