

### China to Build Satellite Navigation System

China has announced plans to build a satellite navigation system that will include up to 35 satellites and be working in the Asian region by 2008. The system, called 'Beidou', will include five geostationary earth orbit satellites and 30 medium earth orbit satellites. Navigation services open to commercial customers will provide users with positioning accuracy within 10 meters (33 feet), velocity accuracy within 0.2 meters per second and timing accuracy within 50 nanoseconds, the report of the Xinhua news agency said. No details on the costs of the system were reported. It was also not clear how the Chinese system would rival the American global positioning satellite system or the EU's Galileo satellite navigational system which is expected to be built with Chinese participation. According to the Xinhua news agency China would launch two 'Compass' navigation satellites next year as part of the Beidou project. The system is expected to cover China and parts of neighbouring countries by 2008, before being expanded into a global network of satellites.

[www.chinadaily.com](http://www.chinadaily.com)

### Intermap and Definiens to Build EARTHemes

Intermap Technologies and Definiens AG have signed an agreement to develop a land cover vector layer product called EARTHemes, covering all of Germany and the United Kingdom. EARTHemes combines radar imagery, digital surface models, and IFSAR data and through an automatic analysis engine creates accurate land cover datasets. Available beginning January 2007, EARTHemes will consist of a contiguous, contemporary thematic layer of Germany that includes five categories of land cover: urban, vegetation, agriculture, water, and rural area. Polygons of non-vegetated and non-populated areas will include additional slope information. The data will be available in an ArcGIS format, ready to integrate into any GIS application within or outside the ESRI environment.

[www.definiens.com](http://www.definiens.com)

[www.intermap.com](http://www.intermap.com)

### PCI Geomatics Announces Geomatica LidarEngine

PCI Geomatics signed an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) agreement with Ambergore Software Inc. for the creation of Geomatica LidarEngine. Geomatica LidarEngine is a data management, analysis, and visualization tool for Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) data. Powered by Ambergore Software, Geomatica LidarEngine's architecture and algorithms are well suited for processing the very large volumes of LiDAR data. Capabilities include batch processing, data integration, enhanced pyramiding, 3D visualization and geo-referencing for raster data.

[www.ambergore.com](http://www.ambergore.com)

[www.pcigeomatics.com](http://www.pcigeomatics.com)

### PCI Geomatics NITF certified

PCI Geomatics has become certified in compliance testing with the National Imagery Transmission Format Standard (NITFS) for their software Geomatica Focus and Generic Database (GDB). To become NITF certified, software applications must pass a rigorous testing and review process by an independent government board. This process ensures that NITF files are compatible and interoperable across all systems. NITF is the standard for formatting digital imagery and imagery-related products among members, agencies and departments of the United States Government. Before a particular system or product can be employed, it must adhere to the United States Federal and Department of Defense (DOD) standards. Compliance testing ensures that NITF standards are met and interpreted by all vendors

and developers in a uniform manner. To learn more about the Joint Interoperability Test Command, visit <http://jitic.fhu.disa.mil/brochure/nces.pdf> [www.pcigeomatics.com](http://www.pcigeomatics.com)

### 2007 BE Awards of Excellence Student Competition

The BE Careers Network launched the 2007 BE Awards of Excellence student competition. Four winners will receive BE Awards and scholarships during BE Conference 2007, taking place April 29-May 3 at the Los Angeles Convention Center in California. The competition is broken into two categories: college/university and middle school/high school. Students and student teams in the college/university competition can complete a project design of their choosing in one of three areas: architecture, engineering (civil, structural, and geospatial), and water. A winning project will be selected in each category. Students enrolled in schools participating in the BE Careers Academic Subscription program will have access to more than 50 software applications to complete their designs. The students and student teams participating in this year's middle school/high school competition are being asked to design a school of the future. They must complete their projects using MicroStation PowerDraft. The software is available to them, free of charge, through the BE Careers Network at [www.becareers.org](http://www.becareers.org). The BE Awards of Excellence student competition is judged by an independent panel of experts from academia and industry. The winners are notified in advance of BE Conference 2007 to enable the students to attend the awards ceremony and receive well-deserved recognition, prestigious BE Awards for display in their schools, and scholarships.

[www.becareers.org/awards](http://www.becareers.org/awards)

[www.bentley.com](http://www.bentley.com)

### ESRI's 2007 Survey & Engineering GIS Summit Includes Civil Engineering

Civil engineering will be a central component of ESRI's annual survey and GIS conference. This event, officially renamed the Survey & Engineering GIS Summit, will take place concurrently with the ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, California, June 16-19, 2007. The summit will continue to focus on key topics for surveyors and related industries, including geodetic control, GPS, integrating surveying and geographic information system (GIS) technology, land management, implementing GIS, and working with government agencies. However, the new program will be enhanced to include prevalent issues in engineering including GIS integration with site and land development, LiDAR, photogrammetry, engineering and analysis, and construction and as-built surveying. Paper submissions are still being accepted for the summit.

