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New eCl@ss members – currently 123 members

We are pleased to welcome four new members within the eCl@ss association:

 <p>GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH</p> <p>http://www.giz.de</p>	 <p>Nutricia GmbH</p> <p>http://www.nutricia.de</p>
 <p>BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH</p> <p>www.bsh-group.de</p>	 <p>3M Medica - Zweigniederlassung der 3M Deutschland GmbH</p> <p>http://solutions.3mdeutschland.de</p>

[Additional information regarding the benefits of the membership within eCl@ss e.V. ...](#)

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3. eCI@ss-Congress – many companies informed themselves about latest eCI@ss developments

This year the eCI@ss association together with its partner Vogel Business Media, had again invited to the 3rd Wurzburg eCI@ss-Congress. Approx 90 participants were informed during the two-day congress about the opportunities of building efficient supply chains with eCI@ss and intensely exchange experiences with experts.

After being welcomed by the Chairman of the eCI@ss association Friedrichhelm Hausmann, Dr. Sebastian Wieser, Chairman of the Mercateo AG hold the second plenary presentation. Dr. Wieser went particularly into detail on the potential of eCI@ss within small and medium-sized enterprises in collaboration with Mercateo.

At the end of the first day, a cooperation agreement for the use of eCI@ss in PBSeasy and the PBS Media standard was signed by Mr. Hausmann and PBS-CEO, Mr. Luetke. Afterwards the eCI@ss association invited the participants to a common evening event with wine tasting in the Residence in Wurzburg.

The second day was continued with parallel practical forums. The workshops on the topics eCI@ss fundamentals and application knowledge, Advanced, procurement and distribution as well as digital value chains, were well attended and at a high professional level.



Participant ratings:

The overall conclusion of the participants was very positive this year. In summary, the 3.Wurzburger eCI@ss-Congress was a reasonable, well-done and worthwhile event.

Presentations of the event can be found here:

<http://www.eclass-kongress.de/de//rueckblick>

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Paper-, office- and stationery-industry and eCI@ss association sign cooperation agreement



As part of the 3rd eCI@ss Congress on 11th and 12th of October 2011 at the Vogel Convention Center in Würzburg, the PBS Network GmbH, represented by its Managing Director Jerg Lutkens, and the eCI@ss association, represented by Chairman Friedhelm Hausmann, signed a joint cooperation agreement for the use of eCI@ss in PBSeasy and the PBS media-standard.

eCI@ss has established itself as a cross-industry standard for the industry classification and explicit description of products and services both nationally and internationally. eCI@ss is already profitably well-established in many companies from all sectors such as automotive, energy and electrical, medical, and stationery / office technology.

The PBS Network provides quality controlled media data from many vendors in a single structured data format on the central media platform PBSeasy. This media data comply with the PBS-media data standard, which defines the structure of the industry's media data according to the industry standard eCI@ss.

Purpose of the cooperation agreement between the eCI@ss association as developer, owner and proprietor of all rights for the international standard eCI@ss, and the PBS Network GmbH is the long-term cooperative partnership for the use of eCI@ss in the PBS media data standard and the reduction of cost barriers for small companies in the paper, office and stationery industry.

Europe-wide small businesses on the trade-side from the PBS-industry now have the possibility to use the functionality of eCI@ss as well with the registration and use of PBSeasy.

For further information visit www.pbsnetwork.eu and www.eiclass.de

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eCl@ss use in the public procurement in Austria



Paradine provides eCatalog.Service.Portal for Austrian Bundesbeschaffung GmbH

In the focus of every tender is the so-called contract specification: A listing of desired products and services with their specific properties. Each product has its specific properties – a laser printer requires very different parameters than road salt. If tenders will be handled electronically in the future, the contract specifications must be created electronically as well.

The assignment of individual products and services with appropriate properties is a tedious process. „It was obvious to use existing classifications for this work“, reports Johannes Wimmer from the Bundesbeschaffung Austria – BBG (Federal procurement Austria Ltd.). Therefore the BBG has agreed on a strategic partnership with the industry-wide classification standard eCl@ss.

