

## **Growing Interest in PDF/A in North America**

### **North American Chapter of the PDF/A Competence Center founded**

**(Boston, MA) A general member's meeting of the PDF/A Competence Center was held April 1st in Philadelphia during AIIM OnDemand 2009, the world's largest annual event for document and output management. Some 40 members and interested parties from the USA, Canada and Europe were in attendance at the meeting and founded the North American chapter of the organization.**

Interest in PDF/A, the ISO standard for long-term archiving, is increasing in North America. This was demonstrated by the good and active participation at the meeting: in addition to our North American members, numerous representatives from governmental organizations and companies in the USA were in attendance.

The historical ambiance of the meeting venue was fitting for the event: a building in classical French renaissance style where, in 1862 during the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln founded the Union League as a coalition to strengthen the unity of the nation and defend its principles. Between historical scripts and books, the figure of Abraham Lincoln and the American flag, the North American Chapter of the PDF/A Competence Center was launched. Mark Maragni, the North American representative for PDF/A Competence Center founding member Compart, was nominated as first chairman of the chapter.

The amount of momentum that PDF/A has gained in North America was also clearly demonstrated by the announcement of several joint activities that AIIM and the PDF/A Competence Center will conduct. The start will be a series of PDF/A seminars this fall to be held in Washington DC, San Francisco and Chicago.

The member's meeting was rounded off by statements from several attendees who indicated that their companies will join the PDF/A Competence Center and support the North American chapter.

### **About PDF/A**

The ISO 19005 standard (PDF/A) defines requirements for creating documents suitable for archiving based on the widely available PDF format. The standard specifies in detail what content is allowed and what is not. These and other specifications are intended to ensure long-term readability of the documents regardless of the application software and operating system in which they were originally produced. The advantages of PDF/A such as full-text search capabilities have led it to already replace TIFF as the preferred archiving format in numerous international governmental organizations as well as in private industries.

### **About the PDF/A Competence Center**

The PDF/A Competence Center was established as an international association in 2006. The objective of the association is to promote the exchange of information and experience in the field of long-term archiving in accordance with ISO 19005 (PDF/A). The management board is composed of executives from callas software GmbH, Compart AG, intarsys consulting GmbH, LuraTech Europe GmbH, PDF Tools AG (CH), PDFlib GmbH and SEAL Systems AG. Within less than two years, more than 85 companies and various experts from more than 20 countries joined the PDF/A Competence Center. The executive chairman is Harald Grumser, CEO of Compart AG, Dr. Hans Baerfuss, CEO of PDF Tools AG, Switzerland, is the executive vice-chairman.

### **Editorial contacts**

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