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**AIIM and PDF/A Competence Center Join Forces to
Educate Users and Providers about the
Advantages of PDF/A**



(Cologne) AIIM, the international association for enterprise content management, and the PDF/A Competence Center have announced their cooperation, at this year's DMS EXPO, to combine their energies, resources, infrastructure and expertise regarding PDF/A in order to pursue their objectives together more effectively. The primary emphasis in this regard is the worldwide use of the PDF/A standard (ISO 19005-1, Document management – Electronic file format for long-term preservation – Part 1: Use of PDF1.4 (PDF/A-1)). This is to be supported by the coordination of training courses, conferences, webinars, etc. Due to their different regional and cultural influences, both associations expect considerable synergies to result from the collaboration.

The ISO standard for long-term archiving, PDF/A, is a uniform format available for black-and-white or color documents with bitmap, graphic or text content. At this time, it is important to educate users and providers regarding the utility and advantages of the format so that as large a user base as possible can benefit. AIIM, the international association for producers, suppliers and users of enterprise content management technologies, is committed to this goal. The PDF/A Competence Center has also set its goal to promote the exchange of information and experience with long-term archiving in accordance with ISO 19005: PDF/A. The newly concluded cooperation agreement will combine the strengths of both organizations.

Specific plans

Both associations intend to coordinate their activities with joint annual planning, making use of mutual multipliers. Plans include joint PDF/A conferences in Europe and the USA, webinars and training courses. According to Dr. Hans Baerfuss, executive vice-chairman of the PDF/A

Competence Center, "The cooperation with AIIM offers numerous advantages and both associations remain independent in their activities. Our primary objective is mutual involvement in each other's plans of action, since our strategic goals coincide in many areas. Thus it's important to us to combine resources and expertise and make the most of the opportunities available."

Betsy Fanning, Director of Standards for AIIM, added: "From the beginning, AIIM initiated and has promoted the adoption of the PDF/A format. Moreover, we continue to lead the ISO working groups with the assistance of the PDF/A Competence Center as we continue to enhance the PDF/A standard. It is important for AIIM to use the cooperation with the PDF/A Competence Center to pursue our objectives of worldwide adoption of this standard."

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 type of content is allowed and what is not. This and other specifications are intended to ensure the long-term readability of documents regardless of the application software and operating system in which they were originally produced. Experts predict that the designation of PDF/A as an ISO standard will promote the popularity of the format, and advantages such as full text search capabilities will lead to it replacing TIFF in the near future.

About AIIM – The ECM Association

AIIM is an international authority on Enterprise Content Management (ECM) - the tools and technologies used to capture, manage, store, preserve, and deliver content and documents related to organizational processes. AIIM is international in scope, independent, and implementation-focused. The association has a long standing tradition of representing the needs of the DMS/ECM/archiving community and has a large number of members (with a heavier focus on users/customers). AIIM enjoys an excellent standing in North America and has significant representation in Europe.

AIIM is one of the initiators of the PDF/A initiative. They have close ties (through the secretariat and as the administrator for the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to ISO TC 171)) to the ISO technical committees / working groups.

About the PDF/A Competence Center

The PDF/A Competence Center was established as an 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). Among the founding companies are callas software GmbH, Compart Systemhaus GmbH, LuraTech Europe GmbH, PDF Tools AG (CH) and PDFlib GmbH. The number of members has grown quickly within a very short time. The executive chairman is Thomas Zellmann, a managing partner of LuraTech. Dr. Hans Baerfuss, CEO of PDF Tools AG, Switzerland is the executive vice-chairman.

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