



DI1.7b: Promotion of PROMISE Standards

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ABSTRACT	<p>This deliverable presents an update on the activities related to the promotion of PROMISE standards, outlining the different standards bodies approached, and the progress made with each. In addition, the deliverable also discusses the plan for the next six months leading to the completion of the project.</p>	
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Abbreviations

PMI: PROMISE Messaging Interface

PDKM: Product Data Knowledge Management

PLCS: Product Life Cycle Support

ISO: International Standards Organisation

OMG: Object Management Group

EPCIS: Electronic Product Code Information Services

NIST: National Institute of Standards and Technology

OASIS: Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards

CEN: European Committee for standardisation

BSI: British Standards Institute

1 Introduction

This report aims to summarise the activities related to the promotion of standards arising from the PROMISE project. As mentioned in previous reports, the overall goal for PROMISE work package I1 is to ensure that there is an open channel for the continuing promotion and acceptance of key elements of the standards (or set of standards) and interfaces defined during the PROMISE project.

In accordance to the recommendations made by the EU Commission reviewers at the review meeting in January 2007, deliverable DI1.7a [1] had presented an action plan for standards promotion, which focussed on three key avenues: (i) standards bodies, (ii) academic and industrial conferences, and (iii) IRG.

The report is structured as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of standards promotion activities planned by PROMISE. In section 3, we provide an update on the progress made with various standards bodies and discuss plans for continued collaboration. Finally, section 4 summarises and concludes the report.

2 Overview of PROMISE Standardisation activities

This section will summarise the action plan for standards promotion proposed in DI1.7a [1]. PROMISE has devised a three-prong approach for promoting standards specifications resulting from the project (see Figure 1):

1. Promotion through standards bodies
2. Promotion through academic and industrial conferences
3. Promotion through the Industrial Reference Group (IRG)

The development and refinement of PROMISE standards specifications shall be done by the group of partners involved in workpackages I1 and R12. Progress in refinement and documentation of architecture specifications in WP R12 will be critical for the success of any standards-related activities.

The primary and the most important focus of PROMISE standards promotion efforts will be focussed on the different relevant standards bodies. This is due to the realisation that awareness of PROMISE architecture specifications within these standards bodies is key for the specifications to have a chance to become industry-accepted standards. In this direction, the I1 partners identified a number of important standards bodies to focus efforts in the previous deliverable DI1.7 [1]. In addition, there will be a continuing effort to involve other relevant standards bodies as well, and this will be clear in the coming sections.

In addition to the standards bodies, promotion will also be carried out by presenting papers related to PROMISE at academic conferences (reported in I2 deliverables), and also by creating awareness about the standards specifications within the Industrial Reference Group (IRG).

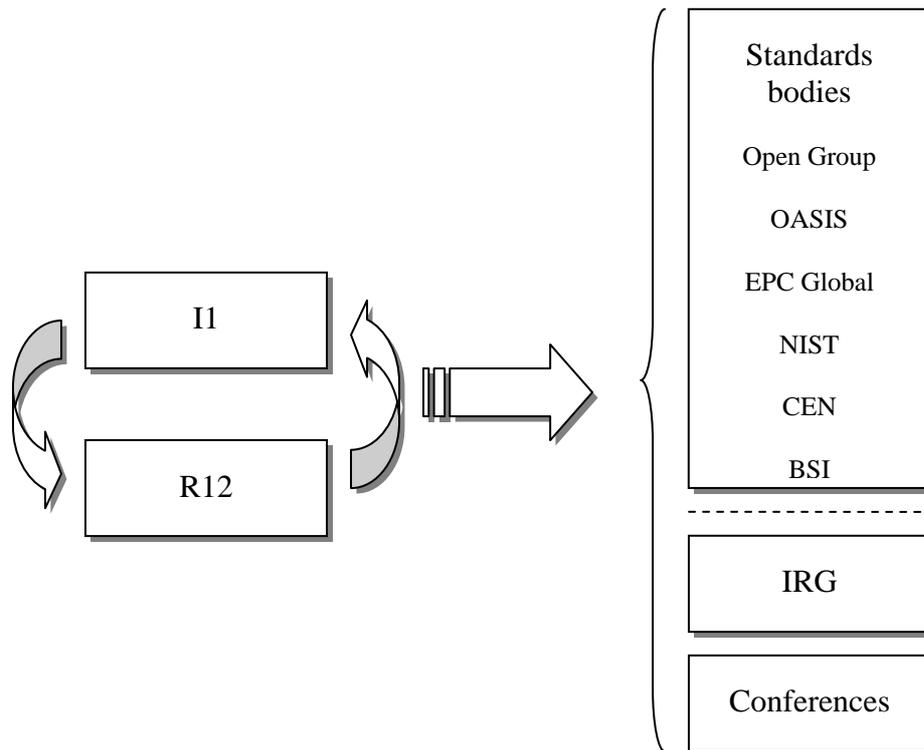


Figure 1: PROMISE standards promotion action plan

We will now specifically discuss the progress made in terms of the promotion through standards bodies.

3 Promotion through standards bodies

In the last six months, I1 partners have been involved in discussions with the Open Group, OASIS, EPCglobal, NIST, CEN, and BSI. We shall now discuss each one in turn.

3.1 The Open Group

The Open Group is largely a federation of semi-autonomous forums that enable their members to guide development and adoption of industry directives and standards. Covering a range of technical, business, legal and regulatory issues, each forum addresses a specific functional area, and provides a neutral platform to meet others with similar issues and work together on best practices. Each forum in the Open Group is lead by a Forum Director, a specialist with thorough knowledge of their subject, and access to the vendor and user community.

