European Committee for Standardization
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Workshop on Multilingual eCataloguing and eClassification in eBusiness (CEN/ISSS WS/eCAT)	**eCAT 05-008 v1**

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1 Welcome and administration

Mr. Galinski sends apologies from eCAT members (see last page) and welcomes the participants. Minor changes in the agenda are announced.

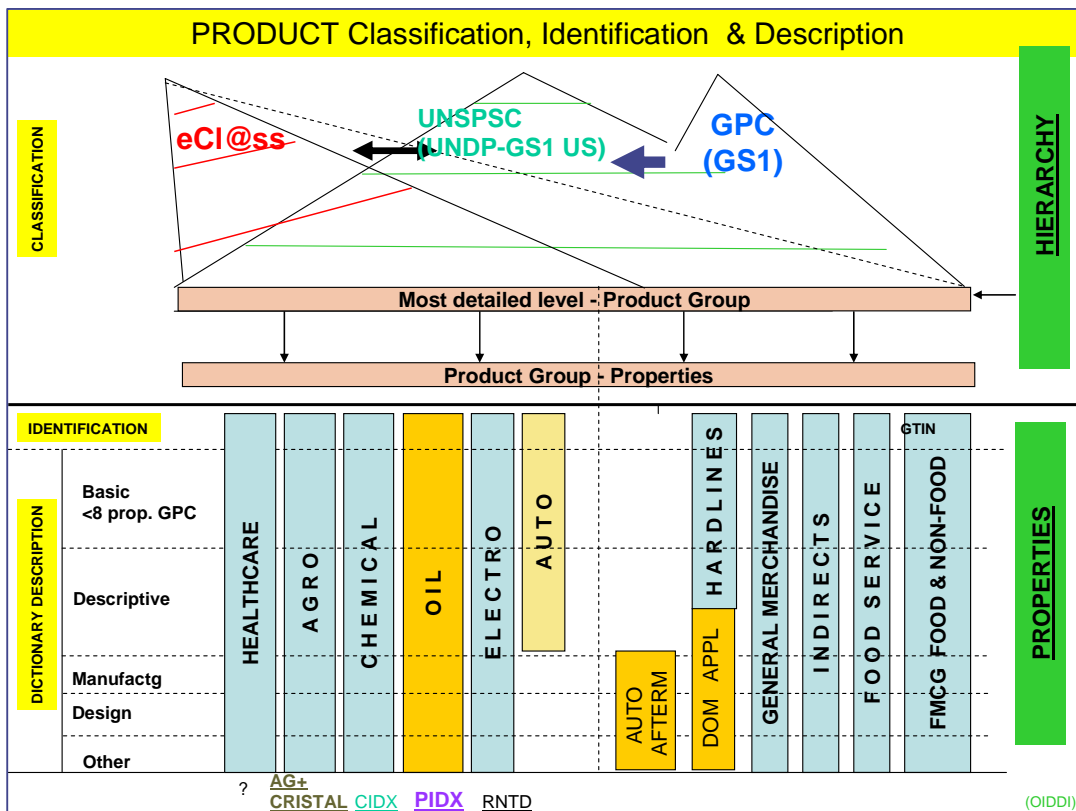## 2 Gen ePDC status quo, Interim Report and future

Mr. Betz begins with an explanation of his appreciation of "classification", explains the workshop activities as a whole and gives a brief overview of the project Gen-ePDC for the new participants. In the Interim Report the nominated experts give a report of the status-quo of the work in accordance with the time table agreed upon. The report was open for comments by the workshop members; during that period the experts received comments from four workshop members (present), which were analyzed by the experts and integrated into the report. The Interim Report was sent to the Commission end of September.

→ *Ms. Gatti informed that the Commission has accepted the Interim Report. The document is now officially endorsed by the Workshop.*

According to the Project Plan, four further documents will be produced by the workshop experts:

- Dictionary of Terminology for Product Classification Components (version 7.1, continuation of part 1)
- The New Properties Library
- Product Classes with sets of Properties (and hierarchies if standardization required)
- Results of development of multilingual catalogues and their respective data modeling methodology

Mr. Betz presents the Annex "Terminology v 7.1", part of the first CWA, followed by (slide) PRODUCT Classification, Identification & Description. The graph presents a multiple view:

The 3 main Classification systems are dealt with in this Workshop:

1. **UNSPSC** (part of the UN), 1997: Aim of this classification is to have statistics for companies about the procurement of goods and services for internal reports.
2. **eCl@ss**, 2000. Designed by a group of German chemical companies and soon joined by other industry sectors. Today this is an international classification for 25 different sectors.
3. **GPC** (EAN/UCC) The global classification of GS1, 2002. Aimed at mainly retail industry, and FMCG.

