POSC Caesar Association Fiatech™

JORD (Joint Operational Reference Data) Project enhancing the PCA Reference Data Service (RDS) Operation in partnership with Fiatech

JORD Project

Delivering a scalable and commercially-sustainable operation of core ISO15926 Reference Data Services.

Assuring compliance of ISO15926 usage for critical capital facilities owner-operator customers and their supply chains.

Update 2 – Dateline January 2013

The JORD Project kicked-off in May 2011 on Phase 1 of a 3 year project investment planned to achieve scalable & sustainable ISO15926 RDS (Reference Data Service) Operations within 5 years.

Phase 1 was completed during 2012, and has already demonstrated a successful track record in creating key deliverables and operational RDS enhancements.

Phase 2 is underway in 2013 and we welcome additional participants to join the project and share in the success.

The insert below describes why you should care about JORD, ISO15926 and Reference Data. The remainder of this update describes the JORD scope and success to date, as well as taking a look ahead to those enhancements slated for the first year of Phase 2 in 2013.

How does my business benefit from JORD and ISO15926 (iRING) Reference Data?

During 2012 PCA (POSC Caesar Association) and Fiatech agreed to adopt the iRING brand for all their ISO15926-related initiatives. JORD is the joint project which addresses the core needs of anyone who recognizes that their adoption of iRING depends on shared reference data.

You already recognize the enormous business value in achieving ***flexible interoperability*** between business-units, supply chain partners and systems, over long multi-project, multi-asset, multi-business lifecycles. And you also recognise that achieving these benefits has a strong dependency on ***standardization*** across systems, across information and across technologies.

That is, the benefits of standards-based interoperability are clear:

- *Direct-cost-and-time-savings* in reducing effort in transferring, mapping and in simply finding & accessing information necessary to do your business.
- *Risk-and-cost-reductions* in the quality and ambiguity of information which otherwise lead to sub-optimal business operations, failure to satisfy regulators or, in the worst case, loss of health, safety & environmental integrity.
- *Freedom-and-opportunity* to take advantage of new collaborative business processes, flexible business partnering, new technology applications and different subcontracting arrangements across your evolving business operations and supply-chains in geographically distributed locations, which may be remote & inhospitable.

How do JORD and iRING Reference Data achieve these benefits?

Recognizing the enormous scale of these generic benefits, you will also have identified ***your own business case(s) to streamline information interoperability at key business interfaces***, rather than boil the whole ocean. Typically such information interfaces may represent responsibilities across internal business processes, significant contractual milestones, or third-party, partner or authority reporting interfaces. JORD-enhanced PCA RDS deliverables include resources to support your business-case development.

Standardization Architecture: Any technology standardization is driven by much broader ICT evolution than your own business. Also, systems and applications have quite different software & services supply-chain lifecycles compared to your core business processes and lifecycles.

That is, Business Processes & Applications; Data & Information; and Implementation Technologies must each be standardized independently wherever possible, if the flexible benefits are to be realized. iRING is built on this component architecture, focussing on standardization of information definitions (models and semantics) ***independent*** of particular business uses, and ***neutral*** with respect to implementation technologies.

A key feature of iRING is that information definitions are handled as shared ***Reference Data***; reference data that is itself accessed and managed independently of your business information and its implementations, and indeed independently of the many possible standards and catalogues that may define that information.

iRING Reference Data supports interoperability and sharing of information definitions between different information standards as well as between different businesses and technologies.

Crucially, because it is unthinkable for multiple whole industries to rely on a single reference data service provider for all critical business lifecycles, a key feature of the iRING RDS architecture is that it supports multiple ***federated*** reference data systems and service providers. And, being entirely technology neutral, it can also exploit the latest standard "semantic web" technologies without imposing any dependency other than the capability to use internet protocols to read any reference information resource.

In order to exploit this approach to enhance existing PCA RDS Operations, the JORD Project is establishing a core set of services and capabilities, which enable the evolution, management and validation of compliant use of reference data not only by your business directly, but also by complementary and competing providers of value-added content, systems and services to your wider business operations and supply chains.

The JORD-enhanced PCA RDS Operation delivers comprehensive, scalable and sustainable iRING reference data management and exploitation services. All that is imposed by that core RDS operation is the process of validating compliant use of reference data.

