ISO/IEC JTC 1/WG 7
Working Group on Sensor Networks

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ISO/IEC JTC 1/WG 7 liaison response to IEC/TC 65

JTC1 WG7 wants to express its thanks to TC65 for their efforts to assist with our work and recognises their level of commitment by sending a delegation of four members to the meeting of WG7 in London and the several written and verbal contributions.

Appropriate definitions of Sensor Networks and Control Networks are seen as a critical activity for both WG7 and TC65.

The discussions during the meeting were very good but did not reach a specific conclusion.

It was agreed by the meeting that this important topic requires more discussion within WG7 to provide a formal response to TC65. This work would be undertaken by an ad-hoc group with an objective of preparing a response to TC65 for discussion by WG7 at its next meeting (August 2010 in US).

The ad-hoc group within WG7 has been formed to further discuss this topic and reached the following initial conclusions during the London meeting.

1) We welcomed the input from TC65 as it helps us to clarify our scope of work and the differences between Control Networks and Sensor Networks
2) The original proposal that this differentiation should be made by removing mention of actuators from Sensor Network standards is not suitable

3) More time is required to clarify the differences but we note from the previous discussion:

    - Control networks :
        - Focus on safety/time critical systems
        - Are closed systems - configured to achieve a defined objective
        - Perform pre-defined functions
    - Sensor networks can be:
        - Can be open and provide flexible architectures
        - Supply data/information for multiple applications
        - Are designed to data from multiple sources and support data aggregation and data fusion

<u>Specific responses to TC65 request for JTC1 WG7 to agree the following actions:</u>

A. To maintain consistency with long established usage and avoid confusion in the industrial marketplace, please define the term “Sensor networks” to mean networks that contain sensors only.

Response: WG7 does not consider this to be an appropriate distinction between Sensor Networks and Control Networks as such a separation is not required in many implementations.

B. Where appropriate, please maintain a clear distinction between “Sensor networks” and other networks such as “Control networks”, “Automation networks”, “Fieldbus networks”, and “SCADA networks”, all of which typically include actuators.’

Response: We wish to continue to work on this area but do not accept that the removal of the term actuator from the definitions of Sensor Networks will provide the required solution.

C. As mentioned above, if a Sensor network wishes to interact with a Control network this can be done through an appropriate high level, interface. IEC TC65 will be interested to contribute to work by WG7 on the services and functions that a Control network should support as part of an external interface to a Sensor network.

Response: As part of agreeing the distinctions between a Sensor Network and a Control Network it is appropriate to define the linkage between the two systems. We would like to continue work with TC65 in this area.