

INTEROP-VLab in brief

Non-profit making international association to develop the Research, coordinate the Education Programmes, promote the Innovation and the Research Transfer and to support the development of Standards in Enterprise Interoperability and associated domains (Enterprise Software and Applications (ERP, PLM, Decision tools...), Application of Future Internet) , in all application domains mainly Manufacturing, Transport, e-Health.

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Editorial, by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Kai Mertins, INTEROP-VLab President

Dear Business Partner, Colleagues and Friends,

I started my new work as the president of INTEROP-VLab after 6 prosperous years under the lead of Prof. Jean-Paul Bourrieres.



INTEROP-VLab was established in March 2007 after running, for 4 years, the INTEROP-NoE (FP6 Network of Excellence), one of the most important EC projects in Enterprise Interoperability. Now we can look back to 10 years networking in Interoperability. That needs some appraisal and we will talk about the celebration at our next General Assembly in Brussels (17-20 June 2014).

The initial phase in setting up such ambitious intentions is finished. As some of the results we can summarise: INTEROP-VLab is well established in the research community in Europe and abroad and has reached a consolidated, stable pole situation.

INTEROP-VLab has developed excellent research results. Research papers and education courses in Ontology, IT-Architecture and Modelling methods are available. From an innovation point of view: the push approach is well established.

For the ongoing time from 2014, the next step will be the transfer of knowledge into innovation. We have already installed the Task forces and Thematic Groups. These are good ways to detect the needs of the market and formulate user oriented solutions. This “pull-approach“ has to be increased, from the development of concepts and software-tools now into applications.

Our new approach: what are the questions (problems) in industry, in government? How can I-VLab support solutions to these problems?

The new board has to manage this change, this turn over into balancing the innovation of Interoperability. A new business plan has been developed for the next 3 years. We will communicate with our partners more frequently by social media in an open network.

I would like to thank very much Prof. Jean-Paul Bourrieres for his work as former President, Prof. Keith Popplewell, Prof. Guy Doumeingts and Cathy Lieu for their unbroken heavy contribution to I-VLab.

I promise I will do my best for INTEROP-VLab. And I expect also a big support from all of you for our common success.

**Best Regards,
Kai Mertins**

Reviewing 10-year story since INTEROP NoE (Network of Excellence)



The term of Prof. Jean-Paul Bourrières as administrator and President of the Board of Directors ended on July 4th, 2013, closing a ten-year period of commitment to support the development of an international community on Enterprise Interoperability:

- as Project Manager of INTEROP-NoE (Nov. 2003 - June 2007), the Network-of-Excellence on Interoperability Research for Networked Enterprises Applications and Software funded under the FP6-IST programme. In line with ERA policy, the aim of INTEROP-NoE was to network a new Europe-wide research community, but also at the worldwide level, based on three disciplinary pillars (Enterprise Modelling, Architectures & Platforms, Ontologies) and to prepare a durable and expanding organization, built on the assets of the NoE.
- in June 2007, he was elected administrator-president of the newly founded INTEROP-VLab aisbl, a self-financed association, for a mandate of three years during which was established the legal, administrative and scientific existence of I-VLab under the instigation of the Board of Directors (Prof. Kai Mertins, Prof. Keith Popplewell, Prof. Jean-Paul Bourrières) and the action of the General Manager (Prof. Guy Doumeingts).
- in June 2010, his mandate of president was renewed, together with the former Board Directors and with the General Manager, for three years. During this consolidation period, INTEROP-VLab has built its international reputation, increased its resources and became a front-line player in key projects.

All through this past decade, Prof. Jean-Paul Bourrières secured the support of University Bordeaux 1 and of “Conseil Regional d' Aquitaine” providing INTEROP-VLab with valuable facilities, hosting the operational office in Bordeaux and the headquarters in Brussels.

The recent activities in INTEROP-VLab

The 7th General Assembly of INTEROP-VLab was held in Brussels on July 4th, 2013. At the end of its 2nd term, the General Assembly has elected a new President.

