



# Industry Call to Action: Help Us Develop Technical Standards - An RFP to Develop UML for NIEM

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The [National Information Exchange Model \(NIEM\)](#) <sup>[1]</sup> provides a commonly understood way to connect data that improves government decision making for the greater good. NIEM enables diverse communities to speak the same language as they share, exchange, accept, and translate information efficiently. In June, government and standards consortia teamed up to develop a call to action for industry to play a greater role in developing standards that support initiatives such as NIEM.

At their [June meeting in Salt Lake City](#) <sup>[2]</sup>, the [Object Management Group \(OMG\)](#) <sup>[3]</sup> Technical Committee ? an organization dedicated to technical standards ? officially approved a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop a [Unified Modeling Language \(UML\)](#) <sup>[4]</sup> Profile for NIEM. UML is a standard language for specifying, visualizing, constructing, and documenting shared information.

## The Value of the Approach

The [NIEM Program Management Office \(PMO\)](#) <sup>[5]</sup> anticipates the new UML profile will enable greater adoption of NIEM by tool vendors, whose tools will simplify the development and implementation of NIEM-based information sharing and exchange functionalities. These tools will be available from both open source and commercial vendors. The ultimate goal is for the government to be able to purchase commercial products with standardized information sharing and exchange ?baked-in? from the start.

For IT folks, the UML profile will minimize complexity and enable a better understanding of what it means to be NIEM conformant. The UML profile will be an industry standard that will enable NIEM developers to develop models of information sharing and exchange across systems, agencies, and levels of government.

## Breakneck Pace for Developing the RFP

A dedicated team from the NIEM PMO, OMG, and PM-ISE developed and delivered the RFP to the OMG in 10 business days ? a significant accomplishment, given its complexity. The team?s next steps include encouraging industry teaming and submissions to the RFP. The team also will review existing NIEM efforts with an eye toward their capability with new standards that could be produced through the RFP process.

In addition, an entire track at the [2011 NIEM National Training Event](#) <sup>[6]</sup> held Aug 23-25 in Philadelphia, PA is dedicated to tools.

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[3] <http://www.omg.org/>

[4] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified\\_Modeling\\_Language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unified_Modeling_Language)

[5] <mailto:NIEMPMO@niem.gov>

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