For the implementation of structured tenders according to eCl@ss, Paradine GmbH provides the BBG eCatalog.Service.Portal. The buyers use the eCatalog.Service.Portal to create catalog templates based on the eCl@ss sets of properties. Subsequently this catalog templates will be used in future tenders. Through the reuse of the templates and its multilingualism, the process costs are reduced significantly and European tenders are easy to implement.

On 11th of November Mrs. Andrea Leutgeb, together with Mr. Reinhard Pohn from Paradine, presented the project and the expected practical benefit-effects by BBG to an interested group of participants at the BME specialist forum “Public Procurement” in Berlin.

Currently, the BBG suppliers are made familiar with eCl@ss in the framework of supplier training by the BBG and Paradine. The first two training dates on 14th of November and 5th of December 2011 were sold out within days.

[Further Information on this article](#)

[Further information on BBG / Paradine eCl@ss training on 2011.12.05. in Vienna](#)

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Latest results of eCl@ss expert group Medicine, medical technology

The revision of particular product groups in eCl@ss requires know-how, organizational skills and fun on interdisciplinary work.

The working groups on surgical garment, wound-, ostomy-care and gloves have already met and revised their structures. The resulting collective requests are now created and submitted by the expert group chair. Procedure and results of the working groups become well apparent for example in the areas of "surgical garment" and "medical gloves".

Objective: Within the eCl@ss segment 34 "Medicine, medical technology" the classification structure and properties of the valid eCl@ss release 7.0 for the groups "surgical garment" and "medical gloves" ought to be checked regarding their actuality, any discrepancies ought to be clarified and a proposal for the reorganization ought to be developed if necessary. Thereby it was important to give every party, in other words supplier- and user side, the opportunity to participate – as the motto is: We want to create a stable and sustainable structure, so we all speak the same language.

Procedure: In advance representatives of manufacturer-, commercial- and hospital site were invited for a workshop in order to find a unified structure for the respective product categories. During these one-day workshops about 25 experts from the German-speaking region then met at Sana hospitals in Ismaning. A variety of functions such as marketing (national / international), sales and purchasing as well as data management were represented. This inter-company cooperation between suppliers and users ensured that all aspects were considered and the result was thus based on a solid foundation.

Result: A major result of the workshop was the transferring of surgical gown and medical gloves from the current segment 40 "occupational safety, accident prevention" into the medically oriented segment 34 as well as the updating of related terms. Especially regarding the properties of medical products, it became apparent that a lot has changed in recent years: The discussions in the workshops show that new materials and advanced manufacturing processes are reflected in severely modified product features - and this, in turn, changes the properties provided in eCl@ss.

Conclusion: The work was worth it: A modern structure was created that considered the latest products as well as established products and also takes consideration of niche products. As a side effect, all participants were able to broaden their knowledge by solving this task - in terms of the products itself, but also regarding the perception of the different participants.

The amendment that is now in preparation for the next eCl@ss major version 8.0 (November 2012) is based on a real consensus among the participants and thus represents a true team effort.

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eCI@ss-Workshop in Shanghai – a great success

On 19th of October 2011 the eCI@ss office China, in cooperation with eCI@ss IT service-provider Paradine GmbH and Weidmüller Interface GmbH & Co. KG, together invited to an eCI@ss introductory workshop in Shanghai.

Reinhard Pohn, CEO of Paradine gave detailed information about the eCI@ss organization, the structure as well as the eCI@ss data model and demonstrated successful application examples and implementation of eCI@ss in companies such as AT&S and Siemens Energy.



Gerald Lobermeier, product data manager at Weidmüller Interface, presented the advantages of data optimization with eCI@ss 7.0 at Weidmüller. With about 30 participants from various industries and sectors, from Chinese industry heavyweights such as Xueji Group and Huawei Digital Technology, to international companies like Schneider Electric, Wacker Chemie, ZF, Aucotec, GEA Industrial Heat Exchanger Systems, Siemens and AT&S, representatives of research facilities of the Nanjing University and the CNCT ST (China National Committee for Terms in Sciences and Technologies) and Infoterm (International Information Centre for Terminology) were also actively involved in the workshop.



