

SMART-fm

A Standards-Compliant Framework to Support Complete Integrated Product Life-Cycle Information Management and Electronic Commerce for the Furniture Manufacturing (Fm) Industry, In the Advent of Smart Enterprises

IMS Project No. 01009

- Developed and established ISO 10303-236, the Standard Application Protocol (AP) for the Exchange of Furniture Product Data
- Created the fun-Step Interest Group
- SME-focused with Large enterprises participating
- www.funstep.org



The **funStep Interest Group** (funStep-IG) targets interoperability among software solutions wherever they are used within a company and/or in different companies. One of the main aims of the industry is to safeguard the investment in information technology, training and data management, making more profitable the investments in computer aided design, electronic commerce, and other related technology. The funStep-IG brings together software vendors, manufacturers, retailers and technology developers in a single forum towards the adoption of common standards for interoperability, focused on SMEs.

ISO 10303 is the Standard for the Exchange of Product model data (STEP) developed by ISO TC184/SC4. **ISO 10303-236** is the Standard Application Protocol (AP) for the Exchange of Furniture Product Data, including the representation of furniture catalogs, geometry, expressions for special products, and placement of pieces of furniture into an interior decoration project. This ISO standard had its origins and main consensus arena within two funStep CEN/ISSS workshops. These workshops have been a useful tool to get the agreements and achieve the results that have become the lately approved DIS status in the ISO balloting process with 100% of positive votes. Due to this peculiar result, the funStep development team is allowed to skip the next standardization stage (i.e., FDIS), and reach directly the IS stage, as an ISO International Standard (IS). Therefore, publication of ISO10303-236 as an ISO IS is expected for the beginning of 2006, more than 1 year in advance of the planned schedule.

The architecture of ISO 10303-236 follows a modular approach by dividing the entire information model into reusable components, each defined in a separate application module (AM). This approach provides a clearer definition of each part of the model, which simplifies the adoption process for the standard and allows sharing and reusing the information by different APs.

Dr. Ricardo Gonçalves, New University of Lisbon – UNINOVA (Portugal) is the scientific coordinator of funStep IG and project leader in ISO TC184/SC4 for the



development of AP236. Mrs. Maria José Nuñez, AIDIMA (Spain) is the AP236 part editor and she has been coordinating funStep together with Dr. Gonçalves.

Resulting from the work developed for ISO1030-236, Ricardo Gonçalves (in year 2003) and Maria José Nuñez (in year 2005) were awarded with the *International William J. Conroy Standards Professional Award*, established by the US Product Data Association (US PRO) to recognize the leadership in the development and implementation of Product Data Exchange standards.

There were 52 partners from Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan, Korea, Switzerland, and United States. There were twenty-eight (28) industrial partners, twelve (12) research organizations, and twelve (12) universities involved in this research.