

# Report of the special TMG StC Conference Call

**April 22, 2003**

Jim Clark requested a special StC conference call to receive guidance, clarification and policies with regard to the rules for engagement that cover the scope, objective and requirements of the BPSS work for version 1.1.

Following is the list of issues and questions that were presented by Jim to the StC for the review.

- 1) Elaborate the charter or objectives/deliverables of the team.
- 2) What is the definition of a maintenance release?
- 3) What is the criterion to determine the level/type of flaw to be addressed?
- 4) Please define the level of compliance to the UMM that must be followed.
- 5) How do we deal with dependencies taken by other organizations to BPSS 1.01 and the work in progress BPSS 1.05?
- 6) What is the policy for facilitating backward compatibility to 1.01?
- 7) What is the policy to apply additions made to 1.05?
- 8) What authority and/or governance does the UN/CEFACT TMG have over the BPSS.

The TMG StC agreed to the following resolutions regarding the above items:

1. TMG StC reconfirms that the scope and objective for BPSS V1.1 is to "fix" what is broken in the current version (1.01), to allow current and future BPSS users to have a working BPSS. Future users are identified user communities that have gone on record that they wanted to implement the BPSS but could not do so because of problems with V1.01 (RosettaNet and UCC having commented on V1.01-1.05). Regarding alignment with the UMM Meta model, the goal is to prevent further misalignment. Any change to fix the current BPSS must be in alignment with the UMM MM. Full alignment would be achieved during the work on V2.0 and V3.0. Regarding alignment with the CPPA and other ebXML specs, the TMG agreed in San Diego to try its best to keep the alignment in place as long as it in itself is not a problem that needs fixing and therefore may result in a change.
2. The release is called a maintenance release in order to justify the TMG decision not to process this version of the BPSS Technical Specification under the full Open Development Process. This is not an errata release. The term "maintenance" does not limit in any way the scope and objective for this release as outlined in item 1) above. After consensus of the BPSS V1.1 editing team is reached, a full TMG review cycle would be initiated. Comments and suggestions from the TMG membership during this review would be used to further refine and improve the specification. Consensus is

built using this iterative review process. The process ends when there is no sustained technical opposition being recorded.

3. The criterion for identifying which problems to “fix” is determined by the presence of a comment on record from previous reviews (V1.02-1.05) that identified any technical problems preventing implementation of the BPSS V1.01.
4. Regarding the level of compliance (alignment) with the UMM Meta model, the goal is to not further misalign with the current Meta model version 12. Any change to the current BPSS must be in alignment with the UMM MM. Any misalignment in the BPSS that has no problems (comments) associated with it would not be subject to alignment in this release. Full alignment with the UMM MM would be achieved as part of the work on V2.0 and V3.0.
5. The baseline for the work is V1.01 since it is the official published version of the BPSS for implementation. V1.05 was (is) work in progress, and any implementation based on V1.05 was with the understanding of the risk that that version may be changed again, and/or new changes could be introduced in the final version for release.
6. If there is an absolute need for backward compatibility, it should be only against V1.01 since that is the only published version for implementation. Alignment to ensure backward compatibility with CPPA and ebMS was previously done on a revision number basis, so that parties using CPPA Version 2 would know that they needed to use BPSS Version 2. The current scope of the work for the BPSS is to fix critical flaws; version number alignment is therefore not relevant. In addition the JCC along with the TMG has identified the problem of versioning and revisioning as a separate issue, calling for a change management approach and proposing to define profiles that would identify compatibility amongst the various versions and releases. In this way the correct use of the different specifications becomes a release and configuration issue in lieu of a direct dependence on a particular specification.
7. Changes, including additions, contained in the current V1.05 that have no associated technical problems recorded, would stay in for V1.1.
8. The JCC agreed at the end of the ebXML Initiative (Phase 1) that the continuation of the development and maintenance of the ebXML BPSS Technical Specification is the sole responsibility of UN/CEFACT. The UN/CEFACT Steering Group assigned the BPSS to the Techniques and Methodologies Group (TMG) as the responsible group for this work within UN/CEFACT. As a mandated UN/CEFACT group TMG has the full authority and governance of the work following the ODP.