

AGI and British Standards Committee (IST/36)

Geographic Information

Business Plan 2018

1. Scope

IST/36 is committee of British Standards Institution (BSI) with responsibility for standards for geographic information. It also operates as the AGI's standing Standards Committee. Membership currently stands at 19, with representatives from a range of government and commercial organisations, as well as several individual members with special expertise in the development of standards, who are co-opted. A full list of members at the end of 2017 is given in Table A1 in Annex A; three members left this year, and four new people joined.

The Committee meets quarterly at BSI. These meetings are supplemented by telephone conferences held monthly in the intervening period between quarterly meetings.

Administrative support is provided by the Committees Support Centre (CSC) at BSI and AGI provide a Committee Secretary (sponsored by Ordnance Survey).

Committee members represent UK at the Technical Committee meetings of ISO/TC 211 (Geographic information/Geomatics). These meetings qualify for AITS¹ travel funding for members who are eligible. The schedule of meetings, as far as is known, for 2018 is given in Table A2 in Annex A.

The committee also maintains an active liaison to several other BSI committees, such as SDS/2 Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities, and B/555 Construction design, modelling and data exchange; and also to the UK & Ireland forum of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®).

2. Mission

The mission of the Committee is:

To enable the UK to have an agreed portfolio of relevant and trusted standards for the better exploitation and sharing of geographic information and that these are maintained and promoted.

3. Terms of Reference

The terms of reference are to:

- understand and specify the stakeholder requirements, including through the Association for Geographic Information (AGI);
- engage with various professional and domain groups who could be using geographic information standards, such as surveying, cartography, computing, smart cities, construction.
- on behalf of BSI, propose and provide technical approval of British Standards;
- monitor and prioritise the overall effort on UK standards;

¹ Assisted International Travel Scheme funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy but administered by BSI

- promote the value, understanding and adoption of national, European and International standards, through AGI;
- obtain funding for standards work and liaise with sponsors to ensure that the work of the Committee can be sustained;
- maintain a membership which is representative of the users, developers and producers of geographic information in UK;
- maintain a network of relevant UK domain and standard experts;
- coordinate UK input into the work of ISO/TC 211, CEN/TC 287 and other relevant *de jure* national, European and International Standards bodies;
- be responsible for the UK metadata guidance, UK GEMINI, and its associated guidance and implementation documents; Note: this now includes documents which were originally published by the UK Location Programme;
- agree the publication of ISO standards as British Standards where relevant and applicable to UK;
- maintain awareness of developments within the OGC where these will impact on the development of ISO standards.

3. Achievements during 2017

Support for ISO/TC 211

The UK provided active support through the following activities:

- attendance at meetings of Technical Committee, Working Groups, Project Teams, Editing Committees and coordinating groups including the Programme Management Group and the Advisory Group on Strategy (see Tables A3 and A4 in Annex A);
- input to a range of standards work items;
- national body response to formal ballots and request for comments on draft standards (see Table A5 in Annex A);
- liaison between ISO/TC 211 and the Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), and Energetics.

Support for CEN/TC 287

The UK provided the Chair and Secretariat of the TC. The remaining activity of the TC is to adopt ISO/TC 211 standards as CEN standards, via the Vienna Agreement.

British Standards

We have involved a variety of participants in commenting on BS7666 *Spatial datasets for geographical referencing*, and begun consolidating input for revision.

UK GEMINI

AGI's UK GEMINI 2.2 remains the guidance for all metadata available on the UK INSPIRE Discovery Service and location data on data.gov.uk. UK GEMINI has remained under the ownership of AGI who are responsible for its maintenance. At the request of Defra, a GEMINI Working Group consolidated a number of related documents, and will publish the resulting content during 2018.

Other standards activity

The Committee maintains liaison with BSI's SDS/2 Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities, and with B/555 Construction design, modelling and data exchange. The committee regularly coordinates input into relevant BSI Publicly Available Specifications.

The chair contributes to the central government Data Standards challenges, and has been involved with iStandUK, the English local authority data standards group.

The committee has been invited to MOD's Geospatial & Imagery Standards Steering Group, with the chair and secretary attending.

The committee provided an information stand at the AGI day conference, eliciting some interest.

4. Plan for 2018

Support for ISO/TC 211

The UK will continue to be active in ISO/TC 211. Much of the work will involve UK input to the revision of existing standards. In particular, UK will provide input to the direction of the work through the Programme Management Group, to try to ensure that there is a clear scope and business requirement for all new work items.

