

Committee : **JTC 1 - Information Technology**

Ballot **JTC1 N6738**

Number :

Ballot Title : **Establishment of a New JTC 1 Subcommittee on Biometrics and US Offer to Serve as Secretariat for the New SC**

Source: JTC 1 Secretariat

Distribution: JTC 1 membership

Questions for this Ballot		
	Answers	Votes
Does your National Body approve the proposal in document JTC 1 N 6738?		
	Not Yet Voted	7
	Approval of the proposal as presented	8
	Approval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	4
	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	9
	Abstention	0
Organization	Q.1	Comment
Australia	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	(See Attached File) 3189_COM-J1N6738.doc
Belgium	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	Biometrics is an horizontal area of work, overlapping the scope of many SCs and TCs, e.g. JTC1 SC 17 and 27. The Belgian NB requests that relevant work items be allocated to these SCs in order to avoid conflicts on scopes.

Brazil	Not Yet Voted	
Canada	Approval of the proposal as presented	
China	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	sc17 has been doing the same job, so it is not necessary to establish of a New JTC 1 Subcommittee.
Czech Republic	Approval of the proposal as presented	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Not Yet Voted	
Denmark	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	Denmark believes that standardization of biometrics must be concentrated in one SC to avoid that experts in the field of biometrics need to participate in several groups thereby adding extensive costs to the projects. Denmark considers JTC1/SC17 to be the right committee to deal with biometrics as SC17 is the committee for personal identification including passports, visa and driving licenses. All of these will use biometrics in the future. The combination of generic and application standardization will improve the participation, reduce the total costs for generating standards and make participation more interesting and relevant.
Egypt	Approval of the proposal as presented	
Finland	Approval of the proposal as presented	
France	Approval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	(See Attached File) Afnor approves the proposal given in document JTC 1 N 6738 and welcomes the establishment of a new JTC 1 SC for biometrics. Afnor requests that the relations and interdependencies with the relevant JTC 1/SC's and ISO/TC's (e.g. : ISO/TC 68 "Banking, securities and other financial services") be clearly

		<p>drawn up.</p> <p>Considering the extent of generic biometrics standardization and the urgent expectation of the society, Afnor suggests that the establishment of the new SC has special advertisement. 3184_n6738_com.doc</p>
Germany	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	<p>(See Attached File)</p> <p>3197_GermanyonJTC1N6738.doc</p>
Hungary	Not Yet Voted	
Ireland	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	<p>(See Attached File)</p> <p>Ireland (NSAI) wishes to VOTE NO with the following Comments</p> <p>The Irish NB supports the establishment of work in this area, but at least in the first instance within structures (e.g. SC 17 or SC 27), not within a newly created SC</p> <p>3186_6738_N_JTC_1.doc</p>
Italy	Approval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	<p>The mass of work justifies a new JTC 1 SC</p> <p>SC 17 is just one standards group that is or will be applying biometrics technologies. Sooner or later, SC 27 will undoubtedly be addressing biometrics in the broad area of IT security techniques. Other standards groups outside of JTC 1 are also working to apply biometrics technologies. The most efficient use of experts' time will be to develop and harmonize the use of generic biometric standards from the venue of a dedicated JTC 1 SC.</p>
Japan	Approval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	<p>Japan appreciated the initiative of the National Body of the US in creating a new subcommittee on biometrics by volunteering secretaryship.</p> <p>It is our intention to participate in it as a P-member if established.</p> <p>Note that our approval of the new SC holds good with the scope described in N67381, not in N67382.</p>
Netherlands	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the	<p>Standardization efforts in the field of biometrics have already been made in SC17 and SC17 has already established a WG on biometrics (WG11). Fragmentation of efforts in this field should be</p>

	attached.	avoided, since knowledge is scarce. The Netherlands therefor do not support the proposal for the establishment of a new JTC1 Subcommittee for biometrics.
New Zealand	Approval of the proposal as presented	
Norway	Approval of the proposal as presented	
Portugal	Not Yet Voted	
Republic of Korea	Approval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	KATS approve the Establishment of a New JTC1 Subcommittee for Biometrics. But after advertising for NBs which want to serve as Secretariat for the New SC, it is desirable to select among the national bodies offering to serve as the new SC secretariat.
Romania	Not Yet Voted	
Slovenia	Not Yet Voted	
South Africa	Not Yet Voted	
Sweden	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	(See Attached File) 3185_SE comments JTC 1 N 6738.doc
Switzerland	Approval of the proposal as presented	
United Kingdom	Disapproval of the proposal with comments given on the attached.	(See Attached File) See attached file 3206_02640822.pdf
USA	Approval of the proposal as presented	

Comments from Australia

Australia would be willing to change its vote providing the following comments are accepted:

Australia would support the establishment of an ISO/IEC JTC 1 Subcommittee on Biometrics only on the condition that national and international privacy principles are given formal consideration in the formation of these standards. That is, the standards must permit the implementation of national privacy laws and rights for the people from whom biometric identification data is collected and encoded. There is no mention of this in the Scope and Initial Program of Work. This may have an effect on the manner in which data is collected, stored and how personal permission is sought, granted and recorded about the usage of the data, plus the provision of access for a person to the data that is collected about that person for content checking, etc.

