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# Consortium Standards Bulletin

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## THE REST OF THE NEWS

Every day, we scan the web for all of the news and press releases that relate to standards, and aggregate that content at the [News Section](#) of ConsortiumInfo.org. For up to date information, bookmark our News page, or take advantage of our RSS feed: [www.consortiuminfo.org/news/rss](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/news/rss). Updates are usually posted on Mondays and Wednesdays. The following is a selection of the many stories from the past month that you can find digested at ConsortiumInfo.org.



### New Initiatives

**But what about the Energizer® Bunny?** Most of the popular press attention in the United States relating to fuel cells has focused on their problematic potential to power automobiles. Far less notice has been given to the ability of the same technology to be employed in miniaturized form to provide more operating time for portable electronic devices, such as cell phones and PDAs. This technology has now matured to the point where products are nearing market launch, and standards efforts are therefore being launched to ensure that fuel cells are as "swappable" as their more-familiar electric battery competitors.

### Micro fuel cell standard body created

**IDG News Services, August 2, 2004** -- The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) has formed a working group to draw up standards to ensure Compatibility between micro fuel-cells. The fuel cells could be launched as early as next year as an alternative power source for handheld electronic devices such as music players and digital cameras. Formation of the new Working Group 10 (WG10) of the IEC's Technical Committee 105 (TC105) was approved in a vote on 30 July, Toshiba said. It will be chaired by Dr Fumio Ueno, who works for Toshiba's display devices and components control centre. The group itself was proposed by Toshiba along with other Japanese companies. WG10 is tasked with setting an international standard to ensure compatibility between the fuel cells and their fuel cartridges - especially important since the cells need to be regularly recharged with methanol. ...[Full Story](#)



**Thinking big while thinking small:** New areas of standard setting, like the sun, are always emerging from just beyond the horizon. When they do, appropriate structures need to be put in place. The following item reports on ANSI's efforts to get nanotechnology standard setting off to an orderly start.

### ANSI Establishes Nanotechnology Standards Panel

**ANSI News and Publications, New York, NY, August 5, 2004** -- The American National Standards Institute announced today the formation of the Nanotechnology Standards Panel (ANSI-NSP), a new coordinating body for the development of standards in the area of nanotechnology. Nanotechnology refers to the manufacturing or manipulating of matter at the atomic and molecular level, or nanoscale. The panel will convene September 29-30, 2004, in Gaithersburg, MD, to focus its initial work on nomenclature and terminology. ANSI was approached by the Office of Science and Technology

Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President to address this area of standardization in support of academics, various industries, the investment community and government agencies that utilize nanotechnology. ...[Full Story](#)



## Looking Ahead

***If this is Wednesday, it must be Ultrawideband:*** The pace of wireless data standards development continues unabated, with each new standard extending attributes such as range, speed and security. This month's news includes an update on a promising new technology that has been referred to as "Bluetooth on steroids," which promises an increase in transfer rates that clock at two orders of magnitude. But even as the new technology was being announced, so was another, which some commentators said could "leapfrog" it. Our first item below focuses on the supposedly steroidal Ultrawideband technology, while the second describes one of the two (so far) entrants contending to be incorporated into IEEE 802.11n – a next generation standard intended to transmit data at over 100 mbits/sec. That technology is being proposed by a new group calling itself the WWiSE (for World Wide Spectrum Efficiency) Consortium.

### **Ultrawideband: A Better Bluetooth**

**By: Matt Hamblen**

**ComputerWorld, August 3, 2004** -- The wireless personal-area network technology is more than 100 times faster than Bluetooth, but business applications are still a long way off. Ultrawideband wireless technology has been called "Bluetooth on steroids." Like Bluetooth, its personal-area network (PAN) cousin, UWB is designed to replace cables with short-range, wireless connections, but it offers the much higher bandwidth needed to support multimedia data streams at very low power levels. And because UWB can communicate both relative distance and position, it can be used for tracking equipment, containers or other objects. In a recent technology demonstration, Freescale Semiconductor, showed a UWB device that transmitted at a data rate of 110Mbit/sec at a range of up to 10 meters. That bandwidth is 100 times faster than Bluetooth and twice the capacity of the fastest Wi-Fi networks. It is enough to pump three concurrent video streams over a single UWB connection. ...[Full Story](#)



