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Dr. Timothy Schoechle, Secretary, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32
Farance Inc *, 3066 Sixth Street, Boulder, CO, United States of America
Telephone: +1 303-443-5490; E-mail: Timothy@Schoechle.org
available from the JTC 1/SC 32 WebSite <http://www.jtc1sc32.org/>
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US PROPOSAL FOR SC32/WG2 STUDY PERIOD ON STANDARDIZED CONCEPT SYSTEMS AND SEMANTIC DESCRIPTIONS FOR MERGED CORE ONTOLOGY (MCO)

The MCO (Merged Core Ontology) combines three internationally developed ontologies (BFO, SUMO, DOLCE) to provide a baseline ontology for developing class of applications (domains). The ontology has been used to provide semantic specification of common features for situational/context awareness, such as Who, What, Where, When. The semantic foundation was originally developed in the US Army and the work is being released to the public for use around 2008-09-30 via GNU public licensing.

The study period will investigate which features need standardization, and the timing and development of their standardization (single standard, multi-part standard, etc.).

Currently, the work is structured as two layers:

- The foundational work, MCO is ontology-based and merges the BRO, SUMO, and DOLCE ontologies. It serves as a conceptual foundation.

- The Semantic Layer Extended (SLE) provides additional ontology-based semantics for application-specific areas (e.g., Who, What, Where, When).

One area of exploration will be how well the MCO and SLE components assist in providing additional semantics and automated computation for data exchange specifications.

The proposed timeline would be:

- 2008-11: Discussion at SC32/WG2 meeting and gain approval for a study period.

- 2008-11 / 2009-06: Establish an E-mail reflector for discussion among participants of the study period.

- 2009-02: Interim status report of study period.

- 2009-05: Development of Working Draft (WD), New Work Item Proposal (NP), and report of study period one month in advance of 2009-06 SC32/WG2 meeting. Discussion of harmonization and integration with existing SC32/WG2 work on ISO/IEC 19773 on W5H context data: 19773 provides the data exchange specification, but not the

ontology-based semantics; MCO provides the baseline semantics and the SLE provides the domain/application-specific semantics. It is expected that the MSO and SLE efforts would dovetail with data exchange specifications.

- 2009-06: Discussion in SC32/WG2 of results and recommendations of study period. If acceptable to WG2 (and SC32), WG2 might take action to initiate a recommended standards project.

Sponsors: The following individuals are willing to contribute their expertise to this study period:

- Barry Smith (US)
- Werner Ceusters (US)
- Pat Hayes (US)
- Frank Farnace (US)
- Nicola Guarino (Italy)
