DFI members held an exploratory meeting at the 2017 DFI Annual Conference to discuss the challenges of developing guidelines and/or specifications to organize the various types of project data (e.g., geotechnical, design, construction, testing, etc.) for deep foundations. The group explored the need to define protocols and systems to integrate and connect all the geofoundations information into a Project Information Management System (PIMS) similar to a Building Information Modeling (BIM) platform.

Coherent organization of project information is essential to execute projects successfully. PIMS is typically a methodical process for collecting and using project information generated through one or more software applications. PIMS helps to plan, execute and close project management goals. PIMS systems differ in scope, design and features depending on the project and the organization’s operational requirements. The systems store information for executing a project successfully from investigation through construction through quality assurance. Improving and maximizing quality control/assurance and acceptance criteria procedures are part of DFI’s mission to advance the geofoundation industry.

Ensuring that the work adheres to the highest quality standards is essential to:

- Safety on the project and of the surrounding structures
- Durability of the products installed
- Implementation of sustainable and resilient efforts regardless of which technology is chosen
- Mitigation of project risk

The group will develop a white paper on the importance of using PIMS to advance quality and understanding by owners of a project’s progress and performance. Massimo Mucci of Bencor Global and Jamey Rosen, P.Geo., of Geosyntec are spearheading the effort on the white paper, which will be supported by Vanessa Bateman of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Mark Petersen, P.E., G.E., of Black and Veatch. Gianfranco Di Cicco is serving as the DFI trustee liaison for the group.