

OASIS Election and Voter Services Technical Committee: Meeting 22 October 2002

**Attendees:**

London: John Borrás (JB) (Chairman) UK e-Envoy, Farah Ahmed (FA) (Secretary) UK e-Envoy, John Ross (JR) UK e-Envoy, Paul Spencer (PS) UK e-Envoy, Bruce Elton (BE) Oracle, Angus Ward (AW) Election Systems & Software, Nazir Mullah (NM) Oracle.

**Phone:**

Hans von Spakovsky (HVS) US Federal Justice Dept, John Hornbaker (JH) VoteHere.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND ACTIONS ARISING

JB reported that he was still waiting for responses from Patrick Gannon to the outstanding actions. **Action:** JB to follow up next week.

Version 2 has been published on the OASIS website.

PS has uploaded the Schematron demo onto the Boynings' website.

There has been no feedback from the request for feedback on the use of Schematron. It was decided that the Committee would wait and see the results from testing in the UK Local Elections.

JB will talk to Stuart Valentine about potential testing in the United States.

As the OASIS TC page has been updated there is now a section devoted to IPR statements. **Action:** If any member has any interests to declare could they please let Farah Ahmed know so that she can update the site.

2. EML VERSION 3 – PROPOSED CHANGES

Two sets of changes were proposed, one set by Niten Malik as well as a set of changes identified in the UK's work on future pilots (see attachment). John Borrás noted that it was going to be difficult to handle the wide range of changes proposed for the UK because of the environment the TC works. It was noted that the majority of the changes proposed by Niten are more related to the US system than the UK.

**Schema 110 Additions:**

1. State/city/ward/town code – JB questioned whether Niten meant this as Contest and Contest ID? HVS said that the split precincts were very common but varied in the USA. JH said that this was indeed a problem and that he felt the EML fails to address it directly. PS noted that the top level of the EML does in fact address this issue as Election Event and qualifiers. This method of adding additional qualifiers can be used on other schemas.

2. Election Type – John Ross said that this is Election Description. The UK

sought to address the problem for the local elections and have made efforts to accommodate it.

3. Contest Type – The Committee felt it needed clarification on this.

**Schema 210 Additions:**

1. Party Code – JB said that this would be handled by Affiliation. PS confirmed that the UK has already made changes to Affiliation to include name, description and logo. The Committee agreed that the Affiliation would be appropriate for Party Code.

2. Party Name – To be dealt in the same way as Party Code.

**Schema 310 Additions:**

1. Voting District ID – JB questioned whether this was more appropriate for 340 rather than 310. JH said that this was a very complex area as there are levy codes (which describe an area) and this makes it difficult to identify a voter in a particular precinct. JB confirmed that there have been no previous discussions on this topic and that it would be useful to produce a discussion document. At this point HVS mentioned that the Electoral Reform Bill has now been passed through both the Senate and Congress, and is now awaiting the President's signature. JH said that the Bill would require American citizens to submit their driving licence or a unique ID number when they wish to cast a vote. JB said that this appeared to be an example of localisation and it would be interesting to see what the result is when EML is applied. AW commented that the Bill would not change anything dramatically and it would create a more uniformed system.

2. Registration Number – JB said that the changes proposed by the UK have the problem of multiple ID's covered.

3. Status – JB said that there was no need for this in the UK. JH mentioned that there were to be local extensions in the US.

4. Overseas Voter – JB said that this was Voter Info Qualifier in the category of Overseas Voter, which has been covered by the UK already. PS said that if there were any difficulties in its application in the future then it can be replaced by a generic schema.

5. Domestic Absentee Voter – JB questioned whether this was the same as Overseas Voter. JH said that it was not. HVS said that it would not be right to place Voter Info qualifier (that JB suggested) and Domestic Absentee Voter together. JH said that Domestic Absentee Voter does accommodate multiples in the local extension. JB agreed and said that this was detailed in the business rules.

