

# Specifiers' Properties information exchange (SPie)

## What is SPie?

The SPie project is bringing together software manufacturers, product manufacturers and related associations, professional associations, and project stakeholders to define a series of open information exchanges that improve construction document consistency, reduce product discovery and procurement costs, and automatically capture construction handover data. Professional, trade, and manufacturer associations of record for a given domain will be responsible to work with their members, and stakeholders, to update and manage their products' property sets. The not-for-profit buildingSMART Alliance provides the neutral forum for the creation of these information exchange formats and coordination across the entire set of products found in buildings.

## How will it work?

SPie provides templates that identify, for a given type of product, a standard set of properties that should be included in a BIM model object. These templates are maintained by manufacturer associations and their representatives. An initial set of templates was created by the professional association, Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP). The set of "strawman" templates will be publically released in December 2009 at the AEC-Ecobuild Conference.

The Whole Building Design Guide's ([www.wbdg.org](http://www.wbdg.org)) Product Guide provides the repository for the product templates and individual product libraries. The library will contain the product catalog cut in Portable Document Format (PDF) as well as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file containing the necessary product property sets. The SPie templates and data from any specific product participating in the SPie effort may be included in any software system at no charge.

## SPie demonstration

To develop the required open information exchange standards and demonstrate that the required information is available, and can be easily used today, project team members are planning a demonstration during the Summer of 2009 in Washington, D.C. The demonstration will show how the SPie open information exchange format supports the following project actions:

- The designers selection of consistent properties for generic BIM objects (products and assemblies) during conceptual and schematic design;
- The designers discovery and selection of specific design requirements for these generic BIM objects based on the selection of "typical" product from an electronic product catalog;

- The specifiers comparison of product performance requirements found in BIM object properties and the requirements identified in the specifications;
- The contractors discovery of products that comply with the specification requirements;
- The construction managers evaluation of the contractors' product submittal versus the specification requirements;
- The purchasing of approved products through streamlined supply chain procedures provided by AGCxml;
- The delivery of as-built product data by the contractor using the Construction Operations Building Information Exchange (COBIE) format.

## Current SPie team

- ARCOM
- BSD
- Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice (SCIP)
- Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)
- E-Spec
- National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Electrical Manufacturer's Association (NEMA)
- U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC)
- U.S. Department of State, Overseas Buildings Operations

## How to Participate?

buildingSMART Alliance projects are, by definition, open, industry-driven efforts. Due to the extremely large potential scope of this project, members of the SPie project are limited to the executives and officially designated technical representatives of software vendor and trade, manufacturer, or professional associations. Other members may participate by invitation only. Membership in the buildingSMART Alliance is recommended.

Software vendors wishing to participate in portions of the Summer 2009 demonstrations relevant to their individual products are welcome to contact the buildingSMART Alliance's Executive Director, Mr. Deke Smith for more information.