



**Support for “Three Category” Approach for Software
Communications Architecture (SCA) Standards and
Extensions**

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Support for "Three Category" Approach for Software Communications Architecture (SCA) Standards and Extensions

The member organizations of the Wireless Innovation Forum (SDR Forum Version 2.0) support the "three category" approach to Software Communications Architecture (SCA) based Software Defined Radio (SDR) standards as recommended by the European Defence Agency (EDA) during SDR'09, the Forum's annual Technical Conference held in Washington DC in December of 2009. This approach provides for evolution of SCA standards, including the SCA base specification, SCA Application Programming Interfaces, and other necessary extensions in a coordinated manner across the international community, recognizing the need for a combination of the following three categories:

1. Areas of open standards with unlimited public access, which are managed in the best interest of all stakeholders (U.S. DoD, EDA, radio providers, waveform applications developers and others) by an independent international organization like the Wireless Innovation Forum.
2. Areas of limited distribution for sensitive multi-national needs, such as for coalition interoperability, which are managed by a relevant multi-national body such as NATO or EDA.
3. Areas of highly restricted access for specific national and sovereign interests which are managed by national bodies.

In supporting this approach, the members of the Forum further agree on the following five items:

- Standards should be placed in Category 1 to the greatest extent possible, as this will maximize the opportunity to grow an eco-system of vendors supporting the defined open standards, and will thus in the long run reduce cost to the government
- The 12 year history of supporting the development of Category 1 standards within the Forum will continue through the newly formed "Coordinating Committee on International SCA Standards". The draft charter of this committee is to:
 - Define an industry driven SCA roadmap for the international community
 - Profile the SCA specification and related APIs to define internationally accepted variants that are hosted by the Forum
 - Develop extensions to the SCA standards that address any gaps between the defined roadmap and a Forum defined SCA profile
 - Provide implementation and certification guides, tools etc. easing implementation and supporting proliferation
 - Establish and manage industry led certification programs where appropriate
- The Forum has interest in hosting the custodianship of some standards, and has the mature [document development](#) and configuration management policies necessary to enable this. The Committee will abide by the policies developed by the Forum on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and disclosure of Restricted and Controlled Information.
- The Forum will initiate negotiation with US DoD and EDA to be recognized as the International Organization managing the Open Standard (Category 1).
- The evolution of these standards could impact government procurement and acquisition programs around the world and as such, the members of the Forum are fully prepared to support strong participation by government stakeholders to ensure architectural consistency.