**Action:** JB to respond to Niten Malik about the comments raised in this item.

3. REPORT ON EML (UK) LOCALISATION

JB gave an overview of the plans for the UK Local Authority elections being held in May 2003. JB mentioned that the EML(UK) Localisation document gave a

detailed account of the levels of approach during the local elections. There is a need for the ID aspect in the EML(UK) to be localised so that it can account for proxy votes for example. JB pointed out that this test has strong ramifications for the EML produced by OASIS, and that any necessary adjustments from now until the UK test should be incorporated into future versions of EML.

JB asked as to what was the best way to get agreements on these changes by the members of the Committee. JH asked what the timeframe was. JB said that he would like version 3 agreed at the next meeting in December, as any additional changes would be useful for the May 2003 tests in the UK. JH and HVS said that they found the changes already made agreeable, that the changes were obvious and detailed enough for future implementation.

JB said that the Committee should aim to have a Data Dictionary in version 3 so that everyone can understand what the elements are as well as enhancing the current descriptions of particular schemes.

NM said that most of his comments have already been incorporated. JH said that the use of Schematron looked interesting. He agreed that it had strong credibility and he would also like to see if there are any other tool-sets that could work with the standards. JB confirmed that the supplier working on the UK local election pilots had frequently flagged the two-parse validation process. NM said that there would be no problem of trying other tool-sets if Schematron doesn't work.

**Action:** JB to prepare a draft of version 3 for consideration by the Committee.

#### 4. TESTING – PROGRESS REPORT FROM MEMBERS

JB said that the Committee was struggling to get positive test results and there has been no response from the Swiss regarding using EML in their Canton elections.

HVS said that Niten Malik and representatives from Election.com might be helpful in this area. HVS said that Election.com and Accenture were involved in the project to provide overseas voting for American military personnel in the Primary and General Elections. HVS expanded on this by saying that the system would be web-based and not via email and that the US would be using digital signatures as part of their authentication process. JB said it would be a good if the Committee could use this opportunity as a test. **Action:** JB to discuss with Niten Malik.

AW mentioned the Dutch trails that were being prepared for the 2004 remote/overseas voting in the EU elections. **Action:** AW to provide JB with more information on this.

#### 5. LIAISON WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

JB stated that things were moving on rapidly here. The Council of Europe has influence (not jurisdiction) over 43 European and bordering countries. The Council provides advice and guidance for these countries. JB said that the Council is proposing to issue a directive to the member states to move towards e-

voting by using EML. JB will be attending a workshop at the end of November to discuss this further with representatives from the Council, member states and a variety of other organisations.

JB asked the Committee as to the type of relationship that would be appropriate to communicate and deal with such a large body with differing views. It was agreed that the OASIS TC would have the final decision on any outcome. It was agreed that this relationship would be beneficial for the Committee, as it would provide strong international backing for the use of EML.

AW asked to whether the European Union were to be involved as an EU buy-in would be even more influential. JB said that representatives from the EU have been invited to the workshop and agreed on AW's comment, especially as the Council of Europe's directives is not legally binding. It was agreed that JB would be the contact point on behalf of the OASIS TC. JB added that there has been a significant interest from Spain in joining the Committee.

#### 6. AOB

JH said that the picture in the US might change dramatically now that the Electoral Reform Bill has been passed through both Houses. JH said that a new Election Assistance Commission will be set up as part of the Bill, and that it will be given healthy funds for research into the electoral system. This Agency will have a great amount of influence once it is up and running. **Action:** JB to speak to JH's contacts about this whilst he is in Baltimore in December.

HVS said that it would be useful to speak to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. HVS said that they are currently producing usability standard for e-voting. **Action:** HVS and JB to make necessary arrangements.

#### 7. DATES AND LOCATIONS OF FUTURE MEETINGS

12 December – Face-to-face and Teleconference at XML 2002 Conference in Baltimore. Meeting to commence at 10:00 EDT.