

New International Standard ISO 21500: Guide to Project Management

Dear Stakeholder,

Background and Progress Update

As you may be aware an International Standards Organisation (ISO) Technical Committee (ISO/TC236) Project Management, was established in late 2007 to develop *ISO 21500: Guide to Project Management*. The Committee is currently represented by 49 countries.

Standards Australia, as the official Australian standards body, is a participating member and a national Mirror Committee "MB12-Project Management" has been set up to provide the Australian input into the development of ISO 21500. Membership of MB12 is by nomination from major national associations representing the Project Management profession, and a number of Working Groups have been set up to assist the Committee in the development of the various drafts of the Standard. Additionally, a Public Consultation Panel has also been established to enable all interested Project Management professionals in Australia to participate and stay informed.

The Australian Mirror Committee (MB12) would like to thank Working Group and Public Consultation Panel members for their continued input into the Standard over the past few years. We also thank our official supporters: The Australian Institute of Project Management, Defence Materiel Organisation, SYPAQ, PMI Australia and Queensland University of Technology for their backing of this very important initiative.

The Australian Mirror Committee (MB12) is pleased to advise that the Standard is now in the "Draft International Standard (DIS)" phase. In ISO terms this means that International Committee is satisfied that the Standard is ready for circulation for all member bodies for comments.

Commencement of Public Consultation Process

The Australian Mirror Committee (MB12) considers the Draft International Standard, which has achieved consensus by participating countries by way of an official vote, to fulfil the original objectives of providing a high level overarching framework facilitating the use of consistent project management processes and terminology, and would like to invite the Australian Project Management profession to comment on the DIS. For this purpose the Committee has established a website to facilitate this Public Consultation Process. All interested parties are requested to:

1. Go to: www.mb12.org.au and register on the subscription list
2. Once registered an email will be sent to you as a new subscriber with detailed instructions on how the consultation process will take place.

The consultation process will close by COB on Friday 19 August 2011.

What next?

Upon completion of the consultation process the Australian Mirror Committee (MB12) will provide all relevant Australian comments to the ISO International Committee, where they will be addressed along with comments from all other nations. *ISO 21500: Guide to Project Management* will then be further developed to its Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) phase where it will be voted upon as Final International Standard (FIS) and will then go through the editing and translation (to all official ISO Languages) phase and will be ready for publication in 2012.

Upon publication of the International Standard, the Australian Mirror Committee (MB12) will undertake the steps necessary for the adoption of ISO 21500 in Australia, and will also continue to support the ISO International Committee TC236 in its next planned standard development likely to be a Guide to Portfolio Management.

ISO 21500: Guide to Project Management

Funding Request

Each year, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) provides, as part of its grant to Standards Australia, funds to assist selected delegates from accredited Standards Development Organisations (SDOs) to participate on Australia's behalf in international standardisation activities. These funds are provided as part of the Government's commitment to the development and adoption of International Standards, as well as the government's obligations under the WTO agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

The grant is intended to supplement funds from other sources since it is expected that other Australian organisations will also provide practical support for international standardisation activities and contribute to the cost of participation. This puts the onus on the committee to identify and contact those stakeholders in the Australian project management community who may be willing to provide support for standardisation initiatives. Such sources are not only necessary but are also pragmatic in that the willingness of the external organisation to provide funds is indicative of the degree to which these organisations feel the standard is beneficial to their endeavours.

Resources from external organisations may be provided to directly support a particular activity such as hosting an International Standards meeting in Australia, providing administrative support for the Australian Mirror Committee, covering advertising costs and covering the expenses of the Australia Delegation to attend international ISO meetings.

The *ISO 21500 Guide to Project Management Standard* when completed will benefit the Australian Project Management community by aiding in the transfer of knowledge between projects and organisations resulting in improved project delivery through the application of widely recognised and accepted good practices in Project Management.

To enable the Standard to enter into its final and crucial finalisation phase, and to enable continued representation of Australia on future Project, Portfolio and Program Management Standards, we respectfully request that all stakeholders assess the willingness of their respective organisations to provide support for this important initiative. Specific benefits will be provided to supporters depending of level of support and should be discussed with the contacts below.

Contacts

For further information please visit our website www.mb12.org.au or contact:

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