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Information technology — 3D printing and scanning — Framework for an Additive Manufacturing Service Platform (AMSP)

*Technologies de l'information — Impression et balayage 3D — Cadre
conceptuel pour une Plateforme de services de fabrication additive
(AMSP)*



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Foreword

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Introduction

Additive manufacturing (AM) has been used for rapid prototyping for many years and is increasingly being applied to volume production, mass customization and spare parts production among other use cases. It is possible that low volume prototyping can tolerate simplified, ad hoc or informal interfaces between parts customers and AM service providers. As additive manufacturing capabilities have increased and as demand for additively manufactured parts has increased these informal interfaces are no longer sufficient. Additionally, AM workflows can require the contributions of several service providers in order to achieve the desired outcome. These workflows can need to nimbly adapt to needs specific to that outcome. To do so, a flexible and transparent interface structure is required.

Without interface standards, information exchanges between parts customers and AM service providers, and among collaborating AM service providers, often require ad hoc and expensive manual intervention. Inconsistent descriptions of the characteristics of the services provided can also create confusion, misunderstanding and rework.

The framework for an Additive Manufacturing Service Platform (AMSP) identifies interfaces and their key characteristics where standards can make a beneficial contribution to formalizing the interface for parts submission, design and creation. The Framework for an AMSP also identifies the qualities of an AM service provider that require a standard-consistent specification. The framework for an AMSP does not include these standards; they need to be developed separately. However, it does provide a landscape that clarifies how these standards relate to other elements of the AM ecosystem.

It is hoped that the adoption of this framework and the standards that it calls for will streamline and accelerate the adoption of AM technologies in the manufacturing ecosystem at large, enabling increasingly more complex use cases and richer collaboration between parts customers and a variety of AM service providers.