INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AFFECTING TRADE INTERCHANGE

BSR Chairman's Report

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BSR/MC Chairman's’ Report on Geneva BSR-MC Meeting on the 5th July 1996

The BSR project is becoming more active with the completion of the document on the Rules, Guidelines and Processes, BSRN101, now out for general review with the deadline for comments by the end of November 1996. This deadline has been extended as it was felt necessary to include a full dry run of a production cycle from mid-August to the end of October to ensure that practical experience be gained before casting the rules, etc. in concrete. The experts for this dry run have been identified and confirmed, and are eager to start work. This dry run will follow the flow of an Activity Model describing the process which was finalized at the July BSR/MC meeting. This model has been developed using the IDEF0 methodology.

The preliminary planning for three full scale production runs in 1997 have been made and these will be in the weeks commencing 3rd March, 23rd June and 3rd November. These dates have been set so that the identified experts can be confirmed and they can reserve the periods in their agendas for 1997. Apart from these meetings the bulk of the work will be carried out electronically.

A meeting has been set up with JTC1 SC14/WG4 from the 14th to the 16th of August 1996 to work on the meta-data model for the BSR and to ensure that the BSR and the generic work of SC14 on data specification are fully aligned.

Work to develop the specifications for the IT system for the BSR will also commence in August based on the rules document BSRN101 and the output of the meta-data modelling work, with the goal of presenting proposals at the next BSR-MC meeting to be held in Geneva on the 16th December 1996.

Trademark and Copyright issues were discussed and a firm proposal will be available at the next meeting to finally resolve any outstanding differences of opinion so that the general public will be absolutely clear as to access and use of the BSR when it is in operation.

In response to the request by the AZEB Rapporteur at the last GE.1 meeting (TRADE/WP.4/GE.1/103, paragraph 95) to give a more detailed report in regard to Standards Australia’s publication of the “BSR User Guide”, this is no longer relevant. At the last BSR/MC meeting the ISO Central Secretariat informed the members that it had received confirmation from Standards Australia that it is no longer involved in the project which was started by the University of Melbourne.

Issues in regard to UN/EDIFACT:

**Participation:** There is a need for UN/EDIFACT Standards Developers and Implementers to be nominated as experts for the “Describe Concepts/Validate Draft BSUs” phases and the Quality Review Team. Efforts are underway, however, it has not resulted in the numbers of experts needed. It is envisioned that there should be 6 to 8 UN/EDIFACT experts for the “Describe/Validation” Phases and 1 UN/EDIFACT expert for the Quality Review Team. ISO is seeking experts for the “Extraction and Definition” Phases, as well as the Quality Review Team. X12 is providing experts in the same area as UN/EDIFACT.

**Free access:** It has been the position of the UN/ECE members to the BSR/MC, since the start of the BSR Pilot, that access to the BSR must be free, in order for the BSR to be the tool envisioned. However, this view is not shared 100% by the all other BSR/MC members. Some believe that a fee should be charged for user access to the BSUs. Since the project team members are volunteers, and the IT system is a donation in kind, it will be a hard sell to charge a fee, especially to those who helped populate the BSR. The problem on this issue is that ISO members look at the BSR from a Standards perspective, however, N101 states clearly that the BSR is a tool, not a Standard. This topic is part of the “Trademark” and “Copyright” issue.