Comms Support Pack version 7.3 available

TIS Software Ltd is pleased to announce the release of version 7.3 of the Comms Support Pack – a software package that allows remote software support.

FACILITIES OF VERSION 7.3

The main features of Comms Support Pack version 7.3 are as follows:

- The Comms Support Pack software is no longer dependent on Modtech modems. The software will operate on any approved modem (see below).

- The reliability of the file transfer utility $FCOMM has now been improved.

- $FCOMM now operates correctly under job management.

- The file transfer can be run automatically using a script language. Scripts are compiled from text files using $FCJOB, executed using $FCRUN and inspected using $FCVIEW.

INTERFACES AND COMPATIBILITY

The Comms Support Pack comprises three software components: $DIAL (run on the user's machine to establish the link), a terminal emulator (run on the reseller's machine) and $FCOMM (the file transfer utility which requires the use of both machines). The first two components act independently on their respective machines, hence any version can be used, e.g. V7.0 $DIAL could be used to connect to a machine running the V7.3 Global Comms terminal emulator. The file transfer facilities, however, require a strict dialogue, or protocol, to be maintained between the machines. Previous versions of the Comms Support Pack used the same protocol, providing compatibility regardless of the version used, but the improvements made to the V7.3 file transfer utility mean that this is no longer true. Hence V7.3 $FCOMM can only be used with V7.3 Global Comms and vice versa.

Version 7.3 of the Comms Support Pack operates on the same computer/Global System Manager combinations as version 7.2. That is:–

At the `local' end (also known as the `master' end), this version of the Comms Support Pack operates on any version from 6.1 onwards of Global System Manager (BOS) for which the machine code specified in chapter 3 of the handbook is J5. At the `remote' end (also known as the `slave' end), this version of the Comms Support Pack operates with version 6.1 or later of Global System Manager for any computer configuration.

DOCUMENTATION

New versions of both the `Comms Support Pack Notes for Users' (MCLNV7.3; previously known as `Comms Support Pack Notes' and the `$DIAL manual') and the `Comms Support Pack Notes for Resellers' (MCLOV7.3; previously known as the `Comms Support Pack Manual' document MCLMV7.2) are available.

SUPPORT OF VERSION 7.2

Version 7.2 of the Comms Support Pack is available until 30th June 1994 and will be supported until 31st January 1998. The default version of the Comms Support Pack will change from 7.2 to 7.3 on the weekend of 26th March 1994.

THE RIGHT TO COPY THE COMMS SUPPORT PACK

Unlike previous versions of the Comms Support Pack both the `reseller' and the `user' end of the software must be purchased separately. It is not possible to copy the V7.3 Comms Support Pack software for installation at multiple sites.

PRICING

List price is £50 irrespective of the number of screens.

Reseller discount on end–user sales is 40%. Software for a reseller's own use is priced at £50 less 40% discount (i.e. £30).

MODEMS FOR USE WITH THE COMMS SUPPORT PACK

This version of the Comms Support Pack is not tied to a particular modem, and is designed to be used with as many different modems as possible. There are some limitations: it will only work with asynchronous, full–duplex modems, e.g. V22, V22bis, V32 modems. Even so there are many possible modems to choose from. When making a selection we strongly advise the following:–

- · Select the same make and model of modem for each end of the link.

- · If you cannot get the same type of modem for all the sites, make sure that the modems you choose will work together reliably. **Test them in combination.**

- · TIS Software Ltd have approved the use of the following modems with this software, and we strongly recommend only the use of these modems:–

    Modtech M5024
    Modtech M5032
    Miracom Courier V.32

In order to use a particular modem with the Comms Support Pack, a set of programming sequences must be determined. These are sequences which the Comms Support Pack will transmit to the modem, in order to make the modem establish a link and transfer files etc. The sequences can be determined by careful examination of the documentation supplied with the modems and the `Global Comms Support Pack  Reseller Notes' document.  The sequences for the modems which are on the TIS Software Ltd approved list are described in the `Global Comms Support Pack Reseller Notes'.

It is the policy of TIS Software Ltd to support only those modems which we know work reliably. We will not support extra modems on demand, but will consider additions if the modems meet the reliability criteria required. TIS Software Ltd will be unable to provide advice and support on any modem which is not on the approved list.

For a charge, TIS Software Ltd will support additional modems. This charge is usually £200 for half a day's work although it can be more in exceptional circumstances. This extra work is always done on a time–and–materials basis.

To arrange for modem certification please contact the Customer Services Manager at TIS Software Ltd's City office.