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From the Executive Director

Peter Benson



Over the last few months I have been working on an eOTD application Guide for the NATO Codification Bureaus (NCB) which includes not only guidance for the NCBs but also guidance for suppliers and application providers. The essence of the NATO project is to look for ways to automate the codification process, the original goal of the NATO - ECCMA partnership. While originally automating the codification process was viewed as a means of lowering the cost of codification we have learned that increasing the speed of codification and the quality of the characteristic data is in fact a far more important goal as the demand for quality master data increases.

We have also confirmed that the key to obtaining data from suppliers lies in how you ask and that the specificity of the request for data determines a supplier's ability and willingness to respond. Whereas asking for "data" is considered neither useful nor helpful, asking for specific properties of a specified item is far more productive. In fact at a recent Department of Defense parts Standardization Industry day meeting I was able to confirm that all of the manufacturers present considered that, on the one hand, replying to a request for specified characteristic data, for a specified part they had supplied, was a customer service issue they would be more than happy to automate. On the other hand, replying to an availability request for a part that matched specified characteristics was a sales issue that they were more than happy to receive.

Having established that we have the basic components in ISO 22745, we are adding a new xml schema to the existing identification guide (template) specification (eOTD-i.xml) and item description schema (eOTD-r.xml). The new schema is designed to be used as a query so it is appropriately named eOTD-q.xml. There are three versions of the query; the first two are associated with a part number and request either missing data or the confirmation of existing data, the third is a request for a part number of an item that matches a specified set of characteristic data. What is proving interesting is that not only can manufacturers process the eOTD-q.xml against their PDM applications and suppliers can process eOTD-q.xml against their catalogues, but so can third party data providers as well as data cleaning and cataloging service providers (see in the following diagram. Essentially eOTD-q.xml becomes a standardized way for buyers to specify what data they need and eOTD-r.xml becomes a standardized way to exchange standardized descriptions. Of course you can not create an eOTD-q.xml without first having specified your characteristic data requirements and this is done using eOTD-i.xml.