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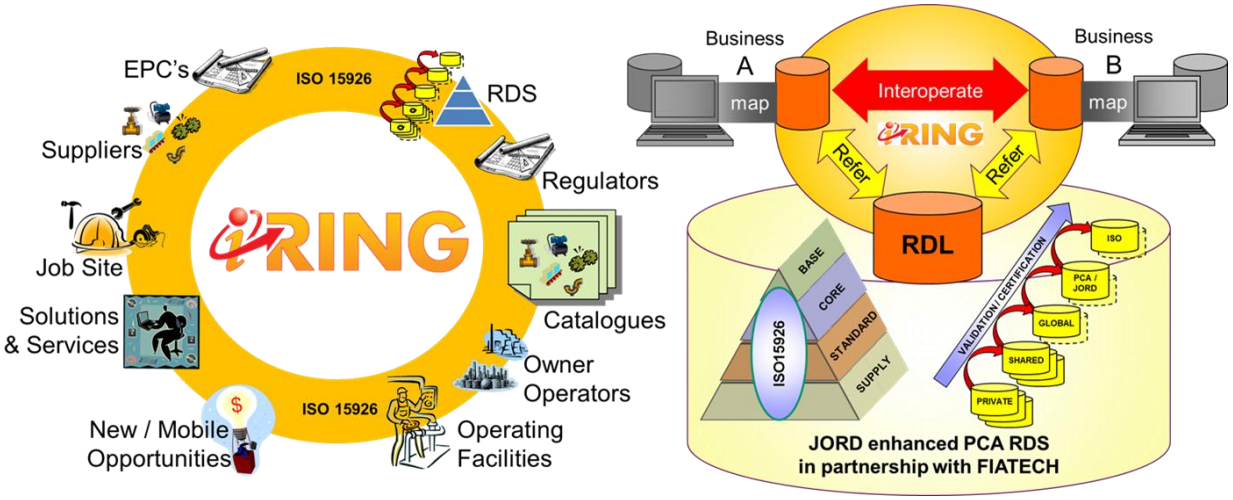

JORD Phase 1 focussed on achieving a number of technical fixes to the existing PCA RDS Operation, essential to enabling the full scalable and sustainable aims of Phase 2. Since the completion of Phase 1 the emphasis switched to detailed planning and resourcing of Phase 2 which is now underway in 2013. Phase 1 successes included delivering the following:

Compliance Methodology

In Phase 1 the key compliance deliverables were the JORD Mapping Methodology and the JORD Compliance Specification. Final Phase 1 versions were both delivered after a series of reviews and updates of existing resources.

The JORD Compliance Specification provides a clear statement of what it means to comply with ISO15926, whilst recognising that different levels of compliance may be achieved in several pragmatic and independent steps.

The JORD Mapping Methodology provides non-ISO15926-expert, business domain specialists with a reliable and repeatable method of representing their business information in iRING formats and reference data which guarantee compliance with the formal requirements of the ISO15926 standard, according to the levels of the JORD Compliance Specification. The methodology uses “Template Signature Patterns” expressed in business domain terms which hide the business user from unnecessary exposure to the generic modelling terminology of the standard itself. In doing so the Methodology opens up many more business workfronts to exploiting the iRING approach avoiding dependency on a few scarce iRING technical specialists.

The JORD ID Specification has also captured requirements for naming and identification of reference data fundamental to its sustainable use and change-management over long life-cycles and wide federation.

Full use of both the Compliance Specification and the Mapping Methodology still depend on the evolution of additional Template Signature Patterns in the core Reference Data Library and on creation of new operational processes for validation. Already however users are developing their use of the methodology and suppliers are applying the Compliance Specification Checklist to their implementations.

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RDL Publishing "EndPoint"

One of the key challenges to the existing PCA RDS was to provide supportable publishing of Reference Data Library (RDL) content as references resolvable over the internet and semantic-web technologies – a facility known as an "EndPoint". Two generations of EndPoint implementation were achieved in Phase 1, the second version of which is implemented in a commercially hosted environment giving flexibility and independence in how future enhancements are managed by PCA. This final Phase 1 version also supports "Sandboxes", where users may immediately create and use their own interim reference data extensions, in advance of the PCA and ISO validation processes.

The Phase 1 EndPoint implementation does not yet provide the fully scalable and sustainable business capability, but already provides the PCA RDS with supportable enhanced RDL web publishing.

Phase 2 Scope in 2013

With Phase 1 having focussed on specific technical fixes, the Phase 2 focus now switches to the scalable infrastructure and sustainable business operational aspects of the PCA RDS scope.

For the scalable ***RDL Content Management Technology and User Tools***, the detailed specification is underway, and RFI, RFP, development and initial implementations are planned for 2013, to be completed and migrated to production quality in the remainder of Phase 2. In addition to the general RDL content management and operational publishing procedures, the final piece in the compliance validation services jigsaw is to implement ***Compliance Validation Procedures***.

For the sustainable ***Business Operational Resources*** several deliverables are promised. Initially full ***PCA RDS Business and Marketing Strategies*** are to be developed from the outlines originally used to justify the project. From these a number of other specific resources will be developed: ***RDS Service Marketing Materials & Campaigns***, ***User Business Case & Training Resources***, ***Operating Procedures & Resources Plan***, and the ***Resource Recruitment and Subcontracting Plan.***

The agreement to adopt the ***iRING Branding*** will be brought into the JORD deliverables and the ***iRINGToday.com Channel*** exploited to deliver the necessary market communications.

Subject to sufficient project funding being made available to deliver all of the above, Phase 2 will also include transitioning the delivery of RDS services into the full commercial service basis necessary to achieve the ***Fully Sustainable Enhanced PCA RDS Business Operation*** in Phase 3.

Get Involved

JORD continues to deliver the core needs of the scalable and sustainable PCA RDS operation and requires additional funding. Interested parties should enquire for a participation package including the model participation contract (detailed fees, terms and specific benefits to sponsors and subscribers).
For additional information, or to express interest please see contact:

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