Comments from France

Afnor approves the proposal given in document JTC 1 N 6738 and welcomes the establishment of a new JTC 1 SC for biometrics.

Afnor requests that the relations and interdependencies with the relevant JTC 1/SC's and ISO/TC's (e.g. : ISO/TC 68 "*Banking, securities and other financial services*") be clearly drawn up.

Considering the extent of generic biometrics standardization and the urgent expectation of the society, Afnor suggests that the establishment of the new SC has special advertisement.

Comments from Germany

This vote is governed by the following considerations:

1. Germany concurs with the U.S. that biometrics standardization is a matter of urgency.
2. Germany believes that JTC 1 must quickly respond to the challenge which is posed by the September 11, 2001, events also to international standardization. Therefore, it is an opportunity for JTC 1 to demonstrate its capability to timely react to the needs of its constituency.
3. Germany recognizes that biometrics standardization is a horizontal topic touching the scope of several standardization bodies outside of and within JTC 1, such as ISO/TC 68, ISO/TC 215, JTC 1/SC 17, SC 27 and SC 31. Therefore, a strong coordination is needed among all actors involved. Germany considers JTC 1 as the appropriate place to assume this coordinating role in ISO and IEC.
4. As regards the organizational approach to biometrics standardization, several options exist as per the JTC 1 Directives:
 - a) Establishment of a new SC within JTC 1;
 - b) Assignment of work to an existing SC within JTC 1;
 - c) Establishment of a Joint Working Group within JTC 1 (JWG, as per clause 2.5.3 of the JTC 1 Directives), comprising all JTC 1/SCs affected as well as other ISO and IEC TCs.

a) Germany is of the opinion that, in general, the establishment of a new SC does not resolve the underlying issue, namely how to handle horizontal, cross-SC and/or cross-TC topics in a way which involves all parties concerned in an effective and balanced way. Further, Germany considers the proposed program of work for the Biometrics SC as in N 6738 as insufficient to justify the establishment of an SC with its long-term nature.

b) Assignment of all biometrics work to an existing SC does not take account of the horizontal nature of the subject.

c) Therefore, Germany suggests the establishment of a JWG Biometrics within JTC 1. Parent committees of this JWG should be JTC 1/SC 17, SC 27, SC 31 and the ISO TCs 68 and 215. By establishing a JWG, the horizontal nature of the subject and the joint responsibility of all parent committees becomes evident. Technical work should be done within the JWG itself or it may be subcontracted to any of the parent organizations.

5. Germany is of the opinion that biometrics standardization is much broader than proposed in JTC 1 N 6738 and comprises, among others, the following topics:

- Requirements, Security Services and Guidelines
- Security Techniques and Mechanisms
- Security Evaluation Criteria
- Identification Documents, Cards and Tokens specific Issues
- Generic Biometric Mechanisms

Details of these topics are provided in the annex.

Germany is aware that some of the topics above are already covered by ongoing work in existing SCs, and suggests that such work be continued as planned, following the subcontracting model as in 4. above.

6. Further, Germany is of the opinion that the items currently proposed for fast track handling may require some broader review and further refinement, and therefore suggests that work in this field should, instead, be conducted following the combined NP+CD process as per clause 12.2.7 of the JTC 1 Directives.

Annex

Topics for future standardization in the area of Biometrics

Requirements, Security Services and Guidelines

- Selection of biometric mechanisms and tools,
- Requirements for the enrollment process,
- Requirements for the verification process,
- Integration of biometric mechanisms and tools into a secure infrastructure

Security Techniques and Mechanisms

- Integrity mechanisms for biometric data
- Confidentiality mechanisms for biometric data

- Cryptographic (secured) communications protocols for sensors and verification systems

Security Evaluation Criteria

- Protection profiles for biometric equipment and mechanisms
- Reliability of biometric mechanisms
- Evaluation methods and tools for biometrics

