

Working Together for Interoperability

**The IEC/ISO/ITU/UNECE MoU
on e-Business Standards**



The Business Requirement

- **e-Business is becoming a cornerstone of the world economy**
- **Full benefits for consumers, industry and government demand a coherent set of Information and Communication Technology standards**
 - **open**
 - **interoperable**
 - **internationally accepted**



The Role of Standards

Standards required to:

- **support dynamic development of e-business**
 - **across the manufacturing and service industries**
 - **along the global supply chain from supplier to consumer**
 - **throughout the lifecycle of products - may be decades**
- **provide effective services to the citizen**



The MoU Vision

Our vision is to offer the environment in which all key international organizations can cooperate and contribute to the delivery and promotion of the evolving set of e-Business standards, and maximize their contribution to global commerce



The MoU Objective

- **The objective of the MoU is to encourage interoperability by:**
 - **Recognizing the risk of divergent or conflicting approaches to standardization**
 - **Avoiding duplication of efforts and, therefore, confusion amongst users**
 - **Ensuring intersectoral coherence**



The Stakeholders

- **The MoU on e-Business Standards brings together:**
 - **The four global de jure standardisation bodies**
 - **Participating international user groups**



The four global de jure bodies

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)

- <http://www.iec.ch>



The International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

- <http://www.iso.org>



The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- <http://www.itu.int>



The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

- <http://www.unece.org/cefact>



The four global de jure bodies

- **The de jure standards bodies are committed to operating by international consensus**
- **IEC and ISO are the “parents” of JTC1 on IT standards**
- **ISO, IEC and ITU each have a number of technical groups developing standards relevant to e-Business**
- **UN/ECE also involves countries outside Europe such as Canada and the USA**
- **UN/ECE is the “parent” of UN/CEFACT – the UN’s Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business**



Participating International User Groups

CALS International

- <http://www.iiceb.org>

NATO CALS

- <http://www.dcnicn.com/ncmb>

OASIS

- <http://www.oasis-open.org>

CEN/ISSS

- <http://www.cenorm.be/iss>

EAN

- <http://www.ean-int.org>

OAGI

- <http://www.openapplications.org>

SWIFT

- <http://www.swift.com>



Criteria for a Participating User Group

- **Approved by the MoU signatories**
- **Legally "organized" group or registered consortium**
- **International in scope**
- **International in membership, and open to new members**
- **Multiple industry sectors, or a broad range of industry groups in a single sector**
- **Standards or specification development as a reason they were formed or exist**
- **Organized for at least one year**
- **Willing and interested to cooperate on interoperability and other common e-business technical issues**
- **Willing and able to send representatives to MoU/MG meetings**



History of the MoU

- **January, 1995 - original MoU was signed by IEC, ISO and UN/ECE**
- **17 November, 1998 - revised MoU established the need/ability to add Participating International User Group input**
- **24 March, 2000 - ITU signed**
- **Actual PDF of the latest MoU is available from the web at**

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/e-business/mou/index.html>



The Commitment

- **Formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) commits participants to:**
 - **Avoid divergent and conflicting approaches to standardization**
 - **Eliminate duplication of efforts**
 - **Provide a clear roadmap for users**
 - **Ensure intersectoral coherence in the field of electronic business**



The Principles

- **Information on work programmes will be shared openly**
- **The cooperation will focus on action, not discussion**
- **The process shall not represent an additional layer of bureaucracy in the standardization process**
- **Recommendations will be agreed by consensus among the participants**
- **Each organization will retain its own decision making process**



What is consensus?

- **ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996**

"General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.

NOTE Consensus need not imply unanimity."



Operations

- **Monitors new initiatives**
- **Identifies topics of mutual interest and potential overlaps/conflicts**
- **Makes recommendations for action to resolve issues and harmonise activities**
- **Monitors progress**
- **Facilitates expert participation in the most appropriate development programmes**
- **Promotes role of the MoU to external organisations**



Organisation

- Management Group comprising representatives of participating organizations
- Meets 2/3 times a year
- Electronic dialogue between meetings
- Feedback into organizations



The MoU Management Group has no formal power but a great deal of moral authority !



Key successes to date - Technical coordination

- **Summit on business information objects, leading to increased cooperation between developers**
- **Framework for OASIS/CEFACT cooperation on ebXML, including Joint Coordinating Committee**
- **Joint ISO/CEFACT working group on EDIFACT syntax**
- **Joint approach to UNTDED maintenance and update**
- **Recommendation on e-Business character sets**
- **Information exchange on XML usage**
- **Recommendation on XML schema languages**



Key successes to date - Facilitation

- **Facilitation of consortium involvement with standards bodies - OASIS, OAGIS, EAN, SWIFT**
- **Greater visibility of potential conflicts in standards work, leading to scope adjustments - eg TC171**
- **Recognition of value of coordination function**
- **MoUs between standardisation groups to recognise shared activities - eg Freight Forwarding**
- **Support for open information sources - eg DIFFUSE project**



