Project proposal

Joint OASIS and UN/CEFACT Project Proposal

Header/Envelope Document Exchange Project

First Submitted Date: 2016-09-27 V1

1. Project purpose

The Standard Business Document Header, SBDH, was developed by UN/CEFACT in 2004 to facilitate internal routing and management of EDI and other business document files, primarily in applications where documents are being exchanged directly between two systems.

The Business Document Envelope, BDE, was developed by OASIS in 2015 to facilitate routing of business document files across networks with multiple gateways (also known as 4-cornered architectures).

Business document headers and envelopes provide a standardized semantic layer enabling business applications and document exchange gateways to determine logical routing and addressing information for processing the exchange of business documents between multiple parties.
A *document header* works by adding additional standardized document headers to an existing document, whereas a *document envelope* separates the semantic information from the document and carries the document within it as a payload.
Some of the principal functional differences between an *envelope* and a *header* are that the envelope may carry in it more than one payload at a time, and it can maintain its content confidential while being transported over a network with multiple gateways.

The two specifications, although using different technical approaches, address to a large extent the same application area. This risks increasing the cost in global document exchange by forcing users to apply different software for different business partners.

2. Project scope

The project will explore if a joint technical specification can be developed that will outline:

- a single Header/Envelope Technical Specification

- where a header technology and where envelope technology would be applied

- the relationship with CCL and CCTS [spell out]

- how it could be used with, and how it would be agnostic to transport protocols, including AS2, ebMS and web services (including AS4)

- how it would be agnostic to payload content

- the implications on the current user base including migration guidance, if applicable

A proof of concept based on a draft of the deliverables outlined in chapter 3 should be carried out by a minimum of three independent implementations, demonstrating interoperability.

Out of Scope: The project will not include the use of newer exchange technologies and environments, such as cloud computing, APIs and mobile devices, except to prove being agnostic to transport technologies in general. If required, this will be set up as a separate project.

3. Project deliverables / exit criteria

Option 1: Upon assessing that a joint technical specification can be developed, deliverables from this project would include:

- A technical specification based on the current version of SBDH and BDE
- Proof of concept reports / Statements of Use
- Migration guidelines

Option 2: Upon assessing that a joint technical specification cannot or does not need to be developed, the deliverable would be a technical report.

4. Project Team membership and required functional expertise

Membership is open to UN/CEFACT Experts[1] and OASIS BDXR Members with broad knowledge in the area of standardised electronic document exchange.

The project will follow the UN/CEFACT Open Development Process, ODP[2], and include at least one public review as required by OASIS[3].

5. Organizational support

UN/CEFACT requires written support from at least three country delegations.

- *Country 1*
- *Country 2*
- *Country 3*

OASIS supports and endorses the project.

There exists a Memorandum of Understanding between UN/CEFACT and OASIS recommending and authorizing collaborative specification development and standardization projects.

6. Geographical Focus

The geographical focus is global.

7. Initial contributions

The contributions submitted with this proposal include:

- UN/CEFACT Standard Business Document Header version 1.3

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[1]http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/documents/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFACT_2010_15_Rev_5E.pdf
[2]http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/cf_plenary/2016_plenary/CF_2016_017E_ODP.pdf
[3]https://www.oasis-open.org/policies-guidelines/tc-process

- OASIS Business Document Envelope version 1.1
- AS2, ebMS and AS4 Technical Specifications
- Core Components Technical Specification version 2.01
- Core Components Business Document Assembly version 1.0
- OASIS Business Document Naming and Design Rules version 1.0
- UN/CEFACT XML Naming and Design Rules, version 2.1

8. Resource requirements

Required resources include project management and modelling expertise.

9. Project Leadership

Proposed Project Leader: Anders Grangard and Kenneth Bengtsson

Editors:

10. Milestones (repeat per deliverable, if different)

Yes/No	ODP Stage	Expected Completion Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
Yes[a]	Project Inception	2016-11-01
Yes	Requirements gathering	2017-02-01
Yes	Draft development	2017-05-01
Yes	Public Draft Review (required for Standards and Recommendations)	2017-07-01
Yes	Proof of concept and Statements of Use	2017-09-01
Yes	Project Exit	2017-09-15
Yes	Publication	2017-10-01

[a]   The presence of "Yes" in this field in the template indicates it is required