

I. Introduction

BIM Excellence (BIMe) is a unique *research-based* approach to digital innovation in the construction industry. It provides an integrated methodology and a modular language for performance assessment, learning and process optimisation. The **BIMe Initiative** is *not-for-profit effort* guided by a set of **Principles**¹ undertaken by volunteer researchers from both industry and academia. The BIMe Initiative is supported by in-kind contributions, commercial services, and institutional/corporate [sponsorship](#).

This document must be read in conjunction with [102in BIMe Initiative Knowledge Structures](#), [103in BIMe Initiative Projects](#) and [104in BIMe Initiative Network](#) (refer to list of [publications](#)). The BIM Excellence approach and the BIMe Initiative are based on the published research of [Dr. Bilal Succar](#) and a growing cohort of esteemed international collaborators.

A. Aims

The BIMe Initiative aims to improve the performance of individuals, organisations and project teams in the construction industry through **knowledge-generation**, **knowledge-sharing** and **process optimisation**.

B. Objectives

To reach its aims, the BIMe Initiative has the following measurable objectives:

- Develop a **modular language** for digital transformation across the Construction Industry. The language will simplify complex topics and weave multiple research efforts into one consistent whole;
- Generate reliable industry-wide **competency benchmarks** and identify competency gaps to be addressed through **continuous performance improvement** activities;
- Develop **competency-based learning** methods, tools and materials applicable across tertiary education, vocational training, self-learning and professional development;
- Facilitate the **exchange of knowledge and experience** between academia and industry; and
- Develop free-to-use tools and templates to **simplify decision-making processes** and **automate repetitive procedures**.

C. Methods

The BIMe Initiative will achieve its aims and objectives through:

- **Connecting international subject matter experts** through a dedicated research network. The network will identify performance challenges to be addressed, generate conceptual structures (e.g. models and frameworks) that address these challenges, transform conceptual structures into prototypes within **performance excellence labs**, and then seek grants/sponsorships to develop prototypes into fully-functioning and self-supporting digital solutions;
- **Peer-sourcing** and **peer-reviewing** of knowledge using knowledge-capture templates;
- **Collaboration** with communities of practice, research institutions and professional associations; and
- **Knowledge exchange** between academic researchers and research-minded practitioners through workshops and joint publications.

¹ BIMe Initiative Principles (BIMe Principles, or Principles for short) includes both [General Principles](#) and the [Excellence Manifesto](#).

D. Principles

The BIMe Initiative is built upon four **General Principles** – available online in [different languages](#):

1. Commitment to Openness

BIMe Initiative guides and tools are released through **open channels under a Creative Commons license allowing free use** by individuals and organisations on their own projects (service providers require a license).

2. Grown around a Knowledge Structure

The BIMe Initiative is built upon a **clear structure** for harvesting and organising knowledge (refer to **102in**). This structure allows the modular development of highly-interconnected guides and tools.

3. Peer-sourced and Peer-tested

The BIMe Initiative **connects international subject matter experts** – from academia and industry – through a high-intensity R&D network. Through this network, the best solutions are identified, incubated, tested and released.

4. Open Innovation across boundaries

The BIMe Initiative provides a **knowledge tool-kit for anyone to use**, customise, translate and continuously improve. Through Open Innovation, new solutions are collaboratively developed and shared across disciplines, industries and markets.

Reflecting these General Principles, the more-detailed **Excellence Manifesto** is made [available online](#). The Manifesto *must be accepted* by all BIMe Members/Volunteers and can be signed by initiative' supporters.

E. Research Background



This BIMe Initiative is based on academic research and industry experimentation conducted since 2004. The research methods, findings and ensuing practical tools are shared publicly through the BIM ThinkSpace [blog](#), BIM Framework [blog](#), BIM Framework [Channel](#), and a number of peer-reviewed papers ([listed here](#)).

II. Components of the BIMe Initiative

The BIMe Initiative relies on an underlying **Knowledge Structure** which enables an international **Research Network** to deliver a number of innovative and complementary **Projects**:

A. BIMe Knowledge Structure

The BIMe Initiative relies on interconnected and continuously expanding conceptual research as a basis for the development of practical performance improvement tools. The conceptual basis of the BIMe Initiative is summarised in the **BIMe Knowledge Structure model** which includes 5 complementary **Knowledge Sets**:

- **KS1 Knowledge Foundations** represents all the research applied by the BIM Excellence approach;
- **KS2 Knowledge Blocks** represents the modular language used by the BIMe approach to define inputs, processes and outputs;
- **KS3 Knowledge Tools** represents all the digital and analogue tools/templates used to conduct knowledge acquisition and performance assessment, deliver competency-based learning, and enable process automation and optimisation;
- **KS4 Knowledge Workflows** represents all repeatable procedures for knowledge acquisition and service delivery; and
- **KS5 Knowledge Views** identifies the varied ways the BIMe approach is presented and communicated.

For more detailed information, please refer to **102in BIMe Initiative Knowledge Structure**.

