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AIIM and NPES Partner with Industry Leaders to Advance Intelligent Document Standard for Engineering Workflows

New Standard Addresses Document Collaboration And Exchange Within Engineering Processes

Silver Spring, MD, and Reston, VA, March 1, 2004 – AIIM, the international authority on Enterprise Content Management, and NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, announce their teaming to promote and oversee the collaboration of industry leaders to advance standards and best practices for the use of the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) in engineering workflows. The PDF Engineering (PDF/E) Working Group brings together leaders from Adobe Systems Incorporated, Agile, Bentley Systems, Hewlett Packard, Océ, Intel, PTC, Layton Graphics, Dell, UGS PLM Solutions and others who are committed to starting work on a new standard for document collaboration and exchange in the engineering processes.

"The coming together of key industry leaders, technology experts, document management authorities, and engineering professionals marks a spirit of cooperation and a new level of collaboration within the industry to define a document format that specifically meets the unique technology and communication needs of today's engineer," said John Mancini, president of AIIM.

PDF is a ubiquitous, recognized de facto standard for eliminating critical barriers that prevent formatted information and graphics from moving between computers. The

format has also evolved to support business documents capable of driving processes such as procurement. Engineering professionals already widely use PDF to speed the document review process, ensure document control, and allow easy creation of searchable electronic archives for standard-sized documents. "The working group's goal is to achieve consensus on a standard that will improve document collaboration and print accuracy within engineering workflows, both inside companies and with extended enterprises of partners, suppliers and customers," said Ivan Koon, senior vice president Intelligent Documents Business Unit, Adobe. "An established standard will enable organizations to streamline engineering workflows that incorporate diverse sets of complex documents, resulting in improved productivity and the ability to more quickly deliver better products to market."

The joint committee formed under AIIM and NPES will identify issues to be addressed as well as proposed solutions, and will develop a draft document for presentation to an international joint working group of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for development and approval as an International Standard.

"We see this as a natural extension of our highly successful efforts with the PDF-Archive standard for the long-term preservation of electronic documents, " said Mancini. "With this new PDF/E standard, engineering professionals will be able to reliably create, exchange, and review large format documents. PDF/E will enable engineering organizations to work more effectively."

The proposed draft document is expected to be submitted to ISO in December 2004 with an anticipated publication date of mid-2006.

AIIM and NPES both invite and encourage interested parties capable of contributing technical expertise and industry experience to actively participate in this collaborative effort. Interested persons can register to participate on the committee at http://www.aiim.org/pdf_e. A working group meeting is planned for Wednesday, March

10 in New York City at the Javits Convention Center. For more information visit, www.aiim.org/standards.

AIIM International

AIIM International, the international authority on Enterprise Content Management (ECM), is leading the way to the understanding, adoption and use of ECM technologies. These technologies, tools and methods are used to capture, manage, store, preserve, and deliver content across an enterprise in support of business processes. As a non-profit association for more than 60 years, AIIM provides industry news and information, educational events and professional development, market analysis, industry standards development, publications, regional chapters, and executive networking. Complete information about AIIM is available at www.aiim.org.

NPES The Association for suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies

NPES, a U.S. non-profit trade association for 70 years, represents more than 450 companies engaged in manufacturing and importing for sale or distribution of machinery, equipment, systems, software and supplies used in every printing, publishing and converting process from desktop design and image generation and processing to multiple output options and targeted dissemination systems. As one of its many programs, NPES administers ANSI- and ISO-accredited committees developing standards of interest to the graphic technology industry. Complete information about the Association, its programs and its member companies is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.npes.org>, by email at npes@npes.org, by telephone at 703.264.7200 or by fax at 703.620.0994.