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**US PROPOSAL FOR SC32/WG2 STUDY PERIOD FOR A STANDARDIZED
CONCEPT SYSTEM AND SEMANTIC DESCRIPTIONS FOR MERGED CORE
ONTOLOGY (MCO) TO SUPPORT INTEROPERABILITY**

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, the timing and development of their standardization (single standard, multi-part standard, etc.), and their support for interoperability.

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 dove-tail 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: There are individuals inside and outside WG2 who are willing to contribute their expertise during the study period.
