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IBC Establishes a Canadian Chapter of buildingSMART International

The Institute for BIM in Canada (IBC) recently established a Canadian chapter within buildingSMART International (bSI; www.buildingsmart.com). This organization develops and maintains international standards for OpenBIM. bSI currently has regional chapters in Europe, North America, Australia, Asia and Middle East. Until now, Canadian practitioners were participating in the work of the North American chapter, the buildingSMART alliance™ (bSA; www.buildingsmartalliance.org). However, IBC was eager to set up a Canadian chapter for practical and cultural differences. Canada is a bilingual country with a legal system that is closer to that of the UK, Australia and Singapore. Also, Canada uses the metric system. These differences – combined with a strong interest in facilitating the adoption of BIM in Canada – are behind the creation of this new independent chapter. Canada will maintain a working relationship with the buildingSMART alliance on North American matters and will collaborate with other regional chapters throughout the world.

BIM Practice Manual

With the completion of its Environmental Scan on BIM tools and technologies in April 2011, the next logical step for IBC's Technical Committee is to develop a practice manual to facilitate the adoption and implementation of BIM in Canada. A high-level Table of Contents has been completed and the institute is in the process of prioritizing individual sections. Two specific tasks have been identified to support the development of the practice manual: 1) a nationwide survey to capture the level of BIM adoption across the country and 2) contract language documents to support the integration of BIM in construction project delivery.

Survey

A survey designed to capture information on Canada's current BIM environment both from current BIM users and those planning to adopt BIM in the near future will be conducted in September 2011. The results will assist industry stakeholders in understanding their roles and responsibilities in the BIM environment and in assessing their capacity to participate in the process.

BIM Contract Language

A new working group has been formed to address the development of a contract language document for the purpose of BIM. The potential deliverables consist of a guide document, standalone contract forms and supplementary conditions to current standard contract forms. The following items are also being considered by the working group: information management, BIM execution plan, risk allocation and intellectual property rights in BIM models.