

Research Programmes

The EDI World Institute: An International Approach

The EDI World Institute is an international, independent, non-profit organization created in April 1992 in Montréal, Canada, to promote the development and the adoption of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in business and government worldwide, with particular attention to the international trade sector. The Institute also assists national EDI associations and councils in the creation of an information exchange forum and helps them address issues that businesses, governments and institutions encounter when promoting, implementing and using EDI.

The creation of an EDI World Institute was first proposed in 1990 at the 2nd International Congress of EDI Users in San Francisco. It was felt that there was

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The EDI World Institute*

a need for an independent international organization to conduct research on the major issues and impediments to the deployment of EDI in world trade, to assist in the implementation of EDI at national and international levels and to set up an international forum of information exchange, training and expertise in EDI.

Country	Member
Australia	EDI Council of Australia
Canada	EDI Council of Canada Institut EDI du Québec
Chile	EDI Chile
Colombia	Instituto Colombiano de Codificación y Automatización Comercial (IAC)
Indonesia	Indosat
Italy	Razionalitalia
Japan	Intelligence Engineering Association (IEA)
Korea	Computer and Communications Promotion Association of Korea (CCPAK)
Netherlands	UAC/Transcom
Slovenia	EDISlovenija
Taiwan	Value Added Network Association of R.O.C. (VANAC)
U. K.	EDI Association of the United Kingdom
USA	EDI Association of the United States of America

Table 1: Corporate members of the EDI World Institute

Activities

In the first 15 months of its existence, the Institute has initiated projects and activities in the following areas: research on business, government and trade issues, education, implementation assistance, information and partnerships.

Research Activities

In the research area, some of the projects currently under way are:

1. *EDI/CALS: Defining and Demonstrating the Links*: In this project, the Institute is exploring the potential of integrating EDI technology with CALS (Computer-aided Acquisition and Logistics Support) which strategically streamlines large and complex system procurement and maintenance processes. This project is drawing international interest from the CALS community.

2. *International Information Technology Management Research Program*: This study focuses on the managerial issues of major information technology process changes in complex engineering tasks.

3. *EDI Conformance Testing*: The Institute is currently exploring the international needs and requirements for EDI conformance testing and examining the feasibility of establishing EDI conformance test centres.

4. *International Trade Facilitation and Access through Electronic Data Interchange*: The major project in this area is the "International Trade Facilitation and Access through Electronic Data Interchange" initiative which focuses on the position and role that EDI and related electronic commerce technologies play in streamlining the international trade transaction process. It will also identify the organizations involved in conducting and facilitating international trade, and analyze the impact EDI and related electronic commerce technologies have on these organizations in terms of improved business practices and efficiencies. The project also contributes to the "Telecommunications Requirements for International EDI (TRI-EDI)" collaborative project currently under way between Canada and the Commission of the European Community (TEDIS Program).

5. *Model International Electronic Data Interchange Agreement*: The Institute contributes to the development of a "Model International Electronic Data Interchange Agreement" through Professor Amelia

Boss of the School of Law of Temple University, U.S.A., who works on this endeavour in support of and in cooperation with the UN/ECE W.P.4 Legal Rapporteur Team.

Education and Implementation Assistance

A project is currently assessing the needs and identifying advanced training and educational products/services required. Future directions of this project will focus on the more pressing needs, as well as the creation of multi-media educational products and learning environments. To support national governments in their policy efforts, the Institute has designed a project entitled "A Planning Model for a National Electronic Data Interchange Program" which aims at identifying the generic, as well as the country-specific factors leading to, or inhibiting the successful adoption, implementation and diffusion of EDI. The Institute is presently looking for partners in this project.

Information

The Information Resources Centre of the Institute is developing a repository of EDI references, publications and other material. The Centre now offers "Flash EDI" which is a weekly reference service on articles, announcements and reports about EDI around the world. The service provides access to abstracts and full texts of documents. Other custom-designed and information services are available to members. The Institute is increasingly present on the international scene, addressing audiences at key EDI and EDI-related international events. The upcoming 5th International Congress of EDI Users to be held in Brighton, England, from June 15-17, 1994 is co-organized by the Institute with one of its members, the EDI Association of the U.K. Focusing on excellence in business and government through EDI, this conference should attract a high level of participation.

Partnerships

A Research Collaboration Program is also being developed to establish liaison and partnerships with key EDI academic experts around the world. Project partnerships are presently being established in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Slovenia, U.K. and the USA. Others are being explored. One such project is the creation of a Research DataBase in collaboration with Curtin University in Australia, which will give access to bibliographic and other information on EDI. ■

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