OSIA Initiative Framework
(Open Standards Identity APIs)

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1. Purpose of the OSIA Initiative

The Secure Identity Alliance is a grouping dedicated to supporting general awareness and spreading best practices in the field of products and services based on Government-issued eIdentity.

In this context, the Secure Identity Alliance has launched the OSIA Initiative. OSIA stands for Open Standards Identity API.

The OSIA Initiative aims at devising, releasing and updating an open standard, freely available to all providers and customers, for products and services based on Government-issued eIdentity, which may thus become inter-operable, facilitating the expansion and interaction of eIdentity programs, with no vendor lock-in.

2. Stakeholders invited to take part in the OSIA Initiative

The following stakeholders are invited to take part in the OSIA Initiative:

> Members of the Secure Identity Alliance: Founding Members, Full Members and (upon invitation by the Alliance's Board) Associate Members. All Members are entities with a commercial activity in the field of Government-issued eIdentity.

> Observers of the Secure Identity Alliance: (both upon invitation by the Alliance's Board) Advisory Observers and Associate Observers. Advisory Observers are government, academic, consulting or other persons or entities active in the field of Government-issued eIdentity. Associate Observers are entities with a commercial activity in the field of Government-issued eIdentity, but with a corporate seat outside the European Union.

3. Structure of the OSIA Initiative

Work on the OSIA Initiative is carried out in a dedicated Working Group of the Secure Identity Alliance, under the supervision of an ad hoc Advisory Committee.

4. The OSIA Working Group

4.1. Purpose

The purpose of the OSIA Working Group is to manage the development of, devise, update and release the OSIA technical and functional specifications.

The OSIA Working Group is also charged with devising the means for testing, accrediting and certifying the products using the OSIA specifications.

It works under the terms and conditions set out in the attached SIA Open Source Charter for the development of a Standard of Interconnection between Registries, with which all members of the Working Group must comply. More generally, all members of the Working Group commit to complying with the rules governing the Secure Identity Alliance, including notably its Code of Conduct and Charter of Compliance. The Secure Identity Alliance's general IPR Policy does not apply however (the aforementioned SIA Open Source Charter is applicable).

4.2.   Participation

The OSIA Working Group is open to Founding Members and Full Members of the Secure Identity Alliance.

The OSIA Working Group is also open to invited Associate Members, Advisory Observers and Associate Observers. Invitation is decided by the Board in consideration of:

> Relevant expertise in the field (expertise may be evidenced on certain aspects only, including use of products and services);

> Capability to take on an active role in the Working Group, through identified staff with relevant technical knowledge (mandatory appointment of an architect / technical contributor);

> The absence of a breach of intellectual property rights within the field covered by OSIA that would have resulted in a final decision from a court of justice or any other independent authority having jurisdiction in the three (3) years before applying to join the Working Group.

The Board is entitled to revoke any admission at any time, notably in consideration of a breach of the rules with which the members of the Working Group commit to complying, or in consideration of a lack of active contribution to the Working Group.

4.3.   Working programme and internal organisation

The working programme and the internal organisation of the OSIA Working Group are managed by its Chair, who is appointed by the Board of the Secure Identity Alliance.

Working sessions are to be organised at least once a month (monthly progress call plus bi-monthly technical workshop, by call or physical), and more often depending on ongoing developments and matters.

The Chair is specifically in charge of upholding the Charter of Compliance of the Secure Identity Alliance within the OSIA Working Group.

The Chair drafts minutes of the meetings.

4.4.   Contributions

Non-governmental Advisory or Associate Observers that are members of the OSIA Working Group are requested to contribute financially to the Initiative. At the beginning of each civil year (and in the year of admission, if admission occurs by 30 June), they pay a non-refundable fee for an amount to be determined by the Board of the Secure Identity Alliance. Founding, Full and Associate Members will contribute via the membership fees paid to the Secure Identity Alliance.

Specific accounting lines in the accounts of the Secure Identity Alliance identify the resources and expenses linked with the Initiative.

5.   The OSIA Advisory Committee

5.1.   Purpose

The purpose of the OSIA Advisory Committee is to provide the Working Group with advice on the general development of the Initiative, including notably issues linked to the use of OSIA, its consistence with its aims (inter-operability, consistence with authorities' needs…), and long-term perspective. It helps spread awareness of, and communicate on, the Initiative.

5.2.   Participation

The OSIA Advisory Committee is open to invited governmental Associate Observers. Admission is decided by the Board in consideration of the capacity to contribute to the work of the Advisory Committee.

5.3.   Working programme and internal organisation

The Advisory Committee is headed by a Chair who supervises work by the Committee, chairs its meetings and synthetises its recommendations.

The first Chair is appointed by the Board of the Secure Identity Alliance, for a term ending end 2020. Following Chairs are appointed by the members of the Advisory Committee for two-year-terms (two civil years), by consensus. In the case of lack of consensus, the Board of the Secure Identity Alliance organizes an election by and among the members of the Advisory Committee, with any new Chair elected when gathering the votes of two thirds of the validly voting members of the Advisory Committee (i.e. excluding abstention and void votes if any). The Chair remains in place while a following Chair has not been appointed.

The Advisory Committee meets at least twice per year (for a call and a physical meeting) with the members of the Working Group. The Secretary General of the Secure Identity Alliance is invited. Members of the Board may also attend, through their Representative and/or other delegated staff.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee may organise other meetings as necessary.

The Chair of the Working Group provides secretariat to the Advisory Committee, notably regarding the preparation of the meetings and the drafting of the minutes. It is in charge of the co-ordination of the work undertaken by the Working Group with the advice provided by the Advisory Committee.

Public announcements or other documents may be released, by agreement between the Chair of the Advisory Committee and the Chair of the Working Group. In case of a disagreement, the Chairs refer the decision to the Board of the Secure Identity Alliance.

5.4.   Contributions

Members of the Advisory Committee are not requested to contribute financially to the Initiative. Voluntary contributions may however be agreed with the Board of the Secure Identity Alliance.