

ebXML Plugtest 2007, ETSI

(DRAFT)

General Objective:

Several user communities are currently investigating what their future eBusiness infrastructure should be. Decisions in this area are not just based on technology and standards - they require a level of confidence that these technologies can solve the specific challenges these users have. This coming ETSI Plugtest will provide an opportunity for interested user communities to:

- (a) apply ebXML technologies and tools to their own business documents and transactions,
- (b) test interoperability with other partners in their own application space,
- (c) refine the design of an interoperable solution with their partners and set the basis for interoperability rules and best practices within their community.

Overall Structure and participants:

The following types of participants are expected:

Participants A: eBusiness application developers / users, also called "application domain experts". They are experts in an application domain - e.g. industry vertical or supply-chain, government department, etc. and represent the corresponding user community. This category covers both those involved in the development/deployment of the test applications, and end-users of the domain.

Participants B: ebXML vendors or providers. They will assist participants A in their deployments and interoperability tests, during the event and also before the event.

Participants C: OASIS reps and ebXML experts (note: these may also be either A or B). Their role is to be an independent expertise resource in case of problem of interpretation of the specifications, as well as to channel feedback to the technical committees.

Participants D: Test facilitators. These participants will provide test infrastructure and assistance to participants A and B, e.g. test harness interface, definition and execution of test cases, result interpretation, etc.

Participants E: Event organizers. Includes ETSI staff, and other supervisors for the event, e.g. tech coordinator gathering test plans from each community, and coordinating with test facilitators for logistics and planning.

The event will involve several user communities (groups of participants A) which will share resources from infrastructure providers (B). Each community will have an interoperability and deployment objective, which involves:

- (1) interaction objective with their peers (what documents, transactions, message types)
- (2) deployment objective with their peers (how the technology should be used and profiled for their solution)

These communities will operate fairly independently from each other, although sharing the same test resources (D) and expertise resources (C).

Benefit for participants:

For participants A (users):

- (a) to get familiar with ebXML products and vendors and test their products in a non-coercive environment free from vendor-buyer pressure and focused on the proof-of-concept, solution aspects,
- (b) to meet ebXML experts and understand the technology better, its current limits and directions, provide feedback to the standard committees,
- (c) to have an opportunity to challenge technology vendors and experts with real business problems which sometimes take days to be evaluated and understood,
- (d) to test and design solutions with peer partners within their own community,
- (e) to meet other users from other communities and share solution patterns in a non-competitive set-up.

For participants B (product suppliers):

- (a) to get familiar with real problems and requirements faced by users of different communities,
- (b) to verify how their software products help address problems of potential customers,
- (c) to verify if their products interoperate correctly w/r to other products, and w/r to the usage made by users,
- (d) to have an opportunity to provide input & feedback to members of ebXML tech committees.

For participants C (ebXML experts):

- (a) a great opportunity to get feedback on how the standards address user problems,
- (b) to promote the use of the standards to communities that are potential future users.

For participants D (test facilitators):

- (a) a great opportunity to test and fine-tune their own equipment in a live and large scale setting, to verify that their test environment addresses the needs of B2B testing, and to promote some testing best practices that will make it easier to automate such testing.
- (b) Opportunity to understand what are the business opportunities for testing in B2B communities.

Technology Coverage:

The following technologies and standards will be primary targets, i.e. supported by participants B, C and D:

- ebXML messaging V2 and V3 for messaging.
- Integration with services on the back-end, if applicable (e.g. Web services that wrap applications modules), or with back-end queuing (e.g. JMS).
- ebXML ebBP 2.0 and UML for business transactions modeling and scripting, possibly BPM for processes.
- ebXML CPPA for agreement representation.
- ebXML Registry/repository for assets management, resource sharing.

- XML document modeling, and semantic rules expression and testing (e.g. Schematron, XML schema)
- Core-Component modeling (e.g. UBL).

Expected Preparation:

Prior to the event:

- Participants A should manage to have defined test material such as (a) a set of business documents that are already standardized or well advanced, (b) a set of business transactions in terms of document exchanges, (c) identified back-end pieces of applications to consume and produce these.
- Participants A should have contacted some participants B, so that interfacing with products is already done and tested locally at the time the interop event starts.
- Participants B should have already verified basic 1-to-1 interoperability of their products with other peer products also participating.
- Participants D must be aware of all parties involved, of their test suites, and be ready to support/execute test suites and other verifications (e.g. bus doc semantics).

Tentative date:

October-November 2007