

**The GIGAS Forum**  
**a place to meet, discuss and find solutions**  
**and best practices for geospatial**  
**interoperability problems**

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# Outline

- Why a Forum
- Vision
- Structures
- Procedures
- Funding
- Open Questions

## Why a Forum?

- The fact that there are various environmental initiatives that share commonalities but that are being developed independently makes for a complex landscape in terms of adoption of standards and create interoperability barriers not profiting from the benefits of shared knowledge.

## FORUM VISION

### ■ Will

- help in monitoring architectural progresses in relevant Environmental Monitoring and Information Systems initiatives of European interest
- give access to information, best practices and tools for interoperability problems and discuss them in relevant fora
- provide a platform to meet, discuss and agree about geospatial standards
- bridge the interests of Industry, Government and Research stakeholders from the standards point of view
- play a crucial role to identify current interoperability bottlenecks and to define new topics for future research

### ■ Should

- gradually become an authoritative platform and form the active European voice in standardization in the scope of geospatial information

## FORUM *foreseen* STRUCTURES 1/2

### ■ Governance

- Temporarily (short term – summer 2010) under responsibility of the ExecBoard of the GIGAS Project
- For long term operations, still to be defined (pending definition and approval of the GIGAS Business model)

### ■ Membership

- Open to all interested (public organizations, industry, individuals, ... (to be defined) through registration of interest

### ■ Discussion Groups

- To achieve consensus on the recommendations coming from the GIGAS Consortium
- To facilitate communication amongst the registered members in order to:
  - Identify new requirements, topics, clarify issues, raise awareness, formulate new recommendations, help, ...

### ■ Repository

- Access to all GIGAS deliverables
- Access to documents provided by GIGAS Forum members

**Are these structures appropriate?**

## FORUM *foreseen* STRUCTURES 2/2

■ Linkage to other relevant repositories/fora (ISO, CEN, OGC, ..)

■ Bilateral agreements

■ Special access rights?

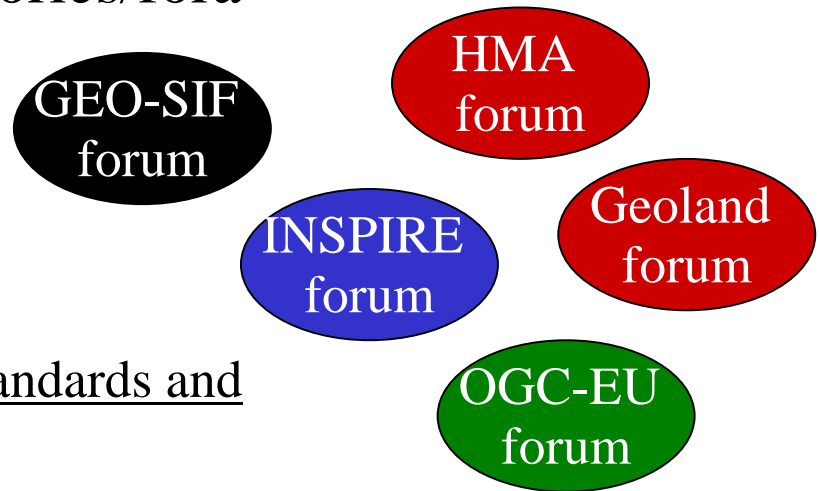
■ Ad hoc solutions

■ European Team of the GEO Standards and Interoperability Forum (SIF)\*\*

■ Permanent Test Bed / Federation of Test Beds \*\*

■ To be defined by the Project

■ ..



**Are these additional structures needed?**

## FORUM PROCEDURES

- Discussion groups \*\*
- Consensus Building \*\*
- Workshops
  - Different Types (e.g., comment resolution workshop, ...)
  - Different Types (Physical, Virtual: teleconference and webconference, ..)
- Communication
  - Newsletter (including new discussion groups activated, calendar for discussing recommendations, relevant events, follow-up, ...)
  - Web site [www.thegigasforum.eu](http://www.thegigasforum.eu)
- Liaison and Shaping
  - By direct involvement of GIGAS Forum members in key initiative
  - By consolidated / coherent advice to relevant stakeholders
  - By active participation in standardization processes ...

