

# GRIFS

Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards





## **GRIFS** Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards

**GRIFS** is a support action project funded by the European Union with the aim to improve collaboration and thereby to maximise the global consistency of RFID standards.

This two year project was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

**GRIFS** aims at initiating a forum that will continue to work constructively after the end of the project through a Memorandum of Understanding between key global standard organisations active in RFID.

**GRIFS** is supported by the European Commission's FP7 Programme







## GRIFS in the global context of the Internet of things

In the FP7 IST work programme, the European Commission has recognised the importance of inter-enterprise interoperability as we move forward towards the ambient intelligence environment where most devices are connected to seamless, ubiquitous networks.

As we move on from localised RFID applications towards the 'Internet of Things' five levels of technology-related standards can be identified 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
- 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.

The **GRIFS** Project offers an important opportunity for Europe to lead a global, open grouping of standards bodies that are interested in open RFID standards.

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## Objectives of the GRIFS Project

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.

### **The GRIFS support action project will:**

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

This support action will focus on the use of RFID in supply chain and related activities. These activities primarily encompass the tracking and tracing of physical items as they move through supply chains in many different businesses, both in the public and private sector.

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The project will develop the Global RFID Interoperability Forum for Standards in the following steps:

- An analysis of the standards scene taking into consideration the three dimensions of regions, sectors and standardisation topics will be drawn
- These reports will be brought together to build a picture of the global scene at a Brussels based Symposium in June 2008, in association with other standards organisations
- Several workshops and other actions will be organised, at regional level, by studying developing standards and seeking to recognise consistent approaches. Those will help to prepare the creation of the GRIFS forum
- A GRIFS forum will be created and four forum meetings will be organised in the regions of Asia, America and Europe. The final forum meeting in Europe will aim to cement the Memorandum of Understanding and ensure that the GRIFS forum will be viable and will be able to continue to operate beyond the end of this support action. The forum will continue to enable exchanges of views on all aspects of 'RFID and beyond' interoperability from the perspective of standardisation, thus facilitating a coherent and consistent global RFID standardisation policy.







## GRIFS Partners

### **GRIFS is coordinated by three of the most recognised standards organisations worldwide**

**GS1** is a global organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards, technologies and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains. GS1 has more than 30 years experience in the development and support of global supply chain standards and technologies.

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit standards and services organisation.



**ETSI** The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is an independent, non-profit organization, whose mission is to produce telecommunications standards for today and for the future. Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), ETSI is officially responsible for standardization of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within Europe. These technologies include telecommunications, broadcasting and related areas such as intelligent transportation and medical electronics.



**CEN** The European Committee for Standardization is contributing to the objectives of the European Union and European Economic Area with voluntary technical standards which promote free trade, the safety of workers and consumers, interoperability of networks, environmental protection, exploitation of research and development programmes, and public procurement.

CEN is a non-profit making technical organization set up under Belgian law.



#### **Associated partners to the GRIFS Project:**

GS1 member organisations from Poland, UK, South Africa, Russia, US, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea and Singapore

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## Upcoming events

### **The GRIFS Symposium will take place in Brussels in June 2008**

You can learn more about the project by consulting the project's website  
<http://www.grifs-project.eu>

GRIFS will also be represented at the following upcoming events:

#### **Interoperability Conference,**

6-7 February 2008, Warsaw, Poland

<http://www.interoperabilityconference.org/>

#### **The Internet of Things**

26-28 March 2008, Zurich, Switzerland

<http://www.the-internet-of-things.org/>

*GRIFS is member of the **CERP**, Cluster of European RFID Projects*

<http://www.rfid-in-action.eu/cerp>

**Visit the GRIFS website at**  
<http://www.grifs-project.eu>

**For more information about the GRIFS Project**  
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