### **Industry Coalition Floats Proposal for 802.11n**

**By: Mark Hachman**

**eWeek, August 12, 2004** -- A second group is floating its technical proposal to replace Wi-Fi, in advance of a meeting next month to begin resolving the issue. The so-called WWiSE consortium—comprising Airgo Networks, Bermai, Broadcom, Conexant, STMicroelectronics and Texas Instruments—held a conference call Thursday morning to introduce its new proposal for the 802.11n standard. "WWiSE" stands for "World Wide Spectrum Efficiency," a characteristic of the new proposed standard, the companies said. By 2006 or 2007, the then-completed 802.11n standard will replace the current mix of Wi-Fi technologies, or so the industry hopes. ...[Full Story](#)



***What's next under the Big Top:*** OASIS-watchers are well aware that this interesting organization maintains a "big tent" under which many different types of initiatives are welcome. In the following interview, OASIS CEO and president Patrick Gannon discusses what challenges his organization is interested in tackling next.

## OASIS Expects User Input on Web Services, Looking to Grid

**Computer Business Review Online, August 3, 2004** -- Web services standards for vertical industries and grid computing are on the agenda at OASIS. Patrick Gannon, OASIS chief executive and president, told ComputerWire he expects more input from end-users during the next year, who will help shape web service while work on standards around grid and autonomic computing will come to life through a number of new committees. The fire, though, seems to have gone from at least one previously hot topic -- the existence of rival standards for the way web services talk to each other, standards that have been stewarded by OASIS and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). ...[Full Story](#)



## Standards and Society

**Wi-LAN isn't just about business WANS:** *While most of the press on the new Wi-LAN standard has focused on its potential to enable business use in urban areas, the technology also has the potential to expand the reach of Internet-based services in the third world as well. The following press release reports on the deployment of this new technology in Bangladesh, under a Sustainable Development Networking Program funded by the United Nations.*

### Wi-LAN and Norban Deploy Broadband Wireless Products for United Nations Development Program

**Businesswire.com, Calgary, Alberta, July 28, 2004** -- Wi-LAN Inc. (TSX:WIN), a global provider of broadband wireless communications products and technologies, and Norban Communications Limited (Norban), a provider of network solutions and services including data, voice and video convergence, today announced Wi-LAN's broadband wireless access products and accessories have been delivered as part of the Sustainable Development Networking Program (SDNP), an initiative under the Ministry of Environment and Forest of Bangladesh funded by the United Nations Development Program. "The objective of the Sustainable Development Networking Program is to facilitate the establishment of Internet exchanges at selected Ministry of Environment and Forest offices. These Internet exchanges connect the various Dhaka-based internet service providers to optimize the flow of email traffic within the country," said Dr. Hakikur Rahman, Project Coordinator, SDNP. ...[Full Story](#)



**Standards across the water:** *Even with the end of the Cold War over a decade ago, the United States and Russia haven't been known for maintaining close working relationships in the military arena. Indeed, when the Kursk sank in March 2000, Russia delayed asking for any international assistance until it was too late to be of assistance to the Russian sailors trapped below. Now, it appears that this may be changing. The new standardized escape mechanisms being cooperatively developed by nations around the world for naval use include individual ejector seat/survival suits akin, in concept, to those used by air force crews.*

### Collaborative Sub Rescue Efforts Focus of Working Group in Russia By: Michael Foutch

**Navy Newsstand, Washington, D.C., July 23, 2004** -- U.S. Navy representatives attended the annual NATO Submarine Escape and Rescue Working Group in St. Petersburg, Russia, from June 25-July 3. Representatives from 26 nations attended the summit on a humanitarian basis to standardize rescue procedures and equipment. According to Capt. Chris Murray, deputy director, Deep Submergence Systems (N773B) on the staff of the Submarine Warfare Division, this was the first NATO working group of its kind to meet outside a NATO country. "We're working on standardizing submarine escape and rescue equipment and procedures, so that any country can rescue or help another should the situation arise," Murray said. ...[Full Story](#)



