

# *ETFA2008\_SS\_09*

## **Invitation to the Special Session on Tackling enterprise interoperability topic through various points of view**

**at the 13<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies and  
Factory Automation**

**September 15-18, 2008, Hamburg/ Germany  
Conference web site: <http://www.etfa2008.org>**

### **Technical outline**

From a well defined and almost static environment into which companies were searching to enforce their leading positions, the economic and industrial ecosystem is evolving to a fluid and dynamic world. If collaborations use to be long term relations, well established, and well delimited, nowadays they may be sporadic with moving borders, and based on reactivity, opportunity and technology adequacy. Companies have to adapt their strategy and partnership, their organization and their behavior to this chaotic and ever changing context.

Considering that “*Interoperability of system can be defined as the ability of a system to work with other systems without requiring special effort from user*” (InterOp NoE), interoperability of enterprise can be seen as the adequate collaborative maturity level (of enterprise) to deal with current economic context, strategic partnership and industrial requirements.

Directly influenced by this contextual evolution, collaboration between enterprises is a challenge which can be resumed by those words: “far away, faster, and stronger”

- Far away: connecting customers, partners or suppliers is now a worldwide activity,
- Faster: volatile and opportunist alliances substitute to old and regular relations,
- Stronger: collaboration seems to be very intensive because exchanges and work sharing are emphasized (data, information, services, business processes, etc.).

Finally seen as an inescapable issue to remain competitive and adapted to today’s requirements, enterprise interoperability can be broached through several points of view. This session aims to present works centered on interoperability of enterprises issues and dedicated to one or several enterprise interoperability points of view.

### **Topics**

This session is dedicated to both practical and theoretical papers from all areas related to interoperability problematic. It may consider, but not limited to, the following relevant themes (which can be seen as interoperability of enterprise points of view):

- Approaches of interoperability solutions: should enterprises adopt a shared solution (standard)? Should enterprises refer to common principles to support their collaboration (metamodel)? Should enterprises be linked only by concepts (ontology)?
- Targets of interoperability solutions: is it a matter of syntactic or semantic differences of information? Or a matter of technological solutions? Or a matter of organization (responsibility, authority)?
- Levels of interoperability solutions: does the proposed solution deals with exchange of data? With sharing of services? With orchestration of collaborative process? With a common business?

- Engineering of interoperability solutions: how to define and build an interoperability solution? What are the different steps of design?
- Measure of interoperability solutions: how to define compatibility? What about maturity levels in collaboration? What about interoperability performance?

**Authors' Schedule:**

Authors should contact the Special Session Organizers as soon as possible

Deadline for submission: **April 30, 2008**

Notification of papers acceptance: **June 1, 2008**

Final manuscripts due: **July 1, 2008**

**Submission of Papers:**

Papers are to be submitted electronically. For further details please consult the conference web pages.

**Session Organizers:**

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