



Technical Committee April 2008 Report to the General Assembly

The Technical Committee is one of four IHTSDO Standing Committees. The Committee has scheduled monthly teleconferences, and since the October 2007 face-to-face meetings in Copenhagen, has met four times.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Key accomplishments of the Committee and the Working Groups, Project Groups, and Special Interest Groups that report to it, since the October 2007 meetings include:

- *High Level Technical Architecture and Principles:*
The Committee has been working on a high level document to guide future technology investment. Adherence to a set of architectural principles should help to ensure that tools selected for use in the IHTSDO and Member countries can interoperate to best meet their requirements for collaboration. The Architecture and Principles are undergoing final drafting for wider consultation amongst the IHTSDO community. The IHTSDO Board has also developed a set of investment principles, which will be incorporated in the architecture to guide future procurement and expenditure in technology.
- *Technology Roadmap:*
Work has recently been initiated to develop a roadmap which shows the various components of infrastructure required to support IHTSDO – from collaborative workspaces and SNOMED browsers through to authoring and terminology release environments. This document will be further discussed at the April Chicago meetings, to identify priority areas for further tool development and investment as resources permit.
- *Open Health Tools Consortium:*
The decision of the IHTSDO Board to join the Open Health Tools consortium has been supported by the Technical Committee who see this as an opportunity to work with the software development community, to share tools and to develop open source components which can be used to accelerate the implementation and uptake of SNOMED CT.
- *Project Groups:*
A number of project groups are working on particular aspects of SNOMED CT development which will require specialist tools to support their work. These groups have been specifying and documenting their technology requirements, and members of the Technical Committee have volunteered to participate in their activities and provide a feedback loop to the Technical Committee. The key aim is to ensure that all procurement and development will align with the agreed architectural approach.



AREAS OF FOCUS

At the April 2008 meetings and in the following 6 months, the Committee and the Working Groups, Project Groups, and Special Interest Groups that report to it will be focusing on:

- Refining the Technology Roadmap, and with the Management Board, identifying priorities for inclusion in the 2009 Work plan

Note the Technical Committee is currently operating without Executive Officer support. Committee members have recommended that the IHTSDO consider appointment of a Chief Technical Architect as high priority, if momentum in this area is to be maintained/accelerated.

RELATED GROUPS

The following Project Groups report to the Technical Committee - particularly in terms of implementation and technology requirements. (Note some of these groups will report through the other Committees, particularly in developmental phases prior to implementation):

- a. Request Submission Project
- b. Translation Project (Tooling requirements only)
- c. Mapping Project (Tooling requirements only)
- d. Collaborative Workspace Project
- e. Enhanced Release Format Project (Note: Direct report is to R&I)
- f. MOLF – Asset Register (Tooling requirements only)
- g. Machine and Human Readable Concept Model Project Group (Technical implementation aspects)