Ident-PHF Gazette

Newsletter of the « Non Production Material Identification » network

Editorial

By F.-G. OLIVE (Senior executive advisor logistic - Nuclear Generation Operations) and P.-A. LHOTE (Nuclear Generation Operations - Operational Technical Unit) - EDF

In mid July 2008, EDF – Nuclear Generation Operations joined the circle of French manufacturing company members of the PFI committee, within the framework of the project AMELIE which aims at "Transforming the Logistics of Replacement Parts". This involves the re-design of both the referential and the procurement process for replacement parts, linked with the construction of a modern national logistic platform with a completely renewed information system.

AMELIE is therefore a fantastic opportunity to support and promote the initiative already engaged by other top companies such as Arc International, PSA Peugeot Citroen and Renault.
The total initiative, which aims at creating a 'Community Data Pool' of replacement parts and industrial products classified and codified according to the standard established by e-Cl@ss, currently operational via the ecat-npmi catalogue which includes more than 100000 articles, offers the advantage of being able to access certified, reliable data, directly exploitable for use in the specific referentials of each industrial user, without having to search for them.

The EDF project will conclude in mid 2011 and, together with the ambition to launch the electronic catalogue concept and contribute to its generalization, will allow EDF to put itself at the best industry level. The corresponding productivity gains, moreover associated with an increased quality of the available data, constitute a major interest for EDF.

Within the framework of the promotion of the initiative, EDF will encourage their 2300 manufacturers of industrial products and replacement parts to register their data in the Data Pool.
For the suppliers, the possibility to register their data in a unique location also constitutes an appreciable asset.
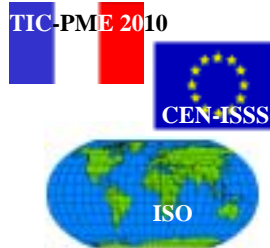
François-Gaudéric OLIVE and Pierre-Alain LHOTE.

KEY EVENT

National, European and International work on E-catalogues

Always a topical theme, electronic catalogues and, inter alia, the management and structuring of their technical content are the subject of many work initiatives not only at the French level but also at the European and International level… Let's have a quick look! …

At the French level, we look first of all at the TIC-PME 2010 program, what it's about and why our PFI initiative did not form part of it. We will then speak about work on the European level under the auspices of the European Committee for Standardization(CEN-ISSS/ePPS)

TIC-PME 2010

CEN-ISSS

ISO

and finally of the move of eCl@ss to the level of ISO international standards, via technical committees ISO-TC37 and ISO-TC184.

1. **TIC-PME 2010**
a. **What is it?**
This program "Information and Communication Technologies for Small and Medium-size Enterprises" was launched in 2006 by the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry and by Medef, with the aim of increasing…

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The modelling tool: ec@t-npmi

Developed by Arc International France, one of the founding members of the PFI committee, for the attention of industrial component manufacturers to support the process of modelling their products, this tool is accessible on line and is downloadable in just a few seconds:

- Access: If the manufacturer has been approached directly by one of the large clients (PSA Peugeot Citroën, AIF, Renault), they can connect directly to the Afim portal using the email address of the person who received the approach as log-in and password.
  Other manufacturers must first of all register themselves (click on subscriptions/purchase order…) in order to become accredited.
- Download: in the private space of each manufacturer, a link gives access to download the zipped tool. After…

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KEY EVENT

National, European and International work on E-catalogues (Continued)

(continued from page 1)…,
the penetration of innovative technologies in small and medium-size companies. Its overall objective was to subsidise around 20 projects intended to improve digital exchange in many industrial sectors : from Construction & Public Works to aeronautics, as well as the cosmetic, toy and even the clock and watch industry

B. Why are we not there?

Mobilised quite late on the submission of dossiers, the PFI committee could not react in time to constitute a dossier on the subject. In addition, the dossiers were to relate to work industry channel by industry channel: whereas our ambition, beyond the automotive industry which is at the origin of the process, was always to be as wide and as federal as possible, therefore cross-industry by definition.
An assessment, which took place on October 14 in Bercy (and in which the PFI committee took part), identified precisely the need to transversalise to the maximum the results of this work: which it is what we have aimed to do from the beginning with our PFI project! …

