

buildingSMARTalliance™



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NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
OF BUILDING SCIENCES

## The buildingSMARTalliance™

**is working for interoperability and open standards for the built environment.**

The **buildingSMART alliance** was established to address the profound changes coming to the nation's construction industry. The Alliance will develop and promote more efficient methods and standards for gathering, maintaining and communicating technical information related to facility and infrastructure lifecycles.

The **Alliance's** vision is a global environment where all participants can readily and transparently share, apply and maintain information about facilities and infrastructures.

The **Alliance's** mission is to improve all aspects of the facility and infrastructure lifecycle by promoting collaboration, technology, integrated practices, and open standards.

The **Alliance's** goal is to advance open interoperability and full lifecycle implementation of Building Information Models (BIM).

Specifically, the **Alliance** will:

- Provide **buildingSMART®** products, such as the U.S. National Building Information Model Standard (NBIMS).
- Support ongoing **buildingSMART®** projects in support of NBIMS.
- Provide visibility to ongoing efforts to develop **buildingSMART®** practices.
- Identify the interfaces, gaps, overlaps and collaboration opportunities among groups addressing **buildingSMART®** practices.
- Reduce wasted industry time, effort and cost.
- Demonstrate the benefits to industry of moving toward a common vision of **buildingSMART®**.

Created to spearhead technical, political, and financial support for advanced digital technology in the real property industry — from concept, design and construction through operations and management — the **buildingSMART alliance™** operates within the Congressionally authorized nonprofit National Institute of Building Sciences (Institute). The **Alliance** expands on the goals of the buildingSMART International, which develops open standards for data transfer among building industry software applications.

In contrast to centuries-old ways of documenting facilities with two-dimensional drawings plus specifications — a process recently automated with Computer-Aided Design (CAD) — new digital technology will bring together owners, operators, designers, constructors, regulators and other stakeholders around a single Building Information Model (BIM), a unified data resource tool that makes unprecedented accuracy, speed and economy in building design, construction, and facility operations possible. The closely related concept of open standards that lets all users communicate quickly and efficiently led to the creation of the International Alliance for Interoperability and "**buildingSMART®**."

The **buildingSMART alliance™** builds on existing the Institute's initiatives such as the U.S. National Building Information Model Standard (NBIMS) Project Committee, the U.S. National CAD Standard Committee, the Facility Maintenance and Operations Committee's Construction Operations Building Information Exchange (COBIE) initiative, and AGCxml, a cooperative project with the Associated General Contractors of American. Most importantly, the Alliance promotes building industry collaboration to improve facilities.

**Support the Alliance and invest in your future** – see the **buildingSMART alliance™** web site for more information on how supporting the **Alliance** will benefit you, your firm or organization, and the built environment.

[www.buildingsmartalliance.org](http://www.buildingsmartalliance.org)

## What is buildingSMART®?

**buildingSMART®** is INTEROPERABILITY — products and services promoting the dynamic and seamless exchange of accurate, useful information about the built environment among all members of the building community throughout the life cycle of a facility. **buildingSMART®** is simply smarter products for managing the project lifecycle.

## What is BIM?

A Building Information Model (BIM) is a digital representation of physical and functional characteristics of a facility. Founded on open standards for interoperability, a BIM serves as a shared knowledge resource for information about a facility and provides a more reliable basis for decisions during its lifecycle.

A basic premise of BIM is its use to foster optimal collaboration among project stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of a facility to insert, extract, update or modify information in the BIM. The result of proper BIM application is an accurate and dynamic multi-dimensional record of the facility's design, construction and operation.

