ECIMF Business Context & eBTWG Business Objects

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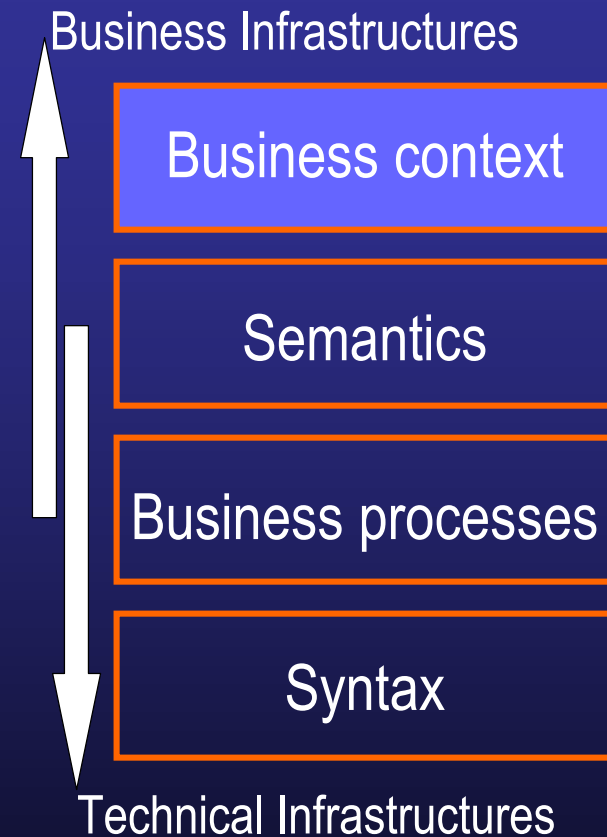
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ECIMF – eBTWG coordination

- Informal process (email discussions)
- Started from the common use of REA framework
  - Initial ECIMF adoption of REA and UMM
  - ebXML use of UMM Economic Elements (based on simplified REA)
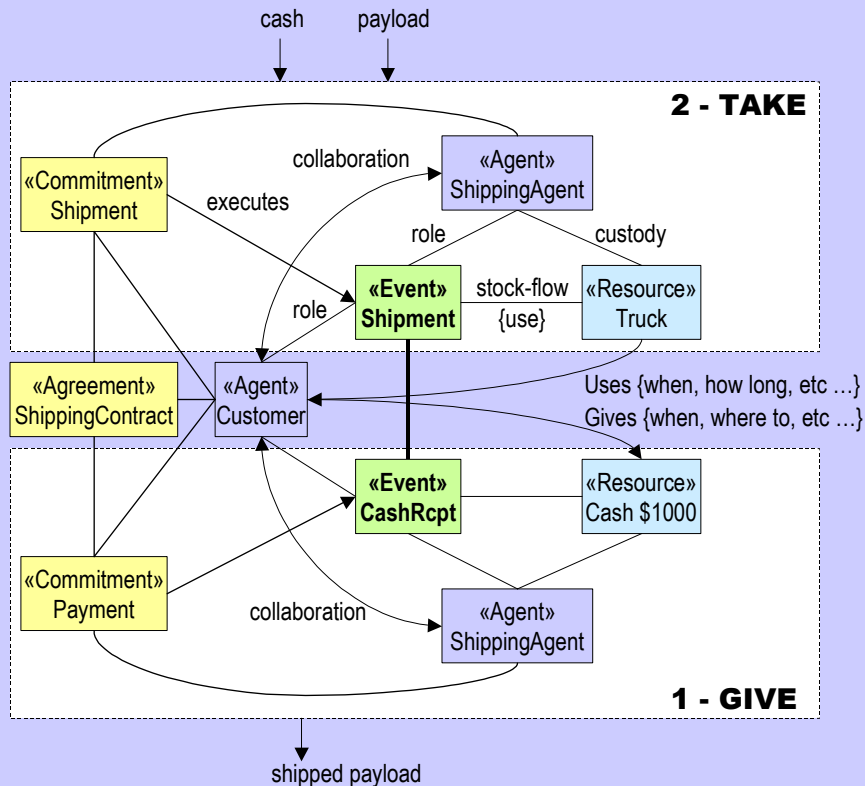
ECIMF Business Context

