

ANSI Board Focus Groups on the Evolving Standards Landscape

NPAG Meeting, October 11, 2022

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WORLD STANDARDS WEEK

FALL 2022

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Background

- Rapidly evolving and pervasive technologies present new standards development challenges
- Competition for technology-driven advantages is increasingly intense, and the impetus to develop globally accepted standards is greater now than ever before
- Maintaining the integrity and impartiality of international standards development processes continues to be a priority
- An open, rules-based standards system that is participatory in nature is key to enabling worldwide participation of stakeholders and facilitating an innovative environment that reflects changing needs in the global marketplace

ANSI Board Response

- A Board Task Group was formed in April 2022 to consider the following overarching question:
 - What opportunities and challenges does the evolving standards landscape present for ANSI?
- Two BTG discussion sessions were held and initial findings were considered at the June Board meeting
- Based on discussions at the June Board meeting and subsequent discussion with the Task Group, the ExCo agreed in July to form Board focus groups to further develop this topic, targeting four areas
- Board members were asked to identify areas of interest

Focus Group Topics

- **Standards Education and Training**
 - to better enable effective U.S. participation in standards activities; to build a standards-literate workforce
- **Convening Diverse Stakeholder Groups**
 - bringing public and private sector stakeholders together to address complex standards-related challenges
- **Actions to Address the Politicization of Standards Processes**
 - policy makers may seek to introduce political objectives into the standards arena before considering their impact
 - government interests may also seek to apply pressure to standards venues to prioritize standards development speed, which could come at the expense of the consensus process
- **Messaging**
 - why standards are important, why participation is important, the “business” case for standards, tailored to different audiences

Focus Group Leads

- **Standards Education and Training**
 - Chris Dubay, Vice President and Chief Engineer, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- **Convening Diverse Stakeholder Groups**
 - Elaine Newton, Senior Director, Standards Strategy and Policy, Oracle
- **Actions to Address the Politicization of Standards Processes**
 - Ajit Jillavenkatesa, Senior Standards Policy Legal Advisor, Apple
- **Messaging**
 - Peter Pondillo, Senior Standards Manager, Global Technical and Industry Standards, Corning Inc.

Focus Group Activities

- Each focus group will consider what opportunities and challenges the evolving standards landscape presents for ANSI in their identified issue area
- Focus groups are responsible for
 - outlining opportunities and challenges in each area at a high level
 - identifying key strategic needs in each focus area and, on that basis
 - proposing priority action items and a timeline or timelines to address those needs.

Timeline

- Focus Groups were formalized and began their work in early September; held one to two meetings since
- October 12 Evolving Standards Landscape Summit during WSW offers opportunity for broader input
- Progress will be reported to the ANSI Executive Committee in November and the ANSI Board in December
- Work will continue into 2023 with a view to presenting recommendations and a timeline for action for each focus area to the ANSI Board at their June meeting



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Evolving Standards Landscape Summit

October 12

- The [Evolving Standards Landscape Summit](#), hosted by ANSI's Joint Member Forum as part of [World Standards Week \(WSW\)](#) is a first opportunity for Board Focus Group leads to outline their work to date
- Questions to be considered:
 - *What is needed to assure the U.S. is creating a standards-literate workforce and cultivating a robust pipeline of new standards professionals?*
 - *What changes are needed to foster an adaptive and responsive environment for diverse U.S. stakeholders to coalesce on emerging challenges and opportunities?*
 - *What actions might be taken to address the increasing influence of U.S., foreign, and regional governmental bodies on the development and use of standards?*
 - *What messages and tools will be most effective in reaching, informing, and motivating audiences about the importance of standards and effective U.S. participation and leadership in standards development?*