

Contact: S. Lawrence Paulson
Cheryl W. Hoffman
(301) 779-6863
Fax (301) 779-9263

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, August 28, 2001

**Dick Brooks, Active GISB Volunteer and Chief Technology Officer and Cofounder,
Group 8670, Receives ANSI Meritorious Service Award**

HOUSTON, Texas Richard J. Brooks, Chief Technical Officer and co-founder of Group 8760, and a longtime Gas Industry Standards Board (GISB) volunteer, is the recipient of a Meritorious Service Award from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Brooks is co-chairman of GISB's Electronic Delivery Mechanism Subcommittee, where he has been instrumental in bringing GISB's natural gas standards to the attention of other standards groups in the United States and abroad. He is the coauthor of EDI INT AS2 specifications, which provide a broad level of interoperability across multiple industries, including banking and utilities.

ANSI Meritorious Service Awards are given to individuals in recognition of their "record of significant contribution to voluntary standardization and has demonstrated outstanding service in enabling the American National Standards Institute to obtain the objectives for which it was founded." Brooks will receive his award at a reception and dinner at the Marriott Metro Center Hotel in Washington Oct. 9, as part of the ANSI World Standards Week program.

GISB Executive Director Rae McQuade, who nominated Brooks for the award, said, "Dick Brooks' efforts to ensure the compatibility of GISB standards with other e-commerce standards have helped GISB gain recognition and acceptance outside the energy marketplace. This award is a fitting recognition of Dick's many contributions to the cause of standardization not only in the energy industry, but throughout industries that employ e-commerce technologies."

Brooks began his career with Digital Equipment Corp. and helped found Group 8760 in 1996. He is a member of the Association of Computing Machinery, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Internet Society and the Internet Engineering Task Force, where he has held several committee leadership positions.

ANSI is a private, nonprofit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system.

GISB was established in September 1994 as an independent and voluntary North American organization to develop and promote the use of business practices and related electronic communications standards designed to promote more competitive, efficient and reliable gas service. The organization has over 150 corporate members, a board of directors, an executive committee, an advisory committee and many other working committees and task forces.

#