[www.esri.com/surveysummit](http://www.esri.com/surveysummit)

### ESRI Northeast Africa Established

ESRI announces the establishment of ESRI Northeast Africa (ESRI NEA). The newly formed company will allow the expansion of ESRI's software distribution into Libya, Chad, and Sudan.

ESRI NEA is a free zone company located in Egypt with business that is spread across the region. ESRI NEA was established due to the success that was demonstrated by Quality Standards Information Technology (QSIT), ESRI's distributor in Egypt and the surrounding region since 1994. ESRI NEA's vision is to be a leader in providing state-of-the-art GIS solutions to governments and businesses in the Middle East and North Africa.

[www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)

### Sokkia Qualifies for French GPS Network Teria

Sokkia's GSR2700 IS was recently qualified for the new French GPS Reference Network Teria. Teria was founded in 2005 and has grown out to be an extensive network of GPS reference stations in France. Teria is part of the Axagone Holding in France. According to Teria Sokkia did very well. From now on all surveyors with Sokkia equipment can sign in for a subscription at Teria without any problems. For the French customers of Sokkia this is a cost reducing solution, because besides this way of measuring with more accuracy, measuring with only one receiver is becoming more attractive.

[www.sokkia.net](http://www.sokkia.net)

### African Satellite Centre Chooses PCI Geomatics

PCI Geomatics' software and solutions were selected by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Satellite Application Centre, South Africa. The centre has purchased Geomatica 10 and Geomatica X, PCI's premiere software suites in remote sensing, for their inclusion in fully automated preprocessing chains for the radiometric and geometric correction of up to 100 satellite images per day.

[www.pcigeomatics.com](http://www.pcigeomatics.com)

### Online Civil Engineering Community Autodesk

Autodesk has launched an online Civil Engineering Community website packed with valuable information for anyone connected with the industry. The site at <http://civilcommunity.autodesk.com> has been designed as both a forum and resource for all civil engineers, but particularly those using Autodesk Civil 3D. It includes discussion groups and blogs, details of events and webcasts, links to other online resources plus tried and tested tips and training to help members get the best from their technology investments. Users will have access to a library of user-submitted content including templates, styles, design standards files, reports files, and utilities which can be downloaded, free of charge.

[www.autodesk.co.uk](http://www.autodesk.co.uk)

### Intergraph Stockholders Approve Acquisition by Investor Group

Intergraph announced that the stockholders of the Company voted to adopt the merger agreement providing for the acquisition of Intergraph Corporation by an investor group led by Hellman & Friedman LLC and Texas Pacific Group. Based on the preliminary tally of shares voted, approximately 99% of the shares of Intergraph common stock present and voting at the special meeting (in person or by proxy) voted in favor of the proposed merger agreement. The number of shares that voted to adopt the merger agreement represents approximately 73% of the total number of shares of Intergraph common stock outstanding and entitled to vote as of October 11, 2006, the record date for the special meeting. The proposed merger was announced on August 31, 2006 and is expected to close by the end of November 2006, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the conditions set forth in the merger agreement. Under the terms of the merger agreement, Intergraph stockholders will receive \$44.00 per share in cash, without interest, for each share of Intergraph common stock held.

[www.intergraph.com](http://www.intergraph.com)

### Garmin Wins Dutch Lawsuit Brought by TomTom

Garmin has received a decision of the District Court in The Hague, Netherlands denying the preliminary injunction sought by TomTom International in pre-

liminary relief proceedings alleging infringement by Garmin of a European registered design owned by TomTom. The court also ordered TomTom to pay Garmin 37,000 euros to cover attorney fees for defending the preliminary relief proceedings. Garmin's lawsuit against TomTom for infringement of five Garmin patents is proceeding in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin and the trial is scheduled for February 2007. Garmin has also recently filed a lawsuit against TomTom in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas for infringement of a sixth Garmin patent. After the Wisconsin lawsuit was filed, TomTom, which does not hold any U.S. patents for technology it developed itself, purchased three U.S. patents from Horizon Navigation, Inc. and then asserted these patents in a counterclaim in the Wisconsin lawsuit. Garmin has also filed a lawsuit against TomTom in the Netherlands seeking a declaration of non-infringement of the European registered design that was asserted by TomTom in the preliminary relief proceedings. In addition, Garmin has filed a lawsuit against TomTom in the United Kingdom to invalidate a UK patent owned by TomTom. Garmin currently owns 285 U.S. patents and 3 European registered designs and has 165 patent applications pending. Garmin was recently selected as an inaugural constituent of the Ocean Tomo 300 Patent Index based on the value of Garmin's patent portfolio.