- **ECIMF Interoperability Model**
  - Interop. of technical infrastructures
  - Interop. of business infrastructures
- **ECIMF Business Context**
  - Economic aspects, based on REA
    - **Resources**: what is traded
    - **Events**: when and how it happens
    - **Agents**: who is involved
    - Agreements & Commitments: legal aspects
  - Value-chain view of commerce
    - Chain of business processes
    - Flow of resources between processes
- **Important for interoperability**
  - Economic goals, business rules and legal obligations ultimately define the meaning and consequences of information exchange
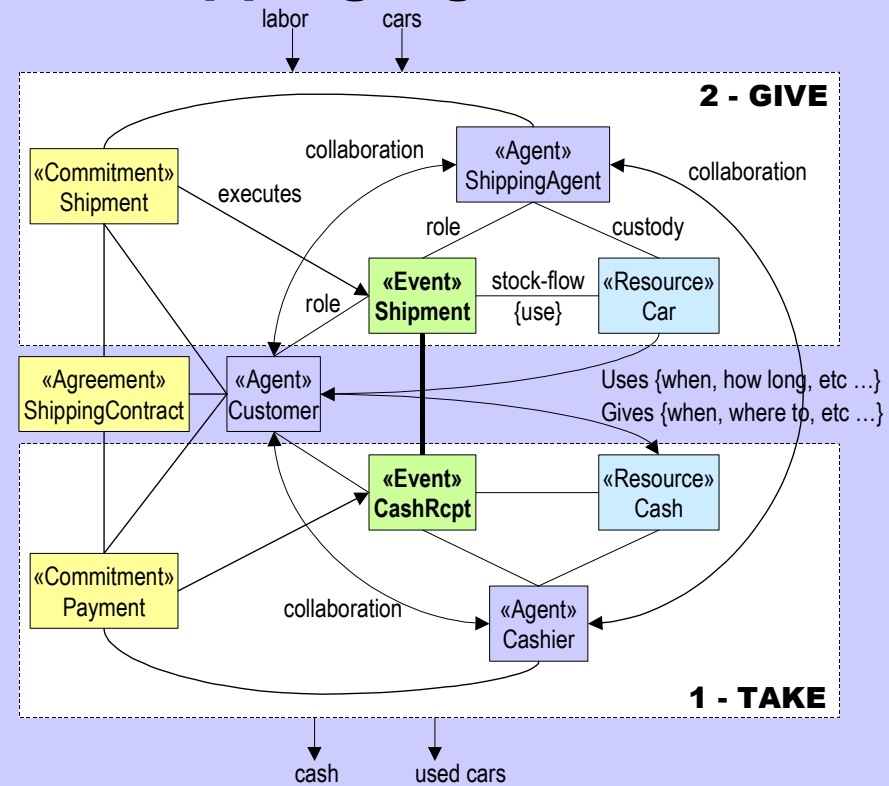
Business Infrastructures

| Business context |
| Semantics |
| Business processes |
| Syntax |

Technical Infrastructures

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ECIMF Business Context models

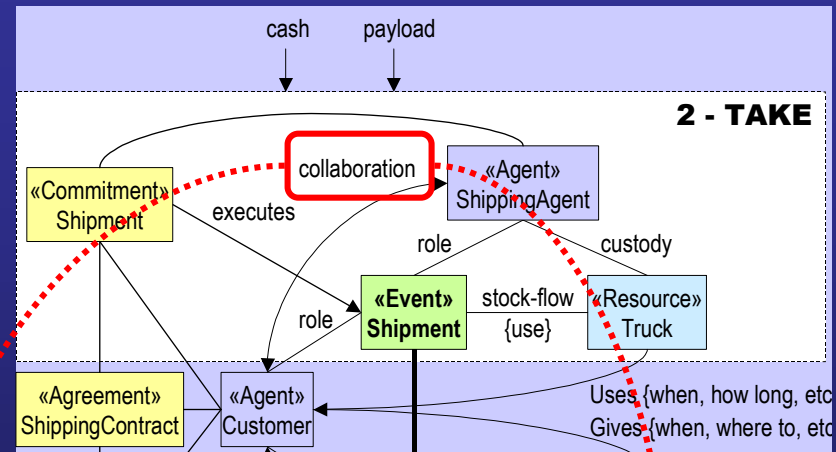**Customer's view** | **Shipping Agent's view**

