Santa Clara, September 23, 2004

Mr. Pedro Ortún
Director
European Commission
Enterprise Directorate-General
Rue de la Loi 200
SC27 2/12
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Conc: EU public sector recommendation on open document formats

Dear Mr. Ortún,

Thank you very much for your letter of 19 July 2004 in which you
informed us about the EU public sector recommendations on open
document formats that have been endorsed by the national
representatives on the IDA Telmatics Advisory Committee.

On behalf of Sun Microsystems, I welcome this progress in open
document formats and congratulate the European Commission and the IDA
Telmatics Advisory Committee on this leadership.

We believe that documents are the intellectual capital of those who
create them, whether they be governments, private entities or
citizens. In the case of governments this means that the documents you
create are your property - nobody else's - and they should therefore
be stored in well-designed, truly open, long-lived and sharable data
formats which can be retrieved and re-used by future generations.

Sun fully shares the European Commission's point of view about the
importance of standardization across the spectrum of this technology;
this is why we submitted the OpenOffice.org format to OASIS in the
first place.

Upon consideration, we agree with your recommendation concerning ISO,
and I am delighted to inform you that on September 1st we publicly
notified the relevant OASIS technical committee of our position.
Since then, this idea has been welcomed by the committee and by Karl

Best, OASIS' Vice President. Note that since we do not control the committee, or OASIS, or ISO, we cannot promise success, but we do not foresee serious obstacles at the moment and I think we can be optimistic that the OASIS Open Office XML format will become an ISO standard.

With regard to your recommendation to industry to "provide filters that allow documents based on Microsoft's WordML specifications and the emerging OASIS Open Document Format to be read and written to other applications and that these filters should be made available for all products and platforms", I am also very pleased to announce that Sun has developed Open Source WordML and ExcelML filters which will be in the next release of Sun's StarOffice (version 8) and in the next release of OpenOffice.org from the OpenOffice.org open source project. These filters will be available for adaptation and re-use by others in industry. We intend to continue developing new interoperability filters for StarOffice and OpenOffice.org as we see new software releases from other vendors.

Sun Microsystems highly appreciates the European Commission's efforts in this important field and look forward to continued work with you to enable full interoperability and openness in the document format market.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if we can be of further assistance to the European Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Schwartz
President and Chief Operating Officer
Sun Microsystems Inc.

Cc:

European Commission

- Costas Andropolous, Head of Unit, ENTR/D/4
- Paul Timmers, Head of Unit, INFSOC/C/6
- Bernhard Schnittger, Acting Head of Unit, ENTR/D/2

Sun Microsystems

- John Loiacono, Sun Microsystems Software Group

- Michael Bemmer, Software Engineering, StarOffice
- Charlotte Thornby, Public Policy & Government Affairs EMEA
- Danese Cooper, Open Source