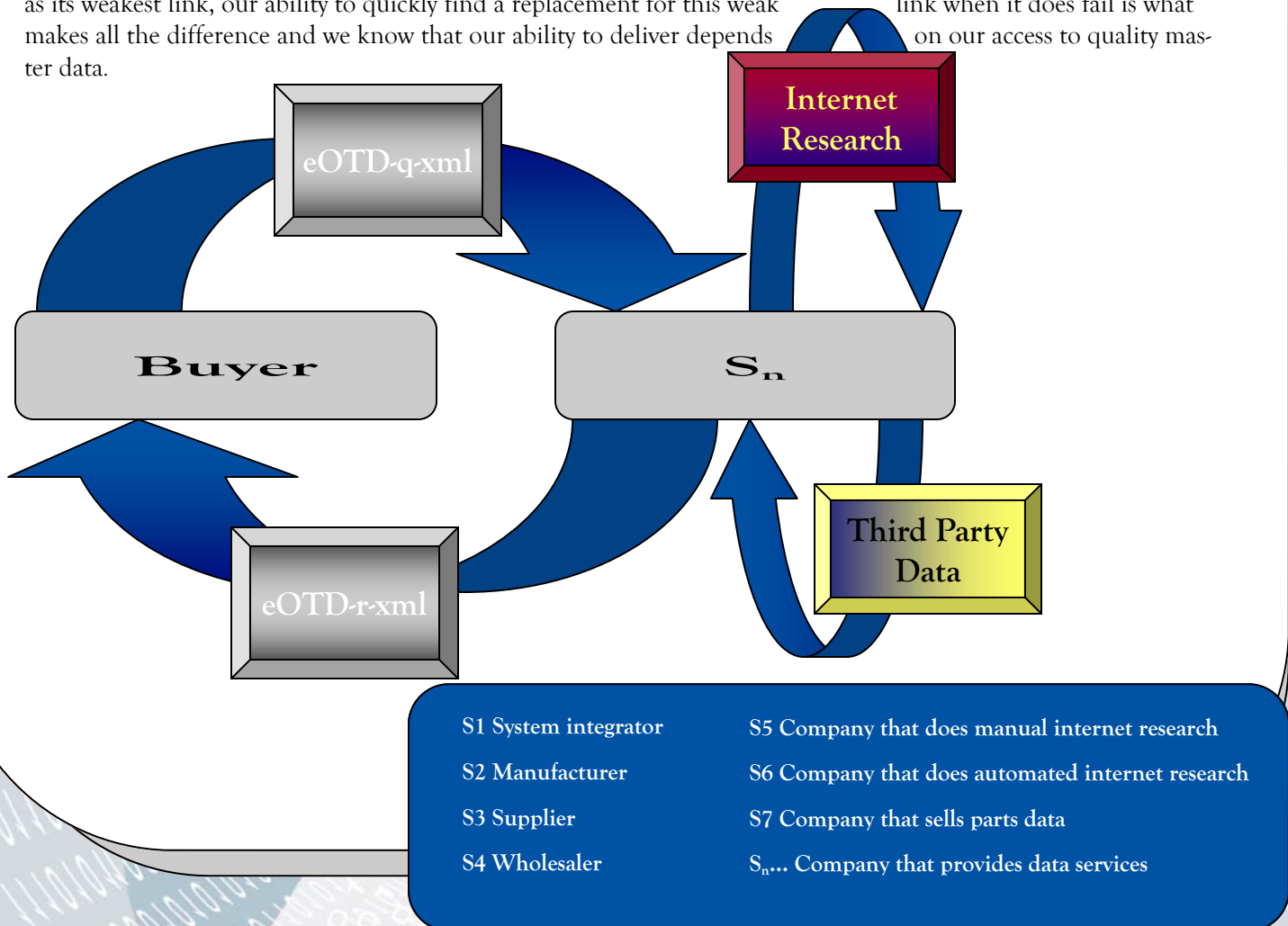
In line with the development of the new xml schemas and the eOTD Implementer's pack we are continuing our work on the development of the ECCMA 8000 certification program. As it stands any ECCMA member may request that the association authorize the use of the ECCMA 8000 master data quality logo by a supplier on condition that they confirm that the supplier can generate eOTD-r.xml data. If the eOTD-r.xml data is stored on a web site, the supplier can request that ECCMA register and publish the URL. In addition to this supplier certification we are working on a new logo for application and service providers that they can use to indicate that their applications or their services can accept eOTD-q.xml as input and generate eOTD-r.xml as output.

(Continued on Page 2)

Back in August 2004 I was asked to provide a briefing on the eOTD to the Parts Standardization Reengineering Group, a group sponsored by the Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO) to look into improving parts management to achieve better interoperability and lower life-cycle costs. The Parts Management Transformation Subcommittee found as follows:

“DoD needs to improve the data flowing into the cataloging process. System interface improvements could streamline and improve the cataloging process. Adoption by industry of similar cataloging practices such as the ECCMA eOTD or similar standards would improve data. The system must address PBL implications regarding item of supply. IMM issues to provide full asset visibility of the same item of supply in terms of form, fit, and function. Establishing common data elements is necessary.”

In October 2005 the group issued its recommendations and under item entry control it recommended that the Department of Defense “work with ECCMA to develop and promote eOTD as a universal, open cataloging standard”. In March of this year I was asked to provide an update at the annual Defense Standardization Conference and to participate in the Industry Day on parts management reengineering as the group works on implementation issues. There is no doubt that there is considerable work ahead but it is clear that the demand for better quality data, based on better integration of supplier data, is an essential component of the process. While the challenge is indeed great so are the benefits. We must never lose sight of today’s reality that in an interconnected and interdependent world data is indeed the DNA of the supply chain. The availability of quality master data plays a critical role not only in determining ultimate life cycle cost but ultimate readiness as well as the safe and efficient performance of complex systems. We are reminded time and time again that it is not only about building the highest performance or the most cost efficient system, but sustaining its operation over time. While a system is only as strong as its weakest link, our ability to quickly find a replacement for this weak link when it does fail is what makes all the difference and we know that our ability to deliver depends on our access to quality master data.



