

# **Co-operative agreement between ISO/TC 211 Geographic information/Geomatics and the Open GIS Consortium, Inc. (OGC)**

## **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to establish an understanding between ISO/TC 211 and the Open GIS Consortium Inc. (OGC). This document formalizes the intention of ISO/TC 211 and OGC to co-operate and to enable the development of a series of agreed Industry Implementation Specifications based on ISO 15046 and other related standards. The resulting Industry Implementation Specifications will be published as ISO International Standards, or where this is not possible, other acknowledged ISO deliverables subject to the ISO Directives and OGC approval.

## **2. Background**

OGC produces publicly available Industry Implementation Specifications through an open, consensus based process among its members. ISO/TC 211 produces ISO International Standards for Geographical information/Geomatics through a national body balloting process. This agreement facilitates the Industry Implementation Specifications produced by OGC to formally go through the process of becoming an ISO International Standard. This agreement is required to ensure that tested OGC Industry Implementation Specifications become recognized as ISO International Standards. This agreement is designed to facilitate an optimum delivery schedule.

## **3. General principles**

- OGC wishes to obtain ISO International Standard status for its Industry Implementation Specifications.
- ISO/TC 211 wishes to adopt appropriate Industry Implementation Specifications as ISO International Standards or other ISO deliverables.
- OGC wishes, while retaining its market responsiveness, to align with ISO/TC 211 on working practices.
- ISO/TC 211 wishes, within the constraints of the ISO Directives, to co-operate with OGC in assisting the alignment of life cycle working practices.
- OGC and ISO/TC 211 wish to harmonize and agree their respective work programmes and to set up a group to handle issues under this agreement.
- OGC and ISO/TC 211 wish to achieve mutual benefit from sharing the expertise of domain experts of the two organisations and they welcome cross-project participation.

## **4. Intellectual property rights (IPR)**

In accordance with OGC procedures, the text of all working documents developed under this agreement, as well as the final ISO deliverables will remain free of IPR restrictions that would limit their application. OGC grants to ISO the rights to use the text of the relevant documents created under this agreement as base documents for the development of the ISO deliverables. ISO/TC 211 agrees that the resulting ISO International Standard or other deliverable will contain a suitable statement similar to the one in the base documents indicating that the standard was derived from the relevant OGC documents. Published ISO documents under this agreement will be referenced, both on the OGC WWWeb site as well as within the OGC equivalent documents. These references will contain sufficient information for those wishing to obtain the ISO equivalent documents to be able to do so. Publishing arrangements between ISO and ISO member countries are unchanged by this agreement.

## **5. Alignment of procedures**

### **5.1 Overview**

To allow co-ordinated review of all working documents developed under this agreement, appropriate portions of ISO/TC 211 and OGC procedures will be aligned. The various aspects of this alignment process are described in the following sub clauses.

### **5.2 Work in progress**

Notification of availability of new documents on the OGC Internet WWW site will be announced on an e-mail reflector limited to the appropriate ISO/TC 211 working groups and the OGC participants only.

### **5.3 Liaison**

The ISO category A liaison agreement will be used as a primary mechanism to enable co-operation between OGC and ISO/TC 211. ISO/TC 211 has appointed the OGC as a category A liaison organization to ISO/TC 211. This allows OGC members, OGC technical staff and OGC nominated experts to attend ISO/TC 211 working group and plenary meetings and to participate in the work in a non-voting capacity. OGC liaison provides overall co-ordination of this activity within OGC.