B. BIMe Initiative Projects

The BIMe Initiative will meet its aims through a series of interconnected projects. Each project focuses on a subset of the overall BIMe Initiative mission to deliver a BIMe Initiative *product* – a software application or published guide – of direct practical benefit to industry practitioners.

For more information, please refer to **103in BIMe Initiative Projects**.

C. BIMe Initiative Network

BIMe Initiative Projects are undertaken by **BIMe Members** and **BIMe Volunteers**, an expanding community of international *researchers* and *subject matter experts* from both academia and industry. These members and volunteers (including editors, reviewers and beta testers) operate as part of **BIMe Groups** and **BIMe Teams** as explained in **104in BIMe Initiative Network**.

III. BIMe Initiative Legal Structure

The BIMe Initiative is a **Community of Practice** of like-minded *individuals* and is not a separate legal entity from its members. Operating as an **unincorporated association** ([more info](#)) - as defined in applicable regulations in the State of Victoria, Australia - the BIMe Initiative does not collect, hold or distribute financial or physical assets.

The BIMe Initiative is managed and partially funded by **ChangeAgents AEC pty ltd** which - under an **Open Innovation Model** - supports the BIMe Initiative's operations and supplies most of its foundational **Intellectual Property** under a **Creative Commons License** (refer to next section).

The BIMe Initiative may formalise itself into an independent not-for-profit *incorporated association* if it secures an *ongoing not-for-profit revenue stream* to (1) cover the legal and administrative costs of international incorporation, and (2) fund the independent and long-term operations of the BIMe Initiative. Until an independent incorporated entity can be formed, **ChangeAgents AEC pty ltd** will continue to financially support the BIMe Initiative and - with the voluntary support of BIMe Initiative Members - pursue additional funding sources. These include **corporate sponsorships** (refer [901in](#)), **academic grants** and **in-kind contributions** that (a) do not conflict with the BIMe Initiative's [General Principles](#), (b) align well with the BIMe Initiative's **Focus Areas** (refer to [103in](#)), and (c) match the financial and technical requirements of each respective BIMe Initiative Project.

IV. Intellectual Property

Since the BIMe Initiative is not a legal entity in its own right, it does not generate, hold or share copyrighted materials. In general, all **Existing Materials** - texts, images, audio-visuals and software code - contributed by **BIMe Members** and **BIMe Volunteers** (refer to [104in](#)) continue to belong to these members and volunteers respectively or - through them - to the entities from which the members and volunteers have derived these materials. They don't lose ownership or control over these materials and are free to use/publish these at any time and in any medium they see fit.

Similarly, all **New Materials** generated by BIMe Members and BIMe Volunteers *during* a BIMe Initiative Project are the intellectual property of respective BIMe Members and BIMe Volunteers. However, since these materials were generated as part of the BIMe Initiative, New Materials must be:

- First released as a **BIMe Initiative Component** (e.g. a taxonomy, metric or framework) and/or as a **BIMe Initiative Product** (e.g. a software application or published guide) - refer to [103in](#);
- Used, shared and extended under the **Default BIMe Initiative License**²- **Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License** ([more info](#)); and
- Used, shared and extended with *adequate acknowledgement* of all BIMe Members and BIMe Volunteers who contributed to the generation of these materials.

² *Leaders* of each BIMe Initiative Project (refer to Roles within [103in](#)) may - in special circumstance - vary this license *enough to satisfy* the funding restrictions imposed by sponsors or funding bodies

V. Ethics and Privacy

BIMe Members and BIMe Volunteers - as a condition of their participation in the BIMe Initiative - are expected to respect the **privacy, copyright** and **moral rights** of all those who participate in BIMe Initiative activities and projects, including the rights of BIMe Sponsors, Collaborators and third parties engaged with/by the BIMe Initiative. Also, all BIMe Members and BIMe Members - as a condition of participating in BIMe Initiative activities - are expected to abide by all applicable **laws, policies, protocols, codes of practice** and **ethical requirements** specific to these activities.

VI. More Info

To join the BIMe Initiative, please complete the online [Membership Application Form](#). Alternatively, to stay informed of the Initiative's main activities, new tools and publications, please subscribe to the [Mailing List](#) and/or follow [@BIMeInitiative](#) on Twitter. To request more information, suggest an improvement or simply get in touch, please [Contact Us](#); thank you.

VII. License to use

The BIMe Initiative is managed by [ChangeAgents AEC pty ltd](#). Permission is hereby granted to anyone who wishes to use this document for academic research or other non-commercial activity under a **Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License** ([more info](#)).

VIII. Change Log

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0.1	Jul 29, 2016	Initial draft - 1 st Cycle Limited Peer Review
0.2-0.3	Aug 9-22, 2016	Minor changes; 2 nd Cycle Peer Review
0.4	Jan 10, 2017	Added Principles section; aligned with other 100 Series documents
1.0	Jan 21, 2017	First Official Version for release through BIMexcellence.org

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