



## BPMI.ORG AND WFMC ANNOUNCE INTENT TO DISCUSS MERGER

### **Philadelphia, PA USA – May 16, 2005 - AIIM Conference and Expo:**

The Business Process Management Initiative (BPMI.org) and the Workflow Management Coalition (WfMC) announced here today that they intend to engage in exploratory discussions regarding a merger. Members of both organizations recognize that many logistical, technical, and cultural issues need to be addressed.

Talks on a possible merger follow on joint work at the BPM Think Tank in Miami in March 2005 hosted by BPMI.org, which paved the way for closer communication. The two organizations demonstrated their desire to collaborate on reducing standards overlap in the process arena.

"We have work to do to unify a process stack from the highest level modeling to the lowest level of execution," said Jeanne Baker, BPMI.org Chairman and Vice President, Technology for Sterling Commerce. "WfMC shares our passion. We both believe in process, BPMN, and the work ahead. WfMC members offer strong worldwide support that produces new work and maintains existing standards in a timely fashion."

Jon Pyke, Chair of WfMC and CEO, TheProcessFactory, noted, "There is a huge reservoir of process knowledge within the WfMC community such as XPDL and Wf-XML that can be leveraged within a merged organization. BPMI has demonstrated their commitment to process innovation and royalty free standards and we fully support these goals."

By pooling members and resources into one new organization, a merger addresses the demand for standards convergence while utilizing the intellectual property and strengths of both organizations. Preliminary discussions will include developing a possible roadmap for the merger.

### About BPMI.org ([www.bpmi.org](http://www.bpmi.org))

BPMI.org (the Business Process Management Initiative) is a non-profit corporation that aims to empower companies of all sizes, across all industries, to develop and operate business processes that span multiple applications and business partners, behind the firewall and over the Internet. The Initiative's core objective is to promote and develop open, complete and royalty free xml-based standards that support and enable Business Process Management (BPM) in industry. BPMI.org embraces existing standards where appropriate, working with complementary standards bodies such as the OMG, WfMC and OASIS. In areas where standards are lacking, BPMI.org focuses on standards development to support the entire lifecycle of business process management—from process design, through deployment, execution, maintenance, and optimization.

### About the Workflow Management Coalition ([www.wfmc.org](http://www.wfmc.org))

The WfMC, founded in August 1993, is a non-profit, international organization of workflow vendors, users, analysts and university/research groups. The Coalition's mission is to promote and develop the use of workflow through the establishment of standards for software terminology, interoperability and connectivity between workflow products. Comprising over 300 members worldwide, the Coalition is the primary standards body for this significant software market. The creation of the WfMC Standards Reference Model has proved its importance in other areas of technology, most notably the ISO Seven Layer reference model for computer communications.

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