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National Building Information Model Standards Committee Formed to create the National BIM Standard

Washington, DC. February 20, 2006. The National Institute of Building Standards (NIBS) through its Facility Information Council (FIC) has formed a committee to create the National Building Information Model Standard (NBIMS). The Standard is considered to be a critical element in reforming business practices in the capital facilities industry and recapturing at least \$15B annually lost due to inefficiencies. The NBIMS team is actively soliciting participation from public and private organizations and individuals and, to date, 26 organizations representing most aspects of the facility lifecycle and many types of associated businesses have signed the Committee charter and over 80 individuals, overseen by an executive committee, are actively participating on NBIM working groups.

Similar to recent successful reforms in industrial manufacturing and supply chain management, increased integration between building lifecycle stakeholders is considered essential and standardized practices and methods of storing, viewing and sharing building information are fundamental to reform. The long list of stakeholders; which include owners, architects, real property brokers, financiers, lawyers, insurers, engineers, materials scientists, manufacturers, constructors, facility managers, occupants, and services vendors is just one indication of the significant impact the Standard is expected to produce.

The NBIMS Project Committee seeks to facilitate integration by providing a common language for describing facility information, common views of information based on the needs of businesses engaged in all aspects of facility commerce, and common standards for sharing data between businesses and their data processing applications. Use of common language and practices is expected to significantly reduce building costs, insurance liability, construction schedules, and operating expense while increasing building performance, safety, building life and occupant efficiency.

To further rapid development and wide acceptance, the Committee is partnering with international standards organizations and leveraging existing initiatives. Organizations include the Open Standards Consortium for Real Estate (OSCRE), the Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC®), International Alliance for Interoperability (IAI) International, and FIATECH – an industry consortium formed to identify and accelerate the development, demonstration and deployment of fully integrated and automated technologies. In addition, the Committee is seeking and receiving active participation by professional organizations such as the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Building Owners & Managers Association (BOMA), Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), Construction Users Roundtable (CURT), International Facilities Management Association (IFMA), Mortgage Bankers Association, etc.

Recent announcements by the US General Services Administration (GSA), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the US Coast Guard (USCG) are an indication of rapid and immediate evolutionary pressures in the capital facilities industry. These government agencies and, similarly, private organizations, now require integrated service delivery approaches, use of 'virtual building models' to reduce errors and omissions, and the use and delivery of digital datasets for facility operations, maintenance and renewal; which support improved service delivery, enhanced emergency planning, management and response. Without a standard this is a risky endeavor.

Release of the first version of the NBIM Standard is planned for December 2006.

ADDITIONAL Information



The National Institute of Building Sciences

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), headquartered in Washington, DC, is the building community's authoritative national source of knowledge and advice on matters of building regulation, science and technology. The Facility Information Council (FIC), one of six active NIBS councils, is host to both the US National CAD Standard and the US National BIM Standard Committees. FIC provides industry-wide support for the development, standardization, and integration of computer technologies and software to ensure the improved performance of the entire life cycle of facilities from design, engineering and construction through operation, maintenance and retirement phases.

BIM Working Definition

A Building Information Model or BIM utilizes cutting edge open standard digital technology to establish a computable representation of all the physical and functional characteristics of a facility and its related project/life-cycle information, and is intended to be a repository of shared information for the facility owner/operator to use and maintain throughout the life-cycle of a facility.

NBIMS Committee Mission Statement

The mission of the National BIM Standard Project Committee is to improve the performance of facilities over their full life-cycle by fostering a common, standard and integrated life-cycle information model for the A/E/C and Facilities Management industry. This information model will allow for the free flow of graphic and non-graphic information among all parties to the process of creating and sustaining the built environment, and will work to coordinate U.S. efforts with related activities taking place internationally.

NIST Study on Cost of Inadequate Interoperability

2004 NIST study (U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, "Cost Analysis of Inadequate Interoperability in the U.S. Capital Facilities Industry". (NIST GCR 04-867, August 2004) estimates that at least \$15.8B is lost annually due to the lack of interoperability. <http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oea/publications/gcrs/04867.pdf>