## Standards and Your Business

*Now you know what the “X” in “SarboX” stands for: With the adoption of Sarbanes-Oxley, securities compliance is now a much more time consuming and expensive chore for public companies. The XBRL Consortium has been hard at work to make such tasks easier, and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission has announced that it will work with that Consortium to explore the benefits of permitting reporting companies to make use of the Consortium’s work product. Meanwhile, in other XML news, the Navy is saying “yes” to more existing commercial products (by endorsing XML standards), while saying “no dice” to vendors that like to add proprietary extensions to otherwise open standards-based products.*

### US Securities and Exchange Commission Evaluates XBRL for SEC Financial

**Cover Pages, August 3, 2004** -- Announcements from the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and XBRL-US describe an initiative to assess benefits of XML-tagged data and to consider accepting voluntary supplemental filings of financial data using the XML-based Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL). XBRL is a royalty-free, open software specification that uses XML data tags to describe financial information analyzed and exchanged by accounting firms and government agencies. ...[Full Story](#)



### XML Standards Battle is Brewing Over Navy's Data-Sharing Plans

By: Joab Jackson

**Government Computer News, August 2, 2004** -- Proposed Navy rules for Extensible Markup Language use are forcing other agencies to take a stand on how they share and reuse data. The Navy plans to adopt international interoperability standards that would eliminate document type definitions, or DTDs, which many agencies now use for sharing documents...The new rulebook endorses the W3C XML component recommendations, as well as others from ISO, OASIS, UBL, and UN/CEFACT. By adhering to worldwide standards, the Navy intends to base its future applications more heavily on commercial products, Green said, in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119, which encourages voluntary consensus standards. ...[Full Story](#)



## Story Updates

*What has 1.3 billion people and wants its own standards? The answer, of course, is China. In our May 2004 issue (**Standards as Trade Barriers** [www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may04.php](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may04.php)) we used the recent fencing between the United States and China over Wi-Fi standards to highlight how standards can be impacted by national economic agendas. Now, Deloitte Touche Tomatsu, the global accounting firm, has released a detailed report on China’s standards agenda, making it essential reading for anyone who needs to know how the intentions of this closely managed, vast purchaser and vendor are likely to affect the global economy in the years ahead.*

### Changing China: Will China's technology standards reshape your industry?

**Deloitte.com, August 4, 2004** -- Everyone recognizes China as a low-cost manufacturer and a huge potential market. But most do not realize China is emerging as a key player in shaping global technology standards. This new Deloitte Research study looks at how China’s growing influence on standards could define global competition in the technology, media and telecommunications sector for years to come. From operating systems and software applications to storage media, wireless

communications and satellite positioning, Chinese government agencies and companies are looking to break the hold of developed economies on standards and working to shape new technology standards for economic advantage....[Full Story](#)



**Good news on spam? C'mon!** In our June 2004 issue, we focused on the ever-rising challenges of security in an Internet-linked, email dependent world (see **Standards and Security** [www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/jun04.php](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/jun04.php)) The following selections highlight several aspects of the continuing security battle. The first reports that regulatory efforts, in the form of the Can-Spam law, are failing to do the job (even compliance by legitimate businesses appears to be sagging), while the second reports on progress on a standards effort in the IETF that may bring some incremental relief. The next item, however, falls into the category of "if its not one damn thing, its certainly going to be another," as a patent holder is now contending that some features of the very same standard infringe on its rights. The last item reports that Moore's Law is about to consign a hitherto useful encryption standard to the ash heap of security history. Final score for the month: One step forward, three steps back.

### **Can-Spam Isn't Doing The Job** **By: Gregg Keizer**

**InformationWeek, August 5, 2004** -- Compliance with the Can-Spam Act has fallen to a new low, according to recent data collected by MX Logic. In July, compliance fell for the first time to less than 1%--dropping to a measly 0.54% of all unsolicited commercial mail the company sampled during the month. MX Logic has been tracking compliance with Can-Spam since the federal law went into effect in January. Through April, MX Logic's numbers remained stable, with about 3% of spam messages complying with the law's requirements, which range from verifiable return addresses to measures consumers and businesses can use to opt out of mailing lists. In May and June, however, the number slipped to 1%. ...[Full Story](#)



