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1.0 CONTEXT

The field of biometrics and its possible uses in applications cover a *"wide range of interests among IT organizations, the biometric industry and end-users of biometric-based solutions for multiple Identification and Verification applications. It must also meet the need for international biometric data interchange and interoperability standards for use in multiple applications such as homeland security, healthcare, financial, and employee IDs independently of how the biometric data structures are transmitted and stored"*.

"In addition to supporting homeland security and preventing ID fraud, biometric-based solutions are able to provide for confidential financial transactions and personal data privacy. Enterprise-wide network security infrastructures, the protection of buildings from unauthorized individuals, employees IDs, secure electronic banking, investing and other financial transactions, retail sales, law enforcement, and health and social services are already benefiting from these technologies. A range of new applications can be found in such diverse environments as amusement parks, banks, mobile devices, passport programs and driver licenses, colleges, and school lunch programs".

[Quotes taken from ISO/IEC JTC1/SC37 N15 "first Report of JTC1 SC37 Biometrics", 2002-10-08 (also ISO/IEC JTC1 N06891)].

Consequently, a major challenge for SC37 is to build a common understanding and universe of discourse among this wide range of interests, as well as that of relevant existing standardization committees and utilization of their work in the areas noted above.

2.0 CANADIAN RECOMMENDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A HARMONIZED VOCABULARY

Canada recommends that at its first Plenary Meeting, that SC37 consider the establishment of "Ad Hoc Group on Harmonized Vocabulary".

The proposed mandate of this Ad Hoc is:

- (1) Develop a draft Charter for a Vocabulary including scope and purpose.
- (2) Circulate the draft Charter to SC37 members for feedback in order to prepare a document for approval at the next SC37 Plenary.
- (3) Identify sources of terms and definitions for possible use in a SC37 Harmonized Vocabulary, (e.g., those drawn from the existing standardization, as well as from sources in the field of biometrics).
- (4) Hold at least one meeting during the period in between the first and second Plenary Meetings of SC37.

Should SC37 accept this Canadian recommendation, Canada offers to provide a Rapporteur and host the meeting of the SC37 Ad Hoc Group on Harmonized Vocabulary.

3.0 RATIONALE FOR CANADIAN RECOMMENDATION

Canada finds Vocabulary work to be very important to ensuring a common understanding of SC37 standardization work. The key challenge here is the development of a common and harmonized set of definitions and associated terms for concepts relevant to the field of biometrics.

The contents of an eventual SC37 Harmonized Vocabulary will be drawn from:

- Existing standards of ISO TCs and ISO/IEC SCs (see Table 1 on page 4); as well as develop a strategy for integration
- Biometric industry sources (see Table 2 on page 4).

It cannot be assumed that SC37 in maximizing use of terms and definitions drawn from existing standards and standardization work that these will be harmonized. Consequently, SC37 will need to develop terms and definitions which will serve for bridging these gaps. This may well be a particular challenge in the development of user application profiles which aim at providing an integrated business operational view. This may be less of an issue in the more technical area of biometrics which focuses on the functional services view.

In conclusion, achieving the SC37 objective of enabling interoperability and data interchange among applications and systems requires a common harmonized vocabulary for use both within SC37 and necessary use of other standards. The key challenge here is likely to be not so much that of technical interoperability as semantic interoperability.

It is expected that the proposed SC37 Ad Hoc Group on Harmonized Vocabulary will address these and other issues and prepare a pragmatic approach for resolving them.

TABLE 1	
Committees whose standards will be likely sources for terms and definitions of potential relevance to SC37 standardization work¹	
ID	Title
IS TC 68	Banking, securities and other financial services
ISO TC154	Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration
ISO TC204	Transport information and control systems
ISO TC211	Geographic information/Geomatics
ISO TC215	Health informatics
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC17	Cards and Personal Identification
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC27	IT Security Techniques
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC29	Coding of Audio, Picture, and Multimedia and Hypermedia Information
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC31	Automatic Identification and Data Capture Techniques
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC32	Data Management and Interchange (particularly SC32/WG1 "Open-edi" and SC32/WG2 "Metadata")
ISO/IEC JTC1/SC35	User Interfaces

TABLE 2
Biometric industry documents as sources for terms and definitions of potential relevance to SC37 standardization work
1999 Glossary of Biometric Terms, Association for Biometrics (AfB)
ANSI X9.84-2000 Biometrics Management and Security
BioAPI Specification v1.1, The BioAPI Consortium
Biometrics Explained, International Biometric Group
Best Practices in Testing and Reporting Performance of Biometrics Devices, Centre for Mathematics and Scientific Computing, National Physical Laboratory
Draft: Standard Biometric Industry Terminology and Definitions, IBA Standard BSC 2.6-1987R
As well as: ISO/IEC 2382 "Information Technology – Vocabulary / Technologies De L'Information – Vocabulaire: Part 8

¹This list is based on the subject areas identified in the SC37 N15 "First Report..." document and in the documentation for the eight proposals for NWIs proposed by the USA. This list may change depending on results of the first Plenary of SC37.