



Preparing a Specification for PAS Submission

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Resources

This presentation is supported by the document:

- Standing Document N 9
 - <https://jtc1info.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SD-9-Guide-to-the-Transposition-of-PAS-2021.pdf>

Reach out to one of the Standards team to be linked to the document or ask for a call if you would like to discuss it further.

What is a Specification?

A technical specification is a description of requirements, characteristics, and features that a product, system, or process must possess.

A specification is typically developed by a collaboration of companies using a set of procedures that ensure that:

- The specification reflects the technical consensus of the members
- Does not allow a single member to dominate the specification
- Results in a well-documented work product suitable for implementation by the public.

JDF - A “standards organization in a box”

Goal: Allow specification development start quickly at low cost, with the advantages of an incorporated entity and a path to standardization. Scalable to a large format project.

Structure: Nonprofit foundation offering premade, proven agreements, providing flexibility via a check the box approach to establish lightweight legal entities at no cost. Each project entity established by JDF can setup customized Working Groups

OSS Options: Check-the-box IP modes for open-source software implementations and options for meritocracy-based governance

International Options: JDF is a PAS submitter to ISO with the ability to gain international recognition of its Specifications.

Track record: Over 30 projects and growing. Broad technology coverage with a wide base of members.

The Linux Foundation value proposition

- The Linux Foundation has deep roots in Standards setting.
- With the Joint Development Foundation, the LF offers a continuum of programs that can accommodate the simplest collaborations through the most complex standards projects with a path to international recognition.
- Combined with one of the largest developer communities in the world, Linux Foundation offers one of the most comprehensive support communities from concept to implementation and adoption.

Standing out in a Crowd

- Thousands of of Specification Setting Organizations (SSOs)
- Most focused on a particular technical or market vertical.
- Some really good specifications for their specific requirements
- But easy to get lost in sheer numbers.
- Most specifications are components in larger systems.
 - You all know about 802.11 (Wi-Fi)
 - Probably have not heard about Secure User Plane (SUPL) because it is part of a set of technologies that allows your mobile phone to understand where it is relative to its cell tower.
- PAS is a way to connect to one of the premier international standards bodies to distinguish and elevate your project.

JTC-1

- Technical committee of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).
- Responsible for developing and maintaining international standards for information technology.
- Composed of (162) national standardization bodies from around the world
- Meets regularly to discuss and vote on proposed standards.
- The standards developed by JTC 1 are used globally by governments, and businesses to promote interoperability, compatibility, and security.
- JTC-1 manages the PAS process.

The PAS program

- Standards bodies apply to JTC-1 to become authorized PAS submitters.
- There are presently 15 authorized PAS submitters at JTC-1
- JDF treasures its Submitter status and is careful to ensure that our projects are of high quality and have strong potential for adoption.
- PAS submission is a specialized process.
- JDF has a support team that provides assistance
- JDF act as the interface between the project and JTC-1 during the process.

What is a Publicly Available Specification (PAS)?

The JTC1/IEC/ISO PAS process is a fast-track process for the development, approval, and publication of International Standards for information technology.

PAS is an acronym for "Publicly Available Specification".

Process is quicker than the standard ISO/IEC process

Used for standards that are more experimental or rapidly-evolving

JTC1's PAS process offers the benefits that come with an international standard, such as eligibility for use in government/public procurement

Three Documents for Submission

Explanatory report

- Questionnaire from JTC1 that help the reviewers understand what we are sending them.
- Be fact-based, accurate and circumspect about your specification

Text of the Specification

- Very specific editorial standards that need to be incorporated.
- Specific normative language standards as well
- JDF can help edit the specification to conform.

File of the Exhibits

- Folder containing the graphical exhibits in the Specification.

