

PDF/A Competence Center Extends Range at CeBIT

(Berlin) In the fifth appearance of the PDF/A Competence Center at CeBIT, visitors can benefit from comprehensive information on PDF/A from The PDF/A Competence Center booth located in Hall 3, Stand D34.

The PDF/A Competence Center, together with its partner, VOI (the Association of Organisation and Information Systems) and representatives of member firms actinol, calias software, Four Pees, intarsys, LuraTech and Zöller & Partner, will be on hand, providing a wide range of experience and expertise to answer questions on all aspects of the growing body of PDF standards for document and enterprise content management.

Since certification as ISO 19005-1:2005, PDF/A has become established as a preferred archiving format. Increasing numbers of companies and public authorities benefit from the advantage of ISO-standardized technology, ensuring reliability, fidelity and full text search capability in electronic documents.

PDF/A-2, the second part of the Standard, was ratified in December, 2010 and will be published in 2011. The new part of PDF/A adds support for the high performance JPEG2000 compression standard, attaching PDF/A files and conformance with PAdES electronic signatures as published by ETSI, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute. There are a number of other significant enhancements as well.

"PDF/A has been an ISO standard for more than five years now. During that time, PDF has undergone considerable development," explained Olaf Drümmer, Executive Chairman of the PDF/A Competence Center. "PDF/A-1 was based on the PDF version 1.4; PDF/A-2 upgrades the standard using ISO 32000-1:2008 and its added functionality as a foundation. Whether to use PDF/A-1 or PDF/A-2 depends solely on the requirements of the project," he said.

In addition to PDF/A, a variety of other ISO standards for PDF exist or are under development with significance in the DMS and ECM fields.

PDF/VT addresses the Variable and Transactional printing marketplace, and specifies an interoperable data format supporting the high volume printing of variable data.

Removing barriers preventing blind and other disabled users from accessing electronic content is increasingly important. Responding to new regulations and standards, PDF/UA addresses the topic of "Universal Accessibility", ensuring document content is available to end users regardless of the means by which they read. PDF/UA sets standards for structuring the content of PDF files in such a way as to enable Assistive Technology (AT) users to read, navigate and interact with PDF documents in a reliable manner.

Other International Standards for PDF include PDF/X, PDF/E and PDF itself, approved in version 1.7 as ISO 32000-1.

The PDF/A Competence Center includes several special interest groups (SIGs), each of which has a marketing and a technical task force to promote the exchange of information and experience regarding the various PDF Standards.

In addition to broadening the scope of topics for its involvement, the PDF/A Competence Center is also increasing its international activities. There are now active country chapters in BeNeLux, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the US. Since 2010, the PDF/A Competence Center's board now includes Duff Johnson, CEO of US-based Appligent Document Solutions, and Stewart Rogers, General Manager of European Operations for Toronto-based Crawford Technologies, underscoring the international commitment of the association.

About PDF/A

ISO 19005 (PDF/A) defines requirements for documents suitable for archiving using on the popular and ubiquitous PDF format. The International Standard for archive-ready PDF provides requirements and specifications that ensure the long-term readability and full-text search functionality of documents regardless of the application software and operating system in which they were originally produced. The advantages of PDF/A are such that only 5 years after ratification the Standard has already replaced TIFF as the preferred archiving format in numerous international governmental organizations and industries.

About the PDF/A Competence Center

The PDF/A Competence Center was established as an international association in 2006 to promote understanding and implementation of PDF/A. In less than three years, over 100 companies and individual experts from over 20 countries joined as dues-paying members.

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 comprised of executives from

callas software, GmbH, Appligent Document Solutions Inc., Compart AG, Crawford Technologies Inc., intarsys consulting GmbH and LuraTech Europe GmbH. The executive chairman is Olaf Drümmer, Managing Director of callas software GmbH. Duff Johnson, CEO of Appligent Document Solutions Inc. is the executive vice chairman.

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