- Example taken from ECIMF-POC
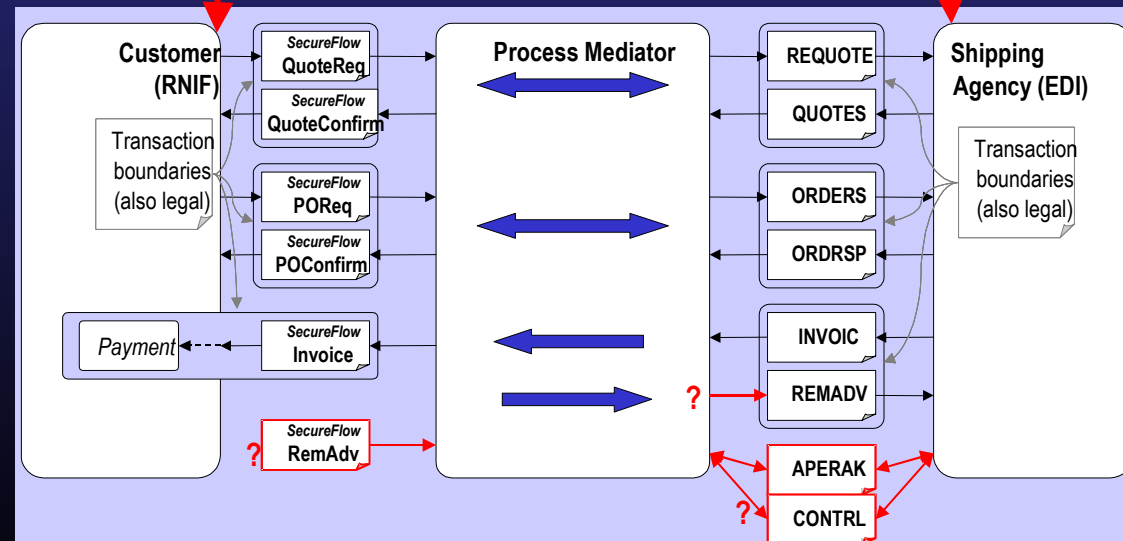- These two models match* - "let's have a deal!"

*see ECIMF-GM for definition of matching

Business Context & Business Processes

- **Business Context determines the business-related constraints, e.g.:**
  - certain timeouts
  - rollback or compensation for failed transactions
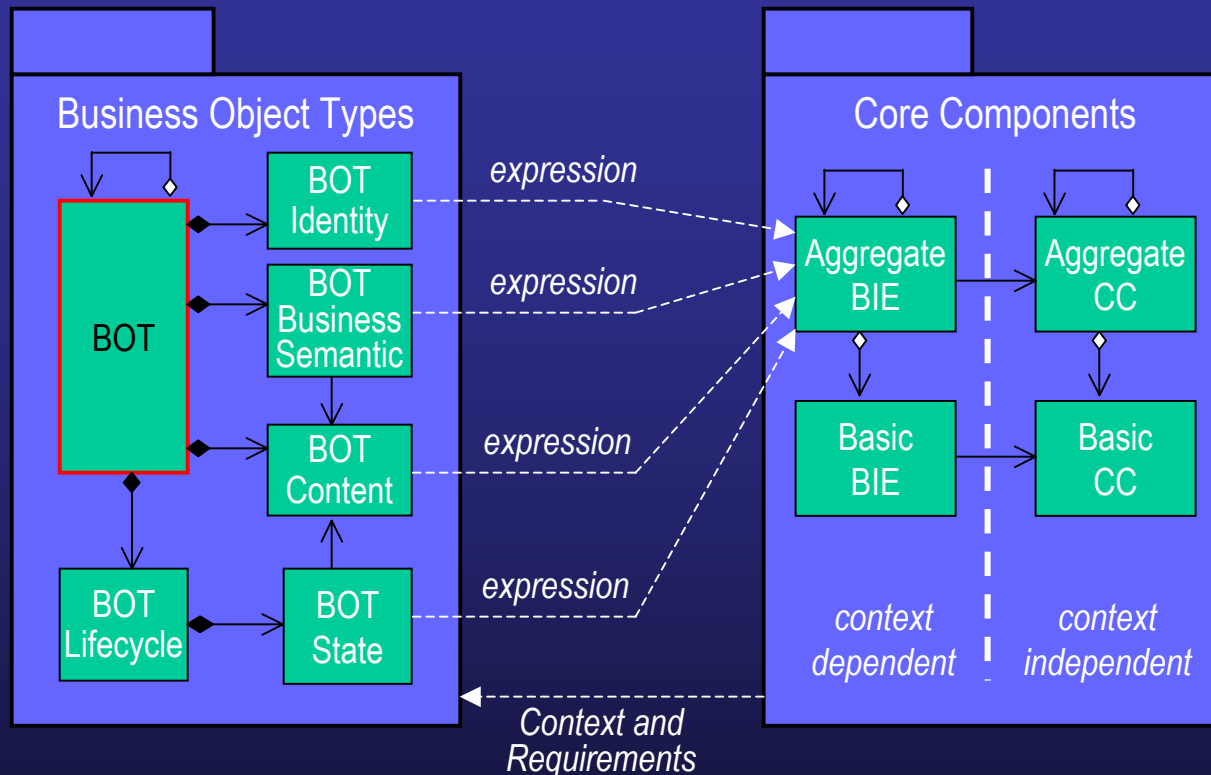 - relationships between several business processes
  - etc.

