

EMDIS 4.0 – Executive Summary for the Final Report of the EMDIS 4.0 Pilot Group

EMDIS has been developed in the early 1990ies with technologies that were state of the art at the time. The main limitations of the current EMDIS implementations are:

- difficult to manage e-mail transport,
- the difficulties in joining the EMDIS network especially for new members, and
- the use of a non-industry standard FML format to encode messages
- difficult to add new, easy-to use features to the outdated platform

EMDIS 4.0 will upgrade the EMDIS network with modern technologies to meet current requirements.

EMDIS 4.0 solves these problems by introducing a new industry standard technology stack: AMQP based messaging and a central broker to exchange messages. This lays the groundwork for easier future integration of new features. The move from peer to peer networking to a central hosted broker will simplify the infrastructure.

The first new feature that users will see is document exchange that allows sending and receiving documents over the EMDIS network in a secure, fast and direct manner, replacing document exchange via e-mail or fax.

The EMDIS 4.0 basics have been discussed and tested in a Pilot Group that focused on solving the current EMDIS limitations and ensuring an easy transition from existing EMDIS implementations. Business processes need not be adapted to join EMDIS 4.0, with the exception of document exchange which is a new feature.

The first steps in implementing EMDIS 4.0 will be to establish the production environment for the central broker and to upgrade the ECS software stacks. Once ready, first registries can shift and pilot the new infrastructure.

The central server approach is a paradigm shift for the currently peer to peer based EMDIS infrastructure. The infrastructure will be owned by the EMDIS community and the maintenance should be delegated to a service provider with EMDIS experience. The cost for running and maintaining a central hosted platform needs to be funded by a fee structure for EMDIS 4.0 access.