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Digicon News

New Staff

Digicon has recently engaged the services of a very experienced software programmer –Troy Arnestad. David and Troy are working together to develop new innovative specification software to improve the efficiency and accuracy of project specifications based on Digicon master specifications. Ultimately, this new software will be connected to building information models (BIM) which are now becoming commonplace.

This new software effort will not replace existing software such as SpecMacros, MS Word, WordPerfect, or Specnique. These applications will continue to be utilized by industry users for traditional specification authors. Refer to BIM and other explanations in this SpexNews issue.

David Watson named CSC Fellow

A few weeks ago CSC's Executive Director, Nick Franjic, called David Watson to advise of his acceptance into the CSC College of Fellows. To be inducted as a fellow is one of the highest honours that CSC can bestow on a member. This also means that Digicon now has two directors who are CSC Fellows; David Watson and Wayne Watson. The official induction ceremony occurs during the upcoming [CSC Conference](#) in London, Ontario.

Digicon Upgrades SPEX.CA Web Site

Digicon announced in the last SpexNews that our marketing SPEX.CA web site was updated to reflect the changes to our business offerings to make it easier to find what you need. Since then, additional minor enhancements have been added, including the ability to download matching data sheets to match the proprietary BrandedSPEC sections. All data sheets are formatted to the new ProductFormat standard.

Log-on to <http://www.spex.ca> and let us know what you think.

“BIM” Specifications Research - Status

In the last newsletter, we reported that Digicon is well on its way to re-structuring our specifications text in preparation for the BIM environment. The first version of this software will be structured to enable users to interact with BIM objects that have specification data, although the actual 'connection' of this data to CAD building models will come later.

The restructuring of specification data and the new software tools under development will enable us to provide better quality text, while making the development of project specifications MUCH more efficient. In essence, users will be able to browse and review the elements that are included in the specification, without actually reading all of the text.

Digicon anticipates releasing a public version of our new software in the fourth quarter of 2009.

Digicon Presents at CSC Conference

Our President, David Watson, will be presenting two topics at the upcoming [CSC Conference](#).

- One topic will be on the status of development for IFD Library, which is the terminology standard for the BIM world (David represents CSC on the IFD Library business management group and technical group).
- One topic will be on the impact of specifications in BIM, both from a technology standpoint as well as a contractual standpoint. As part of this presentation, we anticipate having a short demonstration available of Digicon's new BIM specification software prototype.

BrandedSPEC News

BrandedSPEC* - Quality Proprietary Specs for FREE

BrandedSPEC is truly a win-win concept for construction product suppliers and specifiers. Manufacturers are provided access to all of Spex.ca customers, and Spex.ca customers have access to quality, **proprietary** (trade name) specifications that are compatible with their specification software tools. Spex.ca customers who like this free service



should encourage it by asking other manufacturer representatives to participate well. These special unique documents are developed by Digicon and the vendor under the leadership of our company partners and the respective manufacturer vendor client.

The product information "sheets" are prepared to parallel the organization of specifications. This document text was developed by Digicon and endorsed by Construction Specifications Canada (CSC). It is intended to be used by product manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, product importers and others providing materials and product information to the construction industry. *PRODUCTFORMAT* is available now for download at the Spex.ca [Free Documents](#) page.

*BrandedSPEC is a library of brand name (proprietary) master specifications that have been specially written to specify a particular manufactured product. The cost of development and maintenance of BrandedSPEC sections is borne by the manufacturers themselves, and offered to the construction industry FREE. For more information browse to the Spex.ca BrandedSPEC Page online.

Manufacturers interested in participating should contact our staff member "Geri" directly at 1-780-628-4494, OR through the Spex.ca toll-free number 1-800-610-SPEC (7732).

Industry News

Canada BIM Council (CBC) is Born

A few months ago, we learned that this new association was formed (officially on December 16, 2008). Since then, David Watson and Michael Schneider (representing CSC from Edmonton) attended an organizational meeting. There is national representation (with the majority of members in Ontario and Alberta). Briefly, the CBC was formed to provide support to the construction industry and to advocate the use of BIM, and to recommend best BIM practices within a Canadian context.

The CBC have already been in contact with buildingSMART Alliance (whose mandate to promote open standards for BIM is similar, but focused more on the technical inter-operability of the technology). The group intends to maintain a close liaison with buildingSMART, especially to promote the adoption of open standards in BIM. For more information about CBC, go to <http://www.canbim.com>.

