

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL

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UK & US collaborate to improve the built environment

Today (25 May) a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been announced between representatives for the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States of America (U.S.) cementing a pledge to work together on the development of the US National Building Information Management (BIM) Program.

Marking the next step in a two-year collaboration the MoU will see the U.S. National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) work with experts from the UK's Centre for Digital Built Britain (CDBB) on the development of a national BIM program for the U.S. supporting international alignment on technical standards for the built environment. The US-UK collaboration has been enabled through the support of the UK's Construction Innovation Hub.

NIBS will work with CDBB to adapt the UK programme model and materials as a guide to developing a U.S. national roadmap aligned with the international standard for BIM-ISO19650. The MoU will also support and encourage the public and private sector in both countries to learn from each other and exchange of best practice creating benefits to both economies and growing trade opportunities by increasing the sector's productivity and performance.

The U.S. National BIM Program will foster a productive and more collaborative international digital construction sector for the public good, facilitating innovation to drive increased value and be an engine for long-term sustainable growth.

The new agreement was announced today during a [Digital Construction Week Connect series webinar](#).

Adam Matthews, Head of International at CDBB, said, "This partnership continues the global trend of knowledge sharing between countries that is accelerating and aligning the construction sector's digitalization journey. It marks the culmination of two years of close joint working between the two countries - by working together to innovate the built environment we can create better outcomes for people and places."

Lakisha Ann Woods, President and Chief Executive Officer of NIBS, said, "The mission of the U.S. National BIM Program is to convene industry stakeholders to lead the development and broad deployment of next-generation national information management standards and practices focused on significantly improving the built environment delivery and operation processes. We are thrilled to work with CDBB as a collaborative partner to address these global industry opportunities."

Fergus Harradence, Deputy Director for Construction at the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), said, "BIM is at the heart of the digitalization of the construction sector. The creation of a US National BIM program aligned to international standards marks a major step forward for the global construction sector. We are delighted to be collaborating with the US to share the learnings from our UK BIM program. This collaboration will lead to economic and environmental benefits for both countries by boosting the economic performance of the construction sector and helping to improve social outcomes and trade opportunities."

Notes to editors

BIM – Building Information Modelling/Management(BIM) is the “use of a shared digital representation of a built asset to facilitate design, construction and operation processes to form a reliable basis for decisions” (BS EN ISO 19650-1:2018).

BIM facilitates early supply chain and operational team involvement. Furthermore, it unlocks more efficient and transparent ways of planning, designing, creating and maintaining built assets, whether buildings or infrastructure, over their whole lifecycle.

About NIBS

National Institute of Building Sciences brings together labour and consumer interests, government representatives, regulatory agencies, and members of the building industry to identify and resolve problems and potential problems around the construction of housing and commercial buildings. NIBS is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. It was established by the U.S. Congress in 1974. For more information, visit nibs.org or follow [@bldgsciences on Twitter](https://twitter.com/bldgsciences) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nibs.org).

About CDBB

CDBB (Centre for Digital Built Britain) is a partnership between the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the University of Cambridge. It is also a partner in the Construction Innovation Hub. CDBB seeks to understand how the construction and infrastructure sectors could use a digital approach to better design, build, operate, integrate the built environment. A digital built Britain will:

- understand what information is needed to enable better through life economic, social and environmental value from our built environment;
- champion human-centric design of infrastructure and the services they deliver;
- exploit new and emerging digital construction and manufacturing skills and technology to reduce costs and increase productivity;
- grow new career, business and export opportunities for the UK.

For more information, visit www.cdbb.cam.ac.uk

The Centre for Digital Built Britain's International programme is funded by the Construction Innovation Hub and UK Research and Innovation(UKRI).