ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 Plenary Meeting
Barcode&RFID, May 25 & 26, 2006, MOSCOW

High Lights
- ❖ Global Barcode & RFID standardisation process
- ❖ New chairman of SC31 is Chuck (Charles) Biss, USA
- ❖ Convenors for 12 Working Groups confirmed
- ❖ National Contributions show the trend
- ❖ Japan suggested a new work item for the development of specifications for RFID MIDDLEWARE utilising existing infrastructures as first priority
- ❖ Intellectual Property and Licenses addressed
- ❖ Continued world wide activities: South Africa invites for the next meeting

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 Plenary in Moscow

Global Barcode & RFID standardisation process, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 Plenary Meeting took place in Moscow. Following the invitation of the Russian National Standards Body, the working groups of the worlds Standardisation Institutes for Automatic Data Capture, met in Moscow in May 2006. The agenda contained success reports on the current standardisation work, reports on liaison with associated institutions as AIM Global, ETSI, IEEE, GS1, etc., but also new work items. Representatives of 15 ISO member countries and guests took actively part in the working sessions.
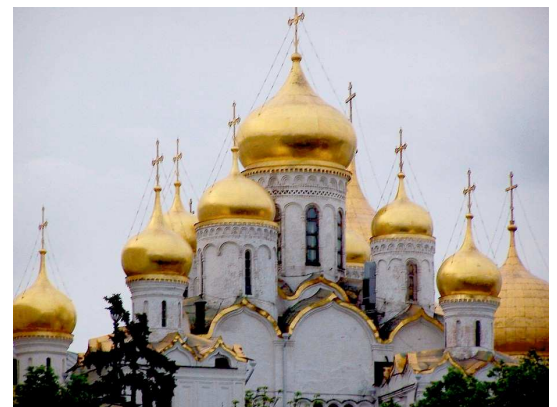
The tasks given to the working groups have been, and still are, to write the international standards for Automatic Data Capture technologies which full fill the requirements of every continent and any market sector. Those standards, as the result of the work on ISO level, build the basis for cross sectorial data communication related to any material flow in the world. It addresses global solutions in the area of supply chain management with the requirement for unique identification of products and loads for traceability reasons, no matter what the destination might be and where they may appear in the global world.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31 committee

Where ISO standards for Barcode are already practised since more than a century the current task is it to add new technologies to the standards. At this point RFID is in focus for enabling easy access to global RFID standards as it is the case with Barcode today. The ISO working groups are pretty successful in bringing out the standards for RFID just in time. RFID is still in development phase from a global view but the ISO standardisation is in good shape already enabling immediate installations. Having printed the first set of standards for the RFID Air Interface, it became obvious that the development will not stand still. Nevertheless the dynamic of the ISO/IEC JTC 1 committee SC 31 is well prepared to handle new work items with its available recourses from every part of the world.

Chairman of ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 31
Chuck (Charles) Biss, USA chaired this year's plenary meeting under absence of Alan Haberman who had resigned for health reasons. The SC 31 committee expresses its sincerest and utmost appreciation to outgoing Chairman, Mr. Alan Haberman, for his sage and excellent leadership of SC 31 during his three terms as SC 31 Chairman. Chuck Biss is the proposed chairman for the next 3 years period. Being involved in AutoID and its standardisation since the 80ths, he was accepted as the right successor and in deed, managed the meeting in a professional manner.

❖ Convenors for 12 Working Groups confirmed.
National Standardisation Institutions and liaison associations supply the experts for executing the work.

Chuck Biss chaired SC31 in Moscow

Convenors, project editors and secretariat manage the progress under the rules of ISO/IEC JTC 1. Presently 14 project editors have been appointed for drafting the current specifications subject to the work process.

One of the targets achieved:
Interoperability

❖ Amendments under work
It was decided to add amendments to the current RFID Air Interface specifications. The active battery driven features of RFID Tags and integrated sensors will be addressed. The amendment "C" of the UHF Air Interface ISO/IEC 18000-6 passed the final stage and will be published mid 2006. It will include space for industry information data structures as well as for the fixed length EPC code structure. This is a major step to merge given solutions with individual developments of a group to become one interoperable ISO/IEC system. Nevertheless all ISO/IEC specifications are developed for global use while solutions already in use with current infrastructures get a prime position.

❖ National Contributions show the trend
Every year the national institutions are asked to supply a brief report on the AutoID scenario in their country. Two contributions shall be selected out of the presentations.

❖ Japan suggested a new work item for the development of specifications for RFID MIDDLEWARE. The Japan delegation was accompanied by representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry - Information Economy Division. The delegate presented the support program for RFID and suggested to address the standardisation of the "middleware" under ISO as well. It shall utilise existing infrastructures as first priority. JTC1/SC31 encouraged other National Bodies to make similar contributions to the final resolutions.

National delegations report

❖ Germany reported on the latest publications of DIN, DIN V66401 Unique Identification Mark (UIM) and DIN V66403 System Identifiers (SI's). The role of the Company Identification Code (CIN), according to ISO/IEC 15459, was underlined as the key for interoperable solutions. UIM was appreciated specifically by the delegates of the US Department of Defense where it meets the requirements of its „Unique ID (UID) strategy" in accordance with ISO/IEC standards for uniqueness of items. To insert the content of DIN V66403 SI's, the convenors suggested to pass it to the maintenance group of ISO/IEC 15418 part ASC DI's for insertion in the list of Data Identifiers.
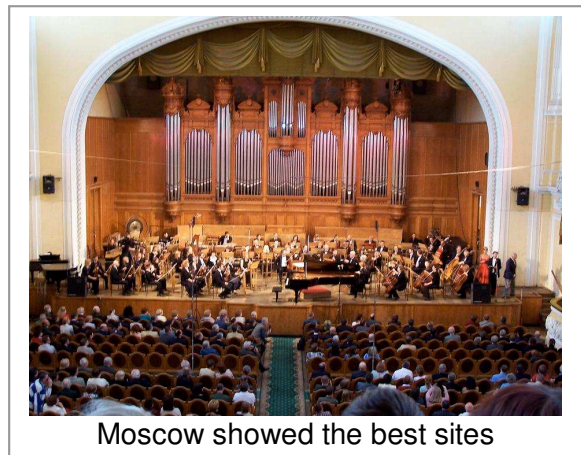
❖ Intellectual Property (IP) and Licenses
As a request from WG Convenors, the SC31 Secretariat was asked to obtain clarification from the JTC 1 Secretariat and ITTF regarding the subject of Intellectual Property (IP) Policy and its practical application by the Working Group Convenors as well as the potential implication on any SC31, Working Group or Sub-group meeting participant. The request covers specific questions how to handle situations where participants do not declare IP's and potential licenses.

❖ Continued world wide activities:
South Africa invites for the next meeting.
JTC 1/SC 31 accepts the offer with pleasure for South Africa to host the next meeting in Pretoria week June 4 to 8, 2007.

❖ Appreciation's have been expressed unanimously to the Russian delegation for excellent meeting arrangements and services. Moscow showed its best side to the visitors from around the world.

Moscow showed the best sites

Noted: Moscow 06-05-26
by Heinrich Oehlmann, E D C, Eurodata Council,
phone +49 3445 78116 0, mail: Heinrich.Oehlmann@EurodataCouncil.org www.EurodataCouncil.org