

in030177

January 30, 2003

**Subject: Draft Agreement for the INCITS/L1 and CGSB-COG ISO/TC 211
Collaboration of Joint Standards (replaces in030070)**

From: Norman Andersen, INCITS/L1 Chairman

Background

At the January 2001 meeting of INCITS, a request from L1 to establish formal cooperative procedures with the Canadian General Standards Board Committee on Geomatics (CGSB COG) was addressed (IT/01-0065). INCITS agreed with the proposal in principle. It was noted that some of the details from 1981 may no longer work, others noted that co-located meetings of the separate organizations has worked for other TCs, it was noted that ANSI worked under NAFTA, it was thought that substantial joint procedures might be necessary to advance the work, and other members noted that it was unclear what authority the forum had. The following action items were assigned relative to this matter:

- Members with concerns or comments on the L1/CGSB COG cooperative proposal were encouraged to notify Ms. McMillan.
- The Secretariat and Mr. Barrett, the L1 liaison, will work with Mr. Tom (L1 Chairman) to prepare a presentation addressing the concerns raised with the proposal for formal cooperative procedures between L1 and CGSB COG. Mr. Tom will discuss this with INCITS in April 2001.

The issue was not addressed at the April 2001 INCITS meeting and was carried as an outstanding action item at the April 2001 and July 2001 meetings. The matter was not carried on the list of open action items from the November 2001 INCITS meeting, so it appears that the presentation was never prepared and the issue was dropped for lack of progress.

Current Status

INCITS/L1 has expressed renewed interest in collaboration with CGSB COG on the development of common geographic information standards. The attached draft agreement has undergone review within L1. The results of the vote at the January 2003 L1 meeting are attached for consideration at the February 2003 meetings of the INCITS Standards Policy Board (SPB) and Executive Board.

Attachment

From: Andersen, Norman
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2003 6:31 AM
To: Vago, Monica
Cc: Roswell, Charles; jmaitra@usgs.gov
Subject: RE: Collaboration of Joint Standards

Monica,

We have completed a table vote in NCITS/L1 regarding the attached US/Canadian proposed MOU. The recommendation was to vote YES, and there were no objections. We had several minor comments, which I have incorporated into the attached document. The vote was based on a L1 roster I got from Par dated 27 Jan 03, Out of 15 eligible voting members, the ballot results were:

YES	11
NO	0
ABSTAIN	0
NON-VOTING	4

Norm
Norman C. Andersen
Chair, INCITS L1
Lockheed Martin Management & Data Systems
15050 Conference Center Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151, USA
Phone 703-460-3402
R- 540-752-1227
Remail- kkestrina@aol.com

ANSI INCITS L1 and CGSB-COG ISO/TC 211 Collaboration of Joint Standards

Attached is a flow diagram which addresses the relationship between INCITS (International Committee on Information Technology and Standards) L1 Subcommittee for Geographic Information Standards and the CGSB COG (Canadian General Standards Board – Committee on Geomatics), which is the equivalent national committee in Canada, for the development of common geographic information standards bilaterally between Canada and the US.

The committee structures in Canada and the US are very similar and parallel. In Canada The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) has the mandate from Parliament to establish national standards and to act as the Canadian voice on international standards bodies such as ISO and ITU. The structure is similar in the US, where the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has a national mandate to establish national standards and act as the US voice in ISO. Both ANSI and the SCC delegate their authority to accredited standards writing bodies. In this case, ANSI has delegated to INCITS L1 and SCC has delegated to CGSB-COG. There are two parallel working level committees in each country. INCITS L1 develops US national standards, and the US Technical Advisory Group (TAG) through INCITS L1 for ISO TC211 develops US positions on ISO TC211 documents and handles the US vote on TC211 issues. Norman Andersen is chair of both committees and Dr. Charles Roswell is the International Representative (IR)US. Similarly in Canada the CGSB-COG develops national standards and the Canadian Advisory Committee on TC211 (CAC-TC211) handles Canadian positions on ISO TC211 documents and handles the Canadian vote on TC211 issues. C Douglas O'Brien is the chair of the CGSB-COG, and Dr. Kian Fadaie is the chair of the CAC TC211.

Both the US and Canada would participate in ISO TC211 separately through their respective committees the US TAG TC211 and the Canadian CAC TC211. Cooperation bilaterally would not impact either country's independence in working in ISO.

Where a common standard is needed, actually two parallel identical standards are produced. One is a US national standard, and the other is a Canadian national standard. The standard development goes through all of the public comment and review stages in both countries. Ad hoc meetings to ensure harmony between parallel standards should take place prior to and after both country's public review processes are conducted. The development of a US national standard has one more step than the Canadian process, so this activity would do all the steps required by the US process. Essentially all of the requirements of both processes are satisfied. US committee members comment and vote on the US national standard and Canadian committee members comment and vote on the Canadian national standard. Success is ending up with identical parallel national standards in both countries. Both countries agree to publish their standard on the same date, so that neither standard takes precedence. Both national standards carry the numbers and logos of both national standards writing bodies, and indicate that the particular standard was developed in parallel between the US and Canada and that the two national standards are identical.

Canada intends to adopt the entire suite of TC211 standards, and to develop additional national standards as needed to support the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure, and other national requirements. In Canada the requirements for the CGDI are developed in the through the Geoconnections program of Natural Resources Canada. These requirements are fed to the CGSB-COG, which is the body duly empowered to develop national standards.

The US intends to review and recommend adoption of each of the TC211 standards on their own merit. It is not known at this time which standards from ISO TC 211 will be recommended for adoption. As in Canada some additional standards may be needed to fully reap the benefits from the ISO/TC 211 adopted Standards. Requirements for the US National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is developed by the Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC). These requirements are then presented to the INCITS L1, which is the body duly empowered to develop necessary national standards.

