Top 25 Engineer's Terms and Expressions
(What they say *versus* what they mean)

A number of different approaches are being tried.
(We are still guessing at this point)

Close project coordination
(We sat down and had coffee together)

An extensive report is being prepared on a fresh approach.
(We just hired three punk kids right out of High School)

Major technological break through!
(It works OK; but looks very hi-tech!)

Customer satisfaction is believed assured.
(We are so far behind schedule, that the customer will take anything)

Preliminary operational tests were inconclusive.
(The darn thing blew up when we threw the switch)

Test results were extremely gratifying.
(Unbelievable…it actually worked!)

The entire concept will have to be abandoned.
(The only guy who understood the thing, quit)

It is in process.
(It is so wrapped in red tape that the situation is completely hopeless)

We will look into it.
(Forget it. We already have enough problems)

Please note and initial.
(Let's spread the responsibility for this)

Give us the benefit of your thinking.
(We'll listen to what you have to say as long as it doesn't interfere with what we have already done or with whatever we are going to do)

Give us your interpretation.
(We can't wait to hear your bull)

See me or let's discuss.
(Come to my office, I've messed up again)

All new.
(Parts are not interchangeable with previous design)

Rugged.
(Don't plan to lift it without rugged equipment)

Robust!
(Rugged, but more so)

Light weight.
(Slightly lighter than rugged)

Years of development.
(One finally worked)

Energy saving.
(Achieved when the power switch is "off")

No maintenance.
(Impossible to fix)

Low maintenance.
(Nearly impossible to fix)

Fax me the data.
(I'm too lazy to write it down)

We are following the standard.
(That's the way we've always done it)

I didn't get your e-mail
(I haven't checked my e-mail for days)