On discussion with Open Group officials, the Architecture Forum was found to be the most relevant forum for the promotion of PROMISE standards. Cambridge University joined the Architectures Forum within the Open Group. Further to this, PROMISE architecture and a proposal for standards development based on the architecture specifications was presented at the Open Group Architectures Forum meeting held at Austin, TX on 25th July 2007. This presentation (available in the PROMISE e-room) was well-received, and there was a consensus among the

Open Group members that a separate workgroup or forum focusing on PLM standards (driven by PROMISE output) should be established.

Following is an extract related to the presentation from meeting minutes: *“The Architecture Forum strongly recommend that The Open Group support this proposal, and that it be given the same status as working groups like SOA and Business Architecture. The rationale for this recommendation is that it would allow members from other Forums, such as Real-Time & Embedded Systems and UDEF.”*

The next step towards this direction is the submission of a “business case” which is essentially a document that explains the industrial context, outlines the existing standards in this field, and key benefits of the proposed standards. In addition, the procedure for carrying this out will be discussed at a meeting on 17th December between Cambridge University and Mr. Allen Brown who is the CEO of the Open Group.

3.2 Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS)

OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) is a not-for-profit, international consortium that drives the development, convergence, and adoption of e-business standards. The consortium produces more Web services standards than any other organization along with standards for security, e-business, and standardization efforts in the public sector and for application-specific markets.

As mentioned in earlier deliverables, the PLCS standard ISO 10303-239, promoted by the *OASIS Product Life Cycle Support (PLCS) TC*, addresses similar issues as of the PDKM object model, albeit with a slightly different scope.

With the EPFL initiative PROMISE was invited by the Chair Howard Mason and presented officially under the liaison presentations program at the official ISO TC184/SC4 meeting on 28 June 2006 in Toulouse.

The first conclusion of this activity was follows:

“PLCS is a new standard. We should wait it about two years before planning any new discussion or update. No activity on PLCS is planned during this period.”

However, as a result of the successful and promising interactions with the Open Group, OASIS have expressed interest in accelerating this process and supporting the development of product data management standards based on the PDKM object model. As a next step, representatives from Cambridge, POLIMI, INDYON, and EPFL would engage in discussions with Mr. Howard Mason as well as other people at OASIS to examine ways forward to working together.

3.3 EPCglobal

EPCglobal is a subsidiary of GS1 (previously EAN (European Article Numbering) in Europe and UCC (Universal Code Council) in America). As mentioned in DI1.7a, EPCglobal has ratified the EPC Information Services (EPCIS) standard, which plays a similar role as that of the PMI.

It is possible that PROMISE could identify and propose requirements for extensions to these standards. Since this standard has only been ratified and published recently, a detailed examination of it would be required to define further steps. An evaluation of the EPC Network against the requirements of PLM is presented in DI1.6b [2]. This will be further enhanced by a thorough comparison of the architectures in coming months.

There will be ongoing discussions between PROMISE and EPC Network facilitated by a regular RFID Architectures Workshop series organised by Cambridge University.

3.4 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

NIST (<http://www.nist.gov>) is a non-regulatory federal agency within the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration. NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

With the Polimi/SINTEF joint initiative, PROMISE contacted Prof. Sudarsan, currently working as Guest Researcher in the Design and Process Group of the Manufacturing Systems Integration Division at NIST. Starting from previous collaborations, between Polimi/SINTEF and NIST, around the topic of product data modelling for lifecycle purposes, Prof. Sudarsan was informed of the PROMISE project and initiative, and also provided with the needed links to documents concerning PROMISE results reached up to now (M30).

Prof. Sudarsan was subsequently apprised of PROMISE activities during the 4th International Conference on Product Lifecycle Management held at Milan in July 2007. We are still waiting for the NIST formal communication of their interest in working together in future developments of the PROMISE standardization topics, as well as the way of collaboration which is the most appropriate.

3.5 European Committee for Standardisation (CEN)

CEN, the European Committee for standardisation focuses on the development of "...voluntary technical standards which promote free trade, the safety of workers and consumers, interoperability of networks, environmental protection, exploitation of research and development programmes, and public procurement".

The CEN officials were informed of the PROMISE project and standards by POLIMI at the Third International Conference on Maintenance and Facility Management (MM2007) in Rome, and were subsequently sent additional material describing the proposed standards. At present, CEN officials have replied notifying their interest in the standards, and have proposed that discussions on how to proceed be carried at the beginning of next year.

3.6 British Standards Institute (BSI)

British Standards Institute is the UK's National Standards Body and was the world's first such organisation. Quoting the BSI website, "BSI represents UK economic and social interests across all of the European and international standards organizations and through the development of business information solutions for British organizations of all sizes and sectors. BSI works with

manufacturing and service industries, businesses, governments and consumers to facilitate the production of British, European and international standards.”

At the launch meeting of the Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC) Centre of Excellence, David Potter (INDYON) apprised the BSI project director (Mr. Bob Muddle) regarding the PROMISE project and the architecture/standards specifications relating to PLM that has resulted from the project. BSI has expressed interest in supporting PROMISE standards activities, probably by promoting our standards submissions as a PAS (Publicly Available Specification).

This will be discussed further at a meeting planned between Cambridge University and BSI on 10th December.

4 Summary

This report outlines the key activities in terms of promoting PROMISE standards. In particular, we discussed the progress made so far in promoting PROMISE architecture specifications with various standards bodies. Although considerable progress has been made so far, we realise that the momentum created has to be leveraged and carried forward in the coming months.

The key challenge here is to ensure the continuation of these efforts beyond the life of the PROMISE project. This would be ensured through continued involvement of the academic partners and interested industrial partners in the standards bodies, and also through possible research projects through the FP7 framework.

Bibliography

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