



*Attorneys at Law*

# Consortium Standards Bulletin

A [ConsortiumInfo.org](http://ConsortiumInfo.org) publication

September 2003

Vol II, No. 9

## STORY UPDATES

**No more lines (or privacy?)** For the last several issues, we have been including news on the bleeding edge of adoption of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags. Some see these tiny transmitters on a chip as the ultimate tool for inventory tracking and end-to-end supply chain management, while others see a threat to privacy. Our guess is that they will eventually be ubiquitous (unless they are leapfrogged by some new, yet-to-be-released technology), with the greater question being how soon prices and antenna sizes both reduce to the point where the broad incorporation of RFID tags becomes inevitable. The first two articles below report on efforts being launched in Las Vegas and Chicago to familiarize the marketplace with the joys of RFID, both within and without the four walls of commercial establishments, while the third article focuses on efforts to quell the fears of those who feel that there are enough eyes looking over their shoulders already.

### **SAP to show off RFID's Potential** by Stacy Cowley

**IDG News Service, September 5, 2003** -- When SAP AG's TechEd gathering kicks off next week in Las Vegas, it will lack one of the traditional trade-show trappings: The conference's attendee badges will be bar-code free. SAP has declared TechEd an RFID zone... By showcasing the technology at TechEd, SAP hopes to prompt developers to consider RFID's potential uses. SAP will include RFID tags in attendees' badges. On the show floor, vendor booths will feature receiver antennae that can record the contact information of booth visitors, without the usual badge-scanning routine. Kiosks in the exhibit hall will allow visitors to stroll up and check their personal show schedules, which will be automatically detected through the RFID tags and displayed.....[Full Story](#)

### **Chicago Show Heralds "Internet of things"** by Paul Roberts

**InfoWorld, September 15, 2003** -- In 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition brought millions of visitors to Chicago to celebrate the achievements and promise of the industrial age. One hundred ten years later, a symposium in the same city will highlight technology that may fuel the next 50 years of economic growth: a global network of intelligent objects. The EPC (Electronic Product Code) Executive Symposium will run from Monday Sept. 15 through Wednesday, Sept. 17 and marks the official launch of the Electronic Product Code (EPC) Network, an open technology infrastructure developed by researchers worldwide. The network uses RFID (Radio Frequency ID) tags to enable machines to sense man-made objects anywhere in the world, effectively creating an "Internet of things," according to Kevin Ashton, executive director of the Auto-ID Center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, which is hosting the show.....[Full Story](#)

### **RSA Seeks to Fix RFID Worries**

**eWeek, August 25, 2003**--Researchers at RSA Security Inc.'s lab have come up with a technique they said will eliminate many of the privacy concerns surrounding the use of RFID tags and enable enterprises and consumers to use the technology without worry. The solution involves fooling RFID (radio frequency identification) readers into believing all possible tags are present at any given time; it is an inexpensive, elegant answer to a number of the privacy and security questions being asked about RFID technology, security experts say. RFID tags are being used in a quickly expanding array of industrial and corporate applications, most notably inventory control and tracking and security and access control. ...[Full Story](#)



**Battle of the lobbyists:** In a previous issue, we reported on the growing opposition to pending legislation in Europe that would permit United States-style patenting of software and business methods. Since then, the opposition has become more disciplined and united, with more lobbyists and fewer "pony-tailed computer geeks" countering the formidable forces of the multinational computer and software companies that favor the bill. Trapped in the middle is the somewhat bewildered European Parliament, which is more used to debating the evils of genetically altered vegetables than the virtues of open source over patented, proprietary software.

**E.U. software patent opponents turn up lobbying**  
**By Paul Meller**

**IDG News Service, September 11, 2003** -- Opponents of a proposed European law on software patents have overhauled their lobbying efforts in a last ditch attempt to turn lawmakers' opinions in their favor. Next Wednesday the Green Party in the European Parliament, which agrees with opponents such as the open source and free software communities, will host a conference on the draft law which is scheduled to be voted on at the next plenary session of the European Parliament towards the end of this month.....[Full Story](#)