The aim of Gen-ePDC is to harmonize one most detailed level of product groups and properties. For this purpose, the experts viewed three industry sectors:

- Oil (properties exist, need to be accommodated)
- Auto Aftermarket (exists)
- Domestic Appliances (exists but adjustments needed)

Auto Aftermarket

Mr. Betz states that the easiest seems to be GPC and the Auto Aftermarket classification (items you can buy in supermarkets i.e.), starting from scratch. Experts at GPC and eCl@ss discussed frequently the 4 levels of hierarchy, designed within a couple of months. 280 parts (bricks) are the outcome.

The next task was to design the properties. We had to find an alternative way to retrieve information (due to time). Contact was established with one of the big organizations dealing with auto parts and representing the auto part manufacturing sector, the German TECDOC (Cologne, Germany). In the end of Interim Report you can find the study of Mr. Beckmann.

All major car producers in France and Germany were contacted to establish a classification of their product parts – no person was internally appointed until now.

Mr. Beckmann will soon be ready with the report on Domestic Appliances.

Mr. Patkai explains the systems GPC (22 industry sectors) and UNSPSC (55 industry sectors). GPC & UNSPSC will act as a consolidated alliance system in near future.

Discussion:

Mr. Galinski finds it very interesting to see that there are two types of properties. Is it a dictionary of instances or types of properties? Is there any agreement with UNDP to merge GPC and UNSPSC? If yes, is the outcome a commodity classification or a mixture of product and commodity classification?

Mr. Patkai answers that this is not directly discussed yet, the trigger initiative comes from Sweden (airline, procurement). 45 countries provided a positive response, the need is identified.

Mr. Wilkes asks: Different products from the same category can have the same properties?

Mr. Patkai: Slide Food Beverage and Tobacco Example (apple, banana)

Mr. Pohn asks: You have 4 properties that are mandatory including a pick list for the assignment of a product? Correct?

Mr. Patkai: Only the brick code is mandatory in the system. The attributes help buyers to find the product in the classification. Yes, the 4 properties in this example will soon be mandatory.

Slide: Home Appliances Example (bricks are based on the rule-set).

Mr. Galinski: Much is geared towards retail. Is there a difference between the view of classification for retail and classification for production? eCl@ss is concentrated on production, GPC on consumer goods.

Mr. Patkai: What is the purpose of a classification? GPC's drive was to find a product in any kind of network, which is easier in a category level first and then by excluding. P&G, Unilever etc are using GPC for internal purses only; with GPC e.g. you can map all market research companies into one set, cascade down in marketing, branding, etc. GPC is a mapping tool.

Mr. Stern-Peltz: Is GPC a dictionary or classification scheme?

Mr. Patkai: GPC itself is the classification system but does not exist alone, goes together with the global dictionary.

Mr. Pohn: So the next step would be to harmonize the properties?

Mr. Patkai: what are current properties worth considering? They seem to fall into a brick. In order to support trade and business, we need to find common rules for simplification.

Mr. Wallis: ad UNSPSC and services: UNP will outsource the review of services (only oil, gas and mining services). Voted for PDIX (segment 71).

Mr. Patkai: I cannot speak for UNSPSC but only for the impatient industry approaching me and asking us to integrate both systems into one. GPC is a mandatory field, the brick code is mandatory. GPC can also learn from other industry sectors.

Mr. van Exel: EOTD will also be included?

Mr. Betz: The doors always open.

End of discussion.

Mr. Sardet gives a report on his work item(s).

Conclusion:
- OntoML is fully compliant with ISO 13584
- Is based on ISO 1384-24
- On the road: mapping, documentation

Discussion:

Mr. Leukel: How big is the XMLschema?

Mr. Sardet: 15 Modules, references from 3 main schemata: Internal elements described: 60-70

Mr. Leukel: There are 100 entities but only 60 elements?

Mr. Sardet: We started from over 200 and simplified it to approx. 60.

Mr. Leukel only needs 8 or 9 entities, had also 200. Why is the difference so big? eCl@ss only has 8 entities - can one convert the data?

Mr. Sardet: yes, you just have to define the class and the version.

A general discussion follows.

Mr. Wilkes gives a report on his work item(s) which will be followed by bringing into formality. So far, no real consensus could be found and further discussions are needed.

Mr. Leukel: did you consider property classification? It has one major impact on harmonizing: Make a hierarchy for **classifying** properties (like eCl@ss) with property templates.

Mr. Pohn: There are 7,000 properties available today. How to organize them and find a structure? Should we structure or classify the properties? The structuring of properties is already a sort of classification. It is necessary to combine different ways of identifying properties, ensuring to finding the way back to the original property.

A general discussion follows.