### **IETF Prepares To Forward Sender ID** **By: Jim Wagner**

**InternetNews.com, August 4, 2004** -- The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is set to nominate Sender ID -- a consolidated e-mail address anti-spoofing technology -- as an Internet standard during its working group meeting Wednesday. Sender ID is the consolidation of Microsoft's Caller ID for E-mail and Meng Weng Wong's Sender Policy Framework (SPF). SPF is essentially a list of computers or servers (every Internet-connected machine has its own IP address) that are verified to send e-mail from a particular IP address. ...[Full Story](#)



### **Microsoft Faces Lawsuit Over Caller ID for E-Mail** **By: Jim Wagner**

**InternetNews.com, August 11, 2004** -- A new patent battle is brewing -- this time over Microsoft's claim over Caller ID for E-Mail. F. Scott Deaver, owner of Failsafe Designs, says Microsoft is guilty of the "outright theft" of his product name and intellectual property (IP), and will seek legal and financial redress from the Redmond, Wash., software giant and anyone else that uses his technology that verifies e-mail is coming from the domain it claims. If that happens, it's sure to put a monkey wrench in the deployment of the Sender ID specification, which is a combination of Microsoft's Caller ID for E-Mail specification and the Sender Policy Framework (SPF), worldwide to combat one of the avenues used by spammers. The technology used in Caller ID for E-Mail is part of a specification called Sender ID currently under review by an Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) working group as a



proposed Internet standard to eliminate the use of spoofed e-mail addresses found in many of today's spam messages. ...[Full Story](#)



### **NIST says DES encryption 'inadequate'** **By: Paul Roberts**

**InfoWorld, July 29, 2004** – The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is proposing that the Data Encryption Standard (DES), a popular encryption algorithm, lose its certification for use in software products sold to the government. The advent of massively parallel computing has rendered DES inadequate to protect federal government information, NIST said. The institute, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is proposing that the government withdraw Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) certification for DES, a move that could have ripple effects throughout the technology sector and force a wide range of legacy systems into early retirement, according to one cryptography expert. ...[Full Story](#)



***What if you gave a standard, and nobody came?** In our March 2004 Issue, we noted the increasing number of “standards” efforts that have been launched outside of formal consortia and SDO settings (see **Maintaining Process Quality** [www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/mar04.php](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/mar04.php)), and expressed concern over this new dynamic. In contrast to that dour view, the “half full” side of the same glass is noted in a new report issued by the Yankee Group, which credits IBM and Microsoft for their aggressive efforts and manifest commitment to “build out” the Web services standards structure necessary to move products and services into a Web services-enabled world. Absent the degree of control that these two companies (and their technical allies) have enjoyed as a result of launching many of these standards efforts outside of a formal process, their commitment to Web services might have been more ambivalent, leading to the possible delay or failure of the new model to gain traction in the marketplace. Meanwhile, as reported in the second item, the machine gun fire of “pre-baked” standards continues, this time with the submission of the WS-Addressing Web services specification by the same companies to the W3C for consideration as a standard. And, following in the wake of the surprising Concordat recently entered into between former arch-enemies Microsoft and Sun, the latter (along with SAP) have joined in supporting the new specification, notwithstanding Sun and SAP’s earlier promotion of a rival specification intended to serve the same purpose.*

### **Yankee: Web Services Gaining Momentum** **By: Clint Boulton**

**InternetNews.com, August 2, 2004** – To give their sluggish supply chains a boost, companies are increasingly deploying Web services in applications at the edge of their networks, according to new research from The Yankee Group....The research firm credits Microsoft and IBM with helping to drive the adoption of Web services standards. Without those top companies lending their support, businesses would be loathe to back the standards. Without the standards, customers would be reticent to try the technologies. Standards are important, but Yankee recognizes that core technologies based on them are also responsible for spreading the influence of Web services and SOAs. To that end, many organizations are realizing the business benefits of defining, recognizing and sharing products and services in a massive global directory, which makes UDDI (define) a hugely popular tool to help drive B2B commerce. Systinet, Novell and SAP are among those that make UDDI products.



