

PCN #	PCN Name	Effective Date
08-010	GEPIR Technical Development Team	19- April-2007

Background:

Implementation of the GS1 System has led to the recognition that keys and communication tools require networks for broad, consistent implementations. Thus networks can be the key to realizing the end goal of “supply chain efficiency”. GEPIR was created as the first such network, however GEPIR has, unlike other networks in GS1, existed outside the formal structure of a user driven requirements process and documentation. The GEPIR leadership has realized that participation in GSMP is essential for the full value of GEPIR to be achieved and for it to be appropriately linked to and recognized by other GS1 Networks.

Rationale:

A GEPIR Technical Development Team will be formed under the Technology Centre to support the development of the process and message standards necessary for the operation of the GEPIR Network. In order to provide this support, the GEPIR Technical Development Team needs to provide the following:

1. Swift development / enhancement of the processes and standards that support the GEPIR Network
2. Tested solutions as part of the process of creating standards, including feedback from pilots to update/improve the standards.
3. Membership based upon participation and implementation

The GEPIR Technical Development Team will focus on meeting a list of requirements agreed to during discussions within defined meetings. This list includes:

1. The need to move quickly with GEPIR standards development
2. The need to ensure that there is a balanced approach between the speed of development and quality
3. The need to support the GEPIR Network that is currently in place
4. The need for a continued focus on GEPIR implementation and growth
5. The need to assess impact on the industry as we move forward
6. The need for a practical approach to enable implementation
7. The need to ensure that the GEPIR Network and offerings are implementable
8. The need to develop quality documentation relating to the implementation and functionality of the GEPIR Network

The GEPIR Technical Development Team will strive to become “the place to go” for all GEPIR Network issues and concerns related to the standards underlying the physical network. It will answer questions from implementers and use those discussions to create Best Practices documentation. Additionally, these discussions will be used to create new Change Requests to improve the standards based upon implementation experience.

This GEPIR Technical Development Team structure will be piloted for a six month period and then reviewed for its effectiveness.

GEPIR Technical Development Team Overview:

GEPIR Technical Development Team Structure

The GEPIR Technical Development Team will be part of the Technology Centre and will operate under the rules and procedures adopted by GSMP. The group will include appropriate representatives with expertise in the technical and business areas. The Chair will be elected from the eligible members.

Work Plan Prioritization

It is the role of the GEPIR Technical Development Team, in concert with the Process Group and the GEPIR Product Manager, to coordinate the Work Plan at a strategic level.

The GEPIR Technical Development Team will control the day-to-day tactical prioritization of the Work Plan.

GEPIR Technical Development Team Membership:

Role of the Working Group Members

The role of the User Working Group Members is to accomplish the following tasks:

1. Evaluate and validate each routed Change Request (CR)
2. Reach consensus on an implementation standard
3. Finalize proposed data and process requirements
4. Conduct the necessary testing of proposed changes
5. Liaise with GSMP Requirements Groups to ensure the proper degree of coordination
6. Ensure that any technical solution meets the business needs of users

It is a key point that the members of this group have the proper commitment to GEPIR and are willing to test the solutions that are being presented prior to full-scale implementation. The appropriate GS1 staff personnel will be assigned to the GEPIR Technical Development Team to provide support as outlined in the GSMP Manual. It will also be the responsibility of the GS1 staff representative to provide the facilitation for the formal co-ordination between the GEPIR Working Group and GSMP Requirements Groups.

Voting Members & Participants

The GEPIR Network is internal to GS1, although open to external users. Participation in the GEPIR Technical Development Team is therefore open to all members of the community that have an interest in supporting the development and implementation of the GEPIR Network, but only MOs have voting rights. If more than one member of the working group is from the same MO, then only one vote can be tabled. Potential participants for this Working Group are expected to fall into one of the following groups:

Voting Members:

1. MO representatives

Non-voting Members:

2. User representatives authorised by their MO

GS1 Global Office Staff:

1. Requirements Group Manager

2. Business Process Modeller
3. Product Manager GEPIR
4. XML Development Staff

Voting Member Qualifications

All potential voting members of the GEPIR Technical Development Team need to meet a basic level of qualification before they can be considered for membership of the Working Group. The following list of qualifications is not meant to be exclusive; it is meant to ensure that a certain level of expertise and commitment is maintained within the group. The qualifications include:

1. MO must be an active (or planning to be active) participant in GEPIR
2. MO must commit to test changes
3. Process-specific knowledge as defined in the GSMP User Manual
4. Involved in the implementation of GEPIR in their organizations
5. Meets the qualifications for Voting Members as outlined in the GSMP Manual
6. Fill out a membership application to become a member of the GSMP (if necessary)

GEPIR Voting Membership should represent all MO's that have implemented (or are planning to implement) GEPIR Routers.

Process:

The GEPIR Development Process will move through the following three phases: Process Overview Development, Solution Development, and Test Implementation.

Process Overview Development:

The Working Group reviews the requirements against the current implementation and defines high level activity flows that become development input.

Solution Development:

The Working Group finalizes the GEPIR requirements including: detailed process sequence, data attribute identification, technical development. This becomes a Draft Standard that serves as the input towards piloting and implementation. An approved motion to progress is included in this step of the process before a Draft Standard is complete.

Test Implementation:

Selected members of the Working Group test implementation to provide feedback to improve the developing standards that must be addressed before final vote.

Once these three steps have been accomplished, the last step in the process is for a vote to occur. The voting will follow the process outlined within the GSMP Manual.