Project acronym: GRIFS

Project title: GRIFS - Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards

Start date: 01.01.2008
End date: 31.12.2009
Duration: 24 month
# of Partners: 3

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Partners:
- GS1
- European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
- European Committee for Standardization (CEN)

Project Objective:

1. Working to characterise the variety of standards activities taking place globally,
2. Working on a number of liaison activities to disseminate information about the importance of global standards and to align RFID standards development globally,
3. Putting in place a 'Global RFID Interoperability forum for Standards' (GRIFS), comprising global stakeholders, to ensure continuing close collaboration between standards activities.

This should create synergy, catalyse co-operation and avoid duplication of developments - thereby minimising unnecessary business expense caused by incompatible localised standards development and maximising the use of a scarce standards development resource. As enterprise networks and intelligent supply chains grow in number, size and reach the requirement for coherent global standards becomes even more of an absolutely necessary requisite.

Project description:

A world where global supply chains are the norm requires that RFID tags and associated sensors can operate, can be seen and can be interrogated anywhere in the world. For maximum competitiveness and greatest efficiency this requires standards that are global in definition and in application. GRIFS is a two year project to improve collaboration and thereby to maximise the global consistency of RFID standards. It is envisaged that the GRIFS project puts in place and initiates a Forum that will continue to work constructively thereafter. The activities of the Forum will be defined during the project. The membership will include high level representation of key standards and other related bodies.

Field of Application:

As we move on from localised RFID applications towards the 'Internet of Things' we can identify three levels of technology-related standards in a world of ambient intelligence supply chains:

• Standards for the operating characteristics of physical objects (readers, tags, sensors)
• Infrastructure standards to define the communications, addressing and structures
• Data exchange standards

There are two other areas of standardisation that must be considered as we move 'towards the Internet of Things'. These are:

• Standards related to the technical aspects of allocation by regulators of appropriate spectrum for RFID use;
• Standards related to privacy and security issues affecting RFID use, regulatory and otherwise.