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9th International Scientific and Technical Conference – Russia

The 9th International Scientific and Technical Conference was held on 12 and 13 April 2007 in Moscow, Russia. The main topic of discussion during the conference was: “Actual problems of Codification of Products and the decision on the way forward.” ECCMA was invited to present a paper at the conference and to participate in a range of meetings where the current state of codification in Russia and the way forward were discussed.

Cosmonaut Day, 12 April, is a very important day in the Russian history. It was a privilege to share this day with the Russian community and even more so to address the Russian people at the Space exhibition centre. The first plenary session gave insight into the current status of the Federal Product Cataloging System and the codification of the Russian Armed Forces items. The objectives for export material logistic and cataloging support was also addressed. Mr. G Bond, Chairman of AC/135, shared some ideas on the future of Codification.

The second plenary session of the day was opened by Mr. P Strydom of ECCMA who addressed the audience on the topic of “Standards you can use to get the master data you need and more specific keys to standardization of product life cycle data”. Legal support of product cataloging for Federal needs and practical aspects of the operation of the Federal cataloging system were also debated.

Some in-depth discussions took place to discuss application problems of the eOTD standard in Russia. This session was well attended by people who are really interested in applying the eOTD in their own environments. This session provided for the opportunity to explain in more detail how the eOTD is put together and how people should apply it practically. It was evident that most of the people who attended this session is confident that the eOTD is the standard for the future. One of the concerns raised was the possibility of not be able to leverage work that was done on the NATO system previously when implementing the eOTD, reference was made specifically of NSN's that was created. The eOTD has to be the link between the two systems.

Detail discussions between ECCMA and the Russian Federal Cataloging Centre were conducted to explain the actual eOTD model and the methods and methodologies of implementing the standard in a practical manner. Some of the systems that was demonstrated during this sessions have the eOTD as dictionary incorporated into the software. The current progress by ECCMA and PiLog on the creation of self-help master data creation toolsets as well as the Identification Guide Builder was very well accepted and appreciated. The progress on ISO 8000 and ISO 22745 was also discussed and ECCMA suggested that they actively participate on this groups. The translation of the eOTD into Russian is currently a very high priority and private companies are approached to finance this effort. ECCMA has to look carefully on how to support them in this regard.

Two Memorandums of Understanding Agreements were signed during the conference:

- Between ECCMA, AC/135 and the Federal Agency on technical Regulating and Metrology and the Federal Center of Cataloging
- ECCMA and the Federal Center of Cataloging

From an ECCMA point of view, based on the above, this was a very successful conference and leaves us with the challenge to keep the momentum up. The next steps are to get their membership in place; I am already busy with the arrangements for the first eOTD training courses to be presented for the Federal Center of Cataloging.

Who's Who?

ECCMA, the association dedicated to improving the quality while lowering the cost of Master Data through development and implementation of international standards, would like to welcome some new members and acknowledge members who have renewed their 2007 membership!



Griha Software Technologies

Hofincons

Bharathi Infobuilders Pvt. Ltd



Once again, we thank you for your support of open source content standards and your participation in ECCMA. We will continue to strive to fulfill your needs as a member of the association.



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As many of you may have already noticed we have made some changes to the ECCMA website and updated the format slightly. At the same time, we were updating the website we also moved the website to a different server, which allows for greater speed and bandwidth. If during this time of transition and shortly there after, you had problems accessing the ECCMA website and/or some of our programs, we apologize for the inconvenience and would like to assure you that everything is back in working order.

The updates to the ECCMA website continue; We are fine tuning the existing content as well as adding more information. If there is anything you see on the website that needs to be corrected or anything you would like to see us add, please let us know!

Dan

The May version release of the eOTD has seen many changes in the form of additions from the SSC2 project, additions from NRICSC (Natural Resources Industry Content Standards Council) and update of the translations from the ACodP 2/3. The notable additions in these have been the 864 images and 13948 new class translations.

A new section for "eOTD XML Schemas and Web Services" will be available starting next month in the ECCMA Member's Area. This section will contain schemas for the creation of eotd-i-xml, eotd-r-xml and eotd-q-xml. It will also contain documentation and examples for the creation of these xml files.

Sheron

Join ECCMA and sparesFinder



Improving the Quality of Master Data

ECCMA Technical Short Course

This 2 1/2 day course is designed for inventory, procurement and supply chain managers that are looking for better cataloging and content methods. As well as, understanding total assets availability and keeping inventory accurate.