2. CEN-ISSS WS/eCAT-ePPS

Piloted by CEN (Committee of European Standardization), this is above all a Product Property Server Workshop in support of electronic product description and classification for eBusiness.

a. CEN eCAT Workshop
The CEN eCAT Workshop (ePPS project) has as its objective the production of guidelines and a demonstration on how to set up and operate a product property server. The ePPS project is covering:

- Technical issues such as data models, exchange formats, services required by users, etc.,
- Organisational and business related issues such as copyright, IPR, business models, required skills, and
- Implementation related issues to facilitate the use of product property servers in industry.

b . CDC Focus Group
The CDC Focus Group will deal with interoperability across dictionaries. The aim here is twofold: to allow users to more easily exchange information across different dictionaries and to support the interaction of dictionary providers in order to achieve better results with fewer resources and costs. In 2008 and 2009, three or four seminars will have been organized on interoperability issues in different countries of the European Union. During these seminars "Identifier resolution web services" have to be tested as a light and interoperable means for exchanging information from different types of European dictionaries.

Our PFI committee obviously takes part in this work and follows it closely.

3. ISO TC 37 and ISO TC 184

(see specific insert in this issue: "eCl@ss in the standards")

a. TC 184-SC4 *(International Standards for data representation and exchange)*

Let us recall that eCl@ss is more than 95% in conformity, in terms of structuring of the data, with PLib-ISO 13584 (audit made by Paradine (Austria) approximately 2 years ago)… So eCl@ss could legitimately be included in the corpus ISO 13584. According to Pr G. Pierra, a standard in the ISO13584-5xx section, devoted to the eCl@ss dictionary (ontology) eClass would be completely justified….To be developed further! …

b. TC 37-SC3 *(Terminology and other language and content resources)*

On the basis of the standard in progress ISO/NP 22274, a work group was officially launched in August 2008 (supported by a majority of 13 to 2 and with 7 participating countries). This standard, inter alia, deals with the multilingual aspects and semantics of eClass….   To be followed further! ….

OTHER EVENTS

Association ec@t-npmi.

The PFI committee, whose founding members are PSA Peugeot Citroën, Renault, Arc International, EDF and AFIM (French Association of Maintenance Engineers and Managers) are on the way to obtain an official legal structure.
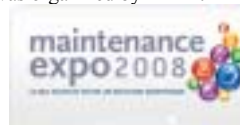
Indeed, within a few weeks, this committee could transform itself into an 'Association loi 1901' with the denomination ecat-npmi

Maintenance Forum, edition 2008…

This year, once again, the catalogues project ecat-npmi, intended in a pragmatic fashion, for maintenance professionals, was the subject of a presentation at the 20th Maintenance Congress/Exhibition which was held in Villepinte on November 4th.

This forum, as usual, was organized by AFIM.

eCl@ss *in the Standards !...*

● Approved in August 2008 by the TC37 (ISO Technical Committee "Terminology"), a work group around the preliminary draft of the ISO/NP 22274 standard started within ISO: eCl@ss has a big part to play (multilingualism of the models and semantics*)
● a reflexion is still in progresss concerning the integration of eCl@ss in the corpus PLib (ISO 13584) as an example of ontology in conformity with the PLib concept

(precise sense, verified and mutually accepted information)*

ec@t-npmi in figures, to date…

● On November 1, 2008, the demonstration Community Data Pool, hosted by the www.ecat-npmi.net portal contains:

- More than 100.000 products registered
- Coming from 50 manufacturers (brands)
- With 100% EAN codes
- Approximately 87000 of these products are certified to be in conformity with the modelling standard
- More than 76000 of these products are published on line
- Associated documentation: more than 2 Gb

« ec@t-npmi » in

ODETTE

Odette Conference 21 - 22 October 2008 *Strasbourg*

The annual conference of ODETTE International, European association of automotive manufacturers and suppliers for the development of E-business communications and supply chain management recommendations , was the occasion of a promotion
for eC@t-npmi: indeed, on the ODETTE stand, in the exhibition (20 exhibitors) which was held in parallel with the conference, a point of information and demonstration of eCat-npmi took place during these 2 days

opposite: G. Chaumond who manned the eC@t-npmi information point

Convention of Major Industrial users, June 4th, 2008

Organized by the PFI committee, this convention aimed to present the PFI/eCat-npmi process simultaneously to a maximum of Large Companies. Around thirty companies were invited: in spite of a low participation, due to a late invitation and a lack of availability of the invited people, interesting contacts were made with Toyota France and Isover St Gobain.

