R01019
Gas Industry Standards Board
Request for Initiation of a GISB Standard for Electronic Business Transactions
or
Enhancement of an Existing GISB Standard for Electronic Business Transactions

Date of Request: 24 November 2001

1. Submitting Entity & Address:

______________________________
Systrends, Inc.
______________________________
7855 South River Parkway
________ Suite 111
______________________________
Tempe, AZ  85284-2510

2. Contact Person, Phone #, Fax #, Electronic Mailing Address:

Name : Dick Brooks
Title : Vice President, Secure Systems
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3. Description of Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

Please consider adding a new header element, REFNUM, to the EDI/EDM specification. This header element provides trading partners the ability to uniquely identify outbound messages, enabling greater tracking and auditing ability.
4. Use of Proposed Standard or Enhancement (include how the standard will be used, documentation on the description of the proposed standard, any existing documentation of the proposed standard, and required communication protocols):

The REFNUM header element is defined by the IETF EDIINT AS2 specification as a header data element used to uniquely identify messages. Trading Partners associate a unique reference number with each outbound data exchange in order to track message status. The REFNUM element would be included as an HTTP request data element, along with “To”, “From”, etc.

The Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is currently processing 10 million transactions per month. With this heavy workload it is imperative for ERCOT to maintain automated systems to track the status of a message from application through transport. The REFNUM element provides ERCOT the information necessary to aid logging and tracking of messages.

5. Description of Any Tangible or Intangible Benefits to the Use of the Proposed Standard or Enhancement:

   Improved logging, auditing and tracking of messages.
6. Estimate of Incremental Specific Costs to Implement Proposed Standard or Enhancement:
   The addition of REFNUM will impose a slight incremental cost to software vendors.

7. Description of Any Specific Legal or Other Considerations:
8. If This Proposed Standard or Enhancement Is Not Tested Yet, List Trading Partners Willing to Test Standard or Enhancement (Corporations and contacts):
   Energy Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT)
   ____________________________________________________________
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9. If This Proposed Standard or Enhancement Is In Use, Who are the Trading Partners:
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10. Attachments (such as: further detailed proposals, transaction data descriptions, information flows, implementation guides, business process descriptions, examples of ASC ANSI X12 mapped transactions):
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