

The Material Off-Shore Sourcing (MOSS) project is an AIAG initiative designed to improve business procedures and information driving the intercontinental shipment of goods through multiple business partners, from the foreign supplier to the domestic "ship to" party. The attached article describes the motivation for the work as well as much of the progress to date. As an expanded international activity under the IMS Manufacturing Technology Platform Standards initiative, the focus will be on generalizing the results and developing and testing proof of concept validations of the guidelines coming out of MOSS, then moving on to production-quality industrial pilots where the techniques will be implemented with real shipping data and the commercial software systems used by today's manufacturers. The project's alignment with international standards should ensure that MOSS work products have relevance beyond its original focus of importing components into the US. The ability to generalize these work products to other trade lanes has been an incentive motivating the MOSS project.

IMS regional partners interested in becoming involved can contact Steve Ray (ray@nist.gov), or Peter Denno (pdenno@nist.gov) who are serving as liaison between IMS and the MOSS project team.