Lesson learnt: need to meet each company on a one to one basis: this is what we have set about doing since this date

Experimental standard AFNOR XP Z99-005

The result of more than 2 years work undertaken with the participation of PSA Peugeot Citroën, Schneider Electric, Airbus industry, Legris, Legrand, Norgren and Renault, this experimental standard was validated by the standardization commission "Scientific, Technical and Industrial Data" (CN-DSTI) in October 2008.

It will be published at the end of 2008

and proposed for submission to the European level (CEN) and/or international (ISO)

"THE PRESS SPEAKS ABOUT IT…"

An article published in **Number 23** (Oct/Nov/Dec.2008) of "**Maintenance Production**" covers our PFI initiative. It highlights the stakes of this initiative for all the actors whether they are suppliers or users of data.
An outline is also given on the ec@t-npmi catalogue technical data community web space (www.ecat-npmi.net)

ec@t-npmi.net

LOBBYING with Large Companies

Actions aimed at enrolling large companies and bringing them into the PFI steering committee are on-going.

Thus Toyota France was received by Arc International France on 16th July.

Renault welcomed Arcelor on 11th September, and will receive Alcan-RioTinto on 2nd December, and Thalès on 16th December.

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(continued from page 1)… saving this ZIP file (13,1 Mb) on the local PC, the manufacturer/supplier must extract 2 Excel files, one of which is a complete ecl@ss ontology V5.1.1 (52,2 Mb) and the other the modeling tool in Visual Basic (492 Kb). By opening this latter file and by activating the macros, a banner page appears (cf figure 1) which gives access, on a single screen, to all the functionalities of the tool:

- A- Search classes
- B- Generation of masks
- C- Verification of data
- D- Finalization of the delivery

On the right of the screen, is the logo of each founding member which, via a single click, generates an email for submission to the company: each manufacturer can thus put various questions to each major client or to AFIM.

Stage A: Search classes
A click on the eCl@ss logo connects the users, via Internet, to the eCl@ss website, from where they can carry out, in the language of their choice (French, German, Italian, Spanish, English, Chinese), a search of the classes in which they will "organise" their various families of products.
Several modes of research are available: key words, tree structure, properties of the classes.

Stage B: Generation of masks
When clicking on the button "generate masks" after having keyed in the numbers of the desired classes, an Excel file appears: it contains as many sheets as classes, and in each sheet, the zone of colored headings corresponds to the eCl@ss model of the class concerned, with the principal attributes of the listed properties (name, definition, format, measure unit, list values,…). The manufacturer transcribes (manually or automatically) the data related to his products in the various families, with one article per line and one property per column.

Stage C: Verification of data
The tool checks the totality of the data input: absence of obligatory data, invalid EAN codes, format errors, duplicates, etc… A certification report can be generated on request as often as required.

Stage D: Finalization prior to delivery
The file of characterization generated previously (CAR) is then compressed and prepared for transmission by data exchange. Two other files, compression of all photos on the one hand (IMG), and of all documents on the other hand (DOC.), associated with this file of characterization are prepared concurrently.

Presentation of RIBE-PSA to the manufacturers of automatisms components

Two days dedicated to the application software RIBE_PR and to ec@t-npmi were organized to PSA SOCHAUX in October and November, 2008. These days gathered approximately 30 suppliers of approved automatisms components and mainly already engaged in the catalog electronics step . The objective was to remind all these actors, the aim of electronics catalogs (ec@t-npmi) through a concrete presentation of industrial repositorydatabase RIBE_PR version 2.0. The occasion was also given to train the manufacturers in the use of RIBE_PR (via B2B) and to explain them the proposed by the application. The balance of these days is positive, the suppliers ,globally, showed their interest for the electronics catalog initiative as well as for the application RIBE_PR. Through the questions put by our partners, this day besides allowed to put in evidence of the functional and organic improvements to be considered.