3   RosettaNet PIPs (Partner Interface Process)® and Dictionaries in support of Product Catalogues
Mr. Hans Flem Stern-Peltz, RosettaNet Europe (Denmark)

Mr. Stern-Peltz explains what RosettaNet exactly does. There are 7 different clusters and 90 different business processes identified. The RosettaNet Implementation Guide assists in specific PIP implementation efforts.

A discussion follows.

4   Liaison report on ISO/TC 37
Mr. Christian Galinski, Infoterm (Austria)

Mr. Galinski gives a liaison report on ISO/TC 37 followed by information on two new project proposals within the framework of eCAT:

– "ePPS" - Guidelines for the design, implementation and operation of a product property server in support of electronic product description and classification in eBusiness
– "GenMAR" - Generic approach to jointly operated federated maintenance agencies and other registries containing scientific-technical factual data related to products and services

The proposals have been provided to the commission.

5   (European) Generic Article Register
eGAR – a nomenclature for eBusiness and public tendering
Ms. Marianne Fromreide, KS Registeret (Norway)

Ms. Fromreide thanks for the invitation to speak at the plenary and explains the history of the catalogue used by KS Registeret, which is a private company active in the public procurement of Norway.

Public procurement is heavily regulated in Norway and new rules will come about next year. KS concentrates on approximately 10 product groups. The eGAR database can be downloaded free of charge from http://www.ks.no/templates/KS/KS_Page.aspx?id=27764 (it is in Norwegian, but one hopes for a multilingual catalogue). It is the only free one available in Norway. The principles of this catalogue have been presented in other CEN Workshops as well, but the healthcare Workshop was too narrow for KS.

100.000 procurement officers are working with outdated catalogues, placing 10 billion EURO purchase sum. Framework agreements in the public sector will be the normal way to purchase in the future.

Mr. Wallis: Is there an education process?

Ms. Fromreide: Not yet, but I can see from this plenary that we really need to structure the input in future.

Mr. Wallis: Do you include services as well in the public procurement?

Ms. Fromreide: Yes, and we started with cleaning services.

Ms. Fromreide states that KS will like to participate in this workshop in the future and include discussions and input from its activities.

6   WS/eBES: Project cCatalogues
**   Mr. Wolfgang Wilkes**

Mr. Wilkes gives an overview of the activities at cCatalogues.

7   eCl@ss in China and Report from ISO/TC 184/SC 4/WG3 (NWI 22735)
**   Mr. Raymond Betz, Mr. Wolfgang Wilkes**

Mr. Betz suggests merging the reports on eCl@ss in China and on ISO/TC 184 meetings in China.

ISO/TC 184 met in China, giving a 2 days seminar (2005 International Forum on Standards and Application of Manufacturing Product data technology (2005'IFSAMP) and SC4 Industry and Industrial Workshop on Product/Property Dictionary Standards). 80 participants could be welcomed. China is adopting some European standards and is eager to get good ideas for standards in their industries.

Mr. Wilkes gives an overview of the work of ISO/TC 184/SC 4/WG 2 and the meeting in China, which lasted almost 3 days.

Mr. van Exel: is it correct that eCl@ss will become an ISO Standard?

Mr. Betz: If a system is taking a lead which is not the view of a standard – why not do the same for another classification system?

Mr. van Exel: I find it difficult to share the goal to use one single standard for all the world's procurement activities (philosophical).

Betz: The ISO standards concerned are in fact competitive.

A discussion follows.

9   Any other business

Next meeting: Mr. Betz would like to coordinate the next eCAT meeting with other meetings in Brussels. ISO/TC 184 will meet in Italy 5-10.3.2005 – the input is needed for the gen ePDC documents.

Suggestion: 14 or 15 March 2006 in Brussels.

Participants

BETZ	Raymond	ePDC Convener
EXEL	Paul, VAN	Stichting USPI-NL
FROMREIDE	Marianne	KS - The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional
GALINSKI	Christian	Infoterm
GATTI	Barbara	CEN/ISSS
KIRYK	Ralf	BDH
LEUKEL	Jörg	University of Essen
LINDQUIST	Eva	TermNet
PATKAI	Zoltan	GS1
POHN	Reinhard	Paradine TKS GmbH
SARDET	Eric	CRCFAO - LISI/ENSMA
STERN-PELTZ	Hans Flemming	RosettaNet
SVERRISSON	Runar Mar	ICT Sector Committee
WALLIS	Dave	BT Open World
WILKES	Wolfgang	University of Hagen

Excused

Mr. van Basten, Mr. Beckmann, Mr. Heine, Mr. Hoevel, Mr. Koens, Mr. Ondracek, Mr. Pierra, Mr. Pyka, Mr. Klaus-Dirk Schmitz (Chair), Mr. Volker Schmitz and Mr. Sturrock.