

[DRAFT] Charter  
of the International Planetary Data Alliance (IPDA) Technical  
Experts Group (TEG)  
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1. Description

The Technical Experts Group (TEG) of the IPDA provides oversight on system and software standards and architectures under development by the IPDA. It is responsible for coordination of technical projects and ensuring that the projects are compatible with the IPDA system architecture and requirements.

2. Membership

The IPDA TEG is comprised of technical experts from each agency who have a background in the design, development and operations of scientific data systems. A chair is appointed from the members and approved by the Steering Committee every two years.

3. Oversight

The IPDA Steering Committee provides oversight for the TEG activities and progress. The TEG Chair shall provide regular reports to the IPDA Chair for dissemination to the IPDA Steering Committee. In addition, reports are provided to the annual Steering Committee meeting.

4. Meetings

The TEG chair shall be responsible for calling regular meetings of the TEG. Due to the international nature of the IPDA, this may be conducted as a face-to-face meeting, using teleconferences or via e-mail. The chair shall identify and propose an agenda and may appoint a coordinator for specific discussion topics.

The TEG and/or Steering Committee members should contact the TEG chair to propose topics that should be addressed during TEG meetings. The IPDA Steering Committee should review TEG agendas and provide comments to the TEG and IPDA chairs.

5. Approval of Standards Documents

The IPDA TEG shall be empowered by the Steering Committee to design and develop technical standards that meet the IPDA requirements and fit within the IPDA system architecture. The TEG is responsible to review and approve standards when they are ready for submission to the Steering Committee. Each agency will be given one vote which will be comprised of "YES", "NO" or "ABSTAIN". A discussion period, not to exceed

two months, should precede the request for a vote. If there are no major concerns, then the vote should be called for by the TEG chair requesting a rapid response. Only votes that are in the “YES” or “NO” category will be counted. Agencies that do not vote will be counted as “ABSTAIN”.

The results of the vote should be sent to the Steering Committee. Once the Steering Committee is notified, they should be given ample time to ask for questions and clarification as part of the Steering Committee discussion period. The discussion period should not exceed two months. Members of the Steering Committee may request a vote at any time during the discussion period. If no vote is requested, then the standard will be approved. If a vote is requested, then the vote will follow the Steering Committee rules for voting

## 6. Dependencies and Success

The success of the IPDA is dependent on acceptance and adoption of the products and services developed through the alliance by the stakeholders. These stakeholders cross international boundaries and include planetary scientists and engineers, data producers, data users, data curators, standards authorities and international space agencies.

As such, it is critical that the TEG meet regularly to review progress on technical projects and to support active discussion via electronic mechanisms (e-mail, Wikis, etc).

## 7. Intellectual Property

The IPDA promotes an open working environment. Whenever possible, standards, software, protocols or any other results from IPDA working groups shall be made unencumbered by intellectual property claims. Such an approach is critical to the functioning of the TEG.