Enterprise Interoperability II
Preface

R.J. Gonçalves¹, J.P. Müller², K. Mertins³ and M. Zelm⁴

¹ New University of Lisbon, UNINOVA, Quinta da Torre, 2829-516 Caparica, Portugal, General Chairperson of I-ESA’07
rg@uninova.pt

² Technische Universität Clausthal, Institut für Informatik, Julius-Albert-Str. 4, D-38678 Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany, Co-Chairperson of the I-ESA’07 International Program Committee
joerg.mueller@tu-clausthal.de

³ Fraunhofer IPK, Pascalstr. 8-9, 10587 Berlin, Germany, Co-Chairperson of the I-ESA’07 International Program Committee
kai.mertins@ipk.fraunhofer.de

⁴ CIMOSA Association e.V. at WZL Forum/ADITEC, Steinbachstr. 23, D-52074 Aachen, Germany, General co-Chairperson of I-ESA ’07
martin.zelm@t-online.de

During the last 20 years, the business world has undergone significant changes. Most notably, concepts of cross-enterprise collaboration have been promoted to the center of enterprise strategy. For some organizations, doing business globally has become critical to their survival, whilst others discover new opportunities by focusing their business on a interconnected wide setting. Indeed, not only large organizations set up cooperation agreements with other enterprises, but also SMEs are combining forces to compete jointly in the market. And nowadays, the competitiveness of an enterprise is largely determined by its ability to seamlessly interoperate with others.

Interoperability in the context of an enterprise is the ability to work with others. This capability to interact and seamlessly exchange information both internally and with external organizations, like partners, suppliers, customers, is a key issue for the business success in the enterprise sector. Interoperability research needs to address different enterprise models and architectures, and take the semantics of data, applications into account. This is not only a problem of software and information technologies, thought it implies support of communication and transactions between different organizations that must be based on shared business references.

This book establishes the proceedings of the Third International Conference on Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications (I-ESA’07), held in Madeira Island (Portugal), on March 27—30, 2007. The I-ESA conference series is the result of a cooperation of two very important programmes in the Research and Technological Framework Programme 6 of the European Commission: the Network of Excellence INTEROP “Interoperability Research for Networked

This book is a unique anthology presenting novel visions, concepts, research results and industrial experiences, dealing with a wealth of interoperability research subjects for business, enterprise applications and software. It includes 95 papers selected after a stringent peer review process, with contributions from world-leading researchers and practitioners in the area of enterprise interoperability, and it is an original contribution for the advances of the enterprise interoperability research area.

The book is organized in nine parts addressing the major research areas in the scope of Interoperability for Enterprise Software and Applications:

I Enterprise Modelling and Interoperability Engineering
II Distributed, Decentralized and Adaptable Interoperability Architecture
III Tools and Methodologies for Enterprise Interoperability
IV Semantics and Knowledge Aspects in Enterprise Interoperability
V Model-driven and Service-oriented Integration and Development
VI Collaborative Architecture and Formal Interoperability Approaches
VII Managing, Measuring, and Validating Interoperability
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Enterprise Interoperability II: New Challenges and Approaches is certainly “the book” for those who want to know the future, the forefront of research and the industry expertise in and viewpoints on this very important domain of “Enterprise Interoperability and e-Business”. We believe that this thoroughly prepared volume is of particular value to all readers interested in key topics and most recent developments in a very exciting research field.

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Ricardo Jardim-Gonçalves
Jörg P. Müller
Kai Mertins
Martin Zelm
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