Course Objectives:

- To learn the fundamentals of managing master data
- To understand the fundamentals of data cleaning
- To introduce the ECCMA Open Technical Dictionary and ISO 22745
- To introduce ISO 8000 as a tool for promoting cataloging at source
- To review a range of eOTD strategies

Course Outline:

- History of the NATO Codification System and eOTD
- Fundamentals of data modeling, eOTD data models, ISO 22745
- Cataloging; preparing the data and adding the eOTD class code
- Cataloging; abstracting and enriching data
- Cataloging tools and services
- Cataloging at source (working with suppliers)
- Data quality- ISO 8000
- Managing a data cleaning project
- Costing a data cleaning project
- Developing a cost benefit analysis
- Team presentations



Upcoming Course

June 25-27th
Teddington, London

Contact: Diane Hawthorn
Diane@zincmarketing.co.uk

sparesFinder
information innovation

Conference Schedule

For many of you that attended the ECCMA conference in Hershey last year, you probably have some idea of the added responsibilities of organizing the ISO TC184/SC 4 meetings. Although the Hershey conference was by all accounts a considerable success we have decided to separate the ISO and ECCMA meetings and at the same time establish a long range calendar that will help us all in our planning.

Starting in 2008 ECCMA will offer to host the ISO TC184/SC 4 spring meeting in the second week of March of each year (subject to the approval of the SC 4 committee) and we will hold the ECCMA Master Data Quality conference in the second week of October. While the SC 4 meeting will always be held in the United States and will run from the Sunday reception through Friday lunch, it is possible that the ECCMA meeting may be held overseas.

The format of the ECCMA conference will be an opening reception on Tuesday night, plenary sessions on Wednesday morning followed by lunch and the opening of the application and service provider's exhibition. Thursday will be devoted to implementation workshop sessions with a closing conference session following the afternoon break. The exhibition will remain open until after the Thursday afternoon break.

The long range schedule looks as follows:

ISO TC184/SC 4	2008-03-02/07	2009-03-01/06	2010-03-07/12	2011-03-06/11	2012-03-04/09
ECCMA Master Data Quality conference	2008-10-14/16	2009-10-13/15	2010-10-12/14	2011-10-11/13	2012-03-09/11

The ISO dates are subject to confirmation by the committee. The 2009 ECCMA conference will be our 10th anniversary so make sure you put the date in your calendar as you will not want to miss it!

Service Providers Page Update

The ECCMA Service Provider web pages viewable from the Member Directory is now active. If your company offers any of the services in the categories below, or if you have any comments about the service provider web pages please email membership@eccma.org.

Current Service Provider Categories are as follows:

- Basic Spend Analysis
- Cataloging
- Product Data Management (PDM)
- Improving the quality of Master, Service or Vendor, Master Data
- Enhanced Spend Analysis
- Data Cleaning
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)
- Procurement

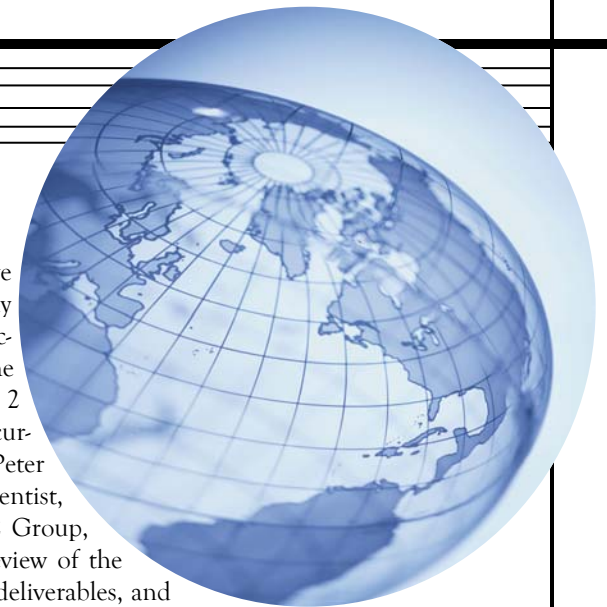
Contributor Deadlines

Issue	Closing Date	Issue	Closing Date	Issue	Closing Date
August 15	August 10	October 15	October 11	December 17	December 12

If you have information on events or activities that you think should be brought to the attention of the other members of ECCMA, please provide it to membership@eccma.org by the closing dates above.