**Are these Procedures appropriate?**

## Discussion groups and consensus building

- Scope: to discuss topics of interest within the scope of the Forum
- Animated by a Moderator (initiator)
- Discussion groups are also used to consolidate recommendations drafted by the GIGAS consortium
  - Moderator sets up the discussion on a topic and indicates time line
  - Iterative open discussion cycles until consensus is reached (70% of stakeholders agree):
- GIGAS Forum members can also propose new topics for discussion
  - If the issue is sufficiently broad a new Discussion Group is set-up
  - the discussion can result in pre-recommendations submitted to the Forum board (currently the GIGAS Executive Board)
  - the Forum board can decide to enter the recommendations into the consensus building procedure.



## FORUM FUNDING\*

- To be clarified in the GIGAS Forum Business Plan
  - Is there a long term need ?
  - How much it will cost ?
  - Who can contribute to sustained operations
- Works should start to address:
  - Voluntary Contribution from members (mainly in kind resources to moderate discussion groups)
  - Industrial and Governmental Sponsors to sustain operations
    - Secretariat
    - main Forum moderators
    - ICT Platform
    - Communication
    - European SIF
    - Permanent Test Bed (?)
    - ...

**Should the Forum long term maintained?**

**How to make it sustainable at the Project end?**

**\* after the end of the Project**

## Open Questions

- Is the Forum Vision achievable?
- Is the Forum scope what would you expect?
- Is the Forum relevant for you?
- Which role you would like to play?
- Are the identified Structures effective and comprehensive?
- Are the Procedures appropriate?
- Should the Forum long term maintained?
- How to make the Forum sustainable after the end of the Project?

# Thank you for your attention

Links to targeted Initiatives, Organisations and Projects:



European Committee for Standardization  
Comité Européen de Normalisation  
Europäisches Komitee für Normung



Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc.



International  
Organization for  
Standardization



COOPERATION



Sixth Framework Programme



GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS



European Information Services  
for Environment and Security



INSPIRE - Infrastructure for  
Spatial Information in Europe



Shared Environmental  
Information System for Europe

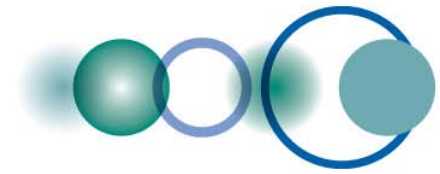
# Additional slides

# Procedures for Consensus Building

- Discussion forum organized by type of recommendation as subforum (types still to be defined)
- Every recommendation has three subtopics
  - Open commenting topic
  - Open discussion topic: time limited and organized and monitored by a moderator
  - A poll option indicating at any time during the open discussion the degree of consensus reached.
    - Poll is used
      - Continuously for the participants to assess the current degree of consensus
      - At the end of the discussion as a decision tool
    - One polling voice per stakeholder, but he can at all times change his opinion.
    - TBD: weighing of votes per stakeholder type

# Procedures for Consensus Building

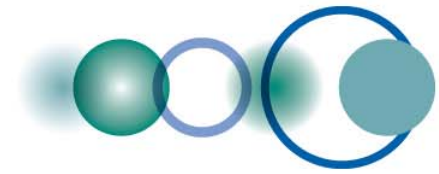
- Moderator sets up the discussion on a topic and indicates time line.
- Iterative open discussion cycles until consensus is reached (70% of stakeholders agree):
  - A very discussion cycle is limited to one version of the recommendation
  - As soon as consensus is reached to discuss a new version,
    - The discussion on the current version is closed, but remains accessible
    - A new version of the recommendation is posted
    - The moderator sets a new timeline if needed
    - The discussion continues on the new version
  - End of timeline: Decision based on the poll results:
    - Accept > 70% -> recommendation accepted
    - One reject option (veto) : moderator discusses with the originator
    - Else : the majority poll option is retained (one of : disagree, postpone, review)
    - Abstain votes are not counted in the percentages.



