

buildingSMART alliance® All-Members Open Letter

Dear buildingSMART alliance® Member,

It seems like just a few days ago we were holding the buildingSMART alliance® (bSa) annual meeting at the National Institute of Building Sciences' *Building Innovation 2016*. We continue to press towards fulfilling our Mission...

To lead the development and deployment of broadly adopted national information standards and practices focused on significantly improving the built environment delivery and operation processes

Therefore, I wanted to give you an update. As many of you know 2015 was very productive year! Starting with the introduction of a new 2015 [Strategic Plan](#) which provides “clarity and focus to the purpose, organization and benefits the bSa brings to members.” The leadership worked to identify active professionals to lead the bSa work through the subcommittees of thought leadership, information standards, proven practices, and outreach education, filling four of the seven sub-committee chair positions. Additionally, a COBie task group was created to operate within the new bSa structure.

Leadership Changes

To bring the leadership group in alignment with the Institute’s guidelines, streamline business decisions and create greater accountability the [Board of Direction](#) (BOD) is defined by five positions - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and two advisors, one of which is the Past Chair. As the current Chair, I am passionate about engaging the bSa community to better align motivated volunteers with subcommittees and task groups. As part of this realignment process, a new communication plan was outlined and implemented. This has resulted in improved engagement for various groups within the bSa (Members, Sponsors, and MOA Holders) with reoccurring conference calls focused on providing information relevant to their engagement objectives.

Product Updates

The publication of National BIM Standard-US® Version 3 ([NBIMS-US™ V3](#)) was also accomplished in 2015. This product represents countless hours of volunteer effort aimed at providing best practices through “consensus-based standards”. As of April 2016, the NBIMS-US™ V3 website has nearly 21,000 visits from over 140 countries and well over 14,500 downloads from 117 countries. Interestingly enough the top three countries represented by visits to the site are United States, China and United Kingdom with a combined total of over 6,500 downloads. Additionally, the National CAD Standard® V6 (NCS) Steering Committee has focused on developing informational and educational webinars to further the implementation of the standard.

Subcommittee/Task Group Updates

2016 has been a continuance of the momentum gained in 2015 as we now seek to “execute the plan” developed and implemented in previous years. Several subcommittees are very active and are working hard on developing and executing operational plans. The [Thought Leadership Subcommittee](#) led by Kimon Onuma is attempting to solve problems not only of today but forecasting what is next. The

[Information Standards Subcommittee](#) led by Robert Anderson is focusing on an improved business process for developing and updating standards. The [Proven Practices Subcommittee](#) led by Connor Christian is focusing on identifying the proven practices of the industry. The [Communications Subcommittee](#) led by George Lewis is helping us ramp up new communication venues to help spread the word about the great work of the bSa. The [COBie Task Group](#) led by Michael Tardif is actively working on the next version of COBie. Additionally, we are nearing completion of the draft version of the National BIM Guidelines for Owners. It is very exciting times indeed!

buildingSMART International Chapter Status Update

Many members often ask about the bSa's relationship with buildingSMART International (bSI). Throughout 2015 and 2016, I've reported on our continued attempts to identify a means of re-establishing chapter status. In mid-to-late 2014, bSI began a process of revoking the chapter status of the bSa and made it official in January of 2015. With default of payment of dues as the reason given, bSa has offered on several occasions to bring the dues current in accordance with bSI's Articles of Association which makes provision for reinstatements. Unfortunately, we have been denied reinstatement. The current status is that we have filed an appeal requesting clarification on the grounds for rejection and we will make sure our members are kept informed of the facts.

The bSa members continue to find value in aligning with other groups dedicated to bringing change through standards and best practices within the building industry. bSa is the premier organization in the United States that truly brings together representatives from across the Architecture, Engineering, Contractor, Owner and Operator Industry. As a Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences (enacted by U.S. legislation to improve building information interoperability challenges), we are strategically positioned to have a great impact on our nation. With the top-notch leaders of our Board of Direction and subcommittee chairs we are well on our way to another meaningful year for the industry.

It is our goal to continue to be the platform on which United States Industry standards are built through professionally diverse perspectives. We look forward to continuing this work with the help of our Members, Sponsors and MOA holders.

On behalf of the Board of Direction,

Johnny Fortune

Chair, buildingSMART alliance® Board of Direction

buildingSMART alliance® Sponsor's Letter

Dear buildingSMART alliance® Sponsor,

Many of you received the All Members Open-Letter that in part addresses our relationship with buildingSMART International (bSI). As Sponsors who have financially supported buildingSMART alliance® (bSa), I wanted to provide you with some additional information and leave an open door for any questions or comments you may have.

As most of you know, the bSa defaulted on payment of dues primarily due to a reduction in sponsorship dollars and the need to focus resources towards the publication of the National BIM Standard-US® Version 3 (NBIMS-US™ V3). Throughout 2014, 2015, and the first quarter of 2016, bSa leadership continued efforts to re-establish chapter status. We've had several phone conference calls, emails and letters with bSI in order to identify a means to that end. Through discussions with bSI we offered to bring the dues current but were informed that bSI was concerned with more than default in payment of dues. It was suggested that bSI is looking for chapters to be more aligned with the international community and ideally have some influence with the national government from which they originate. Our response to these comments was to point out how we have supported the work of bSI since becoming a charter member by not only promoting efforts developed internationally, such as IFC, MVDs, Data Dictionary, etc. but by contributing industry standards that we have developed such as COBie. We also pointed out that as a Council of the National Institute of Building Sciences (which is enacted by U.S. legislation to improve building information interoperability challenges), we are best positioned to have a substantial impact on our nation. In 2015, some of the discussions were put on hold as bSI worked through a process of defining bSI Chapter roles. When we re-engaged to ascertain the results of that effort, we learned that bSI had invited other organizations in the U.S. trying to find another chapter candidate.

We recently requested reinstatement again in writing yet were informed that bSI was accepting the application of another organization to be the exclusive U.S. chapter. We have been reaching out to that organization to find ways to work together irrespective of what happens with bSI. A review of bSI's Articles of Association revealed no restriction on having more than one chapter in any geographical region or nation. Additionally bSI's Articles of Association include provisions for immediate reinstatement of a chapter when dues are brought current. Although we have offered this in writing, it has been refused. We are very confused as to why bSI is not operating within its own Articles of Association and bSa is being refused re-entry. The current status is that we have filed an appeal requesting clarification on the grounds for rejection and we will make sure to keep you informed of bSI's response. Despite all this, we remain poised to be true to the nature of our organization - an *Alliance*. We remain committed to finding ways to work with other groups to benefit the AECOO industry.

You may be wondering what we will do without being the official chapter. We will remain the buildingSMART alliance®. We will continue to work on meaningful standards and solutions for the AECOO Industry such as COBie, NCS, NBIMS-US, and the National BIM Guidelines for Owners.

We believe our connection to the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) allows us to play the critical role of industry voice, guiding the strategy of US Government Agencies committed to sustainable practices. Additionally, with the many NIBS Councils and projects – such as BEC, STEM, and WBDG to

name a few – we have a plethora of opportunities and resources that support our work. Our goal is to provide practical guidance through our member engagements funded by our invested sponsors and MOA holders. Together we aim to raise the bar not only for our federal agencies but the industry as a whole.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any Board of Direction member with any questions or comments you have.

On behalf of the Board of Direction,

Johnny Fortune

Chair, buildingSMART alliance® Board of Direction