A Truly Global Effort for Standards for Additive Manufacturing

Background

In November of 2008, experts from around the world gathered at the ASTM Headquarters with a common vision - a set of global standards for Additive Manufacturing. In January of 2009, ASTM International hosted the first meeting to write standards for Additive Manufacturing. At this meeting, the members worked to define the name of the organization, and expressed the urgent need for a set of standards. This initial meeting defined five groups that would foster the development of standards to come. The groups would be identified as Testing - F42-01; Materials - F42-02; Processes - F42-03; Design - F42-04; and Terminology -F42-91. Subsequently, the members agreed to merge F42-02 and F42-03 committees to form F42-05 to streamline work activities.

All of the structure and creation of these groups were administered by the founding members from all over the world with common interests. Many of these members were integral to the development of the International Standards Organization Technical Committee 261 (ISO/TC261). This collaboration was materialized in a Partner Standards Development Organization Cooperative Agreement (PSDO) between ISO and ASTM to facilitate the collaborative development of standards that mirrored the structure implemented in F42. The ISO Technical Committee has 4 Work Groups (Terminology - TC261/WG1; Methods/Processes/Materials - TC261/WG2; Test Methods - TC261/WG3; and Data and Design - TC261/WG4). Having developed and successfully implemented collaborative activities between SDO’s may be one of the greatest achievements to date. This effective working relationship has led to further standards in development, thereby leading to a framework for further collaboration beyond TC261 and F42.

Additional information in the following articles:

ISO News Archive
New agreement strengthens partnership between ISO and ASTM on additive manufacturing
(See text below)

ASTM News
ASTM and ISO Sign Additive Manufacturing PSDO Agreement

ANSI News and Publications
ISO and ASTM to Cooperate on International Standards for Additive Manufacturing

New agreement strengthens partnership between iso and astm on additive manufacturing

From ISO News Archive

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) and ASTM International have signed an agreement to increase their cooperation in the development of International Standards for additive manufacturing – which refers to the process of joining materials to manufactured objects, usually layer upon layer, as opposed to “subtractive manufacturing” methods, such as machining.
The Partner Standards Development Organization (PSDO) cooperation agreement was approved at the ISO Council meeting which took place in September 2011, in New Delhi, India and signed by ISO Secretary-General Rob Steele and ASTM President James Thomas.

The agreement provides new opportunities for the two organizations to adopt and jointly develop International Standards that serve the global marketplace in the field of additive manufacturing. It specifies development approaches, as well as publication and distribution arrangements. The agreement is expected to optimize stakeholder resources in the development of standards on additive manufacturing where both ISO and ASTM have expertise, helping to shorten standards development time and the availability of this work to the market.

The decision to set up the PSDO agreement follows the recent creation of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 261, Additive manufacturing. ASTM’s committee F42, Additive manufacturing technology, already had important work in this area and it was decided that both groups would benefit from combining their expertise.

“ISO’s aim is to facilitate the international exchange of goods and services through the development of International Standards,” said ISO Secretary-General Rob Steele. “Adopting a spirit of inclusion and cooperation vis à vis other standardizing bodies can only increase the market relevance of our standards, while ensuring an effective and efficient use of resources.”

About ISO
ASTM International President Jim Thomas commented, “As opportunities to forge collaborations in global standards development emerge in exciting new areas such as additive manufacturing, ASTM International stands ready to work with others to avoid duplication of effort and better serve our stakeholders,”

About ASTM
The agreement was approved by the respective governing bodies of ISO and ASTM in consultation with the ISO national member body where ASTM has its legal seat (ANSI)