This Technical Specification defines a reference model for standardization in the field of geographic imagery. This reference model identify the scope of the standardization activity being undertaken and the context in which it takes place. It will include gridded data with an emphasis on imagery. Although structured in the context of information technology and information technology standards, this Technical Specification will be independent of any application development method or technology implementation approach.

This Technical Specification provides a reference model for the open distributed processing of geographic imagery. The motivating themes addressed in this reference model are:

- In terms of volume, imagery is the dominant form of geographic information.
  - Stored geographic imagery volume will grow to the order of an exabyte
  - National imagery archives are multiple petabytes in size; ingesting a terabyte per day
  - Individual application data centers are archiving 100's of terabytes of imagery
  - Tens of thousands of datasets have been catalogued but are not yet on-line.

- Most geographic imagery will never be directly accessed by humans
  - Human attention is the scarce resource, and is insufficient to view petabytes of data.
  - Semantic processing will be required: automatic detection of features; mining based on geographic concepts

- Geographic imagery is a key input to support policy makers in decision support.

The ultimate challenge is to enable the geographic imagery collected from different sources to become an integrated digital representation of the Earth widely accessible for humanities critical decisions.

The standard is of particular relevance to the following sectors:

Sector	Of particular interest
Developers of GIS products	Yes for imagery
Developers of GIS application systems	Yes for imagery
Producers/ suppliers of geographic data	Yes for imagery
Users of geographic data and GIS	Yes for imagery
Developers of standards	Yes for imagery

For further information on this standard and its implementation, please contact ISO/TC 211 secretariat via www.isotc211.org.