BASDA Interoperability Charter

Why is BASDA launching the Interoperability Charter?

Business application software now drives the vast majority of business processes both within and between organisations and hence underpins today's global economy. Increasing the interoperability between these business systems is a pre-requisite to make global business processes more efficient, faster and more green - for example, by automating the transmission of business data between systems and reducing the amount of paper documents which need to be produced.

BASDA has a track record of bringing key software industry players together to set standards which enable diverse systems to talk to each other. The BASDA Interoperability Charter is the next milestone on this journey. It will identify and recognise the organisations committed to increasing the ability of their customers to improve business process efficiency and drive competitive advantage.

What is Interoperability and why is it important?

Interoperability is the ability of diverse applications, processes and organizations to work together (inter-operate). Interoperability, within IT systems, is a property of an application-enabled process, whose interfaces are completely understood, to work with another application-enabled process in a way that delivers improved efficiency and user value.

Businesses are increasingly reliant on application software to support business processes. Technology has enabled functional gains within individual process steps. Interoperability is essential to deliver efficiency to the many interfaces that exist between process steps. Without interoperability, ostensibly application-based processes remain limited by slow and expensive manual stages, such as printing and posting documents rather than exchanging the data file.

A lack of interoperability is now recognised as a significant drain on the world economy. The European Association of Corporate Treasurers (EACT) stated that realising electronic invoicing alone could reduce supply chain costs by over €230 billion across Europe as well as help streamline business processes and help drive innovation. And that is just invoices.

Interoperability is a key responsibility of application service providers. BASDA is therefore committed to supporting its members in delivering solutions that enable an efficient, integrated and innovative business environment.

Charter Principles

Signatories to the BASDA Interoperability Charter agree to play their part in improving interoperable business and to work in accordance with the following Charter Principles:

- We take pro-active steps to increase the interoperability by promoting and adopting the BASDA XML Standards.
- Our application software enables customers to become part of an interoperable economy.
- Via BASDA, we will work to achieve continual improvement in interoperability – including understanding customer requirements and implementing services that facilitate those requirements.
- To work as an industry through BASDA to educate and increase awareness of interoperability issues as they relate to business application software.

By signing up to the Charter …

- We agree to the Charter Principles, as listed above.
- We agree, where our applications processes involve the sending/receiving of documents or data covered by one or more of the *BASDA Interoperability standards* (such as the eBIS invoices, orders, utility invoices and sustainability data), that we will:
    - Support and promote the Interoperability Charter Principles
    - Display the official BASDA Charter Mark (provided by BASDA) as a "Charter Member" together with indication of only those BASDA standards currently supported within our application(s)
    - Facilitate interoperability with other applications using the relevant BASDA standard(s)
- We agree to pay BASDA a nominal annual fee for use of the BASDA Interoperability Charter logo. The annual fee is currently £100 + vat and payable based on a calendar year.
- We agree to BASDA publicising your support of the charter e.g. in press releases, newsletters and interviews.
- We agree to only display the BASDA Interoperability Charter Mark when we have signed the charter and made the first payment.

Agreement:

1. My organisation supports the BASDA Interoperability Charter Principles: **Yes / No**

2. My organisation will pay the annual fee as indicated: **Yes / No**

3. Our application(s) support the exchange of information using:

    3.1 The BASDA eBIS Purchase Order Standard **Yes / No**

    3.2 The BASDA eBIS Invoice Standard **Yes / No**

    3.3 The BASDA eBIS Utility Billing Standard **Yes / No**

    3.4 The BASDA eBIS Green XML Standard **Yes / No**

4. My organisation will provide BASDA with a short supporting quote which could be used in press releases, the BASDA website and within supporting documentation. **Yes / No**

5. Start date: _____

6. My company, within 3 months of signing the Charter, will issue its own Interoperability-related press release and which will reference details about our support for interoperability and the BASDA Charter objective. **Yes / No**

7. Should my organisation no longer support the Charter, I will remove the Charter Logo from my Website, documentation and publicity material within 9 months. **Yes / No**

Signed: **Name:**

Date: **Position:**

Company:

The BASDA Interoperability Framework

Interoperability ... the ability to operate collectively

High Level Stages and Components of a BASDA Interoperability Framework

Stage 1: Application to Data
- Data interface
- Security
- Messaging Protocol / Data Standard (e.g. BASDA XML, cXML, …)
- Application Protocols (Web Services, …)
- Open and common Specifications
- Traceability and Audit

Stage 2: Data Transfer
- Transport mechanisms (AS2, HTTPS, sFTP, Web Services, ...)
- Security
- Push / Pull
- Open and common Specifications
- Traceability and Audit

Stage 3: Data Transformation
- Translation
- Security
- Messaging Protocol / Data Standard (e.g. BASDA XML, cXML, …)
- Open and common Specifications
- Traceability and Audit

Stage 4: Data to Application
- Security
- Messaging Protocol / Data Standard (e.g. BASDA XML, cXML, …)
- Application Protocols (Web Services, …)
- Open and common Specifications
- Traceability and Audit