Subject: Re: Work at RSI!
Posted by Patrick Broos on Tue, 11 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML>
Research Systems wrote:
<BLOCKQUOTE TYPE=CITE>You've been using IDL for years and you like it!
You're the "go-to" person

for difficult IDL-related questions in your organization. Perhaps there
are

even some things about IDL that you wish were different or you think
could

be better. Here's your chance to do something about it.
<P>We're looking for people with one foot in science and the other foot
in

programming (and an understanding of both) to contribute to future
IDL

functionality.</BLOCKQUOTE>

<PRE>I find this opportunity at RSI to pose a moral dilemma.</PRE>

<PRE>I enjoy programming in IDL, I've wanted to work again in Colorado for</PRE>

<PRE>quite a while, and I happen to have experience relevant to RSI's need.</PRE>

<PRE>However over the years I've come to believe that the environment/culture</PRE>

<PRE>at RSI does not tend to place a high enough value on scientific integrity,</PRE>

<PRE>i.e. getting correct answers from IDL applications, or on their customers'</PRE>

<PRE>time. For example:</PRE>

<PRE>* To this day RSI has not done anything about the corrupt scientific results</PRE>

<PRE>its customers may produce using the multi-flawed random number routines.</PRE>

<PRE>(Just three weeks ago another person reported to this newsgroup that they</PRE>

<PRE>were burned by this.)</PRE>

<PRE>* RSI seems to make no effort to notify its customers of even routine and</PRE>

<PRE>straigtforward bugs that are known and fixed. They have twice now given</PRE>

<PRE>me a revised version of cw_form.pro when I pointed out a bug but made no</PRE>

<PRE>effort to make such improvements available to the rest of their customer base.</PRE>

<PRE></PRE>

<PRE>I'm sure the people at RSI are perfectly nice people. They would probably</PRE>

<PRE>explain that by not doing the things _I_ think they should be doing, they</PRE>

<PRE>are able to accomplish other important stuff. Fine ... everyone has to set</PRE>

<PRE>priorities.</PRE>

<PRE></PRE>

<PRE>So, when you disagree with a company's behavior, should you avoid working</PRE>

<PRE>there (as a protest, and for your own personal happiness), or should you</PRE>

<PRE>try to work there (making an effort improve the place)?   This is an entirely</PRE>

<PRE>academic question, of course, designed to stimulate interesting newsgroup</PRE>

<PRE>discussion, since RSI would not likely hire me now anyway. :)</PRE>

<PRE></PRE>

<PRE>I like the IDL language generally, but just wish RSI would do some things</PRE>

<PRE>better. Perhaps you, gentle reader, just wish I would stop complaining.</PRE>

<PRE></PRE>

<PRE>Regards,</PRE>

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