

AIAG Recommendations – Standards for XML B2B Interoperability

The AIAG and its member companies supported the work of ebXML and actively participated in the ebXML Architecture, Core Components, Business Process, Registry and Repository, Transport, Routing and Packaging and Proof of Concept Project Teams. AIAG representatives also held leadership roles in several of these areas. With the first phase of ebXML having been completed in May 2001, the AIAG looks forward to continued participation in the evolution of ebXML Standards for business by UN/CEFACT and OASIS.

Recognizing that these UN/CEFACT and OASIS efforts are “works in progress”, AIAG recommends that members who look to develop XML projects start later this year and continue in 2003. These XML practices are maturing and people familiar with these technologies know that they have to be prepared for updates.

UN/CEFACT is the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the creators of the international standard EDIFACT, co-founder of ebXML, and future owner of international Business Schema for XML. OASIS is the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards, co-founder of ebXML and operator of xml.org. W3C is the World Wide Web Consortium, the creator of the XML Language. W3C continues to create XML protocols that are used by the other organizations. AIAG makes the following interim recommendations to companies who need to start XML implementations in the short term:

AIAG recommends that our members actively join and vigorously participate in UN/CEFACT and OASIS XML standardization efforts. At the same time, members should consider vendors who implement services based on the evolving ebXML specifications and those who are using the Open Specifications of XML. At this time (2Q 2002) items 1-3 are available from several vendors.

- 1) ☐ AIAG recommends the use of the following XML framework that is the basis of ebXML efforts by OASIS and UN/CEFACT. These protocols are the product of the W3C.
 - ☐ XML 1.0 Language
 - ☐ XML Schema Definition Language (XSD)
 - ☐ XML Style Sheet Language (XSL/XSLT 1.0)
- 2) ☐ AIAG endorses the efforts of the Open Applications Group (OAGI) as they work in these spaces. For companies wishing to implement XML early in 2002, AIAG recommends the use of OAGI Business Object Documents (BODS) as a starting point. AIAG looks forward, however, to the convergence of OAGI documents with UN/CEFACT Business Process and Core Components in 2002/2003.
- 3) ☐ XML Messaging
 - ☐ AIAG supports and endorses the adoption of ebXML as a standard for message routing in an automotive supply chain environment.
 - ☐ However, it is recognized that ebXML today is largely untested in our industry.
 - ☐ Software incorporating the ebXML messaging services is expected to be widely available to the automotive environment by 2003.
 - ☐ As a means of supporting immediate requirements for IP message routing, AIAG continues to support the use of E5-2000, a currently available and tested guideline with automotive functionality.
 - ☐ AIAG also recognizes that FTP is currently used over the ANX® network as a secure file transport mechanism with limited message routing functionality.
 - ☐ In summary, AIAG will actively support the enhancement of ebXML messaging to better serve the automotive supply chain environment.

- 4) ☐ AIAG recommends that members follow the ebXML Collaboration Protocol Profile and Agreement work carried forward by the OASIS ebXML Collaboration Protocol Profile and Agreement Technical Committee.
- 5) ☐ AIAG recommends that members follow the ebXML Registry work being carried forward by the OASIS ebXML Registry Technical Committee
- 6) ☐ AIAG recommends that members follow eBTWG as UN/CEFACT working groups develop and evolve Technical Specifications from ebXML. These include several groups working on:
 - ☐ Business Processes
 - ☐ Core Components
 - ☐ Technical Architecture
 - ☐ UML to XML

We note that the STAR (Standards in Automotive Retail) organization has been developing similar recommendations for XML.

Founded in 1982, the AIAG is a not-for-profit trade association of over 1,500 automotive and truck manufacturers and their suppliers. AIAG's purpose is to provide an open forum where members cooperate in developing and promoting solutions that enhance the prosperity of the automotive industry. Its focus is to continuously improve business processes and practices involving trading partners throughout the supply chain.

More information about the AIAG and its initiatives can be found at <http://www.aiag.org/>.