

**ISO - IEC – ITU - UNECE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ELECTRONIC BUSINESS MANAGEMENT GROUP**

SUBJECT

MoU Summit on Business Objects – Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Management Group of the ISO-IEC-ITU-UN/ECE MoU on Electronic Business is organizing a Summit for an initial exchange of views on the harmonization of business objects for technical, business and documentation information, leading to improved mutual knowledge, identification of key themes and possible standards coordination issues.

The Summit will be held in Geneva on **27-28 November 2000**, running from 11:00 on 27 November to 17:00 on 28 November. Initial contributions describing the scope of activities and the approach and methodology used by each participating group are invited by **30 June 2000**. More detailed submissions can be provided up to the end of **October 2000**.

Summit Objectives

The MoU Management Group has concluded that the development of standards to enable Electronic Business within and among enterprises will require unambiguous and concise specification of the data required to support the enterprise. The Summit will seek agreement on an approach to seek a global synthesis of data specifications that are represented in a variety of different standards and specifications. The objectives of the Summit are three-fold:

1. Establish the scope of a global synthesis of business objects,
2. Establish a statement of direction for addressing this need including both short and long term considerations,
3. Estimate the effort and resource level required and chart the steps needed.

Terms of Reference

These terms of reference cover:

1. A definition of the specific technical issues to be addressed;
2. A description of the proposed deliverables;
3. Criteria for participation;
4. Target time scales and milestones for its deliverables; and
5. Specific proposals for participation.
6. Preparation for the meeting

7. Structure of the meeting

The detail for each of the above is as follows:

1. Definition of the specific technical issues to be addressed

The Summit is intended to address the variety of business objects that are being developed by different standardization bodies to support Electronic Commerce applications in a range of application areas.

The Summit will explore the potential for convergence between these initiatives to develop a set of Common Business Objects to support the full range of information required by enterprises in the global marketplace.

2. Description of the proposed deliverables

The deliverables of the Summit will be:

- A statement of the elements of a joint approach to the development of the required Common Business Objects, building on the results of the existing projects to protect the investment to date
- A plan of action for coordinating the delivery and standardization of the Common Business Objects, including recommendations for action and a schedule.

3. Criteria for Participation

The Summit shall be open to experts with broad-based knowledge of existing activities related to the development of Business Objects for information exchange, sharing and archiving.

Each group or organization may designate one or more experts to the Summit, subject to retaining a balance between those organizations identified or invited. Participants are expected to contribute to the work based solely on their expertise. The proposed participants should be appropriately accredited by their organisations.

4. Target Time Scales

This Summit will develop a schedule for executing the plan of action to be presented to the MoU/MG at its next meeting on 29 November.

5. Proposals for participation (not exclusive)

The following organisations should be invited, through their Chairs:

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32/WG 1, 2
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 34
ISO/TC 184/SC 4/WG 10, 11, 12
ISO/TC 184/SC 5
ISO/TC 154
ISO/TC 68
ISO/TC 46
IEC/TC 3
IEC/TC 93
ITU-T SG 7
ITU-T SG 10
UN/CEFACT, TMWG, and other relevant WGs

ebXML
OMG
CommerceNet
RosettaNet
W3C

6. Preparation for the meeting

Initial statements (one or two paragraphs) from participating organisations are invited, defining the business applications that they are addressing, the scope of the objects defined, and the approach and methodology used for structuring the objects. These statements should be provided electronically to Mr. J. Kubler, UN/ECE (jean.kubler@unece.org) by 30 June 2000 to allow coordination and distribution.

Further, more detailed material should be made available by 30 October for distribution to the other participants in advance of the meeting.

7. Structure of the meeting

The structure of the Summit will be to present the objectives and process for the conference, and to complete the technical presentations on the first day. The common themes, and the key challenges for discussion, will be extracted, presented and discussed at an opening plenary on the second day, leading to identification of the principal issues to be addressed. These issues will be addressed by working sessions and brought together in a closing plenary to identify required links and future requirements for coordination as the basis of an action plan.

Organizing Committee:

On behalf of the MoU/MG, the event will be organized by Sandy Paul, Howard Mason, Cindy Fuller, Francois Vuilleumier, Claude Hamon, and Jean Kubler.