## WS-Addressing Specification Submitted to W3C

By: Doris Evers

**InfoWorld, August 11, 2004** -- BEA Systems Inc, IBM Corp, Microsoft Corp, SAP AG, and Sun Microsystems Inc. have submitted the WS-Addressing Web services specification to the Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C) for consideration as a standard. Sun and SAP are new in the list of WS-Addressing backers. Sun, along with Oracle Corp., Nokia Corp. and several other companies in April 2004 submitted a competing specification called WS-MessageDelivery to handle Web services addressing. After the peace agreement with Microsoft earlier this year, Sun now endorses WS-Addressing. Sun plans to support WS-Addressing in products that are part of its Java Enterprise System, Julson said. During the W3C process, Sun and the other WS-MessageDelivery creators will offer comments on the WS-Addressing specification to come to a single addressing standard. SAP, for its part, intends to support WS-Addressing in a future version of its NetWeaver product, said Marc Goodner, a technology architect at SAP. "We see this specification as being important to help reduce complexity for our customers. ...[Full Story](#)



**One world, one script (not):** In our July 2004 issue *Standards and Social Responsibility* <[www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/july04.php](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/july04.php)> we reported at length on the challenges of making the opportunities of the Internet available to all of the peoples of the world, and on the fact that the United Nations has taken it upon itself to become involved in the "governance" of the Internet. The following article, from a Malaysian news site, provides an excellent overview of the technical issues involved in accommodating the multiple character sets used around the world.

## Finding a way to make the Net truly global

BY: Charles F. Moreira

**The [Maylasian] Star Online, July 27, 2004** -- THE Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN's) meetings in Kuala Lumpur last week were the first ever to incorporate discussions on Internationalized Domain Names. Friendly contention on related issues were apparent between parties with different ideas on how to approach the issue. Since its inception about 30 years ago, the Internet has primarily been based on the Latin (or Roman) alphabet, Arabic numerals and punctuation marks, all encoded according to the 8-bit American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) which serves well in the English-literate world or in countries like Malaysia where the national language is written in the Latin script. ...[Full Story](#)



**Just have a pina colada and chill, Big Bro:** In a March 20, 2004 Blog entry (**Andrew Jackson, Dan Mullen and the Dark Side of the Internet** [www.consortiuminfo.org/blog/blog.php?ID=14](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/blog/blog.php?ID=14)), we reported on the degree of paranoia that certain Americans have exhibited over the advent of RFID tags. Well, they won't be happy to learn that the FDA has moved one step closer to granting approval for the implantation of the same sorts of tags into the good citizens of the United States of America. Whether you believe that this is a good or a bad thing will depend on how you feel about your government. Given that the chips have been used in pets for 15 years, the FDA will focus primarily on privacy issues. But in the "don't worry, be happy (and wireless)" department, the following article reports that the Baja Beach Club in Spain [www.bajabeach.es](http://www.bajabeach.es) is already using the tiny, easily injected chips to enable free 'n easy drink ordering at the beach bar.

## Under-the-Skin ID Chips Move Toward U.S. Hospitals

By: Michael Kanellos

**CNET News.com, July 27, 2004** -- VeriChip, the company that makes radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for humans, has moved one step closer to getting its technology into hospitals. The Federal Drug Administration issued a ruling Tuesday that essentially begins a final review process that will determine whether hospitals can use RFID systems from the Palm Beach, Fla.-based

company to identify patients and/or permit relevant hospital staff to access medical records...For 15 years, Digital Angel, a sister company under the Applied corporate umbrella, has sold thousands of tags for identifying animals.. ...[Full Story](#)



**Still no armistice:** *As World War II was to World War I, so also is the next generation DVD format battle to the combat waged in the earlier VHS/Betamax wars. As was the case with the Second World War, the companies involved in the DVD fracas should know better – many are the same ones involved the last time around. If you go in for such things, you can follow this conflict battle by battle as it continues to unfold. The results of the latest skirmishes are recounted in the following articles, one of which appropriately adopts military terminology to tout the approval of H.264, a new codec that's "not afraid of anything... H.264 says, 'Bring it [on].'"* ...[Full Story](#)

