

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



For more information:
Ruth Cassidy, Virtual, Inc.
+1-781-876-6239
rcassidy@virtualmgmt.com

WS-I Profiles Structure Supply Chain Interoperability for Ford Motor Company, Through AIAG

Web Services Interoperability Organization Issues Case Study

WAKEFIELD, Mass. – Dec. 8, 2008 – The Web Services Interoperability Organization (WS-I: <http://www.ws-i.org>) has published a case study that describes how its Profiles enabled the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG; <http://www.aiag.org>) to develop the interoperable, secure set of cross-supply-chain process templates that Ford Motor Company required. The document is available for download at no charge from <http://www.ws-i.org/about/casestudies.aspx>.

WS-I is an open industry organization chartered to establish Best Practices for Web services interoperability. The Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) is a not-for-profit association serving the automotive industry, with 1100 members from around the world. Ford (<http://www.ford.com>; NYSE:F) is an American multinational corporation and the world's fourth-largest automaker. The deliverables created for Ford are available through AIAG to all of its members.

The Challenge: an Interoperable Supply Chain

Ford was seeking to establish reliable information channels and processes that would work across their entire supply chain. Ford approached AIAG with the goal of developing processes that would be interoperable and secure for all points in the supply chain, not only inside Ford. Ford wanted to be able to plug securely into a service architecture designed for business-to-business use: an approach that would work between and among organizations, versus a collection of proprietary technologies for individual members of the supply chain.

WS-I Profiles: the Road to Ongoing Success

Upon investigation, a Web services implementation promised the best combination of security, reliability, integration ease and service orientation, and the decision was made to employ WS-I Profiles. An AIAG Work Group, co-chaired by Faisal Waris from Ford and composed of people from organizations that included Ford, General Motors, IBM, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, Fujitsu, iConnect, Axway, NIST and Wipro, proceeded in stages: first the proof of concept, an inventory management project; second, adding additional capacity to the transport layer; and third, involving more vendors, a Kanban implementation that first used simple Web services, then applied more advanced specifications.

"There were challenges along the way, and WS-I was key to getting where we were going," said Waris. "We learned that interoperability is extremely hard to achieve, and without WS-I Profiles, almost impossible."

Today, Ford's enterprise policies require WS-I Profile conformance for Web services implementations. The company is now using WS-I profiles in the development of business-to-business production processes. More details about the Ford-AIAG projects are available upon request.

About WS-I

The Web Services Interoperability Organization (WS-I) is an open industry organization chartered to establish Best Practices for Web services interoperability, for selected groups of Web services standards, across platforms, operating systems and programming languages.

WS-I comprises a diverse community of Web services leaders from a wide range of companies and standards development organizations (SDOs). WS-I committees and working groups create Profiles and supporting Testing Tools based on Best Practices for selected sets of Web services standards. The Profiles and Testing Tools are available for use by the Web Services community to aid in developing and deploying interoperable Web services. WS-I also submits selected deliverables to standards bodies for eventual publication as international standards. WS-I

deliverables may be downloaded at no charge from www.ws-i.org/deliverables/index.aspx. For more information, visit www.ws-i.org or send email to info@ws-i.org.

###