ITEAM CONNECTIONS

*Collaboration and coordination are essential to organize the production, stewardship and exchange of data in a National Spatial Data Infrastructure. I-Teams and other information consortia supply some of the tools necessary to collaborate and coordinate. Collaboration and coordination cannot occur without communication. We need to keep all members of our national I-Team network informed and connected. Hence, **I-Team Connections**. In these pages you will find news and information to help connect you to what is happening in Washington, DC and in State and local venues across the nation.*

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY SUPPORTS NSDI

The Office of Homeland Security recognizes the importance of geospatial information and the need for increased funding to make it a reality. In comments made to the Steering Committee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, Steve Cooper, Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for Information Integration and CIO, White House Office of Homeland Security committed the support of Governor Ridge and the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) to efforts to build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

"Geospatial data is a national asset, absolutely essential to the mission of homeland security," said Mr. Cooper. "We cannot succeed without a robust data environment at every level of government."

Mr. Cooper advised attendees at the Steering Committee meeting that he is recommending the new Department of Homeland Security act as a focal point for shaping geospatial requirements for the homeland security mission. "Homeland security provides us an opportunity to bring a sense of urgency and additional focus to current geospatial efforts," said Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Cooper emphasized the need for more funding for geospatial activity at all levels of government. He indicated that OHS, working with OMB, was willing to spearhead budget requests for collaborative efforts beginning in fiscal year 2004.

OHS is also willing to support pilot projects. "We are willing to request pilot projects through OHS and the Department of Homeland Security after it is constituted for new and emerging technology in the geospatial arena," said Mr. Cooper. He attached two conditions to such pilots. They must be collaborations, and they must use standards and support interoperability.

Mr. Cooper also announced the full support of OHS to Geospatial One Stop, expecting it to provide a single access point to the nation's geospatial capabilities.

> **"Geospatial data is a national asset, absolutely essential to the mission of homeland security"**
>
> —Steve Cooper,
> Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for Information Integration and CIO, White House Office of Homeland Security

i TEAM
Stewarding America's Data Assets

I TEAMS *WORK*

By Ronald F. Matzner, National I-Team Coordinator

Intergovernmental Implementation: Needs, Characteristics and Best Practices

In the two months since the first issue of I-Team Connections, there has been a surge of activity and interest in identifying the requirements, characteristics, and best practices that will be necessary to implement the NSDI.

The National States Geographic Information Council has established a committee to explore the organizational characteristics of a state Council that would best enable a state to collaborate with other levels of government and be a focal point for implementation of the NSDI. Public Technology Inc., in support of Geospatial One Stop and in collaboration with the International City/County Managers Association and other organizations, is about to begin a process to identify and assess intergovernmental requirements and policy issues that must be addressed to implement the NSDI.

> **"There has been a surge of activity and interest in identifying the requirements, characteristics and best practices that will be necessary to implement the NSDI."**

At a recent meeting of the Geospatial Leadership Council (GLC), a suggestion was made that the GLC sponsor research into the best practices of a public/private NSDI collaboration. The GLC is a network of trade and professional associations, and other organizations with an interest in the utilities and infrastructure industry

NIMA and USGS held a Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) summit with local and state GIS leaders at the Council for Excellence in Government to assess critical infrastructure dataset needs, and to begin a dialogue on how to implement characteristics and best practices for The National Map and Homeland Security. Most recently, FEMA, NIMA, and USGS have joined together to form an Interagency Geospatial Preparedness Team that necessarily will have to engage in need and gap analyses in order to build an intergovernmental program of geospatial preparedness.

I-Process is Needs Based

The "I" in I-Team represents implementation, and I-Teams are intergovernmental. In order for a state or region to implement its portion of the NSDI, it must consider the business needs, characteristics, and best practices of its constituents. The Council for Excellence in Government has begun to analyze I-Team plans and processes to ascertain best practices. One best practice is readily evident. Reading the I-Plans one after the other causes one to appreciate the importance of conducting a business needs analysis early in the I-Process and finding a way to keep the analysis current.

Of course, I-Team resources are a consideration in determining the extent of any analysis. But it is an indispensable step. Don Cooke of GDT commented at the recent NSGIC conference that data remains only on the cost side of the ledger until it is used. Business needs and use cases determine data value.

Alaska

The Alaska Geographic Data Committee (AGDC) was formed in 1993. The AGDC has more than 40 members from Federal, State, Native and local governments, as well as academia and private industry . The U.S. Geological Survey and the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AKDNR) serve as Co-Chairs of the AGDC. AGDC Co-Chair Rich McMahon, AKDNR, is also the I-Team Coordinator for Alaska.

The AGDC is generally modeled after the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). The AGDC Clearinghouse located at the USGS Alaska Science Center in Anchorage was the first node officially recognized by the FGDC.

The Committee has been successful in leveraging funding to build

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

framework data through the Department of the Interior's High-Priority Base Data Program since 1996.

State and local contributions have been primarily in the transportation, governmental units, and cadastral themes. Acquiring current elevation, bathymetry, geodetic control, and orthoimagery have been the biggest challenges facing the State. The AGDC has developed a statewide Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative to address this shortfall.

Progress has been slow, via a project-based approach. Data and imagery acquisitions are focusing on the National Petroleum

MORE I TEAMS *WORK*

I recently was talking with Todd Bacastow of Penn State regarding the incorporation of a requirements module in the Pennsylvania I-process. I recalled the Louisiana I-Team work plan. Louisiana is using a self-described state of the art requirements management system (RMS) to collect, organize and maintain state and local needs and business uses for geographic information and services. The RMS is a web-enabled application based on a commercial software package. It will be available as a service on the LouisianaMAP Portal, making it readily accessible by data producