

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Rejects Hexagon Patent Claims

FARO Technologies, Inc announced that key claims in Hexagon's '148 patent have been rejected by the Patent & Trademark Office (PTO) in a Reexamination Proceeding that had originally been initiated by FARO. The rejected claims include all the claims involved in the ongoing '148 patent infringement case filed by Romer-CimCore, a subsidiary of Hexagon, AB FARO's largest competitor.

www.faro.com

STAR INFORMATIC Becomes STAR-APIC

PCI Geomatics signed an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) agreement with Ambercore 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 Ambercore 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.star-apic.com

Sokkia BV Contracts New Distributor for Switzerland and Estonia

Sokkia appointed Swissat as its new distributor for Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Swissat, former Swiss distributor of Topcon, is located near Zurich in the village of Samstagern. The company started in 1979 as GeoAstor and became later on a 100% subsidiary of Swissphone AG. In 2004 the company was renamed into Swissat. Managing director is Dipl. Ing. Mr. Z. Kurtovic. Sokkia BV appointed Survey Equipment OÜ as the Sokkia distributor in Estonia. Survey Equipment OÜ is a brand new company with a broad experience in surveying. Martin Tooma is the Managing director of Survey Equipment OÜ. Survey Equipment OÜ has a country-wide coverage with three offices. This will enable Survey Equipment OÜ to give prompt support to anyone in Estonia.

www.sokkia.net

Safe Software Supports for GeoConcept within FME 2007

Safe Software's upcoming FME spatial data transformation software release will include support for the native map file format of the GeoConcept GIS application developed by GeoConcept SA of Paris, France. GeoConcept users will now be able to utilize FME's powerful spatial ETL (Extract, Transform and Load) technology to import and export data in more than 170 formats supported by FME. In addition, users working with other mapping applications supported by FME will be able to directly read and write GeoConcept data – a development that will further increase the utility and pervasiveness of the GeoConcept format.

www.safe.com

www.geoconcept.com

Berg Insight Says 60 percent of WCDMA Handsets will be GPS/Galileo enabled by 2010

A new research report from the wireless analyst firm Berg Insight forecasts that 60 percent of WCDMA handset shipped worldwide will have integrated GPS/Galileo receivers by 2010. Satellite positioning technology enables delivery of location based services such as personal navigation on mobile phones. Another significant benefit is the ability to position mobile emergency calls with high accuracy.

GPS is already a standard feature in CDMA handsets

for the US market, where the technology is required to fulfil regulatory demands on accurate positioning of mobile emergency calls. Recently similar requirements were also announced in Japan, prompting NTT Docomo to introduce GPS on all 3G terminals from 2007. The EU remains vague about future regulations regarding positioning of emergency calls and some member states have not even introduced the common emergency number 112. André Malm, telecom analyst at Berg Insight, however believes that new regulations will be considered once the European Galileo satellite positioning system becomes operational in circa 2010. "Galileo is the most advanced pan-European technology project to date."

www.berginsight.com

PCI Geomatics to Support Satellite TerraSAR-X

PCI Geomatics is pleased to announce that it will support the upcoming German radar satellite TerraSAR-X for image processing, correction, and analysis. The satellite is set to be operational in mid 2007, and PCI Geomatics software will support the sensor's data as it becomes available. Infoterra holds the exclusive commercial exploitation rights for TerraSAR-X data and will supply radar data, as well as a variety of radar-based geo-information products, via a dense distribution network which ensures reliable and efficient data distribution worldwide.

www.infoterra.de

www.pcigeomatics.com

PCI Geomatics Signs Memorandum of Understanding

PCI Geomatics signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Key Laboratory of Information in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (LIESMARS) in China. The MoU outlines plans for cooperation in a variety of areas including the introduction of emerging image-centric geospatial technology in China and outlying regions. It also highlights plans for further promotion of Geoinformatics along with a better understanding of the earth and space.

www.pcigeomatics.com

Ordnance Survey Rolls out GPS Network to North-West Scotland

Ordnance Survey is adding more reference stations in north-west Scotland to complete its national infrastructure for receiving satellite-based positioning signals. Eleven new receivers to the north of the Great Glen will underpin a range of publicly available GPS correction services aimed at surveyors, highway engineers, utility companies and others in need of pinpoint positioning information. The infrastructure, called OS Net, improves the real-time accuracy of raw satellite-based positioning from around 10 metres down to around 1 centimetre. Initially developed to support Ordnance Survey's own field staff, it has now been made available to commercial technology partners so they can build distinct applications for their own customers.

