

JASTPRO

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16 December 2016

Mr. Lance Thompson
Chairperson
UN/CEFACT

Dear Mr.Thompson,

This is to confirm that the undersigned, UN/CEFACT Head of Delegation Japan, supports the launching of the Header/Envelope Document Exchange project proposed by Mr. Anders Grangard, UN/CEFACT Bureau Vice Chair.

Yours sincerely,



Masahiro Kikukawa

For and on behalf of the UN/CEFACT Head of Delegation Japan

Chief Executive

Japan Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures (JASTPRO)

Header/Envelope Document Exchange Project

First Submitted Date: 2016-10-10 V2

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 Core Components Library, CCL, and Core Components Technical Specification, CCTS.
- 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

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. 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.

5. Project Team membership and required functional expertise

Membership is open to UN/CEFACT Experts¹ 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, ODP², and include at least one public review as required by OASIS³.

6. Organizational support

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

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

¹

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/cefact/documents/ECE_TRADE_C_CEFAC_T_2010_15_Rev_5E.pdf

²http://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 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.

7. Geographical Focus

The geographical focus is global.

8. Initial contributions

The contributions submitted with this proposal include:

- UN/CEFACT Standard Business Document Header version 1.3
- 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

9. Resource requirements

Participants in the project shall provide resources for their own participation. Required resources include project management and modelling expertise.

The existence and functioning of the project shall not require any additional resources from the UNECE secretariat.

10. Project Leadership

Proposed Project Leader: Anders Grangard and Kenneth Bengtsson

Editors: