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G27 Approved RS Originator Organization (ARO) Template

Sponsor (SC or NB): SC2

Date of Application: 2006-005-02

ARO Candidate Name: The Unicode Consortium

Note: URLs to specific portions of an organization's web site are acceptable answers throughout this document.

1. General Information about the ARO Candidate

This section shall address the following:

- A) A Brief History of the ARO Candidate:
 - i. <http://www.unicode.org/history/>
 - ii. <http://www.unicode.org/consortium/consort.html>
 - iii. <http://www.unicode.org/history/tenyears.html>
 - iv. <http://www.unicode.org/history/merger.html>
- B) The contact information and organizational structure of the ARO candidate:
<http://www.unicode.org/contacts.html>
- C) The scope of standardization work within the ARO Candidate.

The Unicode Consortium is a non-profit organization originally founded to develop, extend and promote use of the Unicode Standard, which specifies the representation of text in modern software products and standards. The Unicode Consortium actively develops standards in the area of internationalization including defining the behavior and relationships between Unicode characters. The Consortium cooperates with W3C and ISO and has liaison status "C" with ISO/IEC/JTC 1/SC2/WG2, which is responsible for refining the specification and expanding the character set of ISO/IEC 10646.

2. Co-operative stance

This section shall address the following:

- A) Has the ARO candidate been notified that JTC1 is preparing to consider the organization as an ARO? YES
- B) Has the ARO candidate indicated any reluctance for JTC1 to consider the organization as an ARO? NO

2.1 Ongoing maintenance:

This section should address the following:

- A) What arrangements have been made for the ongoing maintenance of the documents created by the ARO that are normatively referenced by JTC 1 standards?
Several RER reports have been prepared and several statements have been submitted to ITTF about the expected ongoing maintenance of the Unicode Standard and its various technical reports.
- B) Has consideration been given to maintenance of the ARO candidate's standards if the ARO ceases operation?
This situation is not anticipated. The Unicode Consortium technical committees have regular meetings with good attendance, and the membership has been steady for many years, with recent increases as more companies and other standards development organizations realize its importance for the development of internationalized products and solutions worldwide.

2.2 Changes

This section should address the following:

- A) What is the flexibility of the ARO candidate to apply changes to an RS if so requested during the balloting process of a referencing standard?
The Unicode Consortium is willing to review such proposals all the time. It is a liaison type C with SC2 and is always present at the technical working group (SC2/WG2) to provide input and ensure the synchronization of ISO/IEC 10646 and the Unicode Standard. Both of these standards have been normatively referenced by a variety of other standards

development organization in JTC1, ISO, IEC, ITU, W3C, IETF and others.

2.3 Availability of the referenced specification

This section should address the following:

- A) What is the status of public availability¹ of the ARO candidate's specifications? It is available on-line at: <http://www.unicode.org>
- B) What is the URL or address where the ARO's specifications may be acquired? <http://www.unicode.org>

3. Intellectual property rights

This section should address the following:

- A) Is the IPR policy of the ARO candidate publicly available or attached to this application? It is based on the IPR policy of ANSI. It is publicly available on the organization web site at: http://www.unicode.org/policies/patent_policy.html.

3.1 Patents:

This section should address the following:

- A) Does the ARO candidate meet the ISO/IEC policy on patent matters? YES
 - i) If not, what difference or differences should JTC 1 be aware of?

3.2 Copyrights:

This section should address the following:

- A) What copyrights exist, and what copyrights is the ARO candidate willing to grant, throughout both the evaluation and the publication cycle, of specifications developed by the ARO candidate? They have the copyright to The Unicode publications but are willing to license it to standards development organization when necessary.
- B) Will the ARO candidate allow the text of the RS to be attached to a JTC 1 ballot as part of the ballot package for the referencing specification? YES

3.3 Trademark rights:

This section should address the following:

- A) What trademarks apply to the ARO candidate's specifications and with what conditions? For details on the trademarks policy of the Unicode Consortium, see the link at: http://www.unicode.org/policies/logo_policy.html

4. Quality:

This section should address the following:

- A) Has the sponsor (SC or NB) established that the ARO candidate's specifications are of adequate quality, considering topics such as the length of the time the organization and its specifications have existed, whether products have been implemented using the ARO candidate's specifications, whether conformance requirements are clear, and whether the specifications are readily and widely available. YES

5 Review:

- A) Has the sponsor reviewed this application with an authorized representative of the ARO candidate? YES – the President of the Unicode Consortium.

¹ Standards that are Publicly Available to implementers, evaluators and other interested parties for as long as the IS that references them is an active document are those which:

- May be obtained from the source organization by any person (with or without payment) simply by quoting the reference number given in the IS to the source organization or typical supplier.
- Are available in one of the official ISO and IEC languages from a publicly accessible source.
- Are available without contractual limitations relating to its evaluation (other than limitations reasonably intended to restrict duplication and redistribution) and without substantive contractual limits on implementation of the referenced material or the IS as a condition of obtaining access to the referenced material.