

Digitalisation: Opportunities or mainly challenges? An engineering perspective.

*Joseph Ickmans, Chair Digitalisation & BIM Committee at EFCA
(European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations)*

What is EFCA?

- ✓ The only association representing the engineering consultancy industry in Europe
 - ✓ Comprises of 28 national associations that represent professional engineering consultancy and related services in their own countries
 - ✓ Represents FIDIC in Europe
- Mission** →
- Positively influence EU legislation that impacts on the engineering consultancy business
 - Promote fair competition and transparent procurement rules
 - Create a network/business platform for member associations and European firms



Digitalisation and BIM Committee



- ✓ Informing about & sharing information on Digitalisation and BIM developments - monitor CEN/TC 442 (and ISO TC 59), EU BIM Task Group, bSI, etc.
- ✓ Organise debate and action on EFCA recommendations to positively influence legislators/policy makers at national and European level
- ✓ Collaboration & assistance in the development of digitalisation
- ✓ Promote the development of open standards

EFCA Committees & working groups

Opportunities?

- ✓ Boost in quality → clash/gap checking, less errors, less waste, ...
- ✓ Processes of communication (BIM) → forced alignment
- ✓ Innovation boost → parametrical design, attracting young specialists, ...
- ✓ Digital twin / data transfer
- ✓ Open standards → equal comparison & data accessibility

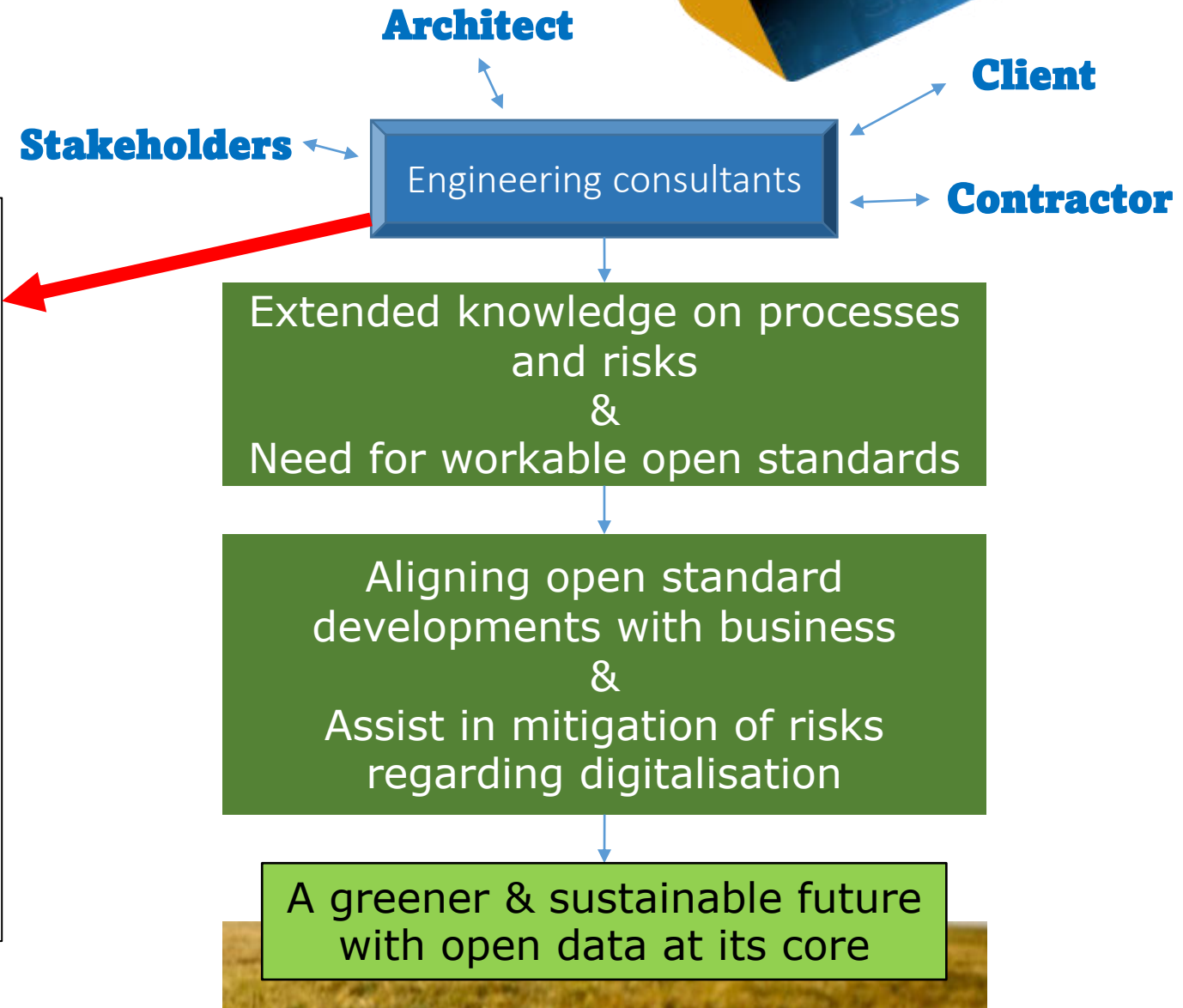


Challenges

- ✓ Investment → Learning curve, software, ...
- ✓ Shift of tasks & responsibilities → organisation & planning!
- ✓ Data ownership and accessibility
- ✓ Intellectual property
- ✓ New “contractual” partner = ICT
- ✓ Aligning with clients
- ✓ Interoperability

Play our part...