OGC will accept nominated ISO/TC 211 representatives as non-voting liaison members to both the Technical and Management Committees of the OGC so that reciprocal liaison in the other direction can be achieved. Formal notification will be communicated between the ISO/TC 211 secretariat and the Chair of OGC Technical Committee. However, the representatives will be responsible to ensure that:

- a) at the point that the OGC Technical Committee Chair agrees that documents should be passed to ISO/TC 211 for further processing toward an ISO deliverable, documents are forwarded to the ISO/TC 211 secretariat;
- b) formal comments are forwarded from ISO/TC 211 to the OGC Management or Technical Committees, as appropriate;
- c) reports on the work of the OGC will be given at each relevant ISO/TC 211 plenary or working group meeting; reciprocally, and conversely, reports on the work of ISO/TC 211 will be given at each relevant OGC Technical Committee or Management Committee meeting, as appropriate;
- d) early notification is given to ISO/TC 211 of proposed new work items or other OGC work that is likely to be submitted to ISO/TC 211 as appropriate in co-ordination with the OGC Technical Committee Chair;
- e) ISO/TC 211 participation is co-ordinated in the OGC commenting and voting process that approves OGC proposed recommendations as OGC Industry Implementation Specifications;
- f) ISO/TC 211 participation is sustained in the OGC Revision Task Force activities and is sustained in each revision release;
- g) OGC recognizes that other category A liaison organizations may establish similar agreements with ISO/TC 211.

### **5.4 Early collaboration**

OGC and ISO/TC 211 desire that any OGC Industry Implementation Specification that is input into the formal ISO/TC 211 process is as close to meeting ISO style and quality requirements as possible. Because Implementation Specifications require extra care in styles, OGC agrees to produce a "Style Guide" and provide it as an aid to OGC Working Groups for use in the original creation of OGC Implementation Specifications.

New OGC work items that are intended for processing as ISO International Standards will be notified by OGC as soon as possible to ISO/TC 211 in a new work item proposal (NP), along with the available documentation and with the nomination of an OGC project editor. The NP will be sent out for ballot and comments as set out in the ISO Directives.

Promotional programs will be shared between ISO/TC 211 and OGC for the purpose of marketing co-ordination.

## 5.5 Relationship between ISO/TC 211 and OGC milestones

ISO/TC 211 national bodies are encouraged to participate in the technical work on OGC technologies by participating in OGC working groups. Since the desire of both organizations is that technical changes are not made once work has been passed to ISO/TC 211 as a Draft International Standard (DIS), ISO/TC 211 national bodies will encourage their technical experts to participate in OGC working groups.

Minimum and maximum times between the various stages of publications can be found in each organizations respective Directives. The following chart should be viewed as a general guidance, to be interpreted for each OGC work item according to the mutual consent of ISO/TC 211 and OGC. As a general guidance, whenever sufficient interest in a specific topic is sufficient enough to warrant a working group in OGC, a new work item proposal (NP) with similar scope will be generated. Conversely, whenever a NP is accepted by ISO/TC 211, a working group will be formed in OGC to develop corresponding interface technology and bring software implementations to the marketplace. Similarly, Industry Implementation Specifications Version 0.0 that are accepted by OGC in response to a Request For Proposal (RFP) may be submitted to ISO/TC 211 as a Committee Draft (CD). When these Specifications reach version V1.0, they may be submitted to ISO/TC 211 for consideration as a Draft International Standard (DIS). An OGC version V2.0 is a document that has been widely accepted as stable. V2.0 is the equivalent of a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS). In the following chart the abbreviation IS relates to an International Standard.

ISO	NP	CD	DIS	FDIS	IS
OGC	RFP	V0.0	V1.0	V2.0	

## 5.6 Co-ordination group

OGC and ISO/TC 211 will establish a joint co-ordination group. This group will meet as necessary and will be the forum for discussing and resolving issues that may arise from time to time. The group will support the individual liaisons between ISO/TC 211 working groups/project teams and OGC working groups, and shall not in any way usurp the responsibilities of existing organizational structures in OGC or ISO/TC 211.

The terms of reference for the co-ordination group will be developed and accepted by OGC and ISO/TC 211 prior to the establishment of the group.

## 5.7 Finalization of ISO work

ISO/TC 211 and the OGC agree to the following procedures for the processing of an OGC Industry Implementation Specification into an ISO International Standard after it has been submitted to ISO/TC 211 for adoption:

- From the time of initiation of processing by ISO/TC 211, through to the publication of the ISO International Standard, ISO/TC 211 procedures will be followed.
- The OGC members will be enabled to participate in the ISO/TC 211 standardization process through the category A liaison mechanism.

