Preface

The Fifth Goddard Conference on Mass Storage Systems and Technologies has attracted more than forty papers which are included in these Proceedings. We plan to include audio and video and, if available, text and viewgraphs from the invited papers and the panel discussion in a CD-ROM which will be published before the end of 1996.

A paper on application programming interfaces (API) for a physical volume repository (PVR) defined in Version 5 of the IEEE Reference Model (RM) for Open Storage Systems is indicative of ongoing activity to flesh out the RM. However, there still remain a number of other interfaces in the RM which lack APIs. A number of agencies have already deployed petabyte-sized archives with custom FSMS since there are no standards yet, and so there are no COTS software modules which can be combined/integrated to provide file and storage management services. A user panel will discuss the problems and issues associated with available software and, it is hoped, will lay out the desiderata which experience has shown is required for the management of large archives.

Storage architecture, database management and data distribution are covered in three sessions. The future of recording is not necessarily a mix of optical and magnetic technology; as the paper by Stutz and Lamartine shows, microchisels are around the corner, and may provide a solution to the problem of technology obsolescence which has been exacerbated by the ever shorter product development and life cycles. Optical technology is updated by papers from the Air Force's Rome Laboratory, and from LOTS Technology.

File system performance and modeling are dealt with by a number of authors, and there are progress reports on the definition and use of metadata in archives.

Descriptions of specific archives and storage products have been moved this year to a poster session. Storage vendors will have a special session where they can explain, elaborate and extol their particular solutions.

We are grateful to the members of the Program Committee:

Jean-Jacques Bedet, Hughes STX Corporation
John Berbert, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Jimmy Berry, National Security Agency
Bill Callicott, consultant
Sam Coleman, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Robert Creecy, Census Bureau
Charles Dollar, University of British Columbia
Fynnette Eaton, National Archives and Records Administration

Bernie O'Lear, National Center for Atmospheric Research
Sanjay Ranade, Infotech SA
Bruce Rosen, National Institute of Standards and Technology
Don Sawyer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Peter Topoly, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

for their diligence in identifying the topics and securing the excellent papers for this conference.

We also record our thanks to:

John Otranto, Systems Engineering and Security, Inc for help with some of the figures; Len Blasso, Media Specialist Associates, for editing and layout; Jorge Scientific Corporation for logistics support.

P C Hariharan
Systems Engineering & Security, Inc
Greenbelt MD 20770-3523

Ben Kobler
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt MD 20771-1000