

## SUSE and Lanedo implement OOXML improvements in LibreOffice/OpenOffice.org for local and national authorities

**Stuttgart, 18/07/2012 – Local and national authorities in Germany and Switzerland have pledged a total of € 140,000 to improve OOXML integration in LibreOffice/OpenOffice.org. The programming work will be completed as a partnership between the SUSE LibreOffice Team and the open source experts at Hamburg-based Lanedo. To fully implement the documented specification, the sum of € 30,000 is still needed, for which additional sponsors are being sought.**

In a unique initiative, the German cities of Munich, Freiburg im Breisgau and Jena have joined forces with the Swiss Federal Supreme Court, the Swiss Federal IT Steering Unit (FITSU) and the canton of Waadt to provide € 140,000 for the further development of OOXML integration in LibreOffice/OpenOffice.org. Developed as part of a workshop held in October 2011 and published in December of the same year, the specification is designed to improve the future parsing and editing of documents from Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint in the Open Source office suites LibreOffice and OpenOffice.org. Targeted improvements include the formatting of borders and images, plus tables and bulleted lists in Word (.docx) documents, correct display of comments from Word and Excel (.xlsx) and the possibility of embedding fonts in ODF and OOXML documents.

The tender document for the “Layout-true Representation of OOXML Documents in Open Source Office Applications” project was published by the Open Source Business Alliance’s Office Interoperability working group. Bids were submitted by the LibreOffice Team from SUSE and the Hamburg-based open source company Lanedo. Since the specification is split into self-contained work packages, both SUSE and Lanedo can work independently on the development tasks. Once released, the results of this work will be immediately available to all users of the free office suites LibreOffice and OpenOffice.org.

Just € 30,000 is now needed to fully implement the font embedding work in the document formats. Accordingly, other users of LibreOffice/OpenOffice.org are now being asked to make a contribution to the development work. For more information (and for any general enquiries), please contact the OSB Alliance’s Office Interoperability working group spokesman, Dr Matthias Stürmer: [matthias.stuermer@ch.ey.com](mailto:matthias.stuermer@ch.ey.com), phone +41 58 289 61 97.

### Key stakeholder statements

Dr Jutta Kreyss, IT Architect at Project LiMux, Munich: “For the City of Munich, this is a milestone project. Further development work based on the open standard ODF is a key step towards increasing interoperability for document formats. It plays a leading role in levelling the playing field for users so they can work together without any difficulties.”

Marc von Weissenfluh, Head of IT at the Swiss Federal Supreme Court: “We welcome the initiative aimed at improving compatibility between OpenOffice/LibreOffice and Microsoft’s OOXML format. This is an improvement that has been on the Court’s wish list for a long time now.”

Bernd Mutter, Head of the Citizen’s Service and Data Processing Office at Freiburg im Breisgau: “Especially when exchanging documents with other authorities and institutions, it’s also important to be able to edit Microsoft OOXML documents with Open/LibreOffice while preserving the original formatting.”

Dr Gerald Pfeifer, Director Product Management at SUSE: “As LibreOffice’s biggest supporter, we’re particularly pleased about this project at SUSE. It’s absolutely crucial that our solutions work seamlessly with those from other providers, and the compatibility of LibreOffice with other office suites and their formats is something we’re especially keen to finance. As a user of LibreOffice myself, I’m reminded of how important interoperability is for communication with business partners and colleagues worldwide on a daily basis. This project will make LibreOffice a much more attractive option, especially for councils and other authorities, where

compatibility is often the biggest hurdle to migration.”

Tim Janik, Managing Director of Lanedo: “We are proud that Lanedo can provide its Open Source competence to this exciting project. We stand for free software and open standards like ODF, and our contribution enables every user to take advantage of that. We are especially proud that all adopters of LibreOffice and OpenOffice.org will benefit from the project's outcome, given the open license.”

Italo Vignoli, member of TDF Board of Directors: “The Document Foundation welcomes the substantial funding, that a host of public authorities have invested into improving LibreOffice interoperability in its core market. Thanks to the work on the filters undertaken by the development team, today LibreOffice is by far the best office suite when it comes to the number and the quality of filters: the Swiss Army knife of document conversion between the open-standards native ODF file format and proprietary options like Microsoft Office.”

Peter Ganten, Chairman of the OSB Alliance: “The Open Source Business Alliance works by bringing together users and providers, and this project is an excellent example of how this networking not only benefits those involved, but also drives the targeted development of open source software. And I'd particularly like to thank Matthias Stürmer from the Office Interoperability working group, without whose tireless dedication this project would never have got off the ground.”

### **About the Open Source Business Alliance**

The Open Source Business Alliance - Alliance OSB short - must be developed with 230 members of Germany's largest network of businesses and organizations that open source software, build on it or apply it. Alliance goal of OSB is to make open source software and other forms of open cooperation successful. This is achieved by disseminating information, creating a favorable environment for manufacturers and users as well as through active networking of manufacturers, customers and service providers. This particular play interoperability between different open source and proprietary software systems play an important role. Emerging Alliance is the OSB in 2011 from the merger of LIVE Linux-Verband and Linux Solutions Group (LiSoG). The Open Source Business Alliance has its headquarters in Stuttgart. CEO Peter H. Ganten.

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- Informatiksteuerungsorgan Bund, <http://www.isb.admin.ch>
- Jena, <http://www.kij.de>
- Kanton Waadt, <http://www.vd.ch>
- Lanedo GmbH, <http://www.lanedo.com/about.html>
- München, <http://www.muenchen.de/rathaus/Stadtverwaltung/Direktorium/Li-Mux.html>

- Schweizerisches Bundesgericht, <http://www.bger.ch>
- SUSE, <http://www.suse.com>
- The Document Foundation, <http://www.documentfoundation.org>