

COTS STG of IEEE 1583
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EAC Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC)
Election Assistance Commission (EAC)

To Whom it may Concern:

Sundry Special Task Groups (STGs) were established at the October 20, 2003 meeting of IEEE 1583. One of these was for standards concerning Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) components. 45 of the more than 1000 comments received for draft 5.0 of IEEE 1583 were concerned with COTS. Our STG circulated these comments among all those who expressed interest in participating in the STG, an ad hoc web page and email list with archives were set up, and input was politicked from all members. On most of the comments, there was clear consensus on the resolution, and the resolutions of those comments were presented at the IEEE 1583 meeting on February 9-10, 2004. The remaining comments were resolved by June 18, 2004, and publicly posted. This was in advance of the deadline of June 30, 2004; we were the first of the groups to have our resolutions finished. These resolutions were sent to the appropriate people who were supposed to edit them in the document. Few were actually edited in in a timely manner. After many emails to the responsible persons complaining about how many resolutions were never edited into the standard, and after stating the problem openly at the IEEE 1583 meeting on August 18-19, 2004, most of our resolutions finally became part of the draft. However, nine of those resolutions are still missing from the latest draft; for your reference, they are posted at:

<http://www.lipsio.com/COTS/docs/COTS.resolved.butNeverEditedIntoDocument.html>

The fact that there is an apparent refusal by a certain party responsible for editing a portion of IEEE 1583 to include these resolutions, reached by consensus, openly, and with input from anyone wishing to participate, casts grave doubt on it being reasonable to consider IEEE 1583 a "consensus" document.

I thank you.

Sincerely,
Vincent J. Lipsio
Co-chair, COTS STG of IEEE 1583