

Overview of XML

~~XML introduces a framework of standardised business-to-business electronic transactions that will improve the competitive landscape of the deregulated retail energy industry. Electronic business transactions amongst between trading partners are often complex, data-intensive communications that are usually costly to establish and maintain. By implementing an XML-based electronic business transaction standard for deregulation, the barrier of entry for Market Participants is lowered by providing a cost-efficient, reliable, and 'open' means of communication between Trading Partners. However, the XML tool might help to overcome some of these problems. Some of the potential benefits of using XML include:~~

- ~~□ XML's ease of development allows small and medium-sized participants users to maintain flexibility while interacting with a wide range of trading partners as a result of its ease of development and maintenance.~~
- ~~□ XML creates a richer structural and semantic environment to express the many roles and relationships among Market Participants.~~
- ~~□ XML's extensibility is key to fulfilling its promise of simplified standards. Ease of parsing and validation allows developers to quickly adapt to changes in the industry as a result of its simple parsing structure.~~
- ~~□ XML is designed for use on the Internet, allowing Trading Partners to minimise their low costs use and development as a result of its incorporation into Internet tools (such as Internet Explorer).~~
- ~~—Encourages the formation of trading partner communities as a result of its growing acceptance across many industries. XML is widely accepted across many industries.~~
- ~~—XML is readable and easily parsed by computers.~~
- ~~□ XML is available in a wide variety of low cost tools, such as Internet Explorer.~~

XML is a tag-based framework used primarily to ~~organize-exchange~~ data in a universally understood format. XML is a subset of the Standard Generalized Mark-up Language (SGML) and is similar to Hyper Text Mark-up Language (HTML). The use of XML facilitates the transmission of information from system to system, independent of platforms. XML was created to deliver structured, readable, usable information over the Internet platform. It is a generalized mark-up language that is platform-independent and extremely flexible. XML can be used to specify the presentation of a document (font size, indentation, etc.) or to specify structure of the document through Document Type Definitions (DTDs) or schemas. XML is designed for Web usage and introduces a new class of documents that do not require a predefined document type. The benefit of XML is that it provides a standard that allows the capacity for ~~processing-exchanging~~ information by non-proprietary software such as search engines, browsers, and parsers. As the interest in E-commerce and EDI over the Internet increases, XML is proving to be a ~~leading factor in enabling~~ tool that encourages business-to-business electronic commerce.