



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-

M1/07-0122

January 16, 2007

Jennifer T. Garner
Associate Director, Standards Programs
INCITS/Information Technology Industry Council
1250 Eye Street, NW - Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mrs. Garner:

NIST is very pleased to support Mr. Fernando L. Podio to serve a second term as the Chairman of JTC1/SC 37 – Biometrics. NIST is an active participant and supporter of biometric open systems standards development.

We believe that Mr. Podio's extensive experience in voluntary international consensus standards development and demonstrated leadership skills during his first term as the JTC1/SC 37 Chairman uniquely qualifies him for this position.

NIST understands the additional workload, financial resources and duties required of an officer are over and above that of a technical participant. For the three-year term of his appointment as Chairman of JTC1/SC 37, NIST plans to fully support Mr. Podio with the necessary resources for him to adequately perform his duties. This statement of management support for a second three-year term is a good faith commitment, not a legally binding commitment. If future circumstances require Mr. Podio to resign from the office before his term of office has been fulfilled because of resource limitations or change of mission, NIST understands that this would be accepted without prejudice.

Please find attached a statement of Mr. Podio's experience for this position.

Sincerely,

William Barker, Chief
Computer Security Division
(301) 975-8443

NIST

Fernando L. Podio
Statement of Related Experience
January 10, 2007

Fernando L. Podio is a member of the Computer Security Division of the Information Technology Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). He has worked in different aspects of IT development, research, measurements, and standards for over twenty-nine years. For the past eight years he has been involved in biometrics research and standardization. He is currently responsible for the NIST's Biometric Standards Program. Before his work in biometrics began, he participated and led digital data storage standards activities and conducted research and testing of intelligent data storage devices, sequential data storage media and optical digital data disks.

He is currently the Chairman of ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee 1 (JTC 1) Subcommittee 37 (SC 37) and he also chairs the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) Technical Committee M1, Biometrics and INCITS's M1 Task Group M1.4 on Biometric Profiles. He is the Biometric Consortium co-chair.

Since its establishment in June 2002, JTC 1/SC 37 has maintained a fast pace of development. JTC1/SC 37 is a tightly managed Subcommittee. Under Mr. Podio's leadership, JTC1/SC 37 is achieving its goals: the timely development of international standards; the use of these standards by JTC 1/ SCs and ISO/IEC TCs for their own standards projects; the adoption of JTC 1/SC 37 standards by external organizations for their own requirements; and support of the mass market adoption of biometric technologies. JTC1/SC37 completed the "first generation" of biometric data interchange formats and interface standards. Ten international standards have been published and eight more are expected to be published in the first quarter of 2007.

Mr. Podio has successfully promoted the use of biometric standards and specifications among end-users and industry. Adoption of biometric standards by large organizations is underway. The International Civil Aviation Administration (ICAO) and the International Labor Office of the United Nations have adopted a number of the biometric standards developed by JTC1/SC 37. Major US government programs require conformance to some of the biometric standards developed by JTC1/SC 37 and INCITS M1.

Mr. Podio received NIST's 2000 William P. Slichter Award for "Outstanding Achievement in building or strengthening ties between NIST and industry". He shared a year 2003 Group US Department of Commerce Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in Federal Service for "development of standards, testing methodology, and metrics for biometric technologies to be used for securing the Nation's borders" and received other national and international awards such as the 2004 and 2006 InterNational Committee for IT Standards Gene Milligan Award in recognition of his leadership work in biometrics standards. He has been the recipient of a 2006 ANSI Meritorious Service Award for his role in advancing the development, adoption and awareness of biometric standards. Mr. Podio has worked at NIST since 1983.