Support for CEN/TC 287

The UK will continue to support CEN/TC 287 and continue to provide the Chair and Secretariat; this support will be minimal as CEN/TC 287 does not meet.

British Standards

We will progress revision of BS7666:2006, based on the consultation conducted previously.

UK GEMINI2

The new consolidated content will be published on the AGI website. The GEMINI Working Group will oversee updating the content for the most recent technical guidance from INSPIRE, as well as changes requested in the UK and agreed by the Working Group.

We will continue to provide support including responding to queries via the AGI website.

Liaison with other BSI work

- Active liaison with other BSI technical committees who should be using GI standards, such as BIM and Smart Cities
- Involvement in BSI projects, such as creating PASs

Other standards activities

Other standards activities will include the following:

- Support on standards for AGI, particularly the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and events;
- The committee will work more closely with the OGC UK & Ireland forum
- Further material in support of current standards and activities, particularly for the AGI website.

5. Risks and mitigation

1. Isolation from AGI leadership, due to lack of communication, interest and support from Council:
 - Regular reports to AGI Chair and Council.

- Establish good relationship with our AGI Council champion.
2. Out of date information on the AGI website:
 - Improve the content and currency of the standards pages on the website, making use of our committee login that is still pending on the AGI website.
 - Place short news items with links to the standards pages.
 3. Lack of representation at TC211 meetings, due to shortage of travel funding via AITS. This would seriously diminish UK influence on European and International standards development:
 - We will endeavour to always plan ahead such that AITS applications go in early and always before the quarter in which the meeting occurs.
 - Seek alternative funding where possible.
 - Seek sponsorship from potential beneficiaries of the work.
 - As a last resort, dial in to meetings where these facilities are available.
 4. Over-dependence on a few long-serving members:
 - We will continue our efforts to communicate the activities of IST/36 and the benefits of standards both to AGI, particularly through the SIGs, and the wider user community.
 - Seek to find new participants especially amongst those newer to the industry.
 - Follow up people whom we meet during outreach activities.
 - Ensure that nominating organisations are represented by people with interest, and senior support for their involvement.
 5. Competing standards: Individual sectors which regard themselves as "special" and produce their own standards that are incompatible with industry, National or International Standards. At the national level, competing standards have already been produced.
 - We will encourage the use of existing standards through continuing promotion of the benefits.
 - We will attempt to minimise conflict by encouraging membership of IST/36 by other bodies and influencing through AGI and OGC.
 6. Failure by government to appreciate the importance of standards or even recognise their existence in the domain of geographic information.
 - We will continue our efforts to communicate and involve government departments through encouragement of their participation in the work of IST/36, promotion of relevant standards, meetings with individual departments and personal contacts.
 - We will continue to support UK INSPIRE where resources allow.
 - Engage with the UK government Open Standards Board
 - Engage with any Data Leaders Forum activity on SDIs
 7. As a result of leaving the European Union, the UK government may repeal the INSPIRE Regulation, resulting in less requirement on public authorities to use our standards.
 - Play our part in advocating a national SDI

Annex A.

Table A1: Membership of IST/36 – December 2017

Representing (Role)
AGI (Secretary) (Note: supported by Ordnance Survey)
British Cartographic Society
BCS, the Chartered Institute of IT
Building Smart UK (B/555 liaison)
Chair (Note: supported by Ordnance Survey)
EPL/278 liaison
Land and Property Services NI
Land Registry
Marine Environmental Data & Information Network (MEDIN)
MOD
ONS
Satellite Applications Catapult
The Improvement Service
UK INSPIRE
GeoPlace
Coopted (19142, 19143)
Individual capacity (geodesy)
Individual capacity (geographic information)
Individual capacity (imagery)
Individual capacity (metadata); chair CEN/TC 287

This table does not include an additional nine "non-participating" or "papers only" committee members who are members of particular ISO groups.

Table A2: Schedule for AITS funding

01 January 2019 – 31 December 2018

Committee Reference	Location	Dates of meeting	No of Delegates for AITS
ISO/TC 211	Denmark	May/June 2018	3
ISO/TC 211	TBC	November/ December 2018	3

Delegates will be confirmed nearer the dates of the meetings. CEN/TC287 is no longer meeting.