## **GEOSS Standards and Interoperability Forum (SIF)**

### **Purpose and Goal**

- The Standards and Interoperability Forum provides advice, expertise and impartial guidance on issues relating to standards and interoperability for GEOSS.
- The SIF's goal is to enable ever greater degrees of interoperability among GEOSS components through facilitation, technical analysis, advocacy and education



# GEOSS Standards Registry

- The GEOSS Standards Registry is the reference database of interoperability arrangements for GEOSS
  - Contains information on service types, access protocols, data formats, schemas, and other information necessary to access and utilize the resource
  - Services registered in the Service Registry reference standards, or other interoperability “Special Arrangements,” registered in the Standards Registry



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Text Size: A A A Search IEEE-SA Site Go

Main Menu  
 REGISTRY & SERVICES  
 USER SUPPORT  
 SCC 40  
 NEWS & INFORMATION  
 ADMIN

User Menu  
 YOUR DETAILS  
 CHECK-IN MY ITEMS  
 LOGOUT

Member Login  
 Logout

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS  
 GEOSS Standards Registry  
 HOME • REGISTRY & SERVICES • SEARCH THE REGISTER

SEARCH THE REGISTER NEW

Search:  Search Basic Search

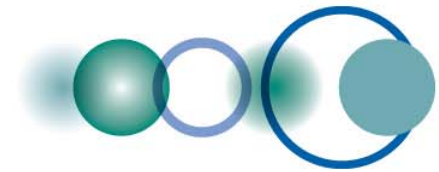
ANY of these terms:  ALL of these terms:

Title	Authority	Standard Type	Public	Status
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Special An

SEARCH RESULTS: 1 - 6 OF 6

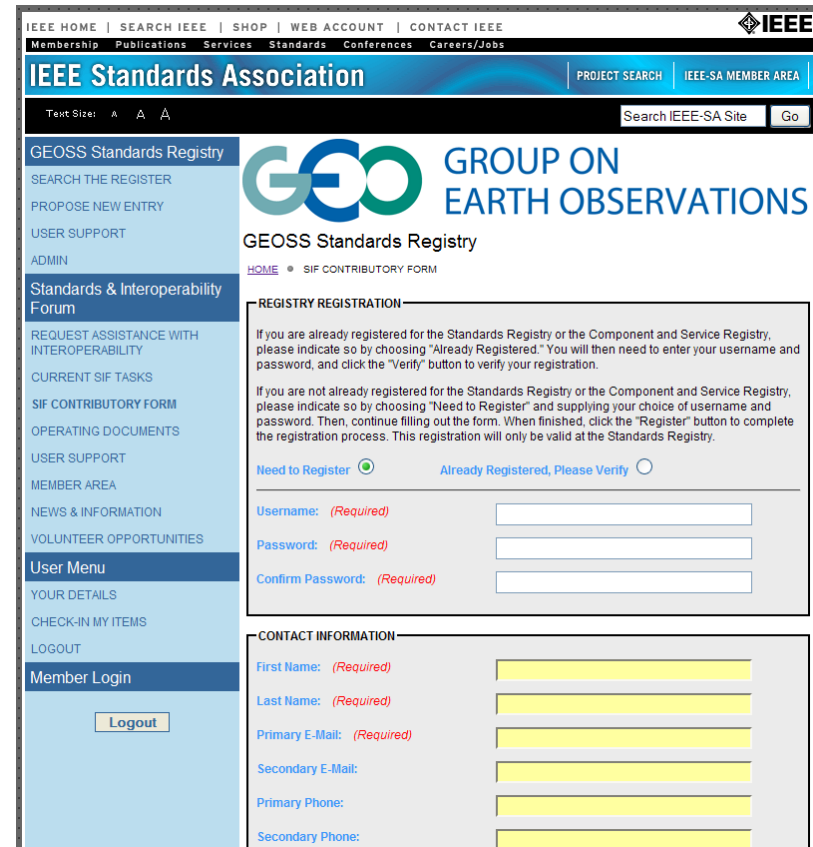
Title	Standard Authority	Standard Type	Status	Date Accepted
<a href="#">GeoTIFF</a>	none	Data Format	specialArrangement	N/A
<a href="#">OGC Sensor Observation Service</a>	OGC	Data Format	specialArrangement	N/A
<a href="#">GEONetCast Data Access Service</a>	none	Data Access	specialArrangement	N/A
<a href="#">EO-1 Workflow Chaining Service</a>	OGC	Engineering Process	specialArrangement	N/A
<a href="#">SODA Native XML Database System...</a>	other	Data Access, Catalog/Registry & Streaming Protocols	specialArrangement	N/A
<a href="#">DIF-ISDC Information System &amp;...</a>	none	Catalog/Registry	specialArrangement	Nov 27th, 2007