News from NATO Allied Committee 135

From May 21-24, NATO Allied Committee 135 held a meeting of its executive committee in Capellen, Luxembourg, at the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA). The executive committee is comprised of the National Directors of Codification of all the member nations of AC/135. The first day of the meeting encompassed a review by the AC/135 Smart STEP Codification Phase 2 (SSC2) Steering Group of the eOTD project and the SSC2 contract with Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC). Representing the contractor side were Peter Benson, executive director, ECCMA and Dr. Gerald Radack, chief computer scientist, CTC. Barry Frye, SSC2 contract manager, CTC, and Dr. Timothy King, LSC Group, participated by phone. The review day included an overview presentation, a review of the status of ISO Standards 22745 and 8000, an assessment of the contract and its deliverables, and discussion about the status and future of the project.



From the AC/135 side, the review was led by George Sturrock, the SSC2 Steering Group chairman and representative from the United Kingdom National Codification Bureau (NCB), and Steven Arnett of DLIS and the U.S. NCB. The eOTD/ISO team emphasized that the focus for obtaining supplier data has shifted from Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems and design engineering data to Product Data Management (PDM) systems, partly as a result of the work the team has done with Patria Inc. An important aspect of the SSC2 contract is applying the principles of eOTD and ISO 22745 to an actual weapons system, in this case to the Patria Armoured Modularized Vehicle designed in Finland and being produced for and in Poland. The project has involved close cooperation between the eOTD/ISO team and with the Finland and Poland NCBs. At the end of the review session, Mr. Sturrock announced his resignation as chairman of the Steering Group, as a result of his moving soon to a new position in the United Kingdom government. Colonel Marek Dalkowski of Poland was elected to replace him. By the end of the review day and the Main Group meeting itself, a consensus was reached by the Steering Group that the project is making solid progress, although many challenges lie ahead.

Steven Arnett

Deputy Chief, International Division

Defense Logistics Information Service

As for the Main Group meeting itself, 86 representatives from 48 countries attended, both record totals for AC/135 meetings. The large and growing interest in AC/135 and the NATO Codification System indicate the growing importance of product data and standardization within the worldwide military community. Also of note, India sent a representative to an AC/135 meeting for the first time and informed the group that it has been using the NCS for 40 years. Russia gave an interesting presentation on their plans for implementing the NCS and eOTD, and Morocco signed their AC/135 sponsorship agreement.

Quality eOTD cataloging starts with ECCMA membership

From all accounts we may be seeing the first signs of a repeat of the UNSPSC coding scenario where hundreds of classification companies appeared literally overnight. While this rapidly drove down the price, unfortunately it also drove down the quality even faster. The companies that survived did so because they quickly realized that while speed and cost were important, quality was the ultimate determining factor for long term success. Most of these companies are now providing eOTD cataloging services but they are being joined by a new wave of companies that are seeking to fill the demand created by the growing success of the eOTD.

On the surface there is no real barrier to entry and anyone with access to a computer can hang out their shingle as an eOTD cataloguer. However, we know that while eOTD cataloging is not intrinsically difficult it does require training and experience as well as access to tools and a process for ensuring consistent quality. We do recognize that it is important that there is healthy competition among eOTD cataloguers and we can support this by providing and supporting eOTD cataloguer training programs. However the recent development of aggressive poaching of trained cataloguers must also be discouraged.

ECCMA members can work together to ensure that the quality of eOTD coding remains high by ensuring that the ultimate provider of eOTD cataloging service is a member of ECCMA. The ECCMA board will investigate and consider withdrawing membership from any eOTD cataloging service provider if we are advised of either unresolved quality issues or unethical business practices that include aggressive poaching of staff from another cataloging company. Please ensure that your eOTD application or service provider is listed on the ECCMA web site.

