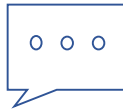




# “Dirt to Digits”

May 2020



## Thoughts from the MD

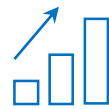
“The world is changing rapidly. It seems like just yesterday we caught on that we don’t need to physically be in front of people to interact.

With all the attention on what to do and what not to do, I have discovered that Social Isolation has empowered me to rediscover the importance of communication and, as a result, I have been in touch with more people and involved in more meetings (online of course) and I have also rediscovered how much I enjoy the communication.”



## The News Around the Traps

- A-SPEC Forums (COVID 19 friendly)
- Recent additions to the A-SPEC Knowledge Community
- Open Spatial’s newest option with ACDC
- Digital Hive launches
  - QGIS and A-SPEC training sessions
  - Trial for API web service for Code Lists
- FAQ
- Olympic Trivia Quiz



## A-SPEC Community Continues Growing

As usual, growth of the A-SPEC Knowledge Community has been great.

Of course it’s all thanks to our loyal customers and associates. I have always maintained that for us to be successful, it is important that you are successful.

As we have often been busy with the “doing” there is much to talk about.

## COVID 19 friendly A-SPEC Forums

An annual occurrence, I have valued the opportunity to run and participate in. We were all set for WA in March when...you know what we had to address.

Undeterred we launched our first online Forum for our WA Community. The conclusion is: an **all day online forum** is a long time to capture people’s attention. I also discovered that ‘eyeballing’ people has been a really effective way to engage.

Topics included: future proofing of A-SPEC, updates to continued harmonization of A-SPEC, points of discussion raised by the community, what is being proposed, importance of validation and what to validate, A-SPEC and BIM, new Code List API.

So will we be running other Forums? In short YES.

The feedback we’ve received is “shorter is better”. The upcoming Forums will be split into the A-SPEC themes i.e. D, R, O, S, W, B and will be no longer than 2 hours. I also just had an epiphany: now that they will be online we will truly have a National Forum !

Everyone will have a front row seat!

Please watch this space for the dates to be announced as placeholders for your calendars/diaries.

## Recent additions to the A-SPEC Knowledge Community Family

GISSA is pleased to announce that we have a number of new organisations that are now part of the A-SPEC Knowledge Sharing Community. They include:

- **Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA)** – they have taken on D-Spec and signed for an initial two year period. Their primary focus is to consolidate the Metropolitan Council’s stormwater data into a homogenized D-Spec data set.
- **Wodonga (Vic)** – implementing D-Spec, we are also working with them on reviewing their Asset and Asset Data Handover Processes to incorporate A-SPEC as part of that requirement.
- **Westernport Water (VIC)** – are implementing the S&W specifications, and we are working with them to review their current state with their Asset and Asset Data Handover Processes. Incorporating A-SPEC as part of that requirement.
- Also in Victoria, **Coliban Water** and **Western Water** have committed to A-SPEC with implementing the S&W specifications
- **Lachlan Shire (NSW)** – deploying D-Spec initially for their existing assets.
- **Central Coast Council (NSW)** – are implementing the S&W specifications, and we are working with them to review their current state with their Asset and Asset Data Handover Processes. Incorporating A-SPEC as part of that requirement.

Along with these new activities we are also busy with our existing client’s projects taking on data validation, database cleaning and harmonization, asset and asset data handover reviews, comparing and mapping A-SPEC with existing schemas.



“We are really excited to announce that we have upgraded the 'ACDC Portal', our online CAD Drawing Validation tool, which now opens up access to the ACDC Portal functionality for all consultants to use” said Terence Wood the Operations Manager – Service Delivery. “This is a new phase for the solution and we are pleased to be able to offer it to the A-SPEC Community.” He continued.

**Open Spatial’s ACDC Portal Now Available directly to Developers for ‘Per Project’ validation. An online CAD Drawing Validation tool—providing validated CAD Drawings and GIS data automatically, utilising the latest published A-SPEC Standard Specifications.**

Subscribe to save time and improve your As-Constructed/As-Built data submittal through CAD/GIS conversion, and A-SPEC standard ‘self-validation.’