The workshop enabled a better understanding and a deeper insight into the basics of the international eCI@ss standard. This was reflected especially in a lively final discussion on the various possibilities of realization in application and implementation of eCI@ss in companies.

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Guideline for the use of eCl@ss and BMEcat



Until eCl@ss 7.0 the eCl@ss dictionary only contained the basic representation. Catalogs with product descriptions according to the eCl@ss Basic representation could use both, the BMEcat2005 format and BMEcat2005+onto, depending on the underlying representation.

Starting with eCl@ss 7.0, for some classes an advanced representation was introduced in addition to the basic representation. There exists a complete mapping of properties in the context of the basic representation into their corresponding context in the advanced representation. Product descriptions according to the advanced model require the BMEcat 2005.1 format. Starting with eCl@ss 7.0, the eCl@ss dictionary is available (www.eclasseclassdownload.com) in three formats, one CSV based and two XML based formats.

The eCl@ss Basic version in CSV- and XML- format contains only the basic representation and does not take into consideration of the default aspect. Therefore catalogs based on this delivery can be created in the BMEcat2005 format.

The eCl@ss Advanced XML format contains both the basic and advanced representation and is aware of the default aspect. To create a catalog according to the advanced XML delivery of the eCl@ss dictionary, the BMEcat 2005.1 format is required even when using the basic representation.

Further information and a detailed document on the use of eCl@ss Basic / Advanced and BMEcat can be found in the eCl@ss- wiki:

http://wiki.eclass.de/wiki/Technical_information_for_implementors

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ServicePortal has been renamed as Content Development Platform



ContentDevelopmentPlatform



To meet the ever-changing needs of users, the eCl@ss standard has to be extended permanently. This is due to the innovation of companies and new industries. New products come on the market and need their correspondent in the eCl@ss classification system. New functions and features of products result in extension of eCl@ss property lists.

The eCl@ss association operates a working and transfer platform which comprises the areas eCl@ss Website, eCl@ss-wiki eCl@ss ServicePortal, and eCl@ss DownloadPortal. The platform supports users and developers of the eCl@ss standard and the members of the association in the maintenance, use and further development of the eCl@ss standard. To avoid misunderstandings regarding the different offers, the ServicePortal has now been renamed as eCl@ss Content Development Platform (eCl@ss-CDP).

The eCl@ss-CDP, which has been integrated into the working and transfer platform, provides a tool for everybody involved in the development process, the users and the eCl@ss bodies, by means of which any interested company can initiate electronic extensions and changes and where the request can be edited and reviewed until eventual publication in the eCl@ss standard.

Request for changes and supplements of the eCl@ss standard is primarily carried out by means of the eCl@ss Content Development Platform www.eclass-cdp.com. When submitting their requests, the applicants need to observe the current guidelines, rules and directives of the eCl@ss association. To enable all users to employ eCl@ss on an international scale, it is necessary to enter the English language version in addition to the German version.

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B2B-Online-Branding: The early bird catches the worm

Since 7th of November 2011 the auctions of eCl@ss reference pictures are running - however the eCl@ss members took advantage of their opportunity before the end of these auctions. They embraced the offer of the eCl@ss association and made their product pictures available.

Under http://www.eclass-pictures.com/catalog/eclass_images.php, the first around 100 pictures can be reviewed. However, this also applies to all other interested parties: The early bird catches the worm. Because: The reference picture sites will be auctioned within a reverse auction and then become the online reference for a product class in eCl@ss for 24 months. The concept is presented here www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up_5S7m8EVs.

Using eCl@ss reference pictures, your product picture are displayed as reference for an entire product group in the eCl@ss-search and in online marketplaces such as IndustryStock:

Example of reference pictures in the eCl@ss search:

http://www.eclasscontent.com/Input_isolator...



Example of reference pictures in marketplaces:

[http://www.industrystock.de/...](http://www.industrystock.de/)



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