CSC Joins buildingSMART Alliance

In order to stay at the top of the oncoming BIM wave, and to support its efforts in the IFD Library open standard for BIM terminology, Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) has decided to join the buildingSMART Alliance (the North American chapter of buildingSMART International, formerly IAI). Initially, Digicon's own David Watson will serve as CSC's representative in the association. CSI (CSC's sister association in the USA) are already members.

Understanding Sustainability with CSC TEK·AID

A comprehensive TEK·AID on "Environmental/Green Supplement" will soon be released this year (the exact date is unknown) by Construction Specifications Canada (CSC), and made available through the Spex.ca website. This publication explains the purpose and applications of sustainability and its options related to the specifications and contractual aspect of our industry. This important and groundbreaking document (over two years in the making by industry experts) is unique in that it assists all industry participants to understand and specify sustainability objective criteria. This document has two significant parts - an explanatory Digest plus supporting specification sections prepared in a "master specification" context. These master specifications are focused on citing contractual criteria that

applies to all administrative and technical specifications - from Division 00 through to Division 49. These new CSC documents will be compatible with current CMS master specifications - Divisions 2 thru 49.

May 10 - 13, 2009: ICIS Delegates Assembly - Lucerne Switzerland



ICIS members will meet in early May to discuss the latest trends in specifications globally, and to celebrate 15 years of ICIS' existence. The Swiss firm CRB (specifications and costing) will host this year's DA in Lucerne, Switzerland in conjunction with their 50th anniversary celebration. The theme of the DA will be "Ausblick und Vision" (loosely translated as "looking to the future"). Watch the ICIS web site (www.icis.org) in the coming months for details.



May 10-15, 2009: buildingSMART International Conference in Paris

The IFD Library partners, who operate as a group within buildingSMART, will meet during the next buildingSMART conference in Paris, France in May 2009. Unfortunately, Digicon will be unable to participate in this particular event due to a conflict with the ICIS meeting planned for the same week in Switzerland.

May 20-23, 2009: CSC National Conference - London Ontario



CSC will host its annual conference in London, Ontario on May 21 - 24, 2009. CSC has a reputation for excellent technical sessions, great "fun" evening events, and supported by display booths for industry participants. Digicon's own David Watson will deliver two presentations (an IFD Library update, and a status update of Digicon's BIM specification developments).

More information can be found at <http://www.cscconference.ca>.

SpecSuite News, 2009-Q2 Update

Are Digicon Specs Really *Green*.....?

Our current master specification sections are Green .. well sort of. We have had numerous questions from many consultants about whether our specification sections are "green" or not. We say yes; permit us to explain.

When products for a project are discussed and selected, that selection process involves a designer and a specifier (and often several others) – to discuss a product's suitability. This is an important process that is required for any project seeking a sustainability rating. If the project is a LEED candidate, products that are sustainable (in the LEED sense) are selected over other less suitable products.

When that decision is made, the "green" product will be specified – not as a green product; but as a product with certain known sustainable properties. The aspects to that a product's "green-ability" will have been discussed and specifically determined. The resultant "green" product will be specified – with a direct reference to Division 01 sections that will identify the suitable credentials of the selected product. This will require a contractor (and suppliers) to confirm its green properties in writing - for purposes of confirming the properties of the selected product(s). Hence, a spec section is "greened" only by reference to the product actually specified and its confirmation by Division 01 sections. Division 01 sections which identify sustainability criteria will request confirming documentation.

Digicon's specification sections are typical of a "green" section, in that a decision was made by the designer and specifier that a certain product is "greener" than other products that otherwise offer "normal" functional and acceptable aspects. That selection process for specific products for the project will now manifest into a project specification section. Are we green, YES we certainly are.

MiniSPEC Goes "GREEN"

MiniSPEC has been updated to now include for specifying sustainability for smaller buildings. This package utilizes CaGBC LEED as a "guiding light" for specifying sustainability. Six (6) new specification sections were created in Division 01 to accomplish this updated package. These new sections are as follows:

Section 01 00 00 – Summary; Section 01 30 00 – Administrative Requirements;

Section 01 50 00 – Temporary Requirements; Section 01 60 00 – Product Requirements;

Section 01 70 00 – Close-out Requirements; Section 01 78 15 – Close-out Documentation.

These sections added to the existing five (5) Division 01 sections provides MiniSPEC with the ability to address these smaller projects with LEED capability.