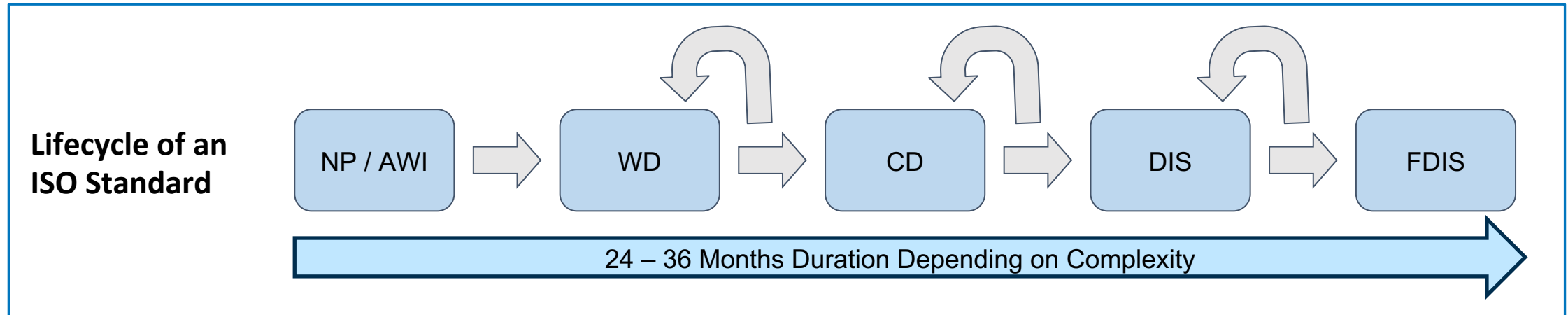
Benefits of PAS

- Enjoys the gravitas of an ISO International specification as it is a recognized ISO specification.
- The submitting organization (in this case your project through JDF) maintains control of the specification and is responsible for updates and new revisions.
- Relieves the Project from the ponderous process of creating a specification within the ISO itself.
- The specification must be developed under the JDF rules using the Traditional Mode or Community Specification mode to ensure that the specification complies with the minimum requirements for a well-formed specification.

Benefits

- Broader audience for your specifications and technologies
- Better alignment with international standards and worldwide industry trends
- Opportunity to shape the cooperation between international standards bodies and open-source communities
- Networking opportunities

PAS is an Efficient Path



Proposal for a New Project (NP) is submitted by an NB or the Committee Secretariat and becomes Approved Work Item (AWI) if approved via an NP ballot

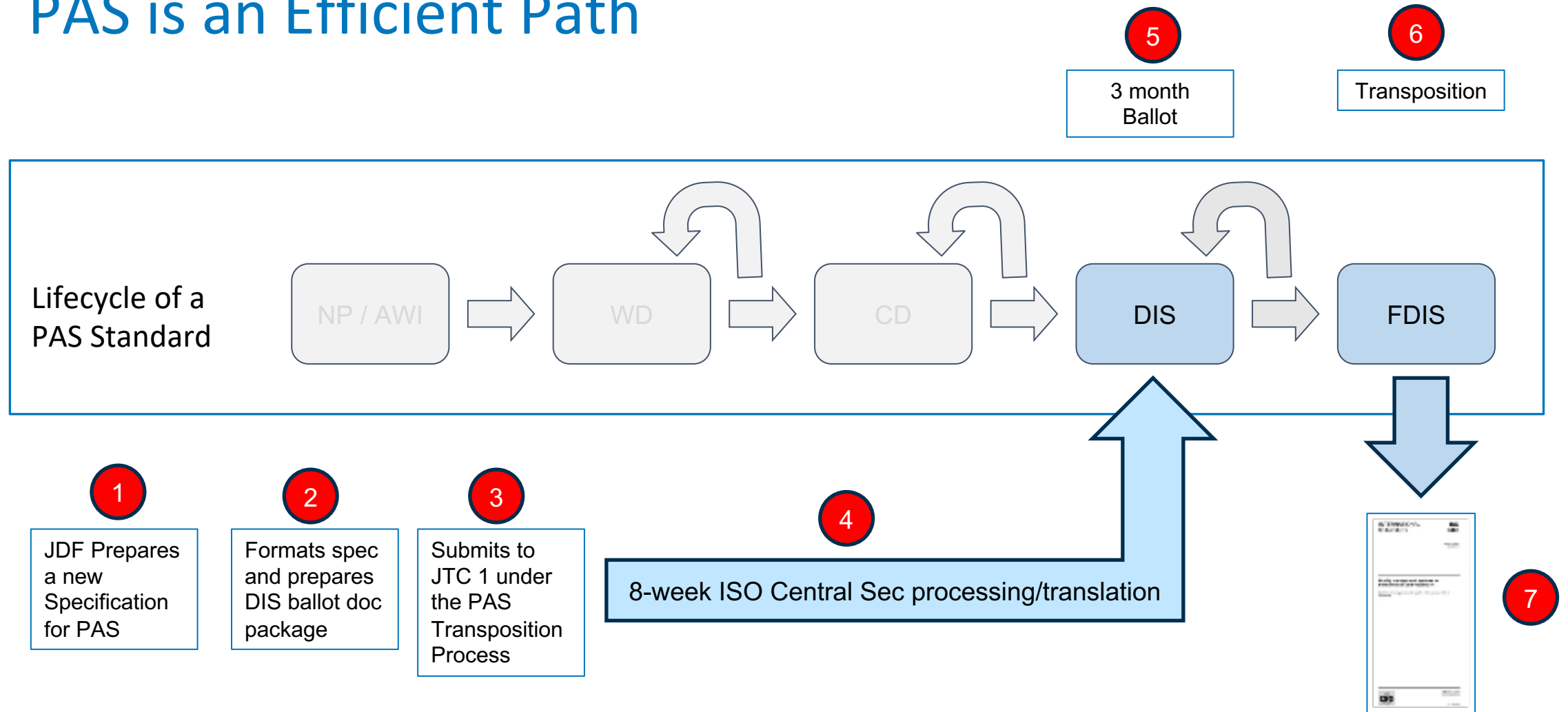
An initial Working Draft (WD) or outline is part of the AWI, WD is developed further by the relevant WG, several (10+) WD cycles are common before CD stage

