

GEOSPATIAL WORLD FORUM

Exchange Forum: Evolving Public-Private Partnership for Spatial Data Infrastructure

26-27 April 2012, Amsterdam

Organised by: Geospatial Media and Communications (*formerly GIS Development*)

In association with: Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Introduction

Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) is a framework of data sets, tools and applications that have, besides other features, a predominant spatial orientation, which can be used for a variety of planning purposes in different formats by the stakeholders in the region for the common good. By its very nature, SDI is a government initiative primarily owned and run by government agencies. Till date many countries and some regions have come together to create SDIs in order to capitalise from its many advantages, and have achieved varied stages of functionality.

A relatively significant concept related to SDIs, which has till date not received much focus and attention, is the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for developing SDIs. In essence, PPP is the cooperation between government agencies and private industry for a joint project or initiative which is funded and operated through a partnership between the two stakeholders. While referring to the PPP model for a SDI, it is important to define 'private industry', which is not just limited to the *geospatial industry*, but also encompasses privately run multinational or transnational companies in general. It is well known that many such big companies create or develop their own spatial data to support large projects; however this data becomes their propriety and the immense value that it could add to the existing SDI is thereby lost. Similarly, the existing datasets on the SDI could also be used by private industry for their own purposes by cooperating with the government agencies. There is immense potential on what could be achieved through this bilateral cooperation, which is the scope and purpose of this Exchange Forum. There is a strong need for developing PPP model in SDIs mainly for:

- ***Developing better economies of SDI*** – since public agencies often find it difficult to provide consistent funding for spatial projects, SDIs lead to significantly high cost-savings if executed and implemented in a collaborative environment.
- ***Speedy and efficient delivery of results*** – private sector participation will result in more efficient, timely and accurate delivery of results. There is also higher accountability involved with PPP approach
- ***Innovation*** – joint cooperation of public and private sector will lead to higher innovation in delivery of SDIs
- ***Increasing political support for SDIs*** – with more pro-active involvement of private sector, the political outfits in each locality, country or region will need to display serious political commitment towards SDI

With the above in focus, Geospatial Media and Communications (*formerly GIS Development*) is organising a one-day programme the- **Exchange Forum on Evolving Public-Private Partnership for SDI** on the 26th and 27th of April, 2012 at Amsterdam under the auspices of Geospatial World

Forum. The forum will aim at addressing the unique relation between private industry and the public sector units which are the key stakeholders of SDI initiatives and brainstorm on ways of taking it forward. Through the course of the Forum, a white paper will be evolved, which will serve as a guiding principal for interested organisations to develop and evolve this relation in order to create better and more effective SDIs.

Objective

The key objectives of the Forum will be to:

1. Bridge the gap between the public and private entities who are key stakeholders of PPP model for SDIs
2. Brainstorm on viable financial models of PPP for SDIs
3. Identify the road blocks in achieving success within these models
4. Identify ways and means of overcoming the above mentioned road blocks
5. Identify the unique regional or country specific characteristics of SDI that can lend to ease of development of PPP
6. Identify steps that government agencies can take to invite or encourage Private Sector participation in SDI
7. Outline benefits for private sector to contribute and participate in SDI

Participants

The forum will have participation from:

1. Over 20 heads of country or regional SDIs from across the globe, namely - *Belgium, Italy, India, Norway, Kingdom of Bahrain, South Africa, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Malaysia, Brazil, France, Australia and more*
2. Senior representatives of geospatial industry, who are key contributors to SDIs in terms of products and services they offer
3. Senior executives of large multi and transnational companies and regional/country specific industry giants who form the part of PPP model
4. Presidents of International SDI related societies, who would chair the sessions
5. Senior representatives of leading NGOs or Development sector agencies who would fall under the 'private sector' in PPP

Programme Overview

Thursday, April 26, 2012

12:00 – 13:00 hrs	Forum inauguration
13:00 – 14:00 hrs	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.30 hrs	Session 1: Brief presentations of 10 min each by 5 speakers on Data Sharing
15.30 – 16.00 hrs	Tea/Coffee Break
16.00 – 17.30 hrs	Session 2: Brief presentations of 10 min each by around 6 speakers on Value added data products

Friday, April 27, 2012

09.00 – 10.30 hrs	Session 3: Brief presentations of 10 min each by around 6 speakers on Data Maintenance and Management
10.30 – 11.00 hrs	Tea/Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30 hrs	Concluding session: Presentation of salient points discussed, Open house discussions, charting of Forum outcomes and follow up points by JRC and vote of thanks by GIS Development

Programme details

The session on Data Sharing will focus on:

- Developing effective models for data sharing
- Issues and challenges that surround data sharing
- Ways of overcoming the above challenges
- Sharing of success stories regarding data sharing in PPP model, highlighting the Key Result Areas

The session on Value Added Data Products will focus on:

- Case studies on innovative examples of value addition.
- Requirements from government agencies for value added data services from the industry
- Discussing cost-effective models for adding value to data
- Current and upcoming technologies used for adding value to data

The session on Data Maintenance and Management will focus on:

- Return on Investment for the industry
- Innovative applications for SDI
- Challenges in maintaining and developing data
- Ways of overcoming such challenges

Outcome

As an outcome of the Forum, we expect to provide a unique networking platform to the concerned professionals in the SDI and private sector, which will lead to more collaboration in this field. Finally, a White paper on 'Steps forward on PPP for SDI' will be evolved and circulated to all concerned professionals, even to those who would not be able to participate.