- **These constraints cannot (easily/at all) be explained at the technical level**
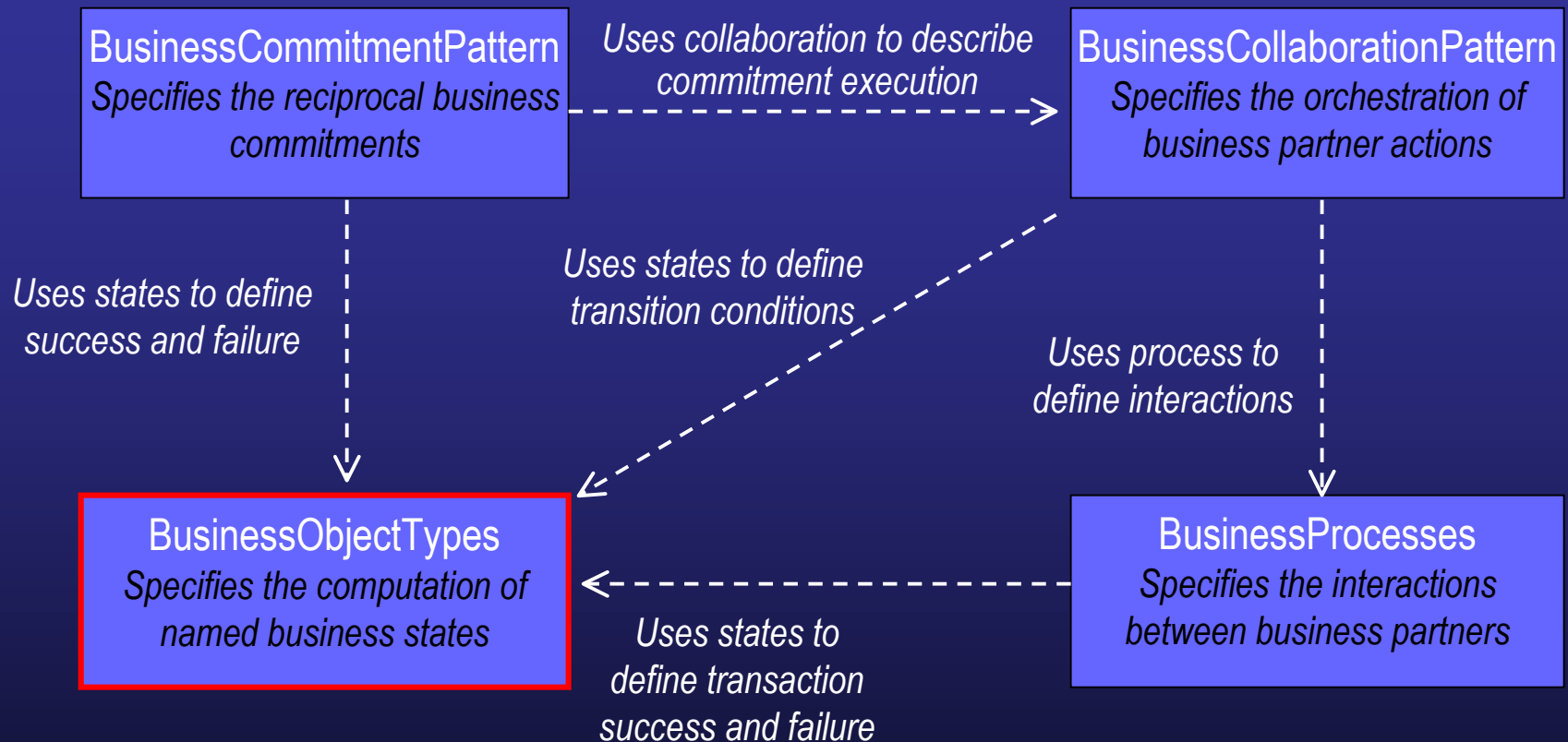
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eBTWG: BOTL and BCP/MC work

- e-Business Transitionary Working Group
  - Continuation of ebXML (excluding TRP)
- Business Information Object Types team
- Business Collaboration Patterns and Monitored Commitments team

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CC, BIE, ABIE, BOT…

- **BOTs consist of:**
  - context-modified CCs
  - business semantics
  - state model (and current state)