Identification Documents, Cards and Tokens specific Issues

- Exchange protocols for biometric user verification
- Data objects and data elements related to biometrics
- General management and security issues
- Specification of biometric data for different biometric characteristics
- Enrollment conditions, feature extraction and feature matching, time stability of biometric data
- Sensor requirements with respect to resolution, fake resistance, cryptographic protection of data, reliability and special characteristics (e.g. minimum field size, light power)
- Logical data structure for Identification Documents and Cards
- Requirements for testing related to identification documents and cards

Generic Biometric Mechanisms

- Standardization of biometric data formats
- BioAPI and its integration into software environments
- Compression of biometric data
- Evidence of living entity during the verification (together with medical standardization committee)

Comments from Sweden

Biometrics is an important new area where there is a quickly growing attention to and awareness of the security challenges facing the modern society. There is an obvious need for standardization activities in the area.

Several bodies have observed the emerging importance of this technical area. ISO/TC 68, JTC 1/SC 17, JTC 1/SC 27 and JTC 1/SC 31 are all aware of the need to achieve co-ordination of standardization activities.

There are many application areas for Biometrics

- physical access control
- computer, network access control (i.e. identification, authentication & authorisation)
- supporting the application of digital signatures on documents and transactions

with two basic types of architectures:

- local template storage and verification
- remote template storage and verification

Sweden proposes the creation of a Special Working Group under JTC 1; SWG-COBIO with the following tasks:

SWG-COBIO shall

- ** be a co-ordination group for standardization activities within JTC 1 in the area of Biometric Techniques establishing liaison with relevant bodies
- ** co-ordinate and align developing terminology in the field
- ** establish a work plan outlining the division of work between different standardization groups, e.g.:

- Framework and Management of Biometric Systems (SC 27/WG 1)
 - Mathematical Analysis incl. matching algorithms and correlation properties (SC 27/WG 2)
- Evaluation of Biometric systems and components (SC 27/WG 3)
- Biometrics in Smart Cards (SC 17)
- Biometrics API (several options to be investigated)

Special application areas:

- Trade documents (SC 17)
- Banking & Finance (ISO/TC 68)
- Health Care (ISO/TC 215)
- Multimedia (SC 29)
- AIDC (SC 31)
- and others

Rationale:

There are many special concerns and application perspectives in this field, where there at the same time also exist bodies having the appropriate competence and experience for part of the area. This is felt to be an important argument against creating a new SC within JTC 1 with subsequent additional overhead and costs. A more efficient approach would be to establish a body with the responsibility to oversee all relevant aspects and needs for standardization and ensure that they are effectively addressed and co-ordinated. By establishing a JWG, the horizontal nature of the subject and the joint responsibility of all parent committees becomes evident. Creating another SC will also run the risk of putting further strain on scarce expert resources.

Thus Sweden votes NO on the proposal to establish a new SC for Biometrics and instead proposes a JTC 1 JWG as outlined above.

Comments from the UK

The UK shares the US view that there is an “urgent need for international biometric standardization” but precisely because of that urgency does not see the establishment of yet another subcommittee as the most expeditious way forward for JTC1.

There are two distinct aspects to standardizing biometric technology:

- i) The biometrics technology itself, e.g. addressing the issues of identification of the subject, enrolment, capturing their biometric reference data, and subsequent verification of the subject in the field (i.e. sampling their biometric and verifying it against the reference data),
- ii) Applying biometric technology to real world applications requiring this form of personal identification/authentication.

The UK considers i) above is best served by SC27 - Security Techniques, and ii) above by SC17 - Cards and Personal Identification, with the two SCs working closely together to provide a comprehensive and integrated set of standards for the market place. A third SC would simply fragment the finite expertise available to JTC1.

Both the BioAPI Specification and CBEFF can be submitted for fast-track processing as soon as the US NB is ready to submit them. Neither requires the establishment of a new SC for them to be accepted as International Standards. Their allocation to an SC only becomes necessary when either standard requires revision.

Whilst the UK accepts both the BioAPI Specification and CBEFF have the potential to develop quickly, a standard in a continual state of change can be more of a hindrance to developing the market than one that takes measured steps in its development. To that end, the UK considers both can be balloted for fast-track processing now (or as soon as the US can get them ready) and de-couple their processing from any debate on the need for a new SC. JTC1 could then take the time it needs to discuss the merits of establishing a new SC in plenary session in October 2002.

Should either standard require revision prior to October 2002, the UK would have serious doubts as to the suitability of that 'standard' for fast-track processing at this time, preferring instead JTC1's five-stage process; albeit expedited as fast as possible.

The UK propose that the Resolution of Comments meeting for this 60 day letter ballot be held during the JTC1 plenary week where, depending on the weight of argument advanced, the UK would be prepared to reconsider its NO vote.