

Waterloo Maple and NAG Announce Strategic Alliance

Waterloo, Canada and Oxford, UK - 12 August 1998 -Two leading mathematical software companies announced today that they have formed a strategic alliance to build the "next generation of mathematical problem-solving environments (PSEs)". Waterloo Maple Inc. (WMI) of Waterloo, Canada, and the Numerical Algorithms Group (NAG) of Oxford, UK, made the joint announcement at the start of the annual world conference of computer algebraists (ISSAC) taking place in Rostock, Germany.

"A mathematical problem-solving environment" explained WMI's Vice President, Technology Group, Paul Hamilton, "provides a powerful but easy-to-use framework in which users can call on a wide range of computational tools, configured to meet their application requirements". The two companies have decided to collaborate, he said, because they each have complementary expertise, technologies and market strengths. In addition, they share similar beliefs about the challenge of providing the next generation of computational tools for people who learn, explore or use mathematics in academia and industry.

WMI's principal product, MapleV is a very powerful system for solving mathematical problems. Its strength in computer algebra is unsurpassed. It is widely used throughout the world, especially in academia. NAG is best known for its highly acclaimed libraries of numerical and statistical algorithms, as well as its software products, such as the IRIS Explorer scientific visualisation software. NAG software is widely used by both academia and industry, and in particular by most leading European and North American industrial and government research establishments. Given the expertise and technologies available to the two companies, especially since each has its own wider set of collaborative relationships, there is, according to Steve Hague, NAG's R&D Director, "quite a heady brew ... the potential for development is very exciting".

Drawing attention to that rich potential, Paul Hamilton and Steve Hague took the opportunity at the Rostock Conference to call on fellow practitioners in the mathematical software community to share in developing a joint vision of future mathematical PSE software systems. For example, systems that can communicate with each other and across computer networks through emerging standards such as MathML and OpenMath. Failure to embrace such standards and insistence on closed software architecture, they argue, will continue to fragment the scarce resources available and leave computer users poorly served.

Work on a successor product to MapleV, the basis of a new generation of mathematical PSE software products, is well advanced, with a launch anticipated during 1999. Further details of the product, which is expected to include substantially enhanced numerical capabilities through the use of embedded NAG Library code, will be given in due course. In the meantime, individuals and organisational users of mathematical software are welcome to register their interest, and indeed their views, by contacting either of these email addresses:

alliance@maplesoft.com or alliance@nag.co.uk

Waterloo Maple started as a research project at the Symbolic Computation Group at the University of Waterloo in 1980. Maple technology continues to be developed by a growing internal R&D department in association with leading academics in the field of symbolic

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computation at prominent Universities around the world. Waterloo Maple Inc. is the global leader in the development of interactive solutions for educators and technical professionals. Waterloo Maple's flagship product, Maple V, the most powerful interactive solution environment, has over one million users accessing Waterloo Maple's mathematical technology world-wide.

NAG has over 25 years experience in developing, porting, distributing and supporting scientific software. NAG supplies a range of compilers, tools, software libraries and associated products for the professional programmer and for educational and industrial use. Software products from NAG include the world's first Fortran 90 compiler and numerical library, IRIS Explorer, statistical and computer algebra packages. NAG Ltd. is based in Oxford, UK, with subsidiary companies in Chicago, Munich and Tokyo as well as distributors worldwide. NAG's strategy to provide a complete software toolkit for scientists and engineers has resulted in over 10,000 licenses, covering more than 100,000 users.