

buildingSMART Australasia

BIM Economic Productivity Study

Good relations with the Federal government are essential for nation building and a sustainable built environment. It is very important in this dialogue that there is participation from the major built environment industry organisations; **BEMP** (Built Environment Meets Parliament, see <http://www.BEMP.com.au>) has established a high level of credibility in this role.

As a result of the BEMP meetings, the Commonwealth created **BEIIC** - the Built Environment Innovation and Industry Council - announced by Minister Kim Carr, DIISR. BEIIC's role is to "... consider industry innovation challenges like climate change, sustainability and industry competitiveness as well as issues such as regulatory reform, workforce capability, skills needs, access to new technologies and other priorities for the industry. **Members** of BEIIC have been drawn from representatives from business, the research community, unions and government agencies". Following the 2009 BEMP meeting, BEIIC established a **BIM Working Group** on which buildingSMART is represented.

buildingSMART's role (see <http://www.buildingSMART.org.au>) is to work with key industry organisations to support the transition of the sector to a knowledge based digital economy, by addressing key issues such as GHG reduction, enabling Local Government planning and approval processes, and improving the quality & performance of the physical built environment.

2010 has seen the industry taking a very proactive decision to adopt BIM Building Information Modelling, an innovative digital technology that represents buildings not as traditional drawings, but as an intelligent 3D object database, supporting enhanced collaboration, faster & higher quality processes and life cycle management.

In May 2009, buildingSMART developed a proposal for an industry study of the benefits of the **adoption of BIM in Australia**. As part of the briefing documents for the BIM Working Group, buildingSMART tabled this study proposal. The study will focus on the economic productivity benefit in the first stage only, leaving for a possible but not committed second phase which would then look at policy, standard setting, government and industry initiatives to be developed (on the assumption of a positive outcome from the initial phase).

The key objective of the study is thus to *provide substantive evidence of the economic benefit BIM to government and industry*, that will be used by both to inform strategic planning for its managed uptake and national implementation.

The study scope is as follows:

- A brief review of the current state of play in the construction process to identify the extent to which poor information management, incomplete data and the lack of effective communication are affecting the property industry.
- A broad assessment of how information management systems and networking -and in particular the adoption BIM- can improve construction processes.
- A cost-benefit analysis of the adoption of BIM in the buildings sector. It is expected that the bulk of this analysis would be based on existing national and international literature on the productivity benefits of BIM adoption and industry estimates about the costs of implementing this technology.
- An analysis of the overall economic impact that the adoption of BIM would have on the Australian economy and particular industries.

Following confirmation of a revised budget (\$65k+reimbursables), prepared by Kerry Barwise of Allen Consulting, buildingSMART, NATSPEC, AIA, Atlas Industries and BEDP WA have all committed funds to the project. If a further 4 to 5 extra contributors can be found, the sum - say \$5k - is relatively modest on each partner. DIISR has indicated that it will contribute towards this study based on evidence of representative support by industry,

Accordingly **we seek your involvement**.

DIISR has set a deadline for the end of this month, February 2010 to complete the fundraising. It is expected the BIM WG will meet first thing in March, sign off the support, agree who will manage the study, set up a steering committee of sponsors and key interested parties, and implement the study. The target is to deliver the report by the 30 June 2010. We **encourage all members of the built environment to contribute to this study**. It is increasingly obvious BIM is going to have a major influence in the ANZ built environment sectors.