(Denis Prenez –PSA Peugeot Citroën)

In Brief…

EDF signs-up to PFI charter.
With this sign-up on 11/07/08, EDF joined the circle of the founding members of the PFI committee (PSA Peugeot Citroën, Renault, Arc International, Afim).

Work groups "eCl@ss ontologies 2008" at Renault

A first work group on 3 to 5 elementary ontologies concerning "wheels and casters" was launched on 18th June .
▪ Animated by Patrick LEIBOVICI (Renault technical pilot) and with the participation of PSA Peugeot Citroën, Michelin, Arc international, as well as Blicklé, Wicke, Hervieu and Acla, the group has already held 5 meetings.

▪ Another work group has just started
Another work group was launched on 16th September.
Animated by Guy DUBOURG (Renault technical pilot), it currently deals with hydraulic accumulators (6 or 7 classes) and hydraulic filtration (4or 5 classes); taking part in it are Hydac, Olaer, Parker, Pall and Mahle in addition to PSA Peugeot Citröen, Michelin and Arc international.

Arrival of two apprentices at Renault

On 1st September 2008, for one year duration in alternance study for GEII diploma at the IUT of Cergy-Neuville. Arnaud GENEBRIER and Julien COLLIN joined the Renault PFI team.

Arnaud primarily will follow and accompany the manufacturers of industrial products to register their data on ec@t_npmi
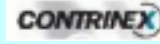
As for Julien, his missions are: the animation of the development of eCl@ss ontologies meetings and assistance with the secretariat of the PFI committee.

He also contributes to the carry-out of this Newspaper

These companies have recently delivered their data to ec@t-npmi… (since June):

Reminder of deliveries beforeJune:

Features expected in the longer term on the COMMUNITY WEBSPACE of technical data catalogues "ec@t-npmi"

A work group, within the PFI committee, has just completed the formalization of the desired specification for the target "Community Webspace of technical data catalogues", and for its on-line "catalogue" exploitation tool.

3 functional topics were explored:
- "data suppliers" workspace
- "data users" workspace (from the multi-manufacturers, multi-lingual, multi-services catalogue, to the synchronization basket or the private hosting of data…)
- "administration" workspace (actors, profiles, models, data…)

Terminology

PHF (Produits Hors Fabrication) : Non Production Materials (**NPM**) , *named also* **PFI** (produits de fonctionnement Industriels
EAN : European Article Number ; **PLib** (Parts Library) : standard concept of ISO 13584 ; **LMPR** (Liste des Matériels Préconisés Renault) : List of Renault recommended components ; **AFNOR** (Association Française de Normalisation) : French Association for Normalization ; **ISO** : International Standards Organization; **ec@t-npmi**

Contacts & useful links

Internet Sites
- about **PFI** initiative : www.galia.com (=> groupes de travail => PFI) , www.afim.asso.fr and www.odette.org
- about concrete operations : www.afim.asso.fr (=> ec@t-npmi => e-catalogue) or www.ecat-npmi.net
- about **PLib** : www.lisi.ensma.fr or www.plib.ensma.fr or www.toplib.com (Toshiba)
- about **eCl@ss** : www.eclass-online.com or www.eclass.de or www.eclass.eu
- about **EAN** : www.gs1.org ou www.gs1.eu ou www.gs1.fr

Aide-mémoire of working groups (currently in place)

Enlarged PFI Committee (Renault, PSA, International Arc, EDF, Total, Schneider Electric, AFIM) + Gimelec: French inter-professional committee for the promotion of the convergence of E-catalogues (commercial and technical); **Restricted PFI** Committee: reserved for the 5 founding members only

Normalization Commission Afnor CN-DSTI GT2: Elaboration of a French experimental standard XP Z99-005 reusing the contents of the PFI recommendation published by Galia in 2004..

PFI animation Workgroup for development of **eCl@ss ontologies** on **wheels and casters, accumulators hydraulics and hydraulic filtration** families: started in July and September (Renault animation); conclusion planned for the end of 2008

Editorial staff committee