

# **Working Together for Interoperability**

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MoU on E-Business Standards

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

The objective of the MoU is to encourage interoperability by:

- Recognising the risk of divergent and competitive approaches to standardisation
- Avoiding duplication of efforts and, therefore, confusion amongst users
- Ensuring intersectoral coherence

# **The MoU on e-Business Standards brings together:**

- The four global de jure bodies
- Participating international user groups

# The four global de jure bodies

- The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)

# The four global de jure bodies

- IEC and ISO are the “parents” of JTC1
- UN/ECE would be more correctly named the Economic Commission for North America and Europe as Canada and the USA are full members.
- UN/ECE is the “parent” of UN/CEFACT – the UN’s Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

# The MoU itself

- 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 MoU is available from me, on the web at [www.itu.int/ITU-T/e-business/mou/index.html](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/e-business/mou/index.html)

# The Participating International User Groups

- CALS International
- NATO CALS
- OASIS ( as from 1 January 2002)

(Membership is open to groups with a commitment to interoperability in e-Business standards and who are international and not-for-profit)

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

## *The Business Requirement*

- e-business becoming cornerstone of the world economy
- Full benefits for consumers, industry and government  
*demand* a coherent set of ICT standards
  - open
  - interoperable
  - internationally accepted

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

## *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
- provide effective services to the citizen

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

## *Vision*

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

# **The MoU on e-Business Standards**

## *Objectives*

**Formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) commits participants to:**

- **Avoid divergent and competitive approaches to standardization**
- **Eliminate duplication of efforts**
- **Provide a clear roadmap for users**
- **Ensure intersectoral coherence in the field of electronic business**

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

## *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

# How Do We Work?

- We share and coordinate work programmes
- We identify overlaps and work for their removal
- We encourage the participation of technical experts from the various signatories to the MoU in the work programmes
- We have established a Management Group to undertake the coordination

# **The MoU on e-Business Standards**

## *Organisation*

- **Management Group comprising representatives of participating organisations**
- **Identifies topics of mutual interest and potential overlaps/conflicts**
- **Makes recommendations for action**
- **Monitors progress**
- **Facilitates expert participation in development programmes**
- **Meets 2/3 times a year, plus electronic dialogue**

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

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

Active areas of coordination include:

- Matrix of Standards Developers working in each of the quadrants of the ISO Open-edi Reference Model
- Business Information Objects (1st summit held Nov 2000)
- XML
- IPR policy in standardisation including RAND provisions

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

## Next Events:

- IPR workshop, Geneva, 12-13 March 2002
- Summits on Business Information Objects and XML,  
Geneva, 3-5 December 2002

(NB. Geneva is where the de jure organisations are located but in future  
not all events will be held there)

# The MoU on e-Business Standards

For more information on the MoU and the events that are being held under its umbrella, please contact either:

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