# Experts Database

- Online database created
  - Contributor registration form available
  - Initial population from *SIF* membership and Call for Participation responses
  - RTs requested to develop regional lists
- *AIP-2* is generating entries and expects reasonable response times
- Need to assemble a set of contributors with broad expertise



The screenshot shows the IEEE Standards Association website. The main navigation bar includes links for HOME, SEARCH IEEE, SHOP, WEB ACCOUNT, and CONTACT IEEE. Below this is a secondary bar with Membership, Publications, Services, Standards, Conferences, and Careers/Jobs. The main header features the IEEE Standards Association logo and a search bar. The left sidebar contains a menu with categories like GEOSS Standards Registry, Standards & Interoperability Forum, User Menu, and Member Login. The main content area displays the GEOSS Standards Registry logo and the SIF CONTRIBUTORY FORM. The form is divided into two sections: REGISTRY REGISTRATION and CONTACT INFORMATION. The REGISTRY REGISTRATION section includes instructions for existing and new users, a radio button selection for 'Need to Register' (selected) and 'Already Registered, Please Verify', and input fields for Username, Password, and Confirm Password. The CONTACT INFORMATION section includes input fields for First Name, Last Name, Primary E-Mail, Secondary E-Mail, Primary Phone, and Secondary Phone.

*SIF* Contributor Registration Form

## SIF European Team

- GIGAS will support the creation of the GEOSS SIF European Team and play a leading role
- The purpose of having a European Regional Team is to increase efficiency in carrying out the work of the SIF, addressing issues such as
  - bring local knowledge;
  - reach out multi-disciplinary and regional science Communities;
  - provide knowledge and experts about regional standard and interoperability arrangements;
  - support the SIF to complete the tasks submitted by Communities.
  - teleconferences effectiveness (e.g. minimizing time zone differences)

## **SIF European Team duties**

- Identify subject matter experts representing each (or most) of the Societal Benefit Areas of GEOSS in Europe.
- Facilitate the registration of European standards and interoperability best practices (e.g. special arrangements).
- Be prepared to review standards and special arrangements submitted for entry into the standards registry.
- Help reach out to scientific Communities in Europe, as far as GEOSS is concerned.

## Persistent Test bed(s)

- GIGAS will define the requirements for a persistent test-bed so that uptake of standards by industry and institutions is eased, e.g. to provide
  - An open, permanent infrastructure in which organizations or external projects can integrate their (compliant) services.
  - A permanent test environment to design, develop and test new services and service interfaces and to foster related research by offering a sandbox for not yet established services
  - Optionally conformance test tools,
  - A set of tools supporting the target interfaces (ideally offered as freely available open source tools),
- GIGAS will also investigate needs for a meta test bed / federation of test bed facilities aiming to foster and ease the participation of international teams of technology providers and researchers in test beds
- Both will be integrated in GIGAS Business Model proposal to set-up a persistent test-bed infrastructure