- Kai Mertins, President, was Deputy Director of the Fraunhofer (IPK), Berlin/Germany until 2012, Professor for Production Management at Technical University of Berlin, and since 2013 CEO and Founder of Knowledge Raven Management GmbH, Berlin.
- Keith Popplewell, Secretary, is Jaguar Cars Professor of Engineering Manufacture and Management at Coventry University, and Director of Coventry University's Future Manufacturing Applied Research Centre (FMARC). He is also a director of the technology transfer network Technology Application Network Ltd.
- Sergio Gusmeroli, Treasurer, is Corporate Research Director TXT e-Solutions SpA and is currently Coordinator of the FP7 Factories of the Future MSEE Integrated Project (Manufacturing Service Ecosystem) and of the FP7 Future Internet FITMAN Phase II Trial about Future Internet Technologies in Manufacturing.

Following Sergio's resignation from the Board in January, for reasons arising from his role in TXT, one new director will be elected during the next General Assembly in June 2014. Jean-Paul Bourrières as Honorary President will continue to be involved in the INTEROP-VLab activities.

Guy Doumeingts is maintained as General Manager of INTEROP-VLab. He is Emeritus Professor at the University Bordeaux 1 (FR), expert in the domain of BPM (Business Process Management), Enterprise Modelling (EM) and Enterprise System Applications (ESA). He is one of the inventors of the GRAI Methodology which is recognized as the unique BPM methodology for enterprise decisional structure. He is involved in the European projects as scientific coordinator in MSEE, and give his expertise in Enterprise Modelling, Enterprise Interoperability, Performance Indicators, IT and Business requirements and Business Models.



Cathy Lieu has been promoted as Deputy Manager of INTEROP-VLab, in charge of the operational management and the communication activities. She is responsible for the Dissemination work packages in MSEE, TELL ME and FITMAN projects.



Beyond the 9 Member Poles (located in Italy, Portugal, Spain, France, UK, Germany, Finland, Norway, Sweden and China (list of partner organizations in each Pole on the [I-VLab platform](#)), the General Assembly has renewed the observation period for 4 organisations willing to create a Member Pole: University Polytechnic of Bucharest (RO), Sofia University (BG), Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) and the Ministry of Superior Education, Science and Technology of Republic of Angola.

Few words on the on-going research projects

I-VLab is currently partner of three FP7 research projects: MSEE, FITMAN and TELL ME. The I-VLab team is involved in different tasks covering Performance Indicators, elaboration of Business Requirements with the link with IT

Requirements of the Use Cases and Pilots, Service Modeling, Management and Dissemination.



MSEE (FP7, Factories of the Future project), “Manufacturing Service Ecosystem”, aims to create new Virtual Factory Industrial Models, where service orientation and collaborative innovation will support a new renaissance of Europe in the global manufacturing context. The MSEE concepts developed in the project provide to Manufacturing industries some innovative methodologies and tools to support their service strategy (more information at www.msee-ip.eu).



FITMAN (Future Internet Public-Private Partnership, Phase 2 project), “Future Internet Technologies for MANufacturing industries”, aims to provide the FI PPP Core Platform with 10 industry-led use case trials in several manufacturing sectors such as automotive, aeronautics, white goods, furniture, textile/clothing, LED lighting, plastic, construction and manufacturing assets management (more information at www.fitman-fi.eu).



TELL ME (FP7 Technology -Enhanced learning project), is a project to develop and improve learning and training in smaller manufacturing environments with the use of technologies. The aim is to bring innovative training methods to SME manufacturers so they can better supply the needs of their markets, which include larger industries (more information at www.tellme-ip.eu).

The Committees, Thematic Groups, Task Forces and Community Group in I-VLab

Researchers in INTEROP-VLab are contributing in the scientific activities at different levels, through the involvement in committees, Thematic Groups and Task Forces which have specific goals:

Scientific Committee, chaired by Guy Doumeingts (INTEROP-VLab, BE),

To work on the strategic development of the scientific activities in I-VLab. Activities planned include:



- elaboration and analysis of the Enterprise Interoperability (EI) topics and associated domains of highest priority for the I-VLab partners,
- compilation of a list of PhD students and their research topics, including their thesis title and abstract among the I-VLab partners,
- identification of the complete list of projects ongoing in EI and Associated domains.



Education Committee, chaired by Raul Poler (Univ. Polytechnic of Valencia, SP),

To develop and manage the education and training activities such as:

- development of a Reference Master in Enterprise Interoperability (EI) in the frame of EC projects (e.g. Marie Curie funding programme),
- creation of vocational courses, new courses and tutorials on the I-VLab e-learning platform for the use of researchers, students and professional training,
- development of Wikipedia articles in the EI domain. For instance, an article on “Enterprise Interoperability” is published at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enterprise_interoperability.



