**Health Level Seven® International**

## HL7 and Sparx Systems Announce the Winners of the 2012-2013 Tooling Challenge
*New implementation tool will enable commercial UML modeling tools to work with HL7 static models*

**Ann Arbor, MI, USA** – **September 30, 2013** – Health Level Seven® (HL7®) International, the global authority on interoperability for health information technology with members in 55 countries, and Sparx Systems, a leading vendor of modeling tools based on open standards, today announced the winners of the 2012-2013 Tooling Challenge. The challenge was to produce a Unified Modeling Language (UML) profile for HL7's Model Interchange Format (MIF) static models using Sparx Systems' Enterprise Architect that will enable commercial UML modeling tools to work with HL7 static models, which have features that extend the standard UML expressions.

The 2012-2013 HL7 Tooling Challenge winners are Antoni Olivé, professor of information systems and Antonio Villegas, Ph.D. student in computing, both of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Barcelona Tech in Barcelona, Spain. They were awarded the $4,000 prize during the Wednesday morning general session at HL7's September Working Group Meeting last week in Cambridge, MA.

The Tooling Challenge, sponsored by Sparx Systems, required submitters to meet the following qualifications:

- Create a UML profile using Enterprise Architect that correctly describes MIF static models to the extent allowed by the UML language.

- Document parts of MIF static models that were not or could not be expressed in UML Profile Language.

- Use the submitted UML profile to adapt Sparx Systems' Enterprise Architect to express a proper HL7 static model as a proof of concept.

Criteria used to determine the winning submission included:

- Assessment of the profile as a valid UML profile as defined by the Object Management Group (OMG)
- Assessment of the validity and degree with which the profile represents MIF static model constructs
- The ability to utilize the profile in Enterprise Architect to construct valid HL7 static models as defined in MIF
- The thoroughness of the profile documentation and the ability for HL7 Version 3 newcomers to understand and apply it
- Assessment of the extensibility of the profile and its agility with regard to changes in the methodology

HL7 CTO John Quinn stated, "The industry is in need of tooling solutions that will facilitate the implementation and adoption of standards and this challenge has successfully spurred the development of such solutions. We hope that future challenges will continue to address this need and provide developers with the ability to use more off-the-shelf tools."

"Sparx Systems was pleased to sponsor the HL7 Tooling Challenge, which has helped paved the way for future solutions and has set a best practice benchmark for HL7," said Ken Harkin, Business Development Manager for Sparx Systems. "This kind of collaboration opens opportunities for stakeholders within the global health sector and beyond. Sparx Systems looks forward to sponsoring future awards and new solutions to the challenges faced by the HL7 community and the global UML community as well as the healthcare industry overall."

HL7 and Sparx Systems plan to announce the next tooling challenge later this fall. The goal of the upcoming challenge will be to define the requirements and approach for the development of a tooling project for HL7 for static models and the support of HL7-specialized diagramming syntax, moving away from the Visio-based modeling.

**About HL7**

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International is the global authority for healthcare information interoperability and standards with affiliates established in more than 30 countries. HL7 is a non-profit, ANSI accredited standards development organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7's more than 2,300 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which include more than 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 collaborates with other standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Allscripts; Booz Allen Hamilton; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Translational Medicine Institute; Epic; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; IBM; Intel Corporation, Digital Health Group; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technology; Microsoft Corporation; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Siemens Healthcare; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

For more information, please visit: [www.HL7.org](www.HL7.org)

## About Sparx Systems

Sparx Systems is a global software company specializing in high performance visual modeling tools for planning, designing and constructing software-intensive corporate systems. Sparx tools are used by systems designers, corporate planners, business analysts, enterprise architects, standards developers and software engineers.

Sparx modeling software is widely used in finance, defense, government, aerospace, automotive engineering, geospatial (GIS), entertainment, health, smart grid, aviation, retail and telecommunications. Over 80 per cent of Fortune 100 companies have licensed Sparx' flagship modeling tool Enterprise Architect. In the past decade the Sparx user-base has grown from 30,000 to more than 300,000 individuals worldwide. Sparx tools are based on the Unified Modeling Language (UML), an open standard developed by the Object Management Group (OMG), where Sparx Systems is a Contributing member. Sparx Enterprise Architect provides robust support for team-wide collaboration, and can scale up from single-user deployment to teams with dozens or even hundreds of collaborators – including remote collaborators. Sparx software is price competitive even when deployed across the entire development team.

Sparx Systems has won five consecutive SD Times Top 100 awards and two Readers Choice Merit Awards from Visual Studio Magazine and Jolt. Now at version 10, Enterprise Architect is available directly from Sparx or - bundled with expert support and comprehensive training services – from a network of more than 300 technology partners active in North America, Europe, Australia, India, China, Japan, southeast Asia and Latin America. Sparx' Enterprise Architect modeling tool was launched globally in 2000, and has enjoyed more than 15 years continuous development and growth.

####