OGC Joins W3C to Help Add Geospatial to the Web

The OGC recently became a member of the World Wide Web Consortium,(W3C, www.w3.org/) a standards organization that develops interoperable technologies to lead the Web to its full potential. The OGC is participating in a W3C incubator activity focusing on semantic geospatial issues. W3C Incubator Activities facilitate rapid development, on a time scale of a year or less, of new Web-related concepts. The semantic geospatial activity or Geospatial XG is sponsored by W3C members OGC, SRI International, University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute (USC ISI), Stanford University and Oracle and is chaired by Traverse Technology's Joshua Lieberman.
www.opengeospatial.org

New ESRI Distributor in Georgia

GIS & RS Consulting Center GeoGraphic is ESRI's new distributor in Georgia. As a DATA+ subdistributor for nearly 10 years, GeoGraphic has established a significant client base that includes a number of federal government ministries, local municipalities, and international agencies. In addition, GeoGraphic has developed a number of applications for health care, agriculture, public transportation, and municipal services. The company is also well known for its certified GIS training courses and provides complete technical solutions for desktop, mobile, server, and Internet platforms.
www.esri.com

NATO NC3 Agency Awarded GIS Data Preparation Contract to TENET

The NATO NC3 project involves the generation of a wide range of geospatial data models compliant with some of the latest spatial open information standards from OGC and ISO and the conversion of many terabytes of vector, raster and gridded data. A large proportion of NATO's paper holdings of maps and charts will also be digitized and converted to the same set of open standards. The objective is to create an open and shareable map database as part of NATO core GIS infrastructure within the Alliance. At the forefront of these open standards are the two key encodings of GML (Geographic Markup Language) used to encode vector data, and GMLJP2 which uses both JPEG2000 and GML to provide effective encoding for Raster and Coverage data. The conversion and validation process will result in image, vector and scanned paper maps being available in GML. Furthermore, the project includes the conversion of many different data formats, including for example S-57/AML, VMap and DAFIF together with a wide range of color and panchromatic imagery and terrain information. These sources incorporate geographic information objects for land, maritime and aeronautical domains. The project utilizes TENET's significant knowledge and technologies in the area of automated data conversion and quality control as well as in the area of open Spatial Data Infrastructures and reinforces TENET's position as specialist in high performance distributed geospatial solutions.
www.tenettechnology.com

Leica Geosystems Geospatial Imaging Expands in France

Geosystems France is now an authorized distributor of Leica Geosystems Geospatial Imaging software products. Geosystems France will specialize in the areas of remote sensing, digital photogrammetry and 3D applications. Committed to support users in France and French speaking countries, Geosystems France will offer local sales and support, including technical support, individual training, software customization and project consulting.
www.geosystems.fr
www.gi.leica-geosystems.com

GITA Announces 2006 Annual Geospatial Technology Report

GITA's 2006 Geospatial Technology Report is a 149-page report containing detailed information on the complexity, direction, and completeness of (GIS projects being implemented at 386 organizations. The 2006 Geospatial Technology Report addresses GIS projects in six markets: electric, gas, water, pipeline, and telecommunication utilities, as well as the public sector. Information in each industry section focuses on land base accuracy, sophistication, maintenance cycles, application usage, and interfaces, as well as the top 10 applications and technologies. This year's report contains over 300 tables and charts.
www.gita.org

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.
www.digitalglobe.com

LizardTech Sponsor of Open Source Geospatial Foundation

LizardTech, announced its role as an associate sponsor of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo). LizardTech uses a number of OSGeo's open source projects, such as the Geospatial Data Abstraction Library (GDAL), to help build its expanding line of geospatial products. In addition, LizardTech's engineering manager, Michael P. Gerlek, is a founding member and vice president of OSGeo.
www.lizardtech.com

Google Earth Delivers Higher Resolution Imagery with Spot Image

Spot Image has entered into an agreement with Google in order to improve the available resolution of Google Earth products over wide areas of the world. Under a multi-year agreement, Spot Image will provide Google Earth with 2.5 meter resolution imagery taken from the SPOT5 satellite. As of January 22, users will be able to see new high resolution satellite images on Google Earth for various European areas including France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Spain and Portugal.
www.spotimage.fr

GeoEye Makes Final Debt Payment for the Purchase of Space Imaging

GeoEye announced the final payment on the US$50 million credit facility that it drew down in January 2006 to fund the acquisition of the assets of Colorado-based Space Imaging. While the two and one-half year facility did not have an amortization repayment schedule, it was structured to be repaid from excess cash flow generated by the assets purchased from Space Imaging. Given the performance of the operation, the company has been able to repay this facility with cash flow generated within calendar year 2006. In conjunction with this repayment, the preferred stock that was issued in connection with the loan will be cancelled.
www.geoeye.com

Erratum Interview Stig Enemark Jan/Febr issue

Prof. Stig Enemark, President of FIG

We discovered an annoying mistake in the interview with Prof. Stig Enemark as published in our first issue of 2007 (Jan/Febr issue). There has been a misprint in the eighth question. Simply said: there is a wrong question but the right answer. Beneath is the right question and following answer. You can read the correct text of the whole interview on www.geoinformatics.com.

Again, we do apologize for this mistake!

The current FIG Surveyors Reference Library website is a short cut to all papers of FIG Congresses, Working Weeks and other FIG events. Are you perhaps considering this as a first step towards the development of a broader digital library of surveying profession with global reach, which could include many other professional topics? In this regard, what do you think about the latest EU initiative "i2010: Digital Libraries"?

Enemark: FIG has for some years now published all proceedings from our conferences on the web – and they are available free of charge for all interested. The reference library is only one tool to collect these articles in one place. We need to consider what the future concept should be. Progress within the search engines for example is so fast that it is difficult to say what will be the main stream in the future. There are several databases in the surveying industry that should be linked together. FIG alone has also other tools e.g. our permanent institution OICRF that provides access to a whole range of articles related to land administration.