
SDI-12 SUPPORT GROUP

SERIAL DATA INTERFACE AT 1200 BAUD

June 1, 1995

To: Members of the SDI-12 Support Group's Technical Committee
Katie Lockyer, SDI-12 Support Group Secretary
Roy Johnson, USGS

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Subject: Minutes of the SDI-12 Support Group's Technical Committee held on 27 April 1995

The SDI-12 Support Group's Technical Committee met on 27 April 1995, in Logan, Utah, to discuss several proposed changes to the SDI-12 Specification. The following people attended the meeting:

Ken Aquino, Setra Systems, Inc.
Gerald Calhoun, Sutron Corporation
Terry Dickey, Hydrolab
Terrell Fletcher, Design Analysis Associates, Inc.
Mike Jablonski, NR Systems, Inc.
Roy Johnson, U.S. Geological Survey
Rick Lockyer, Handar, Inc.
Joe Thurston, Campbell Scientific, Inc.
Richard Wearn, Paroscientific

We covered a lot of technical detail at the meeting. Since the results of our meeting will be presented to all members of the SDI-12 Support Group in a newsletter, I have described our conclusions in a separate document titled "Proposed Changes to the SDI-12 Specification" dated 1 June 1995. A copy of that document is attached with these minutes. These minutes summarize the issues we discussed and voted on. The other document has the technical details.

The first item of discussion was about the SDI-12 Support Group's Bylaws which were published in the Winter 1995 Newsletter. Richard Wearn felt that the bylaws should be modified to allow a 30 day comment period prior to voting on proposed changes to the SDI-12 Specification. The rest of the technical committee agreed. We did not, however, vote on this. Nobody opposed the idea, and I agreed that we should modify the Bylaws accordingly.

We voted on seven technical issues--the results are described in "Proposed Changes to the SDI-12 Specification," dated 1 June 1995.

1) Add the following text to the SDI-12 Specification:

"ASCII '0' through ASCII '9' are the standard addresses which all sensors and data recorders must support. All ASCII characters in the range above ASCII '9' through ASCII '~' are reserved for single device addresses. Should there be a need for more than 10 sensors, use an address in the range ASCII ':' through ASCII '~' (decimal 58 through 126)."

In Favor: 9

Opposed: 0

2) Should the SDI-12 Specification include a query address command?

Yes: 9

No: 0

3) Should a question mark (?) or an asterisk (*) be used as the wild card address character?

Question Mark: 5

Asterisk: 2

A question mark will be used as the wild card address character. It was agreed that I would write the text to describe the address query command. That description is on page 2 of "Proposed Changes to the SDI-12 Specification."

4) Add a change address command, to the SDI-12 Specification, as described in the winter 1995 newsletter, with the addition of the following text:

"If the sensor supports software changeable addresses, it must support the address query command."

In Favor: 9

Opposed: 0

5) Amend the description of data recorder retries to read as follows:

"Because the data recorder is the master of the SDI-12 bus, it is not required to issue a retry. The requirement is for a data recorder to support retries. If one of the above three conditions exists the data recorder will issue retries. Under extraordinary conditions, not as normal operating procedure, the data recorder has the option of not issuing retries."

In Favor: 9

Opposed: 0

6) Accept the proposal submitted by Jerry Calhoun, as modified by the Technical Committee, as the way to implement concurrent measurements on the SDI-12 bus. That description, as modified by the committee, is described in the document "Proposed Changes to the SDI-12 Specification."

In Favor: 8

Opposed: 0

(Ken Aquino had to leave prior to this vote. He was, however, involved in the discussion prior to the vote.)

7) Allow the D0 comand to return the current reading from a sensor that is capable of continuous monitoring, without a prior M command. See the description of this on page 8 of "Proposed Changes to the SDI-12 Specification."

In Favor: 7

Opposed: 0

(Ken Aquino and Richard Wearn had to leave prior to this vote.)

As a final topic we discussed the proposal submitted by Roy Johnson (USGS) for simultaneous measurements. All present at the meeting agreed that this proposal has merit. We decided to describe this method and let the SDI-12 Support group decide if we should proceed further with it. It is also described in "Proposed Changes to the SDI-12 Specification." It will be published with the other proposals in the next SDI-12 newsletter.

We also decided that each technical issue that we discussed should be voted upon separately by the SDI-12 Support Group. All or some of the changes we propose may be accepted by the SDI-12 Support Group.

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