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January 14, 2003

Subject: US HoD Report on the 1st Plenary Meeting of ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC 37 – Biometrics December 11-13, 2002 - Orlando, Florida, USA

From: Catherine Tilton, M1 International Representative and US HoD to the SC 37 Plenary

Lisa Rajchel from ANSI served as the secretariat for the meeting, which was chaired by Fernando Podio, acting chair of SC 37. Also in attendance was Scott Jameson, chair of JTC 1, and Sally Seitz of ANSI.

US delegates in attendance included the following: Mrs. Catherine Tilton, SAFLINK (HoD); Mr. John Campbell, 3M/AIT; Dr. James Cambier, Iridian Technologies; Mr. John Eul, Business Solutions; Mr. Vito Fabbrizio, STMicroelectronics; Mr. Craig Harmon, Q.E.D. Systems; Mr. Fred Herr, The Biometric Foundation; Mr. Michael Hogan, NIST; Mr. Creed Jones, Sagem-Morpho; Dr. Ksheerabdhi Krishna, Schlumberger; Mr. Rick Lazarick, US DOT; Mr. McKen Mak, IBG; Mr. Michael McCabe, NIST; Mr. John Neumann, US DOT; Mr. Bancroft Scott, OSS Nokalva; Dr. Colin Soutar, Bioscrypt; Mr. Ron Sutton, Lockheed Martin; Mr. Allesandro Triglia, OSS Nokalva; Dr. Valorie Valencia, Authenti-Corp; Mr. Mark Visbal, Security Industry Association.

National Bodies represented at the meeting included Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, UK, and US. Additionally, liaisons from SC 17, SC 27, SC 32, ITU, and IBIA were present, as well as the SC36 chair.

The meeting began with opening remarks from Gordon Levin of Walt Disney World, who spoke on their real world application for biometrics and their support for and need of our standards work.

A drafting committee was appointed, with Mr. John Neumann representing the US. Resolutions from this meeting will not be repeated here. They were posted to the SC 37 website as document SC 37 N54.

The review of National Body Comments on document JTC 1 N6771, Summary of Voting on JTC 1 N 6738, Establishment of a New Subcommittee on Biometrics and review of SC 37 Title and Scope (agenda items 5 & 6) were remitted to an Ad Hoc committee on scope which was formed to develop a recommendation on a revised SC 37 scope. Mike Hogan was appointed the chair of this Ad Hoc and Colin Soutar was the US

representative. Other US delegates also attended. The US was satisfied with the resulting scope statement, which further clarified its activities and exclusions.

“Standardization of generic biometric technologies pertaining to human beings to support interoperability and data interchange among applications and systems. Generic human biometric standards include: common file frameworks; biometric application programming interfaces; biometric data interchange formats; related biometric profiles; application of evaluation criteria to biometric technologies; methodologies for performance testing and reporting; and cross-jurisdictional and societal aspects.

Excluded is the work in ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 17 to apply biometric technologies to cards and personal identification.

Excluded is the work in ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 for biometric data protection techniques, biometric security testing, evaluations, and evaluation methodologies.”

Submitted contributions for new work items were discussed. Below is the disposition of each, grouped by related area.

Biometric Data Interchange Formats. The Canadians recommended that these be handled as a multi-part standard with Part 1 being the Reference/Framework and Parts 2-6 containing the individual formats – finger minutiae, finger pattern, finger image, face, and iris. Both the US and Germany had provided contributions related to finger minutiae and the intent was to merge and harmonize these during development of the working/committee drafts. The US and Canada worked together to draft a new NP covering this work.

Profiles. Mike Hogan presented a general overview of profiles within JTC 1. The US clarified its intent in submitting its three contributions on profiles, i.e., that they were intended to specify base standards, tailoring, and options within these standards as they apply to a given application area based on the functional requirements of that area, not to dictate to an application domain what their functional requirements are. A number of objections were raised, primarily by the European delegations and SC 17, to SC 37 being involved in application areas. The SC 36 chair spoke in favor, stating that it would be a bad precedent to restrict any SC from developing profiles for its technology area or from referencing the related work products of other SCs. Due to the lack of support, the US decided not to request any resolutions on these three contributions.