Once WG considers the WD stable a Committee Draft (CD) is circulated to NBs for comment/vote. At least one CD cycle is required, 2 are common, 3 happen from time to time..

Comments resolved and a Draft International Standard (DIS) document sent to NBs for comment/vote. DIS cycle has to be repeated if it fails

Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) sent to NBs for vote. Only editorial changes allowed. FDIS mandated if any technical changes made at DIS stage

PAS is an Efficient Path



Socialization

- With the PAS process, ISO/IEC is inviting non-ISO bodies to submit potentially competing specifications into their ecosystem. We are respectful of that invitation.
- There is a socialization process with the JTC-1 / ISO committees.
- Avoids overlap and minor differences between similar specifications.
- Be respectful of the guidance from the committees, although we do not have to modify our specifications based on their feedback.

Why does your project want ISO registration?

- Know why you need to turn your Specification into an ISO specification.
- What are you going to do with it once it is accepted?
- Creates a long-term responsibility for your project.
 - Curate the specification
 - Make sure it remains current
 - Maintain it with ISO.
- Make sure the Specification is stable
 - Expect a 6-9 month journey that consumes JTC-1 and JDF resources.
 - Avoid sending revisions while V.1 is still being balloted.

Why does your project want ISO registration?

- Re-balloted every five years
 - Keep your local version in step with the ISO version in the interim
 - Plan for a journey not an event.
- ISO does not automatically bring adoption.
- Is your time is better spent building a user community to drive innovation and adoption?

Criteria for Success

- Meaningful specification
- Broad application outside your specific community. Should have broad adoption potential.
- Well written and complete. Adhere to the ISO editorial standards.
- Should have several implementations as proof of usefulness and quality
- Pay attention to existing standards. Avoid duplication of efforts
- Be ready to engage with others working on similar specifications.
- Take time to do a good job. Standards move slowly. That's a feature, not a bug
- Listen to your JDF Support team and to your PAS mentor

How JDF Can Help

- Make sure your program is working under the JDF banner.
- Let JDF look at your program and your specification to make sure it meets the standards for PAS
- Work with our editors to get a suitable and compliant draft for submission.
- We will help manage the process of getting the Specification through the process
- We will also track the progress of the balloting and record the dates for re-submission or update

What You Should Be Ready For

Put aside some time and money for the project

Page count and specification quality will drive the editorial time and expense.

Your Technical leads should plan to write the Explanatory report and to review the submission documents. The JDF team will guide you.

Your Technical leads will also be important in the process of socializing the specification with the ISO committees. This can lead to important collaboration opportunities if you are prepared to invest the effort. The JDF team will help set up the meetings.

The process can take 6-9 months to complete, so have patience.

Summary

- Placing your Specification can be a way to distinguish your project and make it easier for governments and others to adopt it.
- Becoming an ISO/IEC specification is a long-term responsibility that you should be ready to respect.
- Use the opportunity to develop and network your specification with other SDOs.
- Be sure that PAS is right for your project. Not every specification needs it.
- Rely on your JDF team to help you succeed.

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