NADR INTERNATIONAL EDR SYSTEMS FOR

THE FERTILIZER TRADE



Virtual adjudication, arbitration, conciliation and mediation:

High speed "Click and Settle" solutions to international disputes arising out of fertilizer sales, construction and transport contracts.

Electronic Dispute Resolution processes for the global fertilizer market.

By Corbett H Spurin



WHAT IS EDR?

Electronic Dispute Resolution is:-

- the use of internet based electronic communication systems for
- the three way transmission of information between
- the parties to a dispute (including their representatives) and a privately appointed
- settlement facilitator or
- judge.





Why use EDR?

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

is a private process that ensures confidential information is kept out of the public arena, and

ADR is considered to be :-

- quicker
- cheaper and
- more convenient than the courts.





PRIVACY

EDR maximises security and privacy in that EDR :-

- Relies on web based communications processes, which are more secure than proprietary e-mail provider services, backed up by
- tele and video conferencing facilities,
- fax, and
- postal services





SPEED

EDR:-

- speeds up domestic and international communications, making ADR even quicker.
- on line EDR facilitates a seamless single session dispute resolution process, or
- alternatively enables the parties to deal incrementally with separate stages or elements of a dispute on a session by session basis.



COMMUNICATIONS COSTS

EDR:-

- reduces communication costs, making ADR even more cost effective, compared to
- face to face communication, which involves travel and accommodation costs,

both for the parties, the third party facilitator/arbiter and for the hire of the venue.



CONVENIENCE

EDR, by enabling the parties to participate in the ADR process from the comfort of their own work station, provides maximum convenience.

- face to face dispute resolution results in major lost opportunity costs.
- an executive's time and energy is best spent engaging in commerce, not travel.



PRELIMINARIES

EDR is ideal for all forms of ADR to deal with the preliminary stages, even if EDR is not used for the settlement / trial process.

- All claims, defences and counterclaims can be dealt with by EDR
- Case management can be conducted via EDR including administration & logistics
- All exchanges and disclosures can be facilitated by EDR including
- Video evidence



Paper only trials

EDR is the perfect communication medium for :-

- Paper only arbitration, and
- Paper only adjudication The process is kept moving by setting and maintaining strict deadlines for all concerned.

The usual target is 28 days from submission of claim – but longer or shorter timescales are permitted for more or less complex disputes.



VIRTUAL TRIALS

VIDEO-CONFERENCING

- Video-conference trials preserve all the central features of the traditional trial, at a fraction of the cost and without the inconvenience of physical attendance at the forum.
- The immediacy of the trial (trial atmosphere) is maintained, complete with witness statements and cross questioning etc.
- It is equally suitable for adversarial and inquisitorial trials.
- But fixed cameras can give a static feel to proceedings.



ON LINE TEXT TRIALS

- Both parties log on to a live, secure inter-net virtual court room for the trial.
- The spontaneity of the trial is maintained in that the parties must respond promptly without the luxury of time to compose answers.
- The lack of visual/physical presence detracts from the drama of the traditional trial – but the ability to read and re-read the text avoids misunderstandings.
- The charisma of witnesses has no bearing on the outcome but there are problems guarding against coaching.



VIRTUAL MEDIATION

VIDEO-CONFERENCING

- preserves all the central features of the traditional mediation, at a fraction of the cost and without the inconvenience of physical attendance at the forum.
- visual presence retains most of the immediacy of face to face communications particularly during the caucus / private session.
- parties can make valuable use of otherwise lost time, whilst the other side is caucusing in private session.



ON LINE TEXT MEDIATION

- Both parties log on to a live text mediation a secure form of inter-net virtual conference room.
- The three way on-line forum during the joint mediation session ensures everyone feels involved.
- The two way on-line live conference process recreates a real time conversational dynamic that enables the mediator to effectively explore issues with each of the parties in turn during caucuses / private sessions.
- Written questions make it hard for someone to act in an evasive manner.



OFF LINE MEDIATION

Paper only mediation.

- The mediator opens the forum and initiates dialogue.
- The parties respond in turn, at their own convenience, but subject to strict time limits set by the mediator.
- All text goes on line and is accessible throughout the process.
- Caucus / private session dialogue is private to the mediator and the relevant party.
- The mediation may last for several days or even weeks.
- Tele-conferencing is common to break impasses and to create momentum.





WHO SHOULD USE EDR?

- EDR can be valuably used for the settlement of all forms of dispute, be it :-
 - Public e.g. government contracts / collaborations
 - Private e.g. construction and plant contracts / labour contracts employer/employee
 - Commercial finance contracts, purchases, sales and services e.g. transport
 - Social e.g. disputes with neighbours over planning and the environment etc



COMMERCE AND EDR

- EDR is ideal for commercial disputes because :-
 - Most businesses are familiar with the technology,
 - Have access to the technology, and
 - Trust the technology because they rely on it for the
 conduct of their day to day
 business affairs



ADVANTAGES OF EDR

- EDR is an attractive option for :-
 - Busy people,
 - Bridging social / cultural / international barriers, and
 - Is particularly cost effective for international goods and services contract disputes



ADR KITE MARKS AND TRUST

- Trust is a major barrier that international commerce has to over-come
- By providing independent dispute resolution services to customers, traders can gain the trust of potential clients – since a guaranteed trial process and remedy is provided against non- delivery and defective goods and services.
- Experience shows that traders who provide ADR services are more successful than those who do not.



NADR KITE MARK



- The NADR Kite Mark is an instant symbol of that guarantee, ensuring client confidence.
- Display the kite mark in advertising and marketing brochures



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