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## **OGC Plugfest Policies and Procedures**

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## 1 Revision history

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>Primary clauses modified</b>	<b>Description</b>
May 24, 2004	.01	Kurt Buehler	N/A	Draft Plugfest Administration Plan
September 28, 2009	0.2	Louis Hecht, George Percivall, Raj Singh, Sam Bacharach	Complete Revision	Full Revision to differentiate Public (External) and Member-only (Internal)  Reformat into Policies and Procedures Format
February 25, 2016	1.0	Terry Idol	Updated complete document	Full revision throughout document to update and bring in alignment with current Interoperability Program policies.

## 1 Introduction

This document defines the policies and procedures for the conduct of an Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Plugfest. A Plugfest is an event or series of events executed by OGC members or non-members and facilitated by OGC staff, which is intended to achieve dual technical and market objectives that furthers the adoption and use Open Geospatial Consortium standards. Plugfests can be internal (with Members only) or public (with Members and non member participants). Plugfests may address some distinct set of elements of the OGC Reference Model and/or Standards baseline with a testing approach with products that contain OGC® standards, or may address the use of products that implement OGC® standards with tests targeted for a domain community. Both Public and Internal Plugfests are sponsored (paid for) activities for the purposes of administration and, in the case if Public Plugfests, outreach. All efforts on the part of participants, including travel, are viewed as voluntary and supported by in-kind contributions of the participating organizations.

## 2 Reference Documents

The following documents are referenced in this document. In all cases the latest version of the referenced document will be used.

- *OGC Intellectual Property Rights Policy and Procedures.*  
<http://www.opengeospatial.org/about/?page=ipr>
- *OGC Reference Model.* <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards/orm>
- *OGC Standards Baseline.* <http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards>
- *The OGC Interoperability Program Overview.*  
<http://www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/policies/ippp>
- The OGC Compliance Testing Program: <http://www.opengeospatial.org/compliance>
- CITE Testing Home and associated materials contained at:  
<http://cite.opengeospatial.org/cite>
- *CITE Policies and Procedures.*

## 3 Definitions

**CITE:** Compliance & Interoperability Testing & Evaluation initiative (<http://cite.opengeospatial.org>).

**IP Team:** OGC Interoperability Program Team. OGC staff and consultants managing the Plugfest.

**Member Plugfest:** A specific type of Plugfest that is open only to OGC members.

**Member Plugfest Observer and Sponsor Representatives:** There are no observers in Member Plugfests. This is a tightly controlled exercise. There can be Sponsor Representatives, as identified by the Sponsor(s).

**Member Plugfest Participant:** An OGC member organization that submits a Letter of Participation Intent, meets the Participation Requirements, and signs a Participant Agreement with OGC. Participants shall have access to the OGC Web Portal, shall access to the Plugfest email reflector.

**Member Plugfest Engineering Reports:** A primary output of an OGC Plugfest is a Plugfest Engineering Report. The detailed report is not nor will ever be an OGC publicly available document. A summary document might be made available to the public, only if enough of the report can be generalized to the point that no attribution can be made to any of the participants.

**OGC:** The Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc.

**OGC Member, or Member:** Any member in good standing.

**OGC Communication:** A communication by any means, including posting on the WWW Site (<http://www.opengeospatial.org>), electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or by regular post. The primary forms of communication will be either via email or using the OGC Members Only Portal. Any member desiring delivery by other than electronic means (WWW site or electronic mail) must state so in written form to OGC staff.

**OGC Standards Baseline:** The OGC Standards Baseline consists of the complete set of member approved abstract specifications, standards and best practices documents.

**Plugfest:** An internal or public event authorized by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) to test and validate products to interoperate with other offerings implementing the same standards. Plugfests are both facilitated and led by an OGC staff person and operated by participating organizations under these Policies and Procedures.

**Plugfest Manager:** An OGC Staff member whose role it is to a) oversee the Plugfest planning and implementation activities, work with sponsors, and provide assistance to participants to ensure that all parties conduct themselves and their particular activities according to these policies, and to provide mediation if irresolvable differences occur between Participants in the course of a Plugfest event.

**Public Plugfest:** A specific type of Plugfest that provides for open participation. The primary requirement is that all participants are to use products that implement OGC® standards. Public Plugfests are typically sponsored events with limited funding to handle administration, technical support, management of the Test Plan and production of dissemination materials such as papers, webinars, webcasts, etc.

**Sponsor:** An organization or individual that contracts with OGC to provide financial support to a Public or Member Plugfest.

**Test Plan:** A document that fully describes use cases, scenarios, and standards to be part of the Plugfest.

## 4 Plugfest Phases

The OGC is interested in providing a continuing and equitable capability for developers and data suppliers to validate the ability of their products to interoperate with other offerings implementing the same OGC® standard(s). A Plugfest is an OGC Interoperability Program event designed to test products (software) that implement certain Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards approved by the OGC members. The goals of an OGC Plugfest are to:

1. Ensure that different products interoperate as intended.
2. Attain an installed base of maturity in the market with a reliable procedure for assuring that OGC standards-based solutions work together.
3. Advance compliance testing to advance interoperability of OGC implementations.
4. Create a persistent network of implementations to demonstrate the ability of OGC standards-based solutions to address particular market requirements.