Standardization Group, chaired by Martin Zelm (INTEROP-VLab / DFI e.V.)

To deal with the awareness of standards in EI through:

- promotion of EI standardization via workshops and conferences,
- cooperation with R&D Projects and EI initiatives,
- participation in Standard Development Organization (SDO) working groups.

I-VLab Task Forces (TF)

TF are research-oriented on generic topics of the EI domain and associated domains as Enterprise Systems Application (e.g. ERP, PLM) and Future Internet for Enterprise Systems. There are four TFs in different topics:

- “Scientific Framework” coordinated by David Chen (Univ. of Bordeaux /IMS, FR)
- “MDI/SOA” coordinated by Carlos Agostinho (UNINOVA, PT)
- “EI Practice and Reference Applications” coordinated by Stephan Kassel (TU Zwickau, DE)
- “Ontology for EI” (coordinator to be appointed)

I-VLab Thematic Groups (TG)

TG are oriented Research and Applications of Enterprise Interoperability and associated domains, in specific context like in manufacturing, e-Health, transport, etc... The four TGs cover the following application domains:

- “Enterprise Interoperability for e-Health” coordinated by Elyes Lamine (IRIT, FR)
- “Enterprise Interoperability for Crisis management”, coordinated by Frederick Benaben (Ecole des Mines Albi-Carmaux, FR)
- “Manufacturing Enterprise Interoperability” coordinated by Bob Young (Loughborough University, UK) and Gash Bhullar (Control 2K, UK)
- “Collaborative Supply Networks” coordinated by Eduardo Saiz (IKERLAN, SP) and Raul Poler (Univ. Polytechnic of Valencia, SP)

Community Group on Tool Box for Service and Enterprise Modelling

The concept of a Community Group (CG)

A R&D&I Community Group is a group of persons who share an interest round a topic in the domain of Research, Development and Innovation. The topic in question could be the result of a European Project composed by a Method, a Model and Tools (Software) to support the implementation of the Method and the use of the Model.

The main interests for the partners to join the CG could be:

- To extend the Method and/or the Model (research interest)
- To deliver, maintain, support and extend the Tool (software) (development interest)
- To disseminate, exploit and adapt the asset for further experimentation and use (innovation interest)

The TOOL BOX Service

The European Project named [MSEE \(Manufacturing Service Ecosystem\)](#) has produced several outcomes.

One of the software results of MSEE is a Tool Box for Product-Service Modelling which is going to be released in open source (Eclipse public license*). A first version of the software has been produced at the end of October 2012. Since this time, the Tool Box has been further developed. The TOOL BOX is based on a method called MDSEA (Model Driven Service Engineering Architecture) and on a set of models, all developed inside the MSEE project.

*EPL v1.0 <http://www.eclipse.org/legal/epl-v10.html>

The constitutive meeting of the Community Group will be organized in Brussels on June 20th, 2014, during the next General Assembly Week of INTEROP-VLab (Brussels, 17-20 June 2014). For further information and registration, please contact info@interop-vlab.eu.

Upcoming Events

Ceremony for the 10th Anniversary of Enterprise Interoperability

INTEROP-VLab will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of Enterprise Interoperability activities, on Wednesday June 18th 2014 (19:00) at its Headquarters “Bureau Aquitaine Europe” in Brussels.

- **INTEROP-VLab General Assembly and working meetings** (17-20 June 2014, Brussels, Belgium)
- **20th ICE and IEEE TMC Europe Conference, “Engineering Responsible Innovation in Products and Services”** (23-25 June 2014, Bergamo, Italy) - [more](#)
- **4th Industry Case Studies Program** on Industry Applications and Standard initiatives for Cooperative Information Systems for Interoperable Infrastructures (28 Oct. 2014, Amantea, IT) - [Call for contribution](#)
- **EI2N’2014**, 9th OTM/IFAC International Workshop on Enterprise Integration, Interoperability and Networking (29-30 Oct. 2014, Amantea, IT) - [Call for Papers](#)
- **AICCSA’2014**, Special Track on Interoperability and Future Internet Technologies (10-13 Nov. Doha, QA) - [Call for Papers](#)

Find more information on the I-VLab Platform www.interop-vlab.eu

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