

# Accelerating the Green, Digital and Resilient Transition by Implementing Building Information Modelling in Public Procurement

## EU BIM Task Group Position Paper

With the green, digital and resilient transition, the European Union has set ambitious goals for the construction industry. This means we need to develop and manage our built environment more holistically and with considerably less waste.

Building Information Modelling (BIM) methodology is one of the key tools for improving efficiency and achieving better value in the delivery of construction projects. Governments and public procurers across Europe and around the world are recognising the value of BIM<sup>1</sup> as a strategic enabler for cost, quality, and policy goals. This notion has also been echoed in the [High Level Construction Forum \(HLCF\)](#) meetings, an initiative started by the European Commission with the purpose to co-create the green, digital and resilient transition pathway for the EU construction industry ecosystem.

The EU Public Procurement Directive of 2014 encourages public entities to use BIM but a lot has changed since 2014 and the **time is ripe to set up more incentives for the better use and integration of built environment data in public procurements**. There is still a big gap between the standards and the way work is actually being done.

The use of BIM has significantly increased<sup>2</sup> and many countries in Europe have already set up national BIM mandates and programmes. Digitization is happening at an ever-increasing rate and the amount of data needed to make decisions has grown exponentially. Stakeholders require the whole spectrum of built environment data that integrates BIM with digital twins, big data, AR/VR, IoT, GIS etc.

The Government and public sector clients (public clients) represent the construction industry's single biggest client and therefore have a strong influence on the whole industry. The objective of European public clients represented in the EU BIM Task Group is to:

- Accelerate the EU green and digital transitions
- Maximise the value from public money
- Ensure transparency in public procurement and the use of public data

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<sup>1</sup> Calculating Costs and Benefits for the use of Building Information Modelling in Public tenders Methodology Handbook

<sup>2</sup> EU Construction Sector Observatory Report, page 38-39



- Support the development of a Single European Digital Market
- Secure control and availability of digital assets throughout the building lifecycle
- Facilitate a level playing field for SME-s
- Stimulate innovation and foster government-to-business data sharing for the public interest
- Support usage of international standards and interoperability through open formats in the public procurement
- Adopt fully digital and BIM-enabled building permitting processes

BIM plays an integral part in achieving these goals and adds value to many EU wide initiatives like the [Renovation Wave](#), Building Logbooks, Environmental Performance Declaration, LEVELS, DigiPLACE and many Horizon Europe projects.

The EU BIM Task Group firmly believes that the following measures need to be implemented at the EU level to enable the digital transformation of the construction industry:

- 1. Increase DEMAND - Require the use of [openBIM](#)<sup>3</sup> in all publicly EU co-financed construction and renovation projects.** openBIM extends the benefits of BIM by improving the interoperability accessibility, usability, management, and sustainability of digital data in the built asset industry. At its core, openBIM is a collaborative process that is vendor neutral. openBIM processes can be defined as sharable project and asset information that supports seamless collaboration for all project participants. openBIM facilitates interoperability to benefit projects and assets throughout their lifecycle.

The importance of software neutrality and open standards has also been acknowledged in the [“FIEC position paper on the relationship between users and software companies/editors/service providers”](#).

- 2. Increase SUPPLY - Ensure funding for a permanent independent team of experts that will support public procurers and the European Commission in the development and implementation of standardized BIM requirements in procurement and implementation of construction and renovation projects and all other phases of the asset lifecycle. To be a partner for other stakeholders representing interests of European stakeholders.**

The EU BIM Task Group is ready to work with the European Commission to ensure the implementation of the above measures.

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.buildingsmart.org/about/openbim/>

