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July 3, 2005

Bert Wijnen

Dear Bert Wijnen,

Subject: IETF / ISO - RFID Technology

Please let me introduce myself. I am Michael Guillory – Convener of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31/WG 4/SG 1 (Automatic Identification and Data Capture – RFID – Data Structures). As you may note from my committee's organizational identification, we are deeply involved in the global standardization of RFID technology. In our efforts, we have come to understand and appreciate that the IETF is also considering engagement in this rapidly evolving technology area. This is particularly note worthy (and appropriate) as the utility of RFID technology is intrinsically linked to the information infrastructure, with the Internet being a prominent element.

As you may appreciate, ISO/IEC has been deeply involved in Information Technology (IT). ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee (JTC) 1 was created as a joint effort between ISO and IEC expressly for the purpose of international standardization of IT technology. With the advent of RFID technology for use in the supply chain for item management SC 31 (AIDC) created Working Group 4 (RFID for Item Management) to address the international standardization needs for this technology. Sub-Group (SG) 3 was chartered with the development of standards for the radio communication link (i.e. air interface) and which has produced a multi-part standard covering the various RF frequencies used for RFID (i.e. ISO/IEC 18000).

My committee (SG 1) is chartered with standardization of data structures in support of RFID technology. To this end we have published two standards. These are:

- ISO/IEC 15961 - Information technology, Automatic identification and data capture — Radio frequency identification (RFID) for item management — Data protocol: application interface
- ISO/IEC 15962 - Information technology, Automatic identification and data capture techniques — Radio frequency identification (RFID) for item management — Data protocol: data encoding rules and logical memory functions

While these standards are essential to defining an appropriate means to access RFID data contained on a tag, it has been recognized that they are but a part of the set of interfaces required for the information infrastructure. Clearly there are needs for a standardized

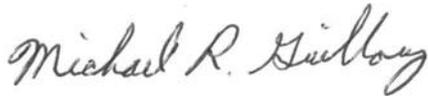
means to communicate with interrogators (i.e. readers) where such devices are likely to be connected to both open and closed networks. Such interfaces would include information transfer as well as network management functions.

We see the IETF as uniquely qualified in such areas dealing with network interface and communication. We would welcome an open collaborative effort between ISO/IEC and the IETF regarding the development of such standards. It is the philosophy of ISO to ensure a proper open "consensus" driven standardization process is used in the development and promotion of global standards.

While the exact mechanism (e.g. liaison, mutual participation, etc.) to effect such a collaborative effort remains to be determined, we welcome the involvement of the IETF in these efforts. I personally wish to extend an invitation for discussions on these matters so that we may work together utilizing the best of our respective skills for the benefit of the industry.

Please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Guillory".

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