### **Toshiba alliance heats up DVD standard battle**

**By: Michiyo Nakamoto**

**MSNBC.com, July 29, 2004** --Toshiba and its partners on Monday raised the tempo in the battle to determine the next-generation DVD format, saying they are on track to launch next year a DVD recorder capable of storing more than eight hours of high-resolution content on one DVD disc. At the same time, Pony Canyon, Japan's largest distributor of pre-recorded DVD titles, announced it would launch movies in the Toshiba alliance's HD DVD format "at an early stage next year." Microsoft's Japanese unit, meanwhile, said the company's next Windows-based operating system, called Longhorn, would be compatible with HD DVD. ...[Full Story](#)



### **Sony PS3 will use the Blu-Ray disc format**

**DVD-Recordable.org, August 4, 2004** -- Sony has revealed that its next-generation games console will use the Blu-Ray disc format, which is an evolution of the current DVD system and is designed to hold five times as much data on a similarly sized disc. A meeting in Tokyo yesterday saw the creation of a working group to draw up final specifications of a read-only Blu-Ray system, including representatives from many of the world's largest electronics companies such as Sony, Dell and Matsushita (Panasonic). Sony officials confirmed that the next generation of the PlayStation home console will be equipped with a Blu-Ray drives , allowing it to play back high definition movies as well as providing more space for game developers on the discs. ...[Full Story](#)



### **DVD Forum Ratifies H.264 Codec for Inclusion in HD-DVD Format**

**By: Geoff Daily**

**EMediaLive.com, August 2, 2004** -- While we're still a year away from seeing any products on the shelves, the DVD Forum has laid another cornerstone for its next-generation blue-laser HD-DVD format by selecting the H.264 Advanced Video Codec (AVC) for encoding video that will be delivered on the new discs. Developed two years ago by the Moving Picture Experts Group--also responsible for DVD's MPEG-2 codec--and the International Telecommunication Union, H.264 "delivers at the same data rate as MPEG-2 high-definition instead of standard," says Frank Casanova, senior director of product marketing for Apple's interactive media group. When H.264 first entered the scene, many MPEG-4 proponents worried that it would compete with the nascent open standard. Instead, it has gone on to become an integral part of MPEG-4. "It's a codec that's not afraid of anything," says Casanova. "Slow or high-motion, fire or smoke, all of the things that scare other codecs, H.264 says, 'Bring it.'" ...[Full Story](#)





**Everything's coming up proprietary:** In our May 2004 issue **Standards as Trade Barriers** [www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may04.php](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may04.php) we reported at length on the erection of standards-based trade barriers by nations in general and China in particular. This month brings news from South Korea on another home-grown Internet standard, and on its commercial consequences. And we have also seen a report (the second item below) that China, Wal-Mart's largest supplier country, is forming a new RFID standards group with the goal of avoiding foreign patent royalty payments otherwise payable if it implements existing RFID standards. However, this time China contends that its own standard will be compatible with international standards. In the last item (from the Peoples Daily Online), a senior Chinese government official has denied that China is working on an "Asia version" of Linux. But the story indicates that the real situation may be less black and white.

## Seize the Portable Internet; Competition is Heating up

**Telecoms Korea, July 26, 2004** -- The whole Korean IT industry is closely watching the move of the Ministry of Information and Communication, waiting for the MIC's announcement on the timetable for the appointment of the high-speed portable internet service, or 'Wi-bro' operator and tech standard policy slated for later this Month. As Wi-bro or Wireless Broadband, Korea's home-grown mobile Internet standard, is expected to attract 9 million subscribers in 5 years, creating over 2.6 billion dollar-worth market, telecom companies are desperate to seize this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There are four parties competing; KT and KTF on one side, Dacom, Powercomm and LG Telecom under LG Consortium and SK Telecom and Hanaro Telecom being on their own. ...[Full Story](#) [creation of password required]



## China to develop its own RFID standard

By: Jim Carbone

**Purchasing.com, July 23, 2004** -- China is developing its own standard for radio frequency identification (RFID) applications, according to market researcher iSuppli. The Chinese National Standards Management Committee has established a working group to develop the new standard. The purpose for China's own standard is to avoid paying royalty fees to non-Chinese owners of the main RFID specification. Chinese design houses and chip manufacturers will benefit if the Chinese standard is used. The Chinese RFID standard will be compatible with the international standard, but will have its own intellectual property. The major differences are likely to concern radio frequency and other technical factors. ...[Full Story](#)



