

## IUPAC Project Progress Report

**Date:** June 2005

**Project number:** 2002-058-1-500

**Project Title:** Definitions and fields of application of the terms robust and rugged and the characteristics or qualities of robustness and ruggedness in analytical chemistry

**Task Group Leader:** D.T.Burns

### Report:

1. Current status of project:

The project is complete and has been submitted to the Division President. It has been revised in the light of the initial comments received.

2. Progress relative to 'milestones':

The report was first submitted on time within the "milestones"

3. Difficulties encountered (or concerns):

(a) It was difficult to prepare the cost estimate in the light of no experience of the new system.

(b) The fall in the value of the \$ vs £ caused a further problem to proper estimation of costs. Perhaps IUPAC should return to the stable Swiss F or allow for currency fluctuations between time of allocation and time of spend.

(c) What was not appreciated in the change from a Commission based to a Project base was the value of discussions that took place in the free time between the Commission Meetings and the Council and also inputs from Commission members not directly involved with the project.

(d) How to deal with an necessary expansion to the work that only becomes apparent after detailed consideration within the project? In our case it was the important realisation that the topics in hand could in fact be given quantitative bases.

4. Projected completion date (documents ready for external review):

As noted the revised report is with the Division President

5. Please list all of the intended outputs and the dissemination plan for this project (viz. articles, CD, conference presentations; etc.). These may have been expanded since project approval: The main dissemination will be via Pure and Applied Chemistry. All task group members will publicise the work via their national societies and in their lectures at home and when travelling.

6. If your project is within 6 months of completion, how do you plan to utilise any remaining budget for this project?

If any money is left it will be possible to consider costs such as photocopying and postages.

7. Work on this project may have identified new problems, issues, challenges, emerging topics, opportunities for related projects, etc. Please indicate these here so that the Division can follow up on them.

We are aware of further examples of

(a) the use of the same word(s), or similar word pairs, in different contexts which require clear definition for use in analytical chemistry e.g. validation/verification; uncertainty/unreliability,

(b) the possibility to devise quantitative measures for what are regarded as qualitative descriptors e.g. accuracy which could produce “an index of accuracy”.