- **Downloadable Open Spatial ‘ACDC toolkit’** – which includes CAD drawing template, CAD menus and predefined layers and attributed blocks, as per the A-SPEC standard.
- **Automated Drawing QA process** – Easy correction and re-validation - errors marked, flagged and listed.
- **Downloadable GIS data file** – A-SPEC validated passed drawing automatically converted to .shp file format and/or GIS-ready CAD drawing with object data, in the ACDC Portal.

For further information please visit <http://www.validation.openspatial.com> or contact Open Spatial directly or request a live demonstration today.

## Digital Hive



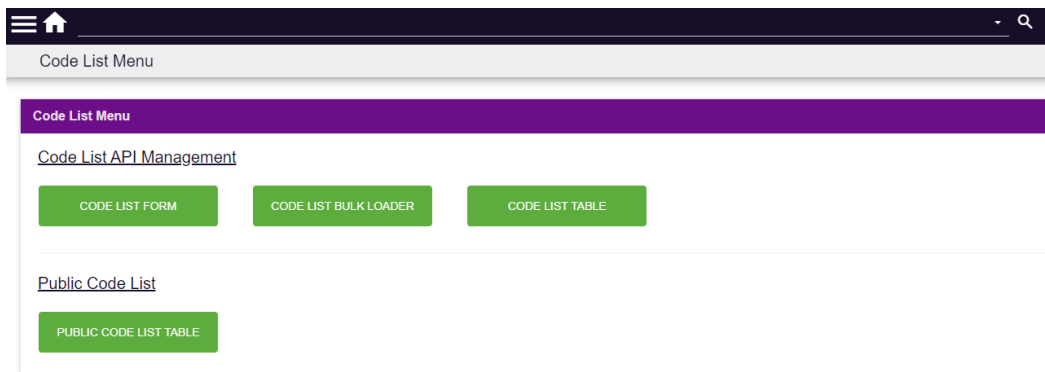
As you may be aware, Digital Hive is one of our joint venture businesses. The principal: Gaby van Wyk has been busy developing solutions for Data Management, Training and Web Services for A-SPEC and other clients.

This week Gaby completed the delivery of the first training course established for A-SPEC. It included using QGIS as the basis of creating A-SPEC data. Gaby stated that “delivering the training was fun, I already have ideas about how we can refine the content and I am getting specific knowledge about the issues that consultants need to address.”

“Our API development is also very exciting. This is the start of future proofing A-SPEC. We have commenced trialling it and I’m very excited about what’s possible” van Wyk continued.

The API for the Code Lists has been designed as a REST API to be ingested as a web service or as a standalone application to search for Codes.

For further information on either the Training or the API, please contact Gaby at [gaby@digital-hive.com.au](mailto:gaby@digital-hive.com.au) or by phone on +61 452 246 558 or GISSA at [info@gissa.com.au](mailto:info@gissa.com.au).



## FAQ



How many photos do we need to take of a Kerb that is 100m + long?

Great question ! We recommend you take at least 1 photo to clearly represent the profile of the asset and other photos as needed, if the characteristics change.



## Olympic Trivia Quiz

Being the year of the Olympics, we thought we would test your Olympic knowledge. These questions have been provided to GISSA and I acknowledge Mr. Donald Ivan Richards for his generosity.

1. Which country is always first into the stadium at the opening ceremony?
2. What two track events were won by Australian Edwin Flack at the first Modern Games?
3. Name the continents represented by the Olympic flag’s five interlocking rings.

As I mentioned earlier, our focus is your success. The next update is scheduled for June. If you would like us to include any stories of interest relating to your A-SPEC Community please forward your request to [info@gissa.com.au](mailto:info@gissa.com.au).

Best wishes, stay safe, we are almost on the other side!

George and the A-SPEC Team.