MasterProspectus

This is a small but powerful package of fifteen (15) special content "sections". There are 66 printed "master" pages in all, the contents of which have just been updated. Specifically, the new content now includes:

- the possibility of requiring sustainability for a project as well as setting the broad governing criteria for LEED implementation.
- adding the possibility of addressing BIM 3D drawings in concert with specifications.
- adding electronic data collection and exchange between ALL parties to a construction project, enveloping the design, document development, bidding, construction and occupancy/maintenance of any project.

These Master Prospectus documents (sections if you like) have also been re-categorized to utilize one portion of MasterFormat 2004. We chose to categorize MasterProspectus sections within the Division 00 as an affinity subject. The location in Division 00 is consistent with the time/activity-frame that this subject editing package will be associated with.

This small package of section subjects is ideal as a checklist and as an agenda for scoping a project for an owner, realtor, designer, and perhaps a project manager. Its usefulness will be in the very early discussions of a project's scope, cost and design. This initial project document is usually created by senior persons representing these project parties. MasterProspectus is ideal as a basis for the beginning of a project scope/costing effort at the very beginning of any construction project. For this document's low cost, it is capable of being the most useful and effective document that we market to the industry.

HomeSPEC and OutlineSPEC

These smaller document packages will also be addressed in updates now and later this year and into 2010. We will also be further enhancing our Division 00 and 01 sections with respect to LEED (sustainability) designated projects. These addition changes to will be consistent with the new master specifications included in the "soon to be released" Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) TEK·AID on "Environmental/Green Supplement".

Our updating efforts will permit Digicon developed master specifications easier to edit for a LEED project, while improving the readability by contractors on the project site during the progress of construction.

CMS Update Overview

Our primary specification product, CMS is this year, undergoing a complete technical make-over and update to all of its sections - including updated sections in this calendar quarter.

In this calendar quarter, we have updated a significant batch of sections (72 of them) for Digicon's Canadian Master Specification (CMS), incorporating both technical and standards changes. We have also added some new sections that our customers have requested - refer to the full listing below.

Sections Updated This Quarter

Updates this quarter include the following summary of specific sections. Applicable Libraries are also listed below:

Library	Section #	Section Name	Discipline*	Status
CMS	07 18 00	Traffic Coatings	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 19 00	Water Repellents	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 24 00	Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 61 00	Sheet Metal Roofing	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 71 23	Manufactured Gutters And Downspouts	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 72 33	Roof Hatches	A,R	Updated
CMS	07 95 13	Expansion Joint Assemblies	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 12 14	Custom Hollow Metal Frames	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 13 13	Standard Hollow Metal Doors	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 14 16	Flush Wood Doors	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 14 33	Stile And Rail Wood Doors	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 33 23	Overhead Coiling Doors	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 33 26	Overhead Coiling Grilles	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 41 13	Aluminum Framed Entrances And Storefronts	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 42 33	Revolving Door Entrances	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 43 53	Glass And Spandrel Glazing	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 44 13	Glazed Aluminum Curtain Walls	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 44 23	Glass Curtain Wall - Planar Glass Supports	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 44 25	Suspended Glass Assembly	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 45 23	Translucent Panel Wall And Roof Assemblies	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 52 10	Wood Windows	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 53 10	Plastic Windows	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 61 16	Wood Roof Windows	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 62 00	Unit Skylights	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 63 00	Metal Framed Skylights	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 71 43	Automatic Door Operators	A,R	Updated
CMS	08 83 00	Mirrors	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 21 30	Gypsum Board - Vinyl Faced	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 21 40	Gypsum Board - Shaft Wall	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 22 13	Metal Furring And Lathing	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 24 23	Portland Cement Stucco	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 30 10	Ceramic Floor Tiling	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 30 11	Ceramic Wall Tiling	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 30 35	Cut Natural Stone Tile	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 54 23	Linear Metal Ceilings	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 54 51	Curved Profile Ceiling Suspension Assembly	A,R	Updated

