



Memorandum of Understanding on electronic business between IEC, ISO, ITU, and UN/ECE

Brief overview of its function and purpose



Q3, 2022

MoU on E Business between IEC, ISO, ITU-T & UN/ECE Origins

- The MoU was created to establish a coordination mechanism to produce mutually supportive standards required in business transactions (data interchange and interoperability):
 - In effect facilitating Electronic Business across multiple domains
- **Electronic business covers the information, definition and exchange within and between enterprises, including customers.**
- MoU first signed between IEC, ISO and UN ECE in 1998 (and in 2000 for the ITU-T) to enable better coherency and consistency issues in Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) standardization.
- Today the MoU has expanded to include “participating members” including: OASIS, CEN ISSS, GS1, OAGi , SWIFT, UPU, WCO





MoU e-Business Objective

- The objective of the MoU is to encourage interoperability in the area of e- business
- The 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 MoU Management Group (MoU/MG) promotes synergy by encouraging cooperation and by timely identification of issues requiring examination.
 - While respecting the decision-making processes of IEC, ISO, ITU and UNECE, the MoU/MG shall review and prepare recommendations to the respective entities in response to e-business-related requests.



MoU e-Business Mode of operation

- The MoU holds an annual meeting (December) to review current and future topics, resolutions and actions associated with e-business. The annual meeting provides a platform for the members of the MoU (signatories and participating members):
 - To provide information and status on related work
 - To review current resolutions and actions
 - To review new areas of developments or considerations
 - Explore opportunities for possible cooperation, issue resolution between members within the scope of the MoU.
- Through the year the MoU also arranges information webinars on related e business topics of interest
 - Previous examples have included IoT, Traceability and BlockChain/DLT

Key successes to date /Technical coordination

Examples of success to date:

- Summit on business information objects, leading to increased cooperation between developers
- Joint ISO/CEFACT working group on EDIFACT syntax
- Framework for OASIS/CEFACT cooperation on ebXML, including Joint Coordinating Committee
- Harmonization strategy for Core Components
- Joint approach to UNTDED maintenance and update
- Recommendation on e-Business character sets
- Information exchange on XML usage
- Recommendation on XML schema languages
- Integration of permanent part marking for aerospace
- Coordination between ITU-T, ISO, IEC on Quantities and Units
- CAT A liaison for ITU-T with ISO/TC 307 on blockchain
- Facilitation of consortium involvement with standards bodies - OASIS, OAGIS, GS1, SWIFT
- Greater visibility of potential conflicts in standards work, leading to scope adjustments – e.g. ISO/TC 171
- Recognition of value of coordination function
- Extension to collaboration between CEFACT and OASIS on ebXML
- MoUs between standardization groups to recognize shared activities – e.g. Freight Forwarding, eHealth
- Support for open information sources – e.g. DIFFUSE project
- Cross-organizational assessment of change management.



Further Information MoU/MG

Workshops/Webinars

- The MoU/MG holds virtual workshops (webinars) for sharing information on specific technical topics as deemed appropriate by the signatories.
- Recent organized webinars have been:
 - [MoU/MG webinar on Blockchain in the context of e-business](#), 22 October 2021, hosted by ISO.
 - [MoU/MG webinar on traceability within the context of eBusiness Standards](#); 22 October 2020, hosted by UNECE.
 - [MoU/MG webinar on e-accessibility for e-business](#); 21 October 2019, hosted by ITU-T.
 - [MoU webinar on Internet of Things](#); 12 September 2018, hosted by UNECE.
- **MoU e-Business web page:**
<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/ebusiness/Pages/mou>
- **MoU/MG documents:**
<http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink?func=ll&objId=15630294&objAction=browse&sort=name>