

## Workflow Management Coalition Leader Addresses Role of Business Process Standards July 24, 2007

– BURLINGAME, CA -- Keith Swenson, Technical Committee Chairman of the Workflow Management Coalition (WfMC), addressed an audience over 150 business process professionals on the "BPM Standards Organizations" panel, at the BPM Think Tank organized by OMG. "We see XPDL and business process standards as essential to the business process ecosystem," Swenson stated. "As companies will inevitably be using multiple tools for modeling, simulation, analysis, execution, there must a reliable exchange standard in place. XPDL provides this today and over 70 products have implemented the standard." Describing XPDL's role among process standards, Swenson illustrated the importance of preserving layout in graphical process models using a mass transit analogy, "In order to find your way through a subway, you need a map. Knowing the route from one stop to another is sufficient for trains, but as a human I need a map where stations appear in the same position every time. If the layout is not maintained, if the stations do not appear in the same position from map to map, it is useless. This is the same problem XPDL solves with business process maps." Panellists discussed the state of multiple languages, and the benefit for a single objective, yet different paths to reach it. As Swenson explained, "Business process is a complex domain. As such, we cannot be limited to a 'one-size-fits-all' approach, but need the ability to fit the right language to unique business requirements. We must be careful not to jump to a solution that is too simple." Audience members reaffirmed the goal for arriving at a true executable business process model and questioned whether this was also the goal of the different standards bodies. Swenson discussed the difference between executable models, in particular ones capable of representing human activities, in contrast executable languages such as Java and BPEL. As one panellist observed, "BPEL is designed for the orchestration of web services, not the orchestration of people." About the Workflow Management Coalition (WfMC) Founded in 1993, the Workflow Management Coalition (WfMC) is a global organization of adopters, developers, consultants, analysts, as well as university and research groups engaged in workflow and BPM. The WfMC creates and contributes to process related standards, educates the market on related issues, and is the only standards organization that concentrates purely on process. For More Information visit <http://www.wfmc.org> or email [wfmc@wfmc.org](mailto:wfmc@wfmc.org).