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DRAFT

BUSINESS PLAN for ISO/IEC JTC 1

The International Technical Committee for Information Technology Standards

Period Covered: November 1999 - October 2000

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1. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

1.1 Statement of Scope

International standardization in the field of Information Technology

Note: Information Technology includes the specification, design and development of systems and tools dealing with the capture, representation, processing, security, transfer, interchange, presentation, management, organization, storage and retrieval of information.

1.2 Project Report

See individual Subcommittee reports

1.3 Cooperation and Competition

JTC 1 makes a concerted effort to work with ISO/IEC TCs, TAGs and other management level groups (e.g., ISO/IEC/UNECE MoU Management Group) as well as industry consortia and forums.

At the technical level, there are several mechanisms that are available and have been used to encourage cooperative work. These include Category "C" liaison, collaborative agreements, memorandums of understanding, the fast track process and the PAS process.

While industry consortia and forums may be viewed as competitors for new work, JTC 1 is cooperating with several of these organizations through the PAS process to bring to bring their work into the formal standardization process. Currently approved PAS Submitters are ATM Forum, DMTF, and OMG. Europay International, SSE-CCM and IFPUG have applied for PAS Submitter status. Working with X-Open and DAVIC, JTC 1 successfully transposed specifications submitted by those organizations to International Standards status. Collaborative agreements have also been utilized for joint work with the IETF, the Web 3D Consortium and the World Wide Web (W3C) consortium.

2. PERIOD REVIEW

JTC 1 had a successful plenary period in terms of producing standards and improving its operations. However, JTC 1 needs to continue to focus on its strategic direction and mechanisms for making the industry and user communities aware of its products and accomplishments.

2.1 Market Requirements

From a JTC 1 perspective, the market requirements can only be stated in a generic fashion. The SC business plans should supplement and support these while providing technology specifics. Market trends indicate a requirement for technology standards that can be produced rapidly, with a business-like approach and widely disseminated. As “hot” technologies develop, JTC 1 must be able to accommodate these and produce the international standards. Major standards bodies are addressing the standardization needs for a seamless, secure global information infrastructure. JTC 1 (its SC’s) must be able to analyze these requirements and determine what new projects must be initiated to ensure that these needs are fulfilled. The real determinant of success is the implementation of JTC 1 standards in products.

2.2 Achievements

During the February - October 1999 Plenary period the following major accomplishments were achieved:

2.2.1 JTC 1 published 66 International Standards (including Amendments, International Standardized Profiles and Technical Reports) in areas such as: coded character sets, identification cards, database, media, graphics, audio/video coding, private networks, office equipment, programming languages, security, software engineering and vocabulary.

A listing of the published standards is available at the JTC 1 web site (www.jtc1.org).

2.2.2 The PAS process was incorporated into the JTC 1 Directives as a normal part of JTC 1 operations.

Transposition of the Digital Audio-Visual Council's (DAVIC) end-to-end digital TV system specification to a multi-part International Standard and accompanying Technical Report was completed and marked a major success for the PAS process.

The approval status of several PAS submitters changed during this period with some organizations dropping their status and other organizations applying to become PAS submitters. OMG submitted two specifications for transposition that went to ballot during this period.

- 2.2.3 Two new JTC 1 Subcommittees became operational during this period: SC 34, Document Description and Processing Languages; and SC 35, User Interfaces.
- 2.2.4 JTC 1 implemented an updated version of the JTC 1 web site that provides more direct access to JTC 1 and subcommittee information and JTC 1 documents. In addition, the new web site contains a "What's New" feature and provides an overview of JTC 1 ("at a glance").
- 2.2.5 JTC 1 gained experience in public relations activities and increased its number of press releases and articles for the ISO Bulletin and other publications.
- 2.2.6 JTC 1 implemented a web-based on-line balloting system and has successfully processed a number of ballots through the new system. The on-line balloting system saves administrative time for the JTC 1 Secretariat, eliminates the possibility that National Body votes and comments may be recorded incorrectly, and includes an automatic reminder feature of ballot due-dates.

2.3 Resources

Resource availability and commitment continue to be of concern. However, for projects perceived to be truly market relevant, resources are readily available for the development work. Where a project has a questionable level of resource, other development mechanisms must be considered and the project canceled if appropriate.

3. FOCUS FOR THIS PLANNING PERIOD

For the November 1999 - October 2000 Plenary period, the major focus should be on introducing market-relevant projects and meeting delivery dates for standards in progress (as identified in Subcommittee reports). JTC 1 will also be assessing its strategy to determine any necessary changes in direction and improving its marketing and public relations efforts.

3.1 Deliverables

- International Standards produced in a timely manner using JTC 1's various development methods, including Subcommittee, Fast Track and PAS.
- Specific recommendations regarding JTC 1's strategic direction and operational methods
- Implementation of Marketing and Public Relations mechanisms to better engage and inform the industry and user community of JTC 1's products and accomplishments
- Confirmation of the usefulness of the "business team" concept through submission of specific new work items resulting from business team efforts, i.e., Electronic Commerce, and Imaging and Graphics. (This is a continuation of a deliverable from the previous period.)
- Identification and implementation of additional information technology tools to improve JTC 1's electronic operations.

3.2 Strategies

Other standards bodies, consortia and forums are competing for the development of Information Technology standards. JTC 1 must effectively produce standards within its scope, attract new work, cooperate with its partnering organizations and collaborate with other organizations, as appropriate, to produce standards to meet the needs of industry and users. JTC 1 needs to specifically promote the PAS process with its authorized submitters to better assess the value of the PAS process while at the same time producing new international standards.

3.2.1 Risks

If development times within JTC 1 are perceived as too long, potential participants in JTC 1 processes will take their needs to other organizations in an attempt to develop standards in a more timely manner.

3.2.2 Opportunities

In a high technology field, there always exist many new opportunities. JTC 1 must be alert to new technologies ripe for standardization and find the right mechanisms for bringing them into JTC 1.

3.3 Work Program Priorities

JTC 1 should continue to ensure that non market-relevant projects be dropped from the work program. Work programs should be evaluated regularly by all

Subcommittees and action taken to revise and reprioritize the program as appropriate.