

FOUNDATION FOR INTELLIGENT PHYSICAL AGENTS

FIPA CFP Communicative Act Specification

Document title	FIPA CFP Communicative Act Specification		
Document number	DC00042A	Document source	FIPA TC C
Document status	Deprecated	Date of this status	2000/10/16
Supersedes	None		
Contact	fab@fipa.org		
Change history			
2000/10/16	Deprecated by FIPA00037		

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Geneva, Switzerland

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1 Scope

This document specifies the Call for Proposal (CFP) communicative act which is compliant to [FIPA00037] requirements.

2 Call for Proposal

Summary	The action of calling for proposals to perform a given action.
Content	A tuple containing an action expression denoting the action to be done and a proposition denoting the preconditions on the action.
Description	<p><i>CFP</i> is a general-purpose action to initiate a negotiation process by making a call for proposals to perform the given action. The actual protocol under which the negotiation process is established is known either by prior agreement, or is explicitly stated in the <code>:protocol</code> parameter of the message.</p> <p>In normal usage, the agent responding to a <i>cfp</i> should answer with a proposition giving its conditions on the performance of the action. The responder's conditions should be compatible with the conditions originally contained in the <i>cfp</i>. For example, the <i>cfp</i> might seek proposals for a journey from Frankfurt to Munich, with a condition that the mode of travel is by train. A compatible proposal in reply would be for the 10.45 express train. An incompatible proposal would be to travel by airplane.</p> <p>Note that <i>cfp</i> can also be used to simply check the availability of an agent to perform some action.</p>
Formal Model	$\langle i, \text{cfp}(j, \langle j, \text{act} \rangle, \phi(x)) \rangle \equiv$ $\langle i, \text{query-ref}(j, \lambda x (I_i \text{Done}(\langle j, \text{act} \rangle, \phi(x)) \Rightarrow$ $(I_j \text{Done}(\langle j, \text{act} \rangle, \phi(x)))) \rangle$ $\text{FP: } \neg \text{Bref}_i(\lambda x \alpha(x)) \wedge \neg \text{Uref}_i(\lambda x \alpha(x)) \wedge$ $\neg \text{B}_i I_j \text{Done}(\langle j, \text{Inform-ref}(i, \lambda x \alpha(x)) \rangle)$ $\text{RE: } \text{Done}(\langle j, \text{Inform}(i, \lambda x \alpha(x) = r_1 \rangle) \mid \dots \mid \langle j, \text{Inform}(i, \lambda x \alpha(x) = r_k \rangle)$ <p>Where:</p> $\alpha(x) = I_i \text{Done}(\langle j, \text{act} \rangle, \phi(x)) \Rightarrow I_j \text{Done}(\langle j, \text{act} \rangle, \phi(x))$ <p>Agent <i>i</i> asks agent <i>j</i>: "What is the 'x' such that you will perform action 'act' when 'φ(x)' holds?"</p>
Example	<p>Agent <i>j</i> asks <i>i</i> to submit its proposal to sell 50 boxes of plums:</p> <pre>(cfp :sender j :receiver i :content ((action i (sell plum 50)) true) :ontology fruit-market)</pre>

3 References

- [FIPA00037] FIPA Communicative Act Library Specification. Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents, 2000.
<http://www.fipa.org/specs/fipa00037/>