## 6. Base document

At the time that an OGC Industry Implementation Specification is submitted to ISO/TC 211 for processing as an ISO International Standard, the OGC shall identify the base document(s) supporting and justifying the work.

## 7. Availability of drafts and other working documents

All drafts and working documents will be made freely available to committee and working group members according to each party's normal practices.

## 8. Distribution of final standards

Both OGC and ISO individually retain the rights to publish all documents developed under this agreement according to their own practices. After adoption as a Draft International Standard (DIS, FDIS) or an International Standard (IS) the corresponding OGC version of the ISO International Standard will be published

as an OGC Industry Implementation Specification on the OGC Internet WWWeb site. ISO documents will be published and circulated according to their normal practices.

## **9. Maintenance of standards**

Both organizations acknowledge that a Registration Authority will be required for the successful implementation of certain provisions in ISO Standards resulting from this agreement. OGC offers volunteers to serve as this Registration Authority and will promptly submit a suitable application to ISO once the New Work Item Proposal requiring establishment of a Registration Authority for this work has been approved.

## **10. Amendments to the agreement**

ISO/TC 211 and OGC agree that changes to this agreement will be proposed by a resolution from one party and agreed by resolution from the other.

## Appendix

### ISO deliverables

For more detailed explanation, consult the relevant ISO publications (e.g. ISO Directives).

- *International Standard*
- *ISO Publicly Available Specification (ISO/PAS)*
- *ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS)*
- *Industry Technical Agreement (ITA)*
- *ISO Technical Report*

An *International Standard* is the primary deliverable of an ISO committee, and is approved if

- a) a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the P-members of the technical committee or subcommittee are in favour, and
- b) not more than one-quarter of the total number of votes cast are negative.

Abstentions are excluded when the votes are counted, as well as negative votes not accompanied by technical reasons.

ISO/PAS and ISO/TS are developed within the ISO technical structure of working groups and technical committees/subcommittees, but, due to the lower level of consensus needed for their approval, do not have the same status as International Standards. An ITA, on the other hand, represents a technical document developed by a workshop outside of the technical structure of ISO with administrative support from a designated member body.

A *Publicly Available Specification* is an ISO publication which has been approved by the members of an ISO working group and which has subsequently been approved by a simple majority of the P-members of the parent committee, i.e. either a TC or SC.

A *Technical Specification* is an ISO publication for which consensus has been reached amongst the P-members of the parent ISO committee through a formal voting process within the committee (a TC or SC), requiring approval by 2/3 of the P-members voting.

It is expected that a committee wishing to develop either an ISO/PAS or an ISO/TS will make this decision at the start of a project. However, it is also possible that a «normal» ISO project is converted into one of the two new deliverables if it is subsequently discovered that agreement cannot be achieved quickly to produce an International Standard. Both types of documents shall be reviewed after three years with a view to their reconfirmation, withdrawal or further development into an International Standard. After six years, such document should either be processed to become an International Standard or should be withdrawn. Both types of documents may be developed in one language only.

One consequence of this is that ISO Technical Reports will in future be purely informative documents (i.e. the current type 3 technical reports). Normative technical reports (types 1 and 2) will in future be published as technical specifications.

An *Industry Technical Agreement* is a technical document resulting from international workshops. The publication of these documents will include an indication of the participating organizations involved in the development of an ITA.

A *Technical Report* can be used to publish data that is of a different kind than normally published as an International Standard. This may include, for example, data obtained from a survey carried out among the national bodies, data on work in other international organizations or data on "state of the art" in relation to

standards of national bodies on a particular subject. The technical committee or subcommittee may decide, by a simple majority vote of its P-members, to request the Chief Executive Officer to publish such data in the form of a Technical Report. The document shall be entirely informative in nature and shall not contain matter implying that it is normative.