[www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com)

**People**

**Professor Stig Enemark New President FIG**

Prof. Stig Enemark from Aalborg University has been elected as the President of FIG for the term of office 1.1.2007-31.12.2010. The election was made at the FIG General Assembly in Munich, Germany 13 October 2006. At the election there were also two other candidates: Mr. Ken Allred from Canada and Mr. T. N. Wong from Hong Kong SAR, China. In his



presentation speech to the General Assembly before the elections Prof. Enemark described his motto: "I suggest that we fly high and keep our feet on the ground at the same time." By this Prof. Enemark means that "FIG must be able to interact with the key players in the field such as the UN agencies, the World Bank, and sister organizations. We should also be able to interact with politicians at national level to improve and promote the basic conditions for our services and our role in society. And we should of course interact in a dialogue with the individual member associations and the individual surveyors to make FIG a relevant and a proud icon for our profession." Prof. Enemark has proposed an overall theme for the next period of office 'Building the Capacity'. What he proposed to be included under this theme is explained in more detail in his promotion flyer: [www.fig.net/council/enemark\\_papers/flyer\\_screen-version.pdf](http://www.fig.net/council/enemark_papers/flyer_screen-version.pdf) [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)

**GeoEye Appoints R. Clapper to Board of Directors**

GeoEye announced the appointment of retired Air Force Lieutenant General James R. Clapper, Jr. to its Board of Directors. Clapper was the first civilian director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). Highlights of his military career include serving as the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, in addition to a variety of intelligence-related positions including Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence and Headquarters USAF, during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. [www.geoeye.com](http://www.geoeye.com)

**Peter ter Haar Ordnance Survey's new Director of Products**

Ordnance Survey has appointed a new Director of Products to lead the strategic development of its customer-driven portfolio of geographic information. Peter ter Haar will be responsible for all aspects of product management including product marketing, engineering, cartography and supply. He has more than 18



years' experience in product management and business development in both the public and private sectors in GIS, location-based services and mobile technology. Recent roles include being head of GIS at the City of Amsterdam and senior product and technical management roles in Geodan, Autodesk Europe and Intergraph Europe.

[www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk)

**John O'Hara Executive Vice President of International Operations MapInfo**

MapInfo Corporation appointed John O'Hara to Executive Vice President of International Operations. In this role, Mr. O'Hara will lead MapInfo's expansion strategies in Europe, the Middle East, Africa (EMEA) and Asia Pacific, and implement MapInfo's global strategy focused on key vertical markets across these geographies to best serve its global customers. O'Hara joins MapInfo from Microsoft, where he served as General Manager, Enterprise and Partner Group for Microsoft UK where he was responsible for sales and services to Microsoft's enterprise customers. Prior to Microsoft, O'Hara served as Vice President of Worldwide Sales and Operations for Pivotal Corporation, a leading provider of CRM solutions to the mid enterprise, and spent 11 years at Lotus Development Group and IBM.

[www.mapinfo.com](http://www.mapinfo.com)

**Conferences & Meetings**

**Intergraph 2007**

Intergraph 2007 will be held May 21-24, 2007 in Nashville, Tennessee. In its second year, this international conference will be built around the theme 'Realize Your Vision', exploring how customers across the globe are using Intergraph's spatial information management software to address today's challenges but also those of tomorrow. Key executives and users from Intergraph's global customer and partner community will participate in industry-specific programs exploring best practices developed to maximize the benefits of their Intergraph software solutions. Participants will have the opportunity to share in hands-on training and networking, to discuss and evaluate applications of Intergraph's geospatial technology and engineering software -- from international user, partner, and Intergraph perspectives.

[www.intergraph2007.com](http://www.intergraph2007.com)

**New Staff Members Geoinformatics**

We are happy to announce that two new editors have joined the editorial crew of Geoinformatics. We met with Florian Fischer (ffischer@geoinformatics.com) in Munich during INTERGEO after having been in contact via email for some time. Fisher was introduced by EGEA as a potential candidate for writing reviews of well-known GIS software. Meanwhile, he submitted his first article on recent trends in the GIS sector detected at INTERGEO (see pages 6 and 7 of our October/November issue). Our other new crew member is Job van Haften (jvanhaften@geoinformatics.com). Job studied Geology and Communication in Utrecht (the Netherlands). He is a skilled writer and has worked for several reputed newspapers and magazines. There is a fair chance that some of you will meet Job and/or Florian at conferences and meetings during the next year!



Job van Haften



Florian Fischer