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Title: Report from The International ISTC Agency Ltd for the TC46/SC9 plenary meeting on May 4, 2011 and the TC46 plenary on May 6, 2011 in Sydney, Australia

Source: The International ISTC Agency Ltd

Project(s): ISO 21047

Status:

Additional information: This report supersedes the previously distributed document, N597, which was last year’s report.

REQUESTED ACTION

Circulated to P- and O-members, and to technical committees and organizations in liaison for:

☒ information

☐ discussion at
  [venue/date of meeting]

☐ comments by
  [date]

☐ voting (P-members only by:
  [date]

P-members of the technical committee or subcommittee concerned have an obligation to vote.
Activity Report on ISO 21047 (ISTC) from The International ISTC Agency Ltd – April 2011

The top priority for the International ISTC Agency (“IIA”) this past year has been to enrol at least 4 registration agencies (“RAs”) additional to the 3 already appointed. This was necessary to ensure the IIA’s financial independence from its founding members. This goal has now been achieved, with a total of 8 RAs contracted across the UK, US, Germany, France, Australia, Russia, New Zealand and Belgium. Two further applications to become an RA, in China and Canada, have been approved by the IIA Board and are awaiting contract signature. Another further RA application, from Italy, is currently being prepared.

This puts the IIA in a much stronger position to implement enhancements to its central registration system. Consequently, a second version of the publicly available ISTC search facility will be made live in late April 2011. This search tool provides a GUI (graphical user interface) as well as a web-service interface to query the database by various data elements and to view all other records associated with a particular work record.

There are now almost 7,000 ISTC records on the live database and over 4,000 other records on the test system, but one RA is currently preparing nearly 70,000 additional ISTC records for registration. Registration activity in the UK and US is now beginning to increase, with several medium sized publishers in each country having recently agreed to participate in ISTC registrations.

General interest in adoption of the ISTC standard among book publishers is showing a gradual increase, following lengthy promotional campaigns, especially in the UK and US. Also, general awareness of the standard at a global level has improved significantly in the past year. It is therefore envisaged that the coming year is likely to yield sufficient participants (publishers and also retailers) so that it is reasonable to expect genuine applications of the ISTC to emerge, particularly in the area of book retailing.