



ECA Standards & Technology eWorkspace—Essential leap in technology now in our Standards Development Arsenal —

State-of-the-art technology has been deployed at ECA for the benefit of its standards development committees. We have a sophisticated new electronic collaboration website allowing committees, working groups, and technical advisory groups considerable flexibility in options to facilitate the communication within those groups.

ECA has studied the evolving tools that have become available during recent years meant to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the standards development process. Let's face it, nothing is

allows for economy of scale, but allows for those who would normally need to attend multiple meetings to reduce the amount of associated travel to multiple locations throughout the year and provides a venue for better participant networking.

Teleconferences

Teleconferences have facilitated the advancement of project teams between meetings. Prior to effective use of teleconferencing, the growing pressure of participants' workloads back at the office encouraged the tendency to postpone assigned action items from the face-to-face meetings until just prior to the next meeting.

Web Conferencing

ECA subsequently implemented Web Conferencing, which has gone another step closer to simulating face-to-face communications. For example, everyone can see the document that is being discussed while listening to the presenter, and edits can be made real-time.

The art of applying these tools is through proper application. Teleconferencing is difficult once the group gets larger in count. Web Conferencing is similar; good for presentations with limited participation by the audience, but limited in many ways for group discussions and deliberations.

Congratulations — CE-2.0

Congratulations go to the CE-2.0 Committee on Connectors for being the first to successfully complete an official round of balloting for standards by using the ECA eWorkspace. They reaffirmed five standards: ANSI/EIA-364-11B, 364-12A, 364-62A, 364-81A, and 364-82A. What has in the past become a somewhat burdensome task to track and accomplish; mainly that of getting the participants to respond in a timely fashion to email ballots, has been accomplished in the very successful alternate approach kickoff of balloting on the ECA eWorkspace. There was 100% response to all five ballots, all well ahead of the ballot deadlines.

as effective as direct face-to-face communications, but industry is evermore challenged by the changes and accompanying pressures of market demands.

Meetings Consolidation

ECA originally began to approach the issue by consolidating various committee meetings into the Engineering spring and fall Summits. This not only

Email communication with attachments works to a degree, but often ends up with multiple differing versions of documents and comments crossing in the mail. It lacks a centralized coordination. This is especially dangerous in the development of industry standards where demonstration of conformance to the process is of paramount importance.

Electronic Collaboration

The ECA Standards & Technology eWorkspace is a dynamic tool especially designed to facilitate the development of projects with an initial focus on the development of standards, but applicable beyond that scope.

ECA has worked over the last year with Kavi Corporation to take the EIA standards development process from a paper and email process to a state-of-the-art secure flexible managed consensus electronic collaboration workspace.

The eWorkspace provides a web-accessible location for a defined group to securely post and share documents, comments, calendar events, committee roster contact information, action items, blast emails, polling, and official balloting on the approval of standards for publication. There is the capability to track the evolution of the draft documents, who submitted proposed changes, how and if those proposals were dealt with, minutes of meetings, verification of quorums and successfully meeting the criteria for approval of an official standard for publication, all essential elements to accreditation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

The system is capable of notification that ballots are being posted for vote, and when the ballot has closed. It can send out reminders to voters who

ATTENTION:

Current participants in the ECA eWorkspace may get to the site via the Engineering Tab on the ECA website: www.ecaus.org

have not already voted, without disturbing those who have already voted. Any comments that may be submitted are tracked by a comment tracker to ensure that all are dealt with appropriately.

Needless to say, this is an extremely powerful tool now available to the committees. It will not only foster the quicker development of standards, but

also will eliminate much of the paper processing that has traditionally taken place behind the scenes. Most of that will now be available by downloading electronic reports from the system.

ECA is responsible for the EIA Industry Standards Development Program, which is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This will greatly facilitate documentation requirements such as for the periodic audit process that is part of the accreditation requirements for being an ANSI-accredited Standards Development Organization (SDO).

Each participant has a user-friendly individualized landing page that keeps the individual informed of what has changed since the last visit, what ballots, if any require voting, if there have been any action items assigned, and information on any upcoming

A New Tool

Available anywhere, anytime through an individualized landing page.

telecons, web conferences, or face-to-face meetings.

As this dynamic compendium of tools is deployed, ECA continues to work closely with Kavi on its Development Advisory Group to continue to improve the software functionality.

For questions about the service contact:
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