To achieve these goals, in whole or in part, an OGC Plugfest may adopt more granular guidelines consistent with the general procedures defined in this document for any planned Plugfest event.

OGC Plugfests can be either limited to OGC membership or the general public (with open test scripts, public access, the option to publish interoperability results, and generally designed to continue operating under a more persistent framework).

Depending on the type of Plugfest event is held, the OGC Plugfest events can range from low to high overhead. Member Plugfests can be Sponsor funded or funded through participation fees collected from participants. Public Plugfests are normally sponsored, however each participant is self-funded.

Each Plugfest will be separately planned and funded in one of these manners. OGC may engage third-party services (described herein) for test scripts and pay that third-party directly on behalf of its participating members.

A Plugfest Plan documents an OGC Plugfest. Sources for Plugfest Plans come from various test suites within the OGC's Compliance Testing Program, or may emerge from external requirements associated with the use of OGC standards in a specific information community. Finally, participants may provide new tests scripts specific to aspects of an OGC standard that is a subject of a Plugfest.

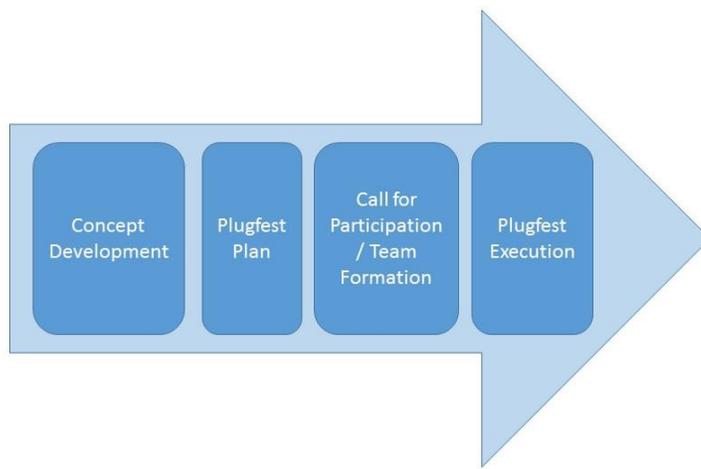
OGC Plugfest tests can address three factors of standards adoption:

1. Critical "high priority" aspects of existing standards to promote consistency and compatibility among mainstream products,
2. Standards that are relied upon by an information community, or
3. Demonstrates better understanding of how OGC standards can be used in heterogeneous information and geo-processing environments.

However, OGC Plugfests do not produce industry standards, nor do they attempt to address all required aspects of adherence to industry standards. Additionally, a Plugfest does not certify that adherence to all standards and interoperability issues have been addressed.

Therefore, an OGC Plugfest does not certify any combinations of OGC implementing or compliant products will operate error free, or guarantee 100% interoperability. Finally, a Plugfest is not intended to provide a compliance suite for all portions of all available standards that are used in a Plugfest.

If for any reason, an OGC Plugfest discovers any problems or difficulties with an OGC standard(s), it will forward that information back to the OGC Technical Committee Chair (TCC) using formal Change Requests.



**Figure 1 – Plugfest Phases**

The general approach to performing Plugfests is to go through a four-step process (See Figure 1). The details of these Tasks will be explained below.

#### **4.1 Concept Development**

Concept Development is an optional task for a Plugfest and so is defined in a separate document, *OGC-IP Concept Development Policies and Procedures (05-128r1)*.

Concept development begins with IP Team working potentially along with Sponsors to determine requirements. The main result is a feasibility report which documents a response from industry, the probable costs and benefits of given industry recommendations, an appraisal of where the recommendation seems to fit within the overall context of industry practice, and a draft Plugfest Plan for consideration.

Whether or not a Concept Development phase is undertaken formally, a Plugfest Plan must be written and submitted to the OGC for approval.

## **4.2 Call for Plugfest Plan and Call for Participation (CFP)**

Task B of a Plugfest is to create a Plugfest Plan, release a Call for Participation (CFP) and to receive and evaluate responses to this CFP back from Industry. The CFP consists of general statements pertaining to relationships between potential Plugfest participants and OGC, general response instructions, Sponsor requirements, a Plugfest Plan, a schedule of work for the Plugfest, a communications plan, and other miscellaneous information that a particular Plugfest may require. The responses should include the proposing organization's contribution to the Plugfest.

A Plugfest Plan details the method(s) by which interoperability will be tested in the Plugfest. A Plugfest Plan will typically consist of at least the following requirements:

1. Two (2) service implementations for each standard exercised.
2. Two (2) client implementations for each standard exercised.
3. Service implementations should pass the OGC CITE test(s) for each standard exercised.
4. Definition of a set of Plugfest Test Data (OGC CITE tests use a generic set of test data and only test services, not clients).
5. Definition of a set of additional service requests clients shall create to exercise the Plugfest test data, and actions client software operators shall conduct to generate those service requests.
6. A Plugfest Scenario that uses the Plugfest test data and client service requests to tell a story that articulates the return on investment for interoperability and standards usage.