Library	Section #	Section Name	Discipline*	Status
CMS	09 63 13	Brick Flooring	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 64 26	Hardwood Flooring - Adhesive Applied	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 64 27	Hardwood Flooring - Nailed	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 66 13	Portland Cement Terrazzo Flooring	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 66 23	Resinous Matrix Terrazzo Flooring	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 67 14	Urethane Flooring	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 67 15	Neoprene-hypalon Flooring	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 68 13	Tile Carpeting	A,R	Updated
CMS	09 96 66	Aggregate Wall Coatings	A	Updated
CMS	09 96 90	Sheet Plastic Wall Covering	A	Updated
CMS	09 97 30	Powder Coating	A	Updated
CMS	10 11 00	Visual Display Surfaces	A	Updated
CMS	10 14 70	Non-slip Floor Tape Markings	A	Updated
CMS	10 14 75	Tactile Warning Devices	A	Updated
CMS	10 21 24	Cubicle Curtains	A	Updated
CMS	10 22 13	Wire Mesh Partitions	A	Updated
CMS	10 44 13	Fire Extinguisher Cabinets	A	Updated
CMS	12 21 14	Horizontal Louver Blinds	A	Updated
CMS	12 21 15	Vertical Louver Blinds	A	Updated
CMS	12 22 16	Drapery Track And Accessories	A	Updated
CMS	12 24 00	Window Roller Shades	A	Updated
CMS	13 34 23	Fabricated Structures	A	Updated
CMS	14 42 13	Inclined Wheelchair Lifts	A	Updated
CMS	14 42 16	Vertical Wheelchair Lifts	A	Updated
CMS	31 09 17	Pile Load Tests	A	Updated
CMS	31 25 05	Erosion and Sediment Control	A	Updated
CMS	31 62 14	Prestressed Concrete Piles	A,L	Updated
CMS	31 62 23	Concrete Filled Steel Piles	A	Updated
CMS	31 63 16	Auger Cast Grout Piles	A	Updated
CMS	31 63 25	Pressure Injected Footings	A	Updated
CMS	32 12 37	Asphalt Pavement Sealing	A	Updated
CMS	32 13 12	Concrete Medians, Driveways and Swales	A	Updated
CMS	32 17 24	Painted Pavement Markings	A	Updated
CMS	32 17 26	Thermo-plastic Pavement Markings	A	Updated
CMS	32 31 00	Chain Link Fences And Gates	A	Updated
CMS	32 84 10	Landscape Irrigation	A	Updated
HomeSPEC	03 05 00	Concrete Foundations		Updated
HomeSPEC	03 11 20	Insulated Concrete Forms		Updated
HomeSPEC	04 21 13	Brick Veneer Masonry		Updated
HomeSPEC	04 22 00	Concrete Unit Masonry Foundations		Updated
HomeSPEC	09 21 15	Gypsum Board Assemblies		Updated
HomeSPEC	09 30 05	Ceramic Tiling		Updated
HomeSPEC	09 62 10	Decorative Laminate Flooring		Updated
HomeSPEC	09 64 10	Hardwood Flooring		Updated
HomeSPEC	09 65 12	Resilient Flooring		Updated
MiniSPEC	All	All	All	Updated

* CMS Discipline package codes: A = Architectural, C = Civil Engineering, E = Electrical, H = Heritage, I = Interiors, L = Landscape, M = Mechanical, R=Roofing/Waterproofing, S=Structural

CCDC 2 - 2008: Supported by CMS

Reminder: CMS Division 00 and 01 documents support the current (2008) CCDC contract forms and other documents to address their use on LEED (sustainability) projects.

Relevant URL Links

The following URL links will serve to link readers to topics which are included in our newsletter and activities that impact our industry.

- Arcom (publishers of AIA MASTERSPEC) (<http://www.arcomnet.com>)
- BrandedSPEC (<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=branded/index.php>)
- BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI) (<http://www.buildingsmart.com>)
- Canada BIM Council (CBC) (<http://www.canbim.com>)
- Canada Green Building Council (<http://www.cagbc.org>)
- CCDC Documents: (<http://www.ccdc.org/home.html>)
- Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) (<http://www.csc-dcc.ca>)
 - CSC Conference: <http://www.cscconference.ca>
- Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) (<http://www.csinet.org>)
- Digicon Information Inc. (<http://www.digicon.ab.ca>)
- IFD Library (<http://www.ifd-library.org>)
- International Construction Information Society (ICIS) (<http://www.icis.org>)
- Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC): (<http://www.cagbc.org>)
- MasterFormat 2004 (free downloadable PDF on Spex.ca Free page): (<https://secure.spex.ca/index.php?page=freedocs/index.php>)
- OmniClass (<http://www.omniclass.ca> and <http://www.omniclass.org>)
- Spex.ca (<http://www.spex.ca>)

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