Testing. Both the US and UK submitted contributions in the area of biometric performance testing and agreed to work together to develop a new NP to address a merged work item. Korea presented work they were doing in the area of a conformance test suite for BioAPI, which they intend to submit as an NP following this meeting.

Template Protection. The US recommended that this work item be placed within SC 27. This was agreed by the SC 27 liaison and a resolution to this affect was drafted.

Fast Track Candidates. Mike Hogan presented an overview of the JTC 1 Fast Track process. The US requested feedback from the delegations on their support for fast tracking the BioAPI specification. In a straw poll, although laudatory remarks were made regarding the BioAPI, the delegations were evenly split on the topic of the fast track route. Germany suggested that it would be more effective and efficient to submit it as an NP + CD. After a break, the US indicated it would request a resolution on an NP+CD ballot for BioAPI. Similarly, the US indicated an NP+CD resolution would be requested for CBEFF. However, discussions regarding the Biometric API for JavaCard revolved around whether it should be placed in SC 37 or SC 17. The US suggested a joint working group be formed to progress the work. Germany suggested that the work item be split between the two SCs. As no consensus was reached, the US decided not to request a resolution on this work item.

The group reaffirmed its intent to follow the ISO/IEC patent policy.

Following discussion of the work program, the SC 37 Acting Chair formed an Ad Hoc group to recommend an organizational structure for SC 37 to progress this work. Having contributed a draft taxonomy on this topic, Axel Munde of Germany was appointed to chair this group. Cathy Tilton was the US representative and several US delegates also attended the meeting of this Ad Hoc on structure. The recommendations made by this group in its report were to charter six subgroups. The candidate subgroups and conveners are as listed below:

#	Subgroup	Type	Work Items	Convenor
1	Harmonized Biometric Vocabulary and Definitions	Special Group	To be submitted	Canada – Rene McIver
2	Biometric Technical Interfaces	Special Group	BioAPI, CBEFF	Korea – Young-Bin Kwon
3	Biometric Data Interchange Formats	Special Group	Multipart NP w/5 initial formats	Germany – Axel Munde
4	Profiles for Biometric Applications	Study Group	None yet.	US – Mike Hogan
5	Biometric Testing and Reporting	Special Group	NP on combined US/UK contributions.	UK – Bob Carter.
6	Cross-Jurisdictional and Societal Aspects	Study Group	None yet.	Italy – Mario Savastano

The SC 37 secretariat suggested and it was agreed that since no work items had yet been approved, the initial structure should be Special Groups, with a term extending until the next SC 37 plenary, at which time they may be converted to permanent Working Groups. Germany indicated its intent to form subgroups within SG3 to work on the individual parts of the interchange formats work. The SC 37 structure was posted in the SC 37

website as document SC 37 N53. The US requested conveners to collocate their first meetings, if possible, to allow for best utilization of resources.

The JTC 1 chair presented the resolutions from the recent JTC 1 plenary. A resolution calling for comments on the JTC 1 Technology Watch initiative was drafted.

With regard to liaisons, formal requests for liaison from SC 27, ITU-T, and Mastercard International were approved for resolution. Additionally, recommendations to seek liaison with JTC 1 SC 17, SC 24, SC 29, SC 31, SC 32 and SC 36; ISO TC 68; and ICAO were made. In some instances, candidates (from SC 37) were identified:

SC 17 – Dr. Brian Rose, UK;

SC 27 – Dr. Colin Soutar, US;

SC 29 – Dr. Kate Grant;

ICAO – Terry Hartman, Australia.

Resolutions on these liaison positions were approved.

Fernando Podio was unanimously endorsed as chair of SC 37, to be confirmed by JTC 1.

The following future meetings were scheduled:

SC 37 SGs: 7-11 April, Ottawa, Canada

SC 37 SGs and Plenary: 8-12 September, Italy or Australia

SC 37 Plenary: June 2004, Seoul, Korea

The meeting was adjourned.

HoD Summary Observations

The meeting was well attended and progressed at a relatively fast pace. The facility was well equipped and the logistics ran relatively smoothly.

Although not all of the US contributions were supported, we were pleased with the acceptance level from the other countries and with the overall outcome of the meeting. The final scope and structure are conducive to progression of work through the international process, and the international participation in the subgroups is encouraging. The tone of the meeting was positive and we anticipate fruitful results.