BOTS, Commitments & Collaborations

BusinessCommitmentPattern
Specifies the reciprocal business commitments

Uses collaboration to describe commitment execution

BusinessCollaborationPattern
Specifies the orchestration of business partner actions

Uses states to define success and failure

Uses states to define transition conditions

Uses process to define interactions

BusinessObjectTypes
Specifies the computation of named business states

Uses states to define transaction success and failure

BusinessProcesses
Specifies the interactions between business partners

- Commitments, collaborations and processes use BOTs:
  - BOTs help to represent the state of all BIEs processed by each partner, in the appropriate business context

ECIMF Business Context with BOTs

- Enhanced definition of Business Context:

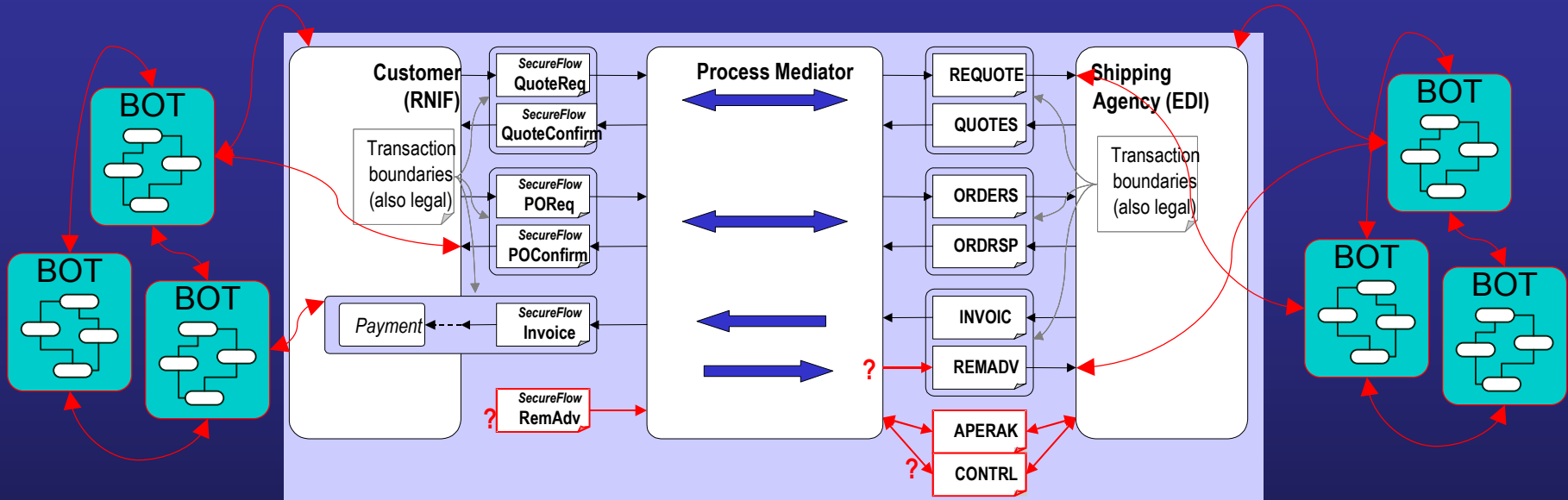 *Business Context is a collection of:*
  - *Agreements / Contracts containing Commitments*
  - *Collaboration Patterns (using Business Processes) to execute commitments*
  - *Business Objects with their semantics, lifecycle and state, which encapsulate business data and business rules*

- Advantages over the old definition:
  - Better defined relationship of *Business Context* to *Processes* and *Semantics* layers in the ECIMF model
  - Reflects work of the leading e-commerce standardization initiative
  - Provides clearer implementation guidelines
  - May lead to reducing complexity of the Process Mediation step

BOTs and Process Mediation

- BOTs explain requirements for specific business data
- BOTs allow to follow the state of collaboration
- BOTs explain how to adjust missing/superfluous data between partners, to cause desired state changes
- New Business Context + BOTs provides better indications how to implement process mediators

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Summary

- ECIMF Business Context concept ties together eBTWG CCs, BOTs, Collaborations and Commitments - useful for eBTWG

- eBTWG work expands greatly the scope of ECIMF, and explains the crucial connection to the technical layers - useful for ECIMF

- The informal cooperation should continue
  - Limited by available "free", voluntary resources…
  - What about the formal cooperation?

Further information

- ECIMF Project Information Center
  - http://www.ecimf.org
- UN/CEFACT eBTWG
  - http://www.ebtwg.org