OASIS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

FORMAT OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR INFORMATION

STATEMENT FROM EUROTAX (INTERNATIONAL) AG ON BEHALF OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

Document Control

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Author(s)	**ADAM RONALDSON (Eurotax) Supported by Malcolm Rixon of Autodata**
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Version	Note
1.0	First version

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1. BACKGROUND

Eurotax (International) AG has acted for over 40 years as an independent publisher of information in print, software and data products for the automotive community. As a facilitator of the flow of information in the automotive community we determined that membership of OASIS was of value to the business due to the fundamental decisions about information flows that would and should be recommended by the Technical Committee and the potential impact of these decisions on the Eurotax business, all independent publishers and all members of the Automotive Community.

Membership of the committee has certainly given us access to the thought processes and potential amendments to the current business processes in the automotive sector. It has also made us aware of the need for independent publishers to help create the new, more regulated environment that will govern to an extent the future of the Industry.

2. PHILOSOPHY

Eurotax has contacted key international Independent Publishers to discuss OASIS and the direction of the current deliberations. In this regard the statements contained within this document are supported by
> TecDoc GmbH
> Autodata Limited

Dependent on reaction to this statement other international and national independent publishers will be contacted for their comments and support.

As a result this statement is made on behalf of several key members of the independent publishing community and we believe would be supported by the majority of such businesses.

3. CURRENT POSITION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS

Independent publishers support the broad aims of OASIS to deliver a structure and mechanism to allow the implementation of the need for "effective disclosure of information" from October 2003.

The timescale for achieving was always very short and realising the aims of proposals such as Metadata, whilst very beneficial to independent repairers in the longer term, cannot be implemented without significant effort and investment from the holders of the information.

Independent publishers currently operate as conduits for the flow of information between holders of the knowledge and independent users of this knowledge. Pan European standards for vehicle identification, specification, repair operation description and others have been created by these companies and are utilised to ensure that the flow of information is as structured and secure as possible today. As a result the automotive industry has organisations available today that fulfil many of the functions and needs

that now fall under the jurisdiction of the OASIS Technical Committee (TC) on auto-repair.

Given the level of current experience and knowledge of the independent publishers as a collective we would recommend that to achieve the short term, and then the longer terms aims, of all sides of the automotive community, independent publishers should remain as the conduit for information dissemination. By doing so they would work together to move current processes and standards towards the longer term aims of allowing information flow on a single, structured, standard basis by assisting all levels of the automotive community to achieve their needs and aims.

4. PROPOSALS

Independent publishers will continue to act as transfer agents for the disparate forms and structures of information produced by knowledge holders into standard formats for use by the required independent operators. These formats and outputs would need to meet both the requirements of the information providers, information users and legislative directives.

Such information as required to be disseminated by the OASIS (TC) on auto-repair needs to be freely supplied by knowledge holders in their standard formats on an agreed basis.

Independent publishers need to co-operate and move the current processes forward to create an environment to allow more flexible and uniform information provision in the future. To do so independent publishers need to introduce further standardisation in their processes and terminology where possible to facilitate the flow of information.

The concept of Metadata delivery needs to be embraced by independent publishers as a potential long-term solution to allow more consistent access to information and to allow selective retrieval and payment for information required by the users. It is believed that to achieve these proposals independent publishers should play a key role in the creation and implementation of standards of terminology, structure, access mechanisms and payment methods.   This will remove considerable investment burdens of time and money from knowledge holders and place independent publishers as the responsible entities for ensuring compliance with the regulations as agreed.

5. CONCLUSION

Independent publishers have knowledge and experience over many years of capturing information from knowledge holders and reformatting that knowledge to suit the needs of the user community. To achieve this they have introduced standardisation of process and terminology.

This knowledge and experience needs to be harnessed by the industry to achieve the short-term requirements of selective information delivery. They are also well placed to realise the longer term ambitions of industry standardisation of data, access mechanisms and consistency of information mandated by the OASIS (TC) on auto-repair.

As a collective group we believe the independent publishers can and should continue to act as the platform to ensure information is passed from knowledge holders to users whilst working with the industry as whole to adapt current processes and systems to fill the longer term aims of the evolving legislation.