Table A3: Participation in European and International Technical Committees in 2017

Technical Committee	Meetings		Role
	Location	Dates	
ISO/TC 211	Stockholm (Sweden)	29 May-2 June	Head of UK Delegation Member of Delegation WG/PT delegates Remote participants
	Wellington (New Zealand)	27 November - 1 December	Head of UK Delegation Member of Delegation WG/PT delegate Remote participants:

Table A4: Participation in ISO/TC 211 working and *ad hoc* groups in 2017

Project or group	Title
ISO 19101-2	Reference model – Part 2: Imagery
ISO 19107	Spatial schema – revision project team
ISO 19111	Referencing by coordinates – revision project team – project lead
ISO 19112	Spatial referencing by geographic identifiers – revision project – project lead
ISO 19115-3	Metadata - Part 3: XML schema implementation of metadata fundamentals
ISO 19123-2	Schema for coverage geometry and functions
ISO 19127	Geodetic codes and parameters
ISO 19131	Data product specification – revision
ISO 19133	Location-based services – Tracking and navigation
ISO 19139	Metadata – XML schema implementation – revision project team
ISO 19160-3	Address data quality
ISO 19161-1	Geodetic References: ITRS - project team
ISO 19165	Preservation of digital data and metadata
ISO 19165-2	Preservation of digital data and metadata – Part 2 Content specification for earth observation data and derived digital products
ISO 19166	BIM to GIS conceptual mapping
N/a	Programme Management Group
N/a	Control Body for Geodetic Registry Network
N/a	Advisory group on outreach
n/a	<i>Ad hoc</i> group to participate in a joint study group on sustainable development goals and targets (SDG) of the UN
n/a	<i>Ad hoc</i> group on Location Based Services
n/a	<i>Ad hoc</i> group on classification issues

Table A5: UK Responses to International Ballots for Standards in 2017 as advised by IST/36

ISO Standard	Stage	Title	Vote	Result of vote in ISO
TC20/SC14	NWIP	Space systems – Satellite-based service for a snowplow support system	Negative comments	
19101-2	DIS	Reference model – Part 2: Imagery	Yes	Approved
19107	DIS	Spatial schema	Abstained, with comments	<i>DIS being revised</i>
19111	CD	Referencing by coordinates	Yes, with comments	Approved
19112	CD	Spatial referencing by geographic identifiers	No, with comments	Approved, <i>Revised draft sent for DIS ballot</i>
19115-2		Metadata – Part 2: Extensions for acquisition and processing	Abstained	Approved
19115-1	D Amd	Metadata – Part 1: Fundamentals – Amendment 1	Abstained	Approved
19116	CD	Positioning services	Abstained	<i>EC continues</i>
19123-2	DIS	Schema for coverage geometry and functions – Part 2: Coverage implementation schema	Abstained	Approved
19126	CD	Feature concept dictionaries and registers	Abstained	Approved, <i>CD to be revised</i>
19127	DIS	Geographic information – Geodetic register	Yes, with comments	Approved
19130-3	NWIP	Imagery sensor models for geopositioning – Part 3: Implementation schema	Abstained	Approved
19130-1	DIS	Imagery sensor models for geopositioning - Part 1: Fundamentals	Abstained	Approved
19131	CD	Data product specifications	No, with comments	Approved, after amended

ISO Standard	Stage	Title	Vote	Result of vote in ISO
19146	DIS	Cross-domain vocabularies	Yes, with comments	Approved
19146	DIS	Cross-domain vocabularies	Yes, with comments	Approved; <i>CEN ballot open to skip FDIS</i>
19150-4	CD	Ontology – Part 4: Service ontology	Abstained	
19157	D Amd	Data Quality – Amendment 1	Abstained	Approved
19159-3	DTS	Calibration and validation of remote sensing imagery sensors – Part 3 SAR/InSAR	Abstained	Approved
19160-3	CD	Addressing – Part 3: Address data quality	No, with comments	<i>CD being revised</i>
19160-4	CIB to skip FDIS		Abstained	Approved
19165	DIS	Preservation of digital data and metadata	Yes, with comments	Approved
19165-2	NWIP	Preservation of digital data and metadata – Part 2: Content specifications for earth observation data and derived digital products	Yes	Approved
19167	NWIP	The application of “Ubiquitous Public Access to Geographic Information” for Air Quality Information	No, with comments	Approved

Explanation of ‘stage’ acronyms:

NWIP: New Work Item Proposal, may have a draft attached, proposed for any stage

CD: committee draft (i.e. agreed at TC211)

DIS: draft international standard (for public vote managed by ISO)

FDIS: final draft international standard (optional stage, required if DIS attracts technical comment)

Review: periodically, ISO documents are reviewed: the choices are: confirm, amend (small changes), revise (initiates a full new process), withdraw

- The table above does not include nine review ballots which occurred during the year.