



For Immediate Release

FRAMEWORK FOR ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT DELIVERY AGREED

Negotiations concluded between Subito e.V., Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels, and the International STM Association: E-delivery of scientific articles is put on contractual footing

17 DECEMBER -- In December 2007, after extensive negotiations, representatives of Subito e.V., a Berlin-based consortium of scientific libraries in German-speaking countries, and representatives of various international and German STM publishers have endorsed the text of a framework agreement concerning the delivery of scientific documents within German-speaking countries.

The terms of the agreement permit the member libraries of the Subito consortium to reproduce and electronically deliver any article requested by students, private persons or business within Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. This agreement complements the so-called international framework agreement between various STM publishers and Subito e.V. concluded in July 2006. The framework has been agreed on the basis of the new German Copyright Act entering into force in January 2008.

“The framework now endorsed by both parties provides a solution more certain and less cumbersome than the one to be introduced by §53a of the new German Copyright Act. The overarching goal to provide scientists and researchers with documents they require in a secure legal environment has led us to agree to this contract just in time, thereby avoiding a serious rupture in the supply of electronic documents.”, said Dr. Berndt Dugall, President of subito e.V., Director of the library of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt a.M., Germany.

“I am happy that consensus has been reached and I am fully convinced, that the new rules provide great benefits not only to libraries and publishers but also and foremost to users of scientific literature”, said Dr. Gottfried Honnefelder, President of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and himself a scientific publisher.

“STM seeks opportunities for cooperation between publishers and librarians and compromises that enable the continued delivery of STM content, especially in a digital context. During negotiations both sides ultimately agreed that even the newly enacted legal rules could only imperfectly do justice to the finer points of academic and scholarly communication. Through mutual give and take an acceptable solution

has been worked out that also has the merit of sustainability”, said Michael Mabe, CEO, STM.

The agreement now endorsed enables the conclusion of individual licensing agreements for an initial five-year term. These agreements will authorise Subito and its member libraries to use the content of published scientific journals for electronic document delivery. Publishers set a rate for the delivery of documents to private persons and for businesses. Students, public and non-commercial libraries as well as academics benefit from a substantial discount under the agreement.

In the coming months Subito e.V. will seek to conclude individual agreements with numerous national and international scientific publishers. On this basis, the member libraries of the Subito consortium are to be authorised to deliver electronically documents published from thousands of important scientific journals also after the new German Copyright Act comes into effect in January 2008.

The text of the framework agreement may be accessed or downloaded at:

www.stm-assoc.org/subito and at <http://www.boersenverein.de>

A Quick-guide and tool-kit for sign-up (for publishers) will be provided in the coming days. For additional information please contact:

International Association of STM Publishers <http://www.stm-assoc.org>
Phone: +44 1865 339321 and <mailto:info@stm-assoc.org>

or:

Carlo Scollo Lavizzari, Legal Counsel to STM
6, rue de Rive, Geneva 1204, Switzerland
Phone +41 22 321 4930
Fax +41 2 321 4931
csl@cslaw.ch