## China denies 'Asian standard' for Linux

**People's Daily Online, August 10, 2004** -- China has never intended to develop an isolated Asian standard for Linux, which some Japanese industry executives fear, said a senior Chinese Government official last week. "We have never promoted a so-called 'Asian standard' in Linux development," Ding Wenwu, director of the Ministry of Information Industry (MII)'s electronics and information products management department, said last week. The Chinese, Japanese and South Korean governments last September formed an strategic alliance to promote Linux development and applications in Asia. ...[Full Story](#)



**IT users rule UK!** Regular readers of the **CSB** know that we have reported at length on the effectiveness of major customers like Wal-Mart and the United States Department of Defense to pull new RFID technology into the marketplace. Until these large customers announced that they would expect their major suppliers to get on board, the new standards-based technology had been expected to languish for many years. Now the customer power movement seems to have spread to Great Britain, where the Jericho Forum, a UK-based consortium of large IT customers, is issuing a report telling what they want from IT vendors – now!

## Businesses to turn up the heat on suppliers

By: Daniel Thomas

**VNUNET.com, August 11, 2004** -- Two weeks from today, the Jericho Forum, a group of 40 multinational companies, will start work on a roadmap detailing how the industry can best develop open, standard IT security systems. The intended outcome will be a report outlining the future needs of chief security officers at some of the World's top IT users, that will be used to influence the development of security products and standards. With members including BP, ICI, HSBC and Royal Mail, and a collective IT spend running into billions of pounds, will the Jericho Forum be the first significant manifestation of IT user buying power? ...[Full Story](#)



## Miscellaneous

**ET, call home:** *One could reasonably argue that language is the oldest human IT standard: after all, the purpose of speech is to pass information, requests and responses between two "users," and agreement on a common language is necessary to achieve that end. Similarly, the existence of multiple languages results in a failure of interoperability between users, the creation of information "islands," and translation issues. The following article describes a successful effort over more than 20 years to ensure that ICT standards exist that can ensure that communications occur effectively, not only in this world, but out of it as well, among all space-faring peoples.*

## CCSDS: International Space Communications Standards Organization Surpasses 300th Mission

**CCSDS Secretariat, WASHINGTON, August 11** -- Today the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) announced that more than 300 missions have elected to use the committee's internationally developed standards and protocols to enable reliable communications in space. And the number continues to rise. Supported by NASA, the CCSDS is dedicated to furthering interoperability in the international space community through the development of standardized techniques for handling space data. Founded in 1982, the world's 10 major space agencies originally created the CCSDS as a forum to discuss common problems occurring in space communications. Since then, the organization has grown into an international working collaborative that includes the ten original member agencies, 22 observer agencies and over 100 industry associates worldwide. Industrial associates develop compatible products to meet the requirements of CCSDS enabled missions and ground-support complexes...[Full Story](#)



**Bringing home the standards bacon:** *One difference between consortia and accredited standards development organizations (SDOs) is that many of the latter have been around longer, have larger staffs, and frequently take a more holistic view of what they can do in support of an industry than does the typical consortium. That's because many SDOs started out as trade associations rather than standard setting bodies, and think of standard setting as being only one of their goals in life. One result is that while consortia are rarely politically active, SDOs often are. And, like any other interest group, they like to carve off a slice of bacon when they can, as reported in the following press release.*

## IPC Secures Congressional Funding for Embedded Passives R&D

**IPC Press Release, Northbrooke, IL, August 11, 2004** -- Association Connecting Electronics Industries\* announces its success in lobbying for the U.S. printed circuit board (PCB) industry, resulting in over one million dollars in research funding. Prior to adjourning for summer recess, the House and Senate finalized the fiscal year 2005 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 4613, that includes \$1.5 million for the Emerging/Critical Interconnection Technology (E/CIT) program's embedded passives research and development test bed project. The bill has already been signed by President Bush, and the funding will become available at the start of the federal fiscal year

in October. This is the third year in a row that IPC has successfully lobbied Congress to fund E/CIT program R&D projects for the PCB industry. The E/CIT program is an industry - government partnership established in 2002 to strengthen the abilities of both the Department of Defense and the U.S. PCB industry to support the military's unique PCB requirements through an integrated program of research, education, and industrial extension. ...[Full Story](#)