### **4.2.1 Team Formation**

On receipt of the proposals, the Sponsors and IP Team perform a review process that includes a Decision Technical Exchange Meeting (Decision TEM). This review process shall ensure that in their response to the CFP, proposers have detailed how they will comply with the Plugfest Plan. The review process should also attempt to ensure that for each standard being exercised, at least two (2) service implementations and two (2) client implementations are part of the Plugfest.

Standing criteria for every initiative proposal evaluation include the technical merits of the proposal, past performance of the participant within OGC (particularly OGC IP initiatives), and adherence in the proposal to the work breakdown structure. The Sponsors may direct IP Team to evaluate other criteria that help discriminate amongst the proposing organizations in terms of meeting the Sponsors' objectives. IP Team will review the proposals in light of the criteria, and make a recommendation to the Sponsors at the Decision TEM. The Sponsors and IP Team will review the IP Team recommendations in light of the Sponsors' own evaluations. If questions arise regarding one or more proposals, IP Team will contact the proposing organization to seek clarification. If the sponsors raise other issues, IP Team will seek to resolve them and bring the resolution to the Sponsors. The ultimate selection is the responsibility of the IP Team, based on the TEM and feedback from the Sponsors.

OGC IP Team will provide templates for statements of work (SOW) to participants. The participants will complete the templates based on the tasks they accepted during the negotiations. Upon completion, the participants will submit their SOWs to OGC. OGC will review the SOWs for accuracy and may iterate with the participants until mutual agreement is achieved.

### **4.3 Plugfest Execution**

The Kick-off marks the beginning of the Execution phase of the initiative. The Kickoff meeting shall be held either remotely or face-to-face. The primary goals of the Kickoff meeting are for:

- Participants to socialize their contributions amongst each other.
- Refinement of the Plugfest Plan, scenarios and demonstrations.
- Finalization of the Plugfest schedule (which may or may not include multiple sprints).

The key outcome of the initiative is an Interoperability Program Plugfest Engineering Report. This report shall capture the Plugfest Plan and the experiences of participants executing the Plan. One stakeholder representative will act as the lead author for the document, but all participants are expected and obligated to support the actual creation and development of the Report. The author may be a participant technical representative, a Sponsor representative (typically technical), or on some rare occasions an IP Team member

If, during the course of Plugfest execution, modifications to an existing OGC standard are found necessary, then a change proposal must be developed that documents the needed change. This change proposal is not required to be adopted—rather it is intended to serve as documentation of both the change and the requirement that led to the change. The change proposal will be submitted using the OGC public Change Request web application [http://portal.opengeospatial.org/public\\_ogc/change\\_request.php](http://portal.opengeospatial.org/public_ogc/change_request.php).

Participants are required to follow the Interoperability Program policies concerning advertising during and after Plugfest activities. In addition, there are not to be any public release or messaging of Plugfest activities without express approval of the OGC Executive Director of the Interoperability Program. After the execution of the Plugfest is completed, all necessary public release information should be contained in the Engineering Report and is releasable once the Engineering Report is approved.

## **5 Execution Phase Tasks**

This section describes a flexible framework of standard, repeatable tasks for the execution phase of a Plugfest (see figure 2). These tasks may be performed by any of the Plugfest Team members. The tasks are adapted as necessary to address the requirements of the specific Plugfest. These tasks are executed with a Virtual Team Infrastructure. These tasks are used to define the SOW for a Participant Agreement.



### **5.2 Assessment and Analysis**

This task analyzes and documents an organization's or domain's existing capabilities and assesses requirements for OGC compliant technology. This task can occur as part of any Plugfest planning process.

### **5.3 Plugfest Preparation**

This task defines and executes agreements and contracts that outline roles and responsibilities of each participant. This task may refine the Statement of Work.

### **5.4 Testing and Integration**

This task integrates, documents and tests functioning interoperable components and infrastructures that execute operational elements, assigned tasks, and information flows required to fulfill a set of user requirements. This includes the development of the Plugfest Plan and Technology Integration Experiments (TIEs).

### **5.5 Solution Transfer**

This task prepares prototypical interoperable components so that they can be assembled at required sites.

### **5.6 Demonstration**

This task defines, develops and deploys functioning interoperable components and infrastructures that execute operational elements, assigned tasks, and information flows required to fulfill a set of user requirements.

### **5.7 Documentation**

This task ensures development and maintenance of the pre-specification, pre-conformant interoperable OGC technologies (including Interoperability Program Reports) and the systems level documentation (example user documentation, etc.) necessary to execute the Plugfest. This task may include coordination with OGC Specification Program activities including the Documentation Team.

### **5.8 Compliance Testing**

This task ensures that the software used in the initiative is compliant with OGC standards. If there is no executable test suite, then this task will provide test guidelines (e.g. abstract test suites) and executable test suites for profiles and standards used in the initiative. This task includes coordination with OGC Specification Program and Compliance Program at OGC.

## **6 Plugfest Policies**

Policies defined in the OGC Document "The OGC Interoperability Program" apply to all Plugfests.

No additional policies specific to Plugfests have been identified.