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/gps

Laser-Scan Changes Name to 1Spatial

Laser-Scan renames the company as 1Spatial. Laser-Scan has been in existence since 1969. Originally building laser plotters, the company moved on to the scanning of paper maps to create digital databases. The company has transformed over time, and now concentrates on spatial database management with a specific focus on spatial data quality control.

www.1spatial.com

ER Mapper Appoints Andrew Compson as Regional Manager - Africa & Middle East

Andrew Compson has been appointed by ER Mapper to the position of Regional Manager - Africa & Middle East. Compson has over twenty years experience within the geospatial industry. He has worked within government, private and military organizations during this time. Andrew spent a large proportion of this time working within the Middle East, Saudi Arabia in particular.

www.ermapper.com

Ball Aerospace Is Building WorldView 2 Satellite

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation is building WorldView 2. WorldView 2, the third satellite in DigitalGlobe's constellation of spacecraft, offers the highest collection capacity of Earth imagery, and is the only next generation system to be built independent of U.S. Government financing. The WorldView 2 satellite is scheduled to launch in late 2008; work on the satellite sensor is nearing completion at ITT and work on long lead items on the satellite bus has been underway since early 2006. WorldView 2 is the third remote-sensing satellite built by Ball Aerospace for DigitalGlobe, and will contribute to the company's already successful high resolution imaging capabilities.

www.digitalglobe.com

DigitalGlobe Acquires GlobeExplorer

DigitalGlobe announced the acquisition of GlobeExplorer, a geographic data integration and publishing company. "We see the CRS industry at an inflexion point. The role of geospatial content is expanding beyond traditional markets and GIS-trained users, to include a broad range of organizations in the commercial, civil government and defense and intelligence communities who are increasingly accessing and incorporating geospatial information into their daily workflow," said Jill Smith, CEO of DigitalGlobe.

www.digitalglobe.com

Autodesk Joins with Oracle to Provide Integrated Geospatial Solutions

Autodesk announced its elevated relationship with Oracle to provide customers with complete solutions for the creation and sharing of geospatial data. Autodesk and Oracle will collaborate on software bundles, technology integration, sales, training and customer support. As a result of this strategic relationship, Autodesk is now offering two new bundles for U.S. government organizations that feature Oracle Database 10g Enterprise Edition with Oracle Spatial 10g.

www.autodesk.com

1Spatial Significantly Extends Spatial Data Quality Across the Web

1Spatial has become a Foundation Sponsor for the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo).

As part of this move to greatly increase the possibilities for spatial data quality control over the Web, 1Spatial is integrating FDO (Feature Data Objects) with their flagship Radius Studio component-based architecture. FDO was originally authored by Autodesk but is now open source software, granted to the OSGeo as a sub-project of MapGuide Open Source. In a recent press release from Autodesk there was reference to the MapGuide Open Source community, which currently numbers over 600 members. They have downloaded the code more than 23,000 times and the FDO source code has been downloaded 3000 times. These community members can now link into the Radius Studio environ-

ment and join the rapidly increasing community enjoying the ability to assess and control spatial data quality across the web.

www.1spatial.com

1Spatial to Lead OGC Data Quality Working Group

1Spatial announced that their Product Director, Graham Stickler, has been chosen to Chair a new Open Geospatial Consortium Working Group on Data Quality. A motion has been unanimously passed at the OGC Technical Committee Meeting in San Diego, California, to create a Working Group (WG) with specific focus on spatial data quality. Graham Stickler of 1Spatial was elected Chair of this WG, with Patrick Cunningham, President of Blue Marble Geographics as the Vice-Chair. The Charter of this WG is to attempt to establish how data quality can be both defined and communicated, using standards to help in the reuse of spatial data and in the creation and management of spatial data infrastructures. Full details of the OGC, and of this working group are available on the OGC website at

www.opengeospatial.org

Autodesk Celebrates One Year Anniversary MapGuide Open Source

Autodesk marked the one-year anniversary of the release of its MapGuide Open Source product and its feature data objects (FDO) source code. Over the past year, this web-mapping platform has gained traction among the geospatial developer community, which is now incorporating it into new and inno-

vative spatial applications. The MapGuide Open Source community currently numbers over 600 members, and the source code has been downloaded more than 23,000 times. Additionally, the FDO source code has been downloaded 3000 times.

www.autodesk.com

DigitalGlobe Partners with Lowrance to Power GPS Tools

DigitalGlobe is partnering with Lowrance, a brand in marine electronics and GPS navigational systems. Under terms of the partnership DigitalGlobe will provide the satellite imagery for the Lowrance iWAY™ 600C portable navigation device (PND). The iWAY 600C with DigitalGlobe imagery is the first portable navigation device to give drivers unparalleled access to the world's high resolution commercial imaging system. DigitalGlobe demonstrated its capabilities on the iWAY 600C at the International CES Conference. The iWAY 600C offers detailed satellite imagery of select metropolitan cities and marine mapping/navigation, in addition to precision NAVTEQ® road mapping with voice and visual navigation, audio player with built-in FM modulator, picture viewer, and 5" high-res display. DigitalGlobe's "birds-eye view" satellite imagery will be the sole provider of digital imagery for the product. Additionally, the iWAY 600C will feature a touchscreen display, more than 5.5 million points of interest, lake and U.S coastal water maps with depth contours, MP3 audio player, full spectrum FM modulator and 30 GB internal hard drive.

www.digitalglobe.com

People

DigitalGlobe Appoints Steve Milton as Vice President

DigitalGlobe announced that Steve Milton has joined the company as Vice President of Software and Systems. In his new role Milton will direct DigitalGlobe's software and systems business office, leading the worldwide development of the company's software systems supporting the operations and distribution of geospatial content. Milton will report directly to Jill Smith, Chief Executive Officer of DigitalGlobe.

www.digitalglobe.com

Topcon Appoints New Technical Writer

Topcon Europe Positioning BV has appointed Dimitri Lambermont as new technical writer. Lambermont will be responsible for writing articles, press releases and brochures for both internal and external purposes.

www.topcon.eu

