

Brussels, January 21<sup>st</sup> 2016

**Europe's public clients come together to lead a world-class digital construction sector**

Europe is now host to the greatest regional concentration of government-led BIM programmes in the world. Finland and Norway were the first to set standards, followed by procurement policies from the European Commission, the UK, Netherlands and Italy; and most recently joint government and industry initiatives from France, Germany and Spain. The newly formed "EU BIM Task Group" (co-funded by the European Commission) aims to bring together these national efforts into a common and aligned European approach to develop a world-class digital construction sector.

The EU BIM Task Group held its first official steering committee meeting in Brussels on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The group currently has fourteen European member states with representatives of public procurers, public building and infrastructure owners and policy makers from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the UK.

The European Commission recently awarded the EU BIM Task Group funding for two years (2016-2017) to deliver common European network aimed at aligning the use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in public works. The group will be communicating its ambition at conferences around Europe and holding a launch event in Brussels to grow its public sector membership and engage with industry.

Chair of the EU BIM Task Group, Adam Matthews, commented, "As a group we believe that the public sector can show leadership across the union and ultimately help Europe develop a world-class digital construction sector – one that is open, digital and competitive."

### ends

\*\*\*\*\* Additional information for editors; a Q&A with the EU BIM Task Group \*\*\*\*\*

**What is BIM and why do governments care about it?** Europe's public procurers, policy makers, and public estate owners recognize the positive and transformative effect that digitalization brings to both public works and the construction sector. European nations are introducing programmes to encourage Building Information Modelling (BIM), as "digital construction", with the common aim of improving value for public money, quality of the public estate and for the sustainable competitiveness of industry.

**What is the EU BIM Task Group and who is in it?** The group includes a mix of public sector representatives, including public estate owners, infrastructure operators, policy advisers and procurers of currently fourteen EU member states. In addition, these public sector entities have nominated a number of industry advisers to contribute to the group.

**What will the group actually produce?** The focus of the group is to develop a handbook containing the common principles for public procurers and policy makers to consider when introducing BIM to their public works or national strategies. The handbook development will focus on procurement measures, technical considerations, cultural and skills development; and the benefits case for policy makers and public clients.

**How is the group organised and funded?** The group has a chairman, a steering committee and a general assembly that acts as an advisory group to the steering committee. The group is co-funded as a project by the European Commission under a call for funding, the remaining co-funding is comprised of in-kind

contributions from the participating member states. The lead coordinator for the project is the UK's Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) – however this is very much a pan-European team effort.

**Why are these European member states collaborating?** As public sector representatives, we don't compete with each other. By sharing best practices we can go faster with our own transformation programmes and show united leadership to industry. Acting together will help us to grow a more productive and competitive European construction sector that is digital, world-class, open and fair. Ultimately, this is what will enable us to take better care of our public buildings and infrastructure and generate greater value.

**What are the group's objectives?** The group has a simple goal: to give a common message to the public sector that is based on the best practice around us in Europe. We will develop a handbook that captures the common principles and practices when introducing BIM to national policy or procurement frameworks. Ultimately, we could set common targets and converge on how we think about BIM as a strategy for modernising our European sector.

**Does this group compete with buildingSmart?** No, the EU BIM Task Group represents the public stakeholder interests relating to BIM and public estate to national and international standards bodies, such as ISO, CEN and buildingSmart. The EU BIM Task Group will not be creating new or competing standards, it will develop common guidance and practices for public procurers when introducing BIM.

**Who can join the Task Group?** The group membership is aligned with its vision to represent the public stakeholder interest as its members are either public sector representatives, or industry nominees proposed by public sector entities to represent their interests. It is common for there to be a public sector representative for a member state with an accompanying industry representative (usually a member of the national BIM working group).

**Can I join the EU BIM Task Group?** The group welcomes representatives of the public client and public sector, this can include industry representatives nominated by the public sector. If you would like to join, please contact [adam.matthews@eubim.eu](mailto:adam.matthews@eubim.eu)

**How do I connect with a local member of the EU BIM Task Group?** Please visit our website << [www.eubim.eu](http://www.eubim.eu) >> for a list of members, there are currently over 14 countries participating in the group, and there is likely to be a representative close by that you can connect with. Also, if you are a public sector representative and interested in participating please send an email to [adam.matthews@eubim.eu](mailto:adam.matthews@eubim.eu)

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