Roman Štrunc, Owner of LOGICENTRUM, s.r.o

Our company is an EDI provider and we convert thousands of EDI messages (Orders, Invoices or Inventory reports) between dozens of formats for hundreds of different information systems. This requires that we map data between many different classifications and coding systems.

Our system is referred to as the "Babel machine", as a reminder of the failure in communication that brought the building of the tower of Babel to a halt. Our software is a great translator, but it is a challenge maintaining the dozens of conversion tables we need.

**"IN MY OPINION, YOUR
WORK IS VERY IMPORTANT
FOR
INTERNATIONAL TRADE."**

Experts know that translating between the NATO codification systems and other systems, depends on the item name (class) and the required properties defined by the Identification guides.

ECCMA's work in providing a tool for mapping international metadata is of strategic importance to us and we follow it closely. We are implementing your new data models and using the "eOTD Concept Identifier" as base of our new information system.

United Nations Standard Products and Services Code
Translator into European languages
Codification tool for E-business

Oděvy, zavazadla a výrobky pro osobní péči (53000000) Jazyk dat: Czech

Detail for classification SHOES: MEN'S

Agency name: ECCMA (ECCMA Classification)
 Classification code: 014.00290.00006
 Title: SHOES: MEN'S
 Description: Footwear designed to be worn by males past the age of physical maturity.
 Import version: 031117

Translation for SHOES: MEN'S

Jazyk	Translation	Translation popisu	Schvalen	Author
Czech	BOTY: PÁNSKÉ	Boty pro dospělé muže.	YES	Jaromir Stradej (Logicentrum)

Atributy pro klasifikaci: SHOES: MEN'S

Code	Mandatory	Type	Name	Action
196	null	S	COLOR-2	Edit Up Down
1399	null	S	designátor uživatele	Edit Up Down
7362	null	S	OVERALL WIDTH	Edit Up Down
10262	null	S	Výška jednotky bez obalu	Edit Up Down
10263	null	S	Délka jednotky bez obalu	Edit Up Down
10264	null	S	Šířka jednotky bez obalu	Edit Up Down
15270	null	S	materiál vlákna	Edit Up Down
15441	null	S	MATERIAL-2	Edit Up Down
16566	null	M	CUBIC MEASURE	Edit Up Down
16897	null	M	Objemová míra vnějšího obalu/kontejneru	Edit Up Down
16898	null	M	Hmotnost vnějšího obalu/kontejneru	Edit Up Down
17994	null	S	hmotnost jednotky s obalem	Edit Up Down
18774	null	M	Objem výdejní jednotky	Edit Up Down
18775	null	M	Hmotnost výdejní jednotky	Edit Up Down
18785	null	M	UNPACKAGED UNIT WEIGHT	Edit Up Down
19200	null	S	FASTENING METHOD-1	Edit Up Down
19815	null	S	název tkaniny	Edit Up Down
20109	null	S	Ochrana proti vnějším vlivům	Edit Up Down

Tool for mapping between UNSPSC and eOTD properties. As you can see, you can select a property and designate it as general or specific, so customers are looking for items in the same way.

Mining Companies Employing to Make eOTD the Industry Standard

If you're reading this ECCMA newsletter, then it's likely you agree that quality data is fundamental to doing business "right". A community of major mining companies acted on that same conclusion many years ago and have come together to implement common master data standards for the mining industry, with the eOTD as the adopted international standard.

As early as 2002, mining companies and industry suppliers came together as the Mining Content Standards Committee (CSC) with the support of a leading eMarketplace, Quadrem. The CSC set out with the goals of facilitating business with trading partners, and enriching internal data to provide better reporting and other business intelligence. Because master data is central to content standardization for CSC members, the group quickly realized that it must develop a custom industry standard for naming and classifying items or adopt an existing standard. The committee adopted the eOTD because of its comprehensive nature

and ECCMA's efforts to actively manage the eOTD towards becoming the international cataloging open standard now ISO 22745.

