Chapter IX

Development of the Market of Resources

Introduction

In earlier chapters we have presented the main information and communication technologies and applications that can be used to implement functionalities of the Market of Resources, namely Internet technology, Agent technology, Internet-based marketplaces, etc., and standards for integrability. Electronic Marketplaces aggregate a set of technologies able to respond to some of the requirements of the Market of Resources, which can be complemented with other technologies.

This chapter introduces some technology that can support the development of the Market of Resources and discusses its utilisation, as well as presents a prototype developed to demonstrate the operation of some functions of the Market of Resources. This prototype is used later, in Chapter X, in the analytical simulation of the Market of Resources performance.
Technological Support for the Market of Resources: E-Marketplace Software Platform Providers

This section introduces some of the e-marketplace software platform providers commercially available. From several tens of platforms, we have selected four leading forerunner vendors (Ariba, Broadvision, Commerce One and i2 Technologies) and two emerging e-marketplace software platform from software giants (Microsoft and Oracle), to be analysed from their ability to support some of the Market of Resources’ functionalities.

Currently, maybe due to recently B2B e-marketplaces closing, Ariba and i2 Technologies discontinued their e-marketplace standard solutions, Ariba Marketplace and i2 TradeMatrix platforms, to focus on specialized e-commerce solutions, Ariba Spend Management and i2 Value Chain Management, which can be used for building private e-marketplaces. However, both companies played a very important role on run the development of existing e-marketplace platforms and continue to manage successfully public e-marketplaces (Ariba Commerce Service Network and FreightMatrix).

Commerce One is leading e-marketplace industry, since the e-marketplace boom, and Broadvision is turning one of the most dynamic and prolific e-commerce companies.

Microsoft is the major software company and Oracle is the most important enterprise software company. Microsoft and Oracle are involved with the development of e-commerce solutions, so their importance in the e-commerce arena is expected to increase.

Among the foremost e-marketplace software platform developers not considered in this analysis, we should mention Free Markets and VerticalNet. Both companies’ e-marketplaces are Microsoft supported by Net technology and BizTalk Server 2000. In addition to these more established vendors, several start-ups have emerged with innovative software and services targeted at online marketplaces. Of all the technologies, the most critical areas are multi-vendor catalogues, negotiation systems and online payment transaction solutions.

Ariba

Ariba (http://www.ariba.com) has set the standard for Internet-based user interface and workflow solutions for buy-side e-commerce.

Ariba offers a suite of solutions to help companies manage spending, so that expenses fall faster than revenues in down times, and grow more slowly than
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