

To: OASIS EM-TC Members,

From: Greg Trott, Project Manager of the Project developing the CAP Australian Profile (CAP-AP)

## **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN PROFILE FOR COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL**

Now that the Australian Attorney-General's Department (AGD) has commenced OASIS membership, the Project Manager for the Australian Project that aims to develop the CAP Australian Profile, wishes to initiate discussions with the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee to present an initial request for assistance and seek input from the TC regarding what options are available within the OASIS process to assist with the following CAP-AP development activities.

- 1) **Review** the document titled "Discussion Paper Common Alerting Protocol – Australian Profile (CAP-AP)" to identify any potential issues that may impede development of the CAP-AP standard that Australia is seeking to produce. This Paper has been reviewed the Australian CAP Stakeholder Group during the period Oct – Dec 2010 and a matrix of Stakeholder responses and action items has been collated from the outcomes of the review activity. I believe this document is the genesis of the CAP-AP standard product we are seeking to develop, so I am interested in the Committee's opinions about the CAP-AP discussions that have already been achieved to date.
- 2) **Review** the Australian Government's National Standards Framework (NSF) process that we intend to employ to develop an Australian Government standard for the CAP-AP. The process is described at: <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/national-standards-framework/index.html> . I have produced a work plan for the standards development activities we intend to undertake and I will forward a copy of that document when it is released (titled "CAP-AP Submission to CJCIO, Ratification of CAP-AP as an Australian Government Standard"). I need to confirm what the SubCommittee think about our intended standards development process and what gaps we may need to fill in order to meet OASIS requirements.
- 3) **Identify** a preferred format for the CAP-AP standards document that will be suitable for OASIS. Our thinking here is that Australia should adopt a template for the CAP-AP standard that has been previously assessed by OASIS to be suitable, so that we mitigate the risk of the CAP-AP standards document not being acceptable to OASIS.
- 4) **Confirm** the process to be followed to assure Australia can achieve OASIS endorsement of the CAP-AP standards product.
- 5) **Assist with development** of a "Conformance Checklist" for inclusion in the CAP-AP standards document that can be used by Australian organisations who seek to implement CAP-AP, to conduct self-assessment of compliance / conformance with the CAP-AP and the OASIS CAP standards during a future alerting system technology upgrades.

Note: Australia wishes to insert some valid compliance assessment "options" into the CAP-AP document to improve the acceptability of the document with our jurisdiction Stakeholders who will be asked to implement it. Options currently nominated for consideration include:

- Full OASIS compliance check conducted by OASIS Teams (large cost, but will provide most confidence that product is compliant)
- Full OASIS compliance check conducted by an Australian organisation that is affiliated with OASIS and who are delegated the authority to act on behalf of OASIS (medium cost, but will provide most confidence that product is compliant)
- Self-assessment Conformance Checklist (least cost, but lowest confidence of compliance verification)

6) **Confirm** how OASIS CAP interoperates with the following objects and identifiers, in order to gain understanding about whether Australia needs to consider introducing these items to Australian Users (Note: a recent CAP workshop highlighted there was very little knowledge about these items existing in Australian emergency management organisations):

a) **Tactical Situation Object** (TSO)

Refer [http://www.oasis-fp6.org/documents/OASIS\\_TA21\\_DDD\\_041\\_DSF\\_1\\_4\\_pub.pdf](http://www.oasis-fp6.org/documents/OASIS_TA21_DDD_041_DSF_1_4_pub.pdf) ;

b) **GLobal IDentifier number** (GLIDE)

Refer <http://www.glidenumbers.net/glide/public/about.jsp> ; and

c) **Object Identifiers** (OID)

Refer <http://www.oid->

[info.com/doc/introduction%20to%20object%20identifiers%20\(OIDs\).pdf](http://www.oid-info.com/doc/introduction%20to%20object%20identifiers%20(OIDs).pdf)

and <http://www.oid-info.com/faq.htm#1>

7) **Confirm what options are available** for Australia to facilitate inclusion of a new category in the CAP-AP standard (proposed to be titled SEARCH) and what the expected impacts might be upon OASIS CAP v1.2;

8) **Clarify the advantages and disadvantages** of:

- a) restricting CAP-AP to use only one event code within an <info> block;
- b) allowing CAP-AP to include multiple event codes within a single <info> block; and
- c) allowing the use of multiple <info> blocks that only use one event code per block.

This information is requested in order to resolve some perceived ambiguities with the CAP INFO Block.

9) **GATT Compliance:** Confirm whether the OASIS CAPv1.2 standard has previously been considered for compliance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and obtain a GATT compliance report if available.

Note: There is risk that the CAP-AP standards document may be considered a technical barrier to trade (TBT) by overseas organisations. The GATT developed TBT Agreement is administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and GATT was signed by Australia in early 1992. In relation to Standards like the CAP-AP, the GATT / WTO TBT Agreement obliges signatory countries not to raise non-tariff barriers to trade (i.e. technical barriers). The mechanism by which this TBT Agreement operates is that any mandatory Standards issued by a signatory nation that might have an impact on trade must be reported to the other WTO signatories via a network of national notification points. The other nations then have a period during which they may lodge a challenge to the implementation of the Standard on the grounds that it represents a non-tariff barrier to trade. I have confirmed with Trade Law experts in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) that alignment of the CAP-AP standard with the equivalent International Standard (i.e. OASIS CAPv1.2) will most likely discharge Australia's obligations under the TBT Agreement. Accordingly, the CAP

Project will be seeking to confirm the GATT-compliance status of the OASIS CAP v1.2 standard.

CAP-AP point of contact:

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