- ✓ Involved in the whole construction process from feasibility to operate & maintain:
 - Technical management and design – *scope of work / technical specifications*
 - Project management
 - Environment management - *permitting*
 - Quality & project control – *BIM/SE/...*
 - Contract management – *procurement / bid comparisons*
- ✓ Actively “pushing” digitalisation in the construction industry
- ✓ Assist clients/business to control the digital future + **greener** circular economy



Approach & actions taken...

Volatile & complex environment

- Digitalisation rate ↑
- Involved ICT companies ↑
- Free market



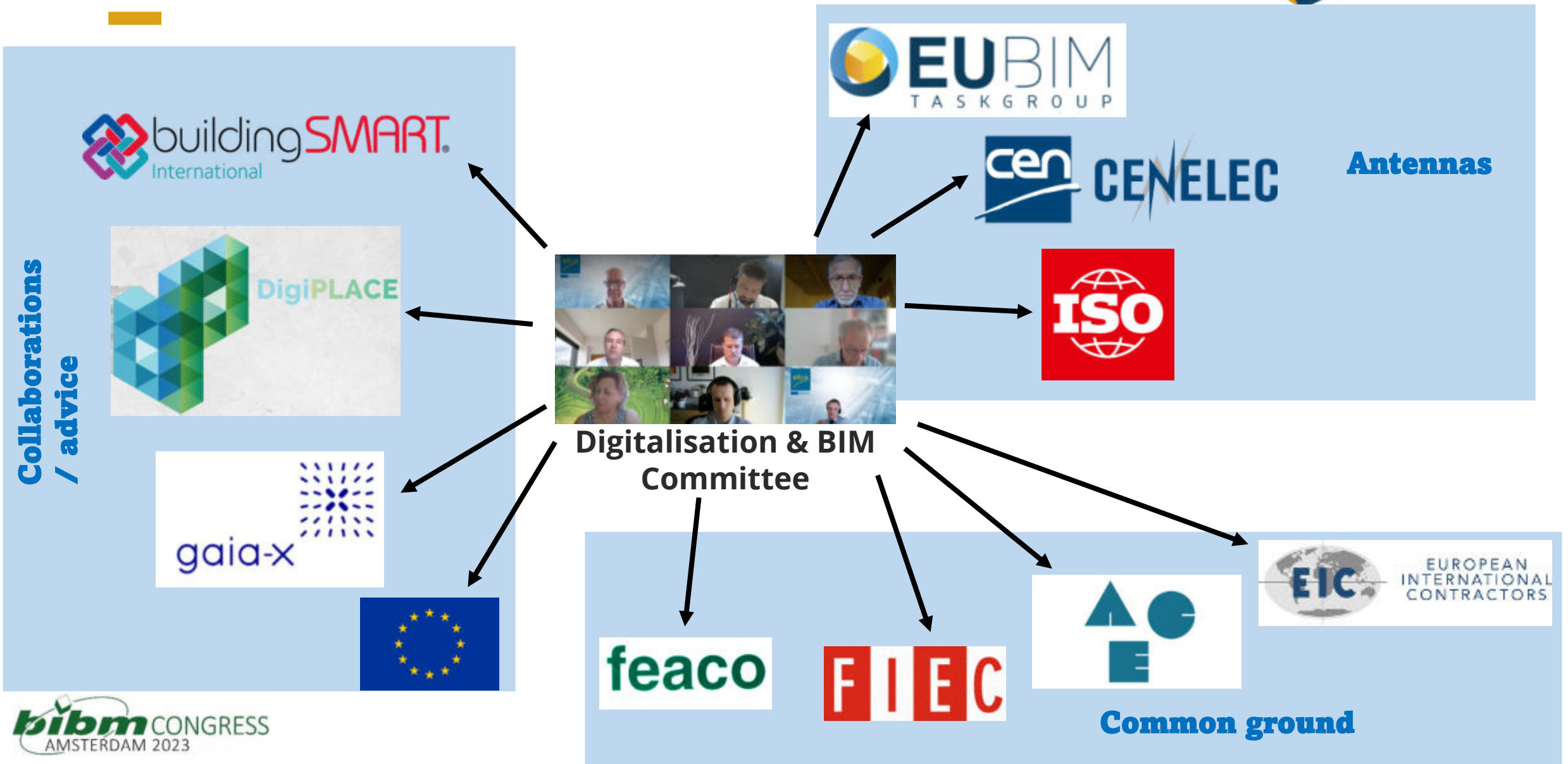
Connect to / Exchange expertise with policy makers and developer organisations

How:

- ✓ Collaboration with developers on creation standards, guidelines and tools (Digiplace, bSI, ...)
- ✓ Advice via expertise towards policy makers (EC) → Aligning legislation with business (practical, efficient, avoid pitfalls, ...) & address risks (ICT supplier monopolies, data accessibility/ ownership/IP/...)
- ✓ Position papers
- ✓ Guidelines (Booklet on ISO19650)



Our antennas & collaborations



Q & A



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