## Why Should You Support the buildingSMART alliance™?

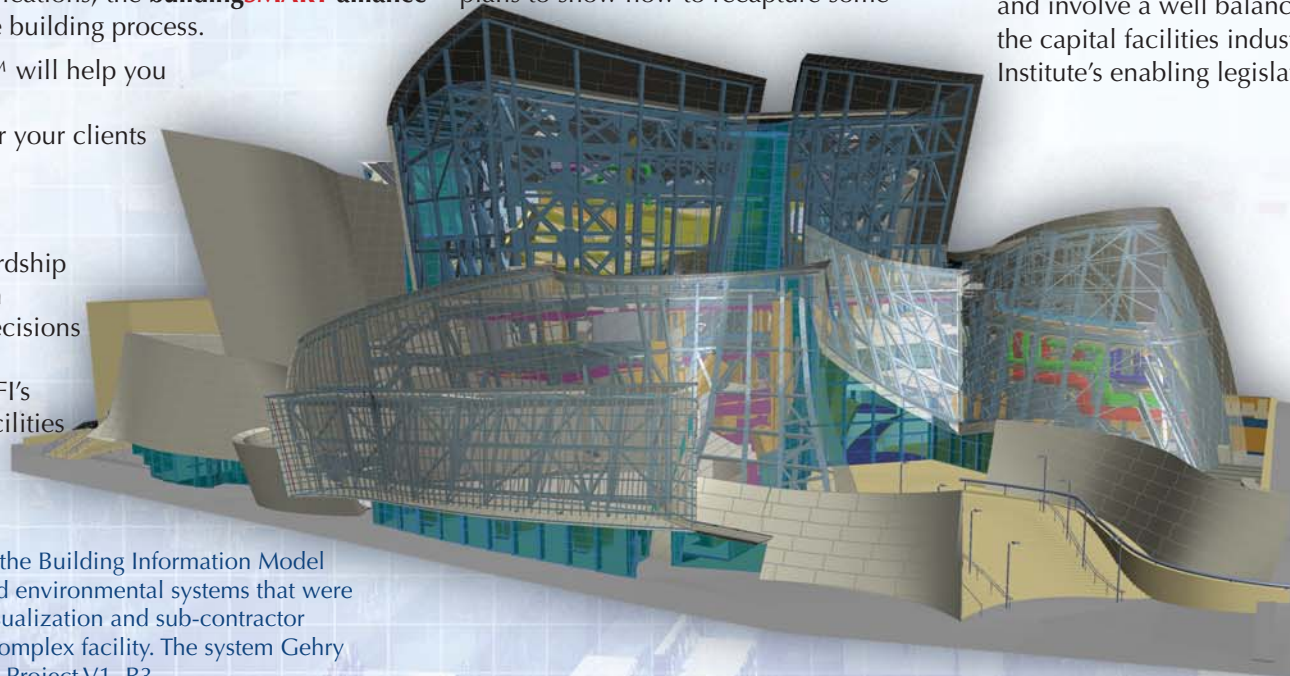
Recent studies have cited the U.S. construction industry as one of the least productive sectors of the economy. A staggering amount of money — up to \$400 billion a year — is wasted due to a lack of interoperability of information which leads to late deliveries, idle labor time, and poor coordination among the many contractors and professionals who produce a facility.

Through **buildingSMART®** applications, the **buildingSMART alliance™** plans to show how to recapture some of the \$400 billion wasted in the building process.

The **buildingSMART alliance™** will help you deliver:

1. A more valuable product for your clients
2. Higher quality facilities
3. Lower energy usage
4. Shorter delivery time
5. Better environmental stewardship
6. Reliable facility information
7. Better information-based decisions
8. Lower lifecycle costs
9. Fewer change orders and RFI's
10. A documented record of facilities and infrastructures prior to,

► This image, a transparent view of the Building Information Model (BIM) shows structure, cladding, and environmental systems that were used to perform conflict analysis visualization and sub-contractor fabrication for a very creative and complex facility. The system Gehry Technologies uses for BIM is Digital Project V1, R3.



*Photo courtesy of Dennis R. Shelden, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer, Gehry Technologies. The Disney Conference Hall was designed by Frank Gehry.*

## What Will the buildingSMART alliance™ Do?

The **Alliance** will raise the resources needed to conduct, coordinate, promote and sponsor research and development activities related to the dynamic information exchange in the building community, establish consortia arrangements, conduct forums and workshops, manage research and research-related projects, disseminate information, and review work performed by others.

The **Alliance** can develop or support the development of and recommend standards, guidelines and conformity assessment programs; stimulate innovation in the industry and reduce constraints upon technology flow in the building process; and promote increased understanding and communications among producers, voluntary standards organizations, users, government agencies and other sectors of the building community. The development of processes, products and services shall be open and involve a well balanced cross section of the capital facilities industry as defined in the Institute's enabling legislation.

## SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE

Supporters:	Annual Contribution:
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00
<b>Contributors:</b>	
Educational Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00
Non-Government/Association	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00
State & Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00
Federal Government	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000.00
<i>Private Industry:</i>	
Gross Annual Income Based	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000.00 (<\$10M)
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,000.00 (<\$50M)
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$3,000.00 (<\$100M)
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$4,000.00 (<\$250M)
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000.00 (>\$250M)
<b>Sponsors:</b>	
Alliance Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000.00
Bronze International Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000.00
Silver International Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000.00
Gold International Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000.00
Platinum International Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250,000.00

### Your contributions will help to support:

- **NBIMS (National Building Information Model Standard)**
- *JBIM (Journal of Building Information Modeling)*
- The **Alliance** web site
- The dissemination of information to our industry
- Conferences, speaker bureaus, and linking with associations and other industry wide coordination efforts

### Supporters, contributors and sponsors are eligible to:

- Vote on the National BIM Standards
- Actively participate on **Alliance** projects

### Contributors receive:

- Twenty percent discount at Ecobuild/AEC-ST events
- Their logo displayed on the **Alliance** web site

### Sponsors receive:

- A seat on the **Alliance** Board of Direction
- A linked logo on the **Alliance** web site
- Recognition in printed and web-based materials
- VIP passes to Ecobuild/AEC-ST (based on sponsor level)

### International sponsors support buildingSMART International

BE SMART... Support **buildingSMARTalliance!**

A Program of the National Institute of Building Sciences

Sign up to support the Alliance at:

[www.buildingSMARTalliance.org](http://www.buildingSMARTalliance.org)