**Announcement of a Comment Period for the Five Year Review of the Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) Standard**

**OAIS Overview**

[The *Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS)*](http://public.ccsds.org/publications/archive/650x0m2.pdf) was developed for use in facilitating a broad, discipline independent, consensus on the requirements for an archive or repository to provide permanent, or indefinite long-term, preservation of digital information. It was also intended to support the development of additional digital preservation standards and to encourage digital preservation support by vendors.

An OAIS is an archive consisting of an organization of people and systems that has accepted the responsibility to preserve information and make it available to a designated community. The standard defines a set of responsibilities that an OAIS archive must fulfill and this allows an OAIS archive to be distinguished from other uses of the term archive.

Since its adoption as both Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) and ISO standards, the OAIS Reference Model has been welcomed and widely adopted by virtually all types of digital preservation communities. Most modern digital archiving initiatives reference the OAIS Reference Model standard. It has also been widely used by organizations to inform their implementations of new or upgraded archiving systems.

**Five Year Review**

In compliance with ISO and CCSDS procedures, a standard must be reviewed every five years and a determination made to reaffirm, modify, or withdraw the existing standard. The Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) standard was approved as CCSDS 650.0-B-1 in January 2002 and was approved as ISO standard 14721 in 2003. A comment period for that first issue of the OAIS standard was held at the end of 2006. Based on the comments received, CCSDS began work on a new issue of the OAIS standard. Issue 2 of the OAIS standard, CCSDS 650.0-M-2 was published as an OAIS Best Practice Standard in June 2012 and was approved as an update to the ISO 14721 in August 2012.

The Issue 2 updates include clarifications to many concepts, in particular, Authenticity with the concept of Transformational Information Property introduced; corrections and improvements in diagrams; addition of Access Rights Information to PDI. With those updates, the OAIS standard continues to exhibit wide spread acceptance and growing recognition and acceptance in the digital preservation communities.

While the current issue of the standard can be reaffirmed given its wide usage, it may also be appropriate to begin another revision process. As with the previous update, our view is that any revision must remain backward compatible with regard to major terminology and concepts. Further, we do not plan to expand the general level of detail nor will the standard be changed from a reference model to an implementation. (Archive implementation standards or implementation profiles or detailed archival process standard or protocols could be addressed but they would become separate standards and would be developed through separate CCSDS projects.) A particular interest for the current OAIS update is to reduce ambiguities and to fill in any missing or weak concepts. To this end, a comment period has been established.

**Comment Process**

We are soliciting recommendations for updates that will reduce ambiguities or improve missing or weak concepts. We also want to know if you prefer that no changes be made. Please categorize your comments for changes under one of the following:

* Updates needed for clarification
* Updates to add missing concepts or strengthen weak concepts
* Identification of any outdated material

Please be as specific as possible with your suggestions. For this consideration, comments must be received by 14 October, 2016.

Comments may be submitted to: OAIS-support@

Should the decision be taken to update the OAIS Reference Model, there should be an opportunity to participate in the process. Please also express your interest in participating and, if known, an indication of your expected level of effort.

Note that CCSDS 652.0-B-1 – *[Requirements for Bodies Providing Audit and Certification of Candidate Trustworthy Digital Repositiories](http://public.ccsds.org/publications/archive/652x0mq.pdf)*, a follow-on standard closely related to the OAIS standard, is also due for its five year review. Please follow the same procedure to provide comments for that standard submitting those comments to: ISO-16363-support@TBD.com