

ISO/IEC JTC 1 N7227

2003-10-20

Replaces:

ISO/IEC JTC 1 Information Technology

Document Type: Business Plan

Document Title: SC 2 Business Plan

Document Source: SC 2 Chairman

Project Number:

Document Status: This document is circulated for review and consideration at the November 2003 JTC 1 Plenary meeting in Singapore.

Action ID: ACT

Due Date:

Distribution:

Medium:

Disk Serial No:

No. of Pages: 5

BUSINESS PLAN FOR JTC 1/SC 2

PREPARED: 2003-09-30

PERIOD COVERED: October 2002 – September 2003

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1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY:

1.1 JTC 1/ SC 2 STATEMENT OF SCOPE

Title: Coded Character Sets

Scope: Standardization of graphic character sets and their characteristics associated control functions, their coded representation for information interchange and code extension techniques. Excluded: audio and picture coding.

1.2 PROJECT REPORT

Total Number of Projects: 50 including all subprojects

- New projects: None
- New subproject: None
- New revision work: None
- Withdrawn project: None

1.3 COOPERATION AND COMPETITION

SC 2 is playing the key role in the area of coded character set standardization.

SC 2 has been very successful in cooperation with ISO/TC 46, JTC 1/SC 22, JTC 1/SC 31, JTC 1/SC 32, and JTC 1/SC 35. In response to the last JTC 1 Meeting on Cooperation and Coordination of Cross Cultural and Linguistic Matters recommendation, SC 2 synchronously with SC 22 issued the letter ballot on the possible transfer of the project 14651 (JTC 1.22.30.02.02) from SC 22 to SC 2. The SC 2 ballot has passed.

SC 2 has also been successful in cooperation with external standard organizations, such as ITU-T, and with industry consortia, such as Unicode Inc., ISOC, and W3C.

For SC 2/WG 2/IRG (Ideographic Rapporteur Group) work, TCA (Taiwan) and HKITF (Hong Kong) provided important contributions.

2.0 PERIOD REVIEW

2.1 MARKET REQUIREMENTS

As stated in the previous business plan, requirements for the development of Coded Character Sets are still strong. For the upcoming SC 2/WG 2 meeting 67 contributions so far many of which are proposals for encoding additional scripts and characters.

Rapid development utilizing JTC 1 procedures are mandatory for SC 2 work. Especially, ISO/IEC 10646 development is synchronized with Unicode development. However, due to the slow process within ITTF, ISO publication of 10646 is far behind the publication of Unicode. This situation should be improved.

Widespread use of the Internet technologies, such as WWW, even an ordinary person now is faced with and has to use ISO standard such as 8859 series of standards and 10646.

Therefore, easy access to SC 2 standards is still crucial to avoid confusions between users and implementers.

2.2 ACHIEVEMENTS

Published projects: 1

- ISO/IEC 2375: 2003, Procedure for registration of escape sequences (2003-02-15)

Projects progressed to FDIS/FDAM:

- Amendment 2 to ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000, Limbu, Tai Le, Yijing and other characters
- Amendment 1 to ISO/IEC 10646-2: 2001, Aegean, Ugaritic, and other characters
- FDIS 8859-7, 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 7: Latin/Greek alphabet

Projects progressed to FCD/FPDAM: None

2.3 RESOURCES

SC 2 should be considered as one of the largest SCs in JTC 1 in terms of membership. The number of current P-member National Bodies is 35 and O-member National Bodies is 11. All WGs and all developing projects have assigned officials. In this sense, SC 2 has sufficient resources.

3.0 FOCUS NEXT WORK PERIOD

3.1 DELIVERABLES:

The following projects are expected to be published during the next reporting period.

Deliverables during the next period.

- Consolidated version of ISO/IEC 10646 (Consolidation of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000 and its amendments, ISO/IEC 10646-2: 2001 and its amendment)
- ISO/IEC 8859-7, 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets -- Part 7: Latin/Greek alphabet

3.2 STRATEGIES:

SC 2 should focus on the following four areas;

- (1) Provide easy access to SC 2 standards,
- (2) Support for new character coding requirements from developing countries,
- (3) Enhance visibility of SC 2 activities.
- (4) Clarification of character coding schemes.

3.2.1 RISKS

SC 2 wishes to express its seriously concern about CPSG (Commercial Policy Steering Group) recommendations and the following Council Resolution.

Council Resolution 32/2003

Council, regarding the public availability of country, currency and language codes, notes the two following points of clarification:

- a) the reproduction of the full standard should follow the normal ISO copyright rules;
- b) no copyright fee should be charged for the reproduction of the 2-digit codes of ISO 3166, ISO 4217 and ISO 639 in books, magazines, academic work and for internal use by companies, institutes and organizations;
- c) regarding the proposal that software developers or commercial resellers requesting permission to embed ISO codes in their products for resale would be required to purchase each code in electronic form and to pay to the member body concerned or the Central Secretariat, as appropriate, either an annual fee or a one-time fee and any applicable maintenance fees, asks the CPSG to elaborate further on the clarification it wants from Council and to submit a new proposal.

SC 2 supports ISO copyright rules on its publications. However, if the same copyright rules applied to embed ISO codes into software products as found in CPSG recommendations, implementers will go to free de fact standards. Thus CPSG recommendation c) hurts future SC 2 standard development. SC 2 strongly asks JTC 1 to object to CPSG recommendation c).

3.2.2 OPPORTUNITIES

SC 2 standards are and have been really effective for information interchange. However, as for internal processing codes, implementers' private coded character sets have been widely used.

Growing interests and requirements for real global information processing, there is an opportunities for SC 2 standards not only for information interchange but also for information processing including internationalized software portability.

3.3 WORK PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Consolidation of ISO/IEC 10646 is the highest priority.

Standardization relating to characteristics of graphic character is also important.