FAST – A Computer Network Broker for Standard Electronic Parts

Address:
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Description

FAST is a prototype, automated broker for standard, off-the-shelf items. Electronic and optical parts and components and laboratory and test equipment are readily purchased through the FAST service.

FAST is ONEstop shopping. It is a complete value-added service that handles quoting, ordering, expediting and returns. One purchase order with FAST allows customers to acquire items easily and quickly from a very large vendor base.

The FAST broker currently serves more than 100 university, commercial and government customers. As of June 1992, it had acquired items from over 1,500 suppliers.

FAST's customers request quotes and place orders from FAST via EDI (Electronic Data Interchange – standard email or EDI X12). FAST sources (often in a fully automated fashion) incoming rfqs and redistributes them to vendors who carry the requested items.

FAST communicates with its vendors using EDI (standard email or EDI X12) or fax. All vendor responses are collected by FAST and sent back to the customers via EDI. The customers pick the best quote/item and place the order from FAST via EDI. FAST sends EDI orders for the items to the vendors. The vendors invoice FAST and customers reimburse FAST.

FAST also offers a one-step quote-and-order option, where the customer specifies what selection criteria FAST should use when evaluating incoming vendor quotes. The "best" quote is then automatically turned into an order by FAST.

Customers are charged an 8% service fee (8% of the cost of the merchandise acquired through FAST) for the service.

Network Access

FAST can be accessed via email over the Internet (FAST@ISI.EDU) or via EDI X12 over any commercial VAN (Value Added Network).

Who Can Use FAST

The service is open to anybody who can establish a blanket purchase order with FAST. Under certain circumstances FAST requires the blanket purchase order to be accompanied by prepayment. Please send a message to FAST@ISI.EDU containing the lines

REQUEST: INFORMATION
TOPIC: INTRODUCTION

REQUEST: END

for further information about how to use the service and on how to establish a FAST account.

Miscellaneous

For further information about FAST, please contact:

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