

Concept Note

SIT Technical Workshop 2022

Side Meeting on CEOS Engagement with Standards Organisations

11:00am - 12:00pm; Tuesday, 13 September 2022; ESA/ESRIN, VC 02113-RoomD

The CEOS-ARD Oversight Group and the CEOS Land Surface Imaging Virtual Constellation (LSI-VC) have been exploring the idea of formal standardisation of the concepts that make up CEOS Analysis-Ready Data (ARD). Commercial partners engaged via forums such as VH-RODA, JACIE, annual ARD Workshops, and the ESA Living Planet Symposium have indicated that formal standardisation of the concepts captured in the CEOS-ARD Framework will allow them to commit resources towards adapting their products and processes to produce 'Analysis-Ready Data' as standard products. In response to this feedback, CEOS has engaged with representatives from ISO, OGC, and IEEE; however, the way forward, in particular with regard to CEOS governance, remains unclear.

There is also a broader issue that has been identified during this process: CEOS has representation in numerous standards body discussions, but this is seemingly in an *ad hoc* fashion, mostly through individuals' own representation on behalf of their agency or country. Some examples are:

- OGC (SWG & DWG on DGGS, Coverages, EOXP, etc.)
- ISO TC 211 Geolexica / terminology / land cover
- IEEE P4001 ARD/Hyperspectral
- WGCV and WGISS to ISO TC 211 (i.e., ISO 19124-1 & 19156)
- WGCV Microwave Sensors Subgroup (MSSG) future plan to initiate ISO standards
- WGISS to OGC (EOXP...?)

It seems that CEOS might benefit from a unified strategy for engagement with standards bodies as well as a level of coordination between the representatives of various groups, agencies, and countries. Without this, there is the potential for conflicting messages and inconsistent positions across CEOS. It also makes it difficult for team members at the working level to understand the scope of CEOS engagement with standards bodies, any ongoing activities, and to make steps into this area without fear of conflicting with existing work and agreed positions.

This lack of mandated coordination has been a blocker to official CEOS engagement with standards bodies in regard to ARD. It has been unclear:

- What steps to take next;
- How to assign appropriate POCs;
- Who across CEOS might be working in a similar or complementary direction;
- How to avoid making statements / providing inputs that could be misinterpreted as a formal CEOS position;
- How to coordinate CEOS input with that of individual agencies or countries;
- Who our POCs should be on the standards body side.

In addition, a CEOS strategy for engagement with standards organisations could provide a means for efficiently resourcing these types of efforts and avoiding duplication. Giving CEOS Principals visibility over the breadth of CEOS representation to these bodies is critical to ensuring a CEOS position is formulated and heard in all relevant fields.

There is also a risk that without increased coordination, CEOS (as an organisation and stakeholder) will be left behind, as standards bodies take up the reins and develop standards relevant to Earth Observation but without proper representation of EO stakeholders. Once adopted and used by the

broader geospatial community, including the New Space sector, these will then also impact CEOS agencies.

Side Meeting Objectives

This SIT Technical Workshop side meeting aims to bring together people from across all CEOS working teams to:

- Share their activities and experiences dealing with standards bodies, both on behalf of CEOS and in connection to CEOS, via their agency/country or other group;
- Discuss coordination needs and strategies, including the potential utility of a CEOS engagement strategy with standards organisations;
 - Consider raising a SIT Technical Workshop action to prepare such a strategy;
- Discuss a way forward for the immediate requirement for the CEOS-ARD OG to respond to ISO/OGC/IEEE regarding standardisation of the concepts in the CEOS-ARD Framework.

Connection details for remote participants

Meeting link:

<https://esait.webex.com/esait/j.php?MTID=m4074f48e8852e82aa32771d05758b966>

Meeting number:

2378 778 7548

Password:

v8aDZScFM34

Join by video system

Dial [23787787548@esait.webex.com](tel:23787787548@esait.webex.com)

You can also dial 62.109.219.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+44-20-3478-5289 United Kingdom Toll

Access code: 2378 778 7548

Host PIN: 4115

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