The comprehensive nature of the eOTD also meant that some work was needed to scale the eOTD to mining commerce. A technical advisory group to ECCMA was chartered by Quadrem's share holder customers to provide master data expertise directly to the Mining, Minerals, Metals and Natural Resources Content Standard Council membership which includes: Anglo American, BHPB, Barrick, CVRD, Newmont, Penoles, Rio Tinto, Franklin Empire and 3M. This group known as the Quadrem Technical Advisory Group (QTAG) directs enhancements to the eOTD and provides a process through which CSC members keep their master data synchronized with the latest versions of the eOTD. The result is an actively managed subset of the eOTD that ensures information accuracy and consistency between various members' catalogs while sup-

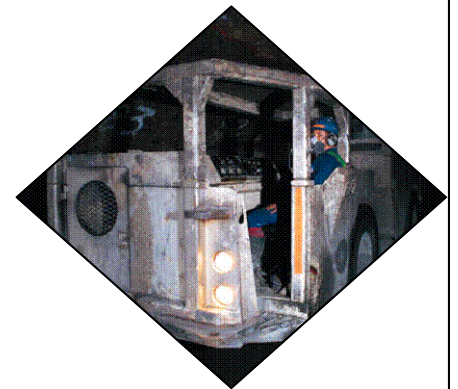
porting a single descriptive standard for all Quadrem customers. This subset dictionary is available on the ECCMA website member's area as The Natural Resources Dictionary.

CSC members continue to meet twice per year and collaborate actively throughout the year to define and implement industry standards for master and classification data. In addition to coordinating with existing eOTD data, the committee is pursuing development of industry standards for manufacturer names, units of measure and abbreviations. The CSC is also planning to turn some of their attention to enhancing service masters and the UNSPSC to better represent the mining industry.

Quality data is the foundation for successful ecommerce and the mining industry has seen stronger returns on its ERP and e-supply chain investments due to the work done on data with Quadrem and ECCMA, using the eOTD. We expect the benefits to continue along with the proliferation of the standard.



"The result is an actively managed subset of the eOTD that ensures information accuracy and consistency between various members' catalogs while supporting a single descriptive standard for all Quadrem customers. "



School is almost out, and it seems that summer is the time for standards committees to meet.

By Gerald Radack, CTC



The next ISO TC184/SC 4 meeting, to take place in Ibusuki, Japan, July 1-6, 2007, is rapidly approaching. Underscoring Japan's interest in data quality, the Japan National Committee for SC 4 is co-sponsoring a Data Quality Workshop with the newly-established working group 13, Information Quality. The workshop will take place on Wednesday, July 4. Elaine Grantner of U.S. Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS) Data Integrity Branch will give a talk entitled "ISO 8000: How Standardization Fits into the DLIS Data Quality Vision." Salomon De Jager of Pilog and Starnode will present a talk on Practical demonstration of the implementation of Master Data in an Industrial Plant Expansion Environment through the Application of eOTD Implementation Guides and Web Toolsets. The next day, July 5, there will be an Open Forum on Dictionary/Ontology Register and Maintenance. Emily Grantner and I will present a talk on master data maintenance with ISO 22745 and 8000. More information about the SC 4 meeting is available from <http://sc4-ibusuki.ecom.jp/>.

The 10th Annual Open Forum for Metadata Registries will take place in New York City the following Monday to Wednesday, July 9-11. The Open Forum is jointly sponsored by ISO/IEC JTC1/SC32, Metadata, and ISO TC37, Terminology and other language and content resources. At the Open Forum, Peter Benson will give a presenta-

tion on ISO 8000, and I will give a presentation plus a half-day tutorial on ISO 22745. Following the Open Forum, SC 32 will meet through July 20. One of the goals of ISO 22475 development is compatibility with ISO/IEC 11179 and other SC 32 standards where there is a common business need. More information about the meeting is available from <http://metadataopenforum.org/>.

The 2007 Conference for ISO TC 37 will be held in Provo, Utah, USA, August 11-18. TC 37 publishes a set of standards that for the foundation for development of terminology collections. An open technical dictionary is a kind of terminology collection, and the ISO 22745 data models are built on the foundation formed by the TC 37 standards. The use of TC 37 standards as a foundation has positively impacted the quality of ISO 22745 and helped to achieve compatibility with other ISO standards. Peter Benson and I will be attending this meeting. More information about the meeting is available from <http://www.ttt.org/TC37/>.

I hope to see some of you at one of the above meetings.