Active areas of coordination

- **ebXML Core Components methods and procedures**
- **Universal Business Language (UBL)**
- **e-Catalogues/Dictionaries - structure and content**
- **Product data standards between ISO and IEC**
- **Harmonisation of IPR policy in standardisation including royalty-free and RAND provisions**
- **Product classification schemes**
- **Basic Semantic Registers (BSR)**
- **Metadata registries**
- **Record retention**
- **Barcoding for permanent part marking**
- **Security**
- **Metadata for standardisation work description**



Future Events

- **Next plenary session, Geneva, 7-8 April 2003**



The key message

The e-Business MoU Management Group works to foster cooperation among standards developers, so as to minimize the risk of divergent and competing approaches to standardization, to avoid duplication of efforts, and to avoid confusion amongst users of e-Business standards



More information

**For more information on the MoU
and the events that are being held
under its umbrella,
please see the website at:**

http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/e_business/



Backup slides



Standards groups involved (1)

- **ISO**
 - **TC 37** Terminology and language resources
 - **TC 46** Information and documentation
 - **TC 68** Banking, securities & other financial services
 - **TC 154** Processes, data elements & documents in commerce, industry & administration
 - **TC 184** Industrial automation systems and integration
 - **TC 184/SC 4** Industrial Data
 - **TC 184/SC 5** Architecture, communications and integration frameworks
 - **TC 204** Intelligent transport systems
 - **TC 215** Health informatics



Standards groups involved (2)

- **IEC**
 - **TC 3** **Documentation and graphical symbols**
 - **TC 52** **Printed circuits**
 - **TC 56** **Dependability**
 - **TC 93** **Design automation**



Standards groups involved (3)

- **ISO/IEC JTC 1**

- **SC 27** IT Security techniques
- **SC 31** Automatic identification/ data capture
- **SC 32** Data management and Interchange
- **SC 34** Doc. description & processing langs.
- **SC 35**

- **ITU-T**

- **SG 3** Tariff and accounting principles
- **SG 4** Telecommunication management
- **SG 13** Multi-protocol and IP-based networks
- **SG 16** Multimedia services, systems and terminals
- **SG 17** Telecommunication software



Standards groups involved (4)

- **UN/CEFACT**
 - **CSG** **UN/EDIFACT Steering Group**
 - **ATG** **Applied Technologies Group**
 - **ICG** **Information Content Management Group**
 - **LG** **Legal Group**
 - **TBG** **International Trade and Business Processes Group**
 - **TMG** **Techniques and Methodologies Group**



Participating International User Group - OASIS

- **Business Transaction Processing (BTP)**
- **Controlled Trade (CTML)**
- **ebXML Collaborative Partner (CPPA)**
- **ebXML Implementation, Interoperability, Conformance (IIC)**
- **ebXML Messaging**
- **ebXML Registry**
- **Universal Business Language (UBL)**
- **Access Control (XACML)**
- **Common Biometric Format (XCBF)**
- **Rights Language**
- **Security Services (SAML)**
- **Web Services Security (WSS)**



Participating International User Group - OAGIS



Participating International User Group – EAN International

- **EAN•UCC Global Standards Management Process (GSMP)**
- **Business Modelling using UML**
- **Global Data Dictionary (GDD)**
- **Identification numbering system**
- **Bar coding standards**
- **Radio Frequency Identification (GTAG)**
- **EANCOM (subset of UN/EDIFACT)**
- **EAN•UCC XML standards:**
 - **Simple-eb**
 - **Collaborative Planning Forecasting and Replenishment (CPFR)**



Participating International User Group - CEN/ISSS

- **Electronic Commerce Workshop (WS/EC)**
- **e-Business Board for European Standardization (WS/eBES)**
- **Workshop on Multilingual Catalogue Strategies for e-Commerce and e-Business (WS/ECAT)**
- **Sector Workshops on e-Business issues:**
 - **Footwear (WS/FINEC)**
 - **Clothing and Textiles (WS/Tex-Spin)**
 - **Construction (WS/eConstruct)**
 - **Furniture Product and Business Data (WS/fUN-STEP2)**
- **Pre-standardization Focus Groups:**
 - **e-Business standards roadmap, 2003-2005**
 - **Electronic Invoicing**



Participating International User Group – SWIFT

- **Standards for payments, treasury, securities and trade finance**
- **UML business modelling**
- **Automatic generation of XML schemas from UML models**
- **Financial repository**
- **UML/XML standards for**
 - **Customer to Bank Payments**
 - **Interbank Retail Bulk Payments**
 - **Cash Reporting and Management**
 - **Securities Trading**
 - **Investment Funds Business**
- **Registration Authority for**
 - **ISO 9362 - Bank Identifier Code (BIC)**
 - **ISO 10383 - Market Identification Code (MIC)**
 - **ISO 15022 - Scheme for Messages**



Key e-Business standards

- **ISO 10303 STEP for product data**
- **ISO 13584/IEC 61360 for component libraries**
- **ebXML**
- **ISO 9735 EDIFACT**
- **ISO 15022 Scheme for financial messages**
- **ISO/IEC 62264 Enterprise-control system integration**

