



News Release

For Immediate Release

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ACORD Framework Proof of Concept

Value of Information Model Being Illustrated by Solution Providers

PEARL RIVER, NY & LAS VEGAS, NV - May 24, 2010 - ACORD (www.acord.org) announced today that Proof of Concept (POC) activities are underway to validate the technical aspects of the ACORD Framework.

Over the past few years, much work has been done on the development of the ACORD Framework and all of its facets. This POC will continue to validate the activities already accomplished by the membership and increase the value to the industry.

The focus of this POC is on how mappings are created and rendered to provide a more consumable output for use by the insurance industry. In order to validate such output, ACORD is investigating the use of the Object Management Group's (OMG) Model Drive Message Interoperability (MDMI) standard with software vendors such as Microsoft, TIBCO, Informatica, and Progress Software.

Companies will be inputting information using the ACORD 125 (Commercial Insurance Application - Applicant Information Section) and 140 (Property Section) eForms. The data then goes through the semantic layer of the ACORD Information Model and is then used in an RLC Placing XML message.

The principle behind all this is that by mapping any standard to the Information Model, a hub - or semantic layer - is created that will enable conversion between any standard linked to the same Information Model. MDMI - as an open standard for mappings - may potentially enable any compliant software vendor to consume those mappings.

"The OMG, Microsoft, Informatica, TIBCO, and Progress Software each bring important skills and elements to the POC. We need to be sure that what we create can be consumed by the industry and we're starting with some of the vendor community. These companies are helping ACORD, and the industry, improve how ACORD delivers standards and we appreciate their work and support," remarked Frank Neugebauer, CTO of ACORD.

He went on to note that "while ACORD uses the Progress Software DataXtend Semantic Integrator tool, we can't presume such an environment for anyone else, nor can we impose any proprietary output. We're confident that by bringing this particular group together we cannot only validate our semantic core principle, but also ensure software vendors have a path to implementation."

Results from the POC activates are expected in the summer of 2010.

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About ACORD: ACORD (Association for Cooperative Operations Research and Development) is a global, nonprofit standards development organization serving the insurance industry and related financial services industries. ACORD's mission is to facilitate the development of open consensus data standards and standard forms. ACORD members include hundreds of insurance and reinsurance companies, agents and brokers, software providers, and industry associations worldwide. ACORD works with these organizations towards a goal of improved data communication across diverse platforms through implementation of standards. ACORD maintains offices in New York and London.