The GDSN, Inc. Board has approved the 2011 – 2012 operating budget which enables all GDSN development, adoption and implementation activities. This allows the GDSN community, with the support of GDSN, Inc., to continue to develop standards for approved projects, process simple Work Requests (WR), and implementation of the next Maintenance Release. This approval also supports Global Product Classification (GPC) updates in the network and initial planning for GDSN Version 3.0, the next major GDSN release including Modular Item.

What does Board approval mean?

Approval provides the funding to support existing work efforts on projects that have been submitted in the past that still require resources to complete standards development and network implementations including the bi annual releases of Global Product Classification (GPC) and Efficient Code Lists (ECL).The network implementation of Maintenance Release 5 (MR5) is also included as part of this approval. The production release date of MR5 will be established via the existing network implementation process of GDSN Inc. This authorisation also provides funding for GDSN Inc to begin planning on the next major network release and certification event in support of GDSN Objectives.

2011 – 2012 GDSN Development Roadmap

The Board approval authorises the continuation and creation of the following work efforts:
- Implementation of MR5 (release date TBD)
- Post implementation support of GPC update (Production release date 25 June 2011)
- Post implementation support of ECL update (Production release date 25 June 2011)
- Network and Community Planning for Major Network Release (Implementation date TBD)
  - Preparing for the next certification event of GDSN Data Pools
  - Preparing to implement all approved Work Orders (WO) level of impacts 1, 2 and 3
    - Submitted prior to 28 February 2011
  - Preparing to implement Modular Item
    - Planning and Education
    - Sector 'Context' Development

Next Steps

GDSN Inc. is planning several face to face meetings and teleconferences over the coming months to work with the community in communicating next steps in implementing MR5 and planning for the next Major Release including Modular Item including the backlog of completed Work Orders. No implementation date for this event has been proposed thus far. GDSN Inc will continue to solicit input from the GDSN Operations and Technology Group (OTAG) and the certified Data Pool and Trading Partner communities to establish a final release date. GDSN Inc will rely heavily on the

community to guide the activities for this event over the coming months. Community outreach efforts will be led by GDSN Inc, GDSN Advisory Group, GDSN User Group and GDSN certified Data Pools.

We anticipate many questions and recommendations for the major release planning in the coming months. We will offer the community several venues to provide input and suggestions. We strongly believe in order to be successful we must have an open dialogue with all our stakeholders to achieve this major milestone in a timely manner. We plan on facilitating discussions on planning and impact analysis in an open forum setting so we can properly document and implement improvements to the plan. Our goal is for full transparency while executing the plan to completion.

GDSN Inc will engage the community through meetings, calls and updates. The following meetings are currently scheduled and more will be added shortly based on community feedback:

- GDSN Operations and Technology Group Call (Monthly, F2F meetings as needed)
- GDSN Advisory Group Call (Members Only – Monthly)
- GDSN User Group Call (Quarterly Calls, F2F meetings as needed)
- GDSN Data Pool Business F2F Meetings (Members Only, Bi - Annually)
- GS1 Industry and Standards Event (Cologne, Germany – September 2011)

For more information in becoming a member or participating in one of the above meetings or groups please contact GDSN at GDSNinc@gs1gdsn.org.

Resources

Resources currently exist to assist the community in understanding the upcoming changes to the network. Information on the following topics can be found here:
- GDSN Delivery Process
- Modular Item Background Information

New resources will be developed shortly to address technical, business and planning needs of the community and stakeholders. Please watch for announcements to those resources in the coming weeks. We plan to leverage the GS1 Community Room to organise information pertaining to this event, if you are not a member please join.

Your Role

As a GDSN community member and stakeholder in the network we will rely on you to offer your experience and expertise to help guide us to a successful transition to, and implementation of, the next major release including Modular Item. Every stakeholder has a role in making this release a success. Trading Partners, will be relied upon to contribute to discussions on how to implement modular item. Data Pools will assist in developing the new architecture for the network. If you are not engaged and would like to contribute to this effort please participate when and however you can via, call, meetings or emails.

Conclusion

The 2011-2012 development allows Maintenance Release 5, GPC and ECL to be released into the network. It will also allow GDSN Inc to begin planning for the next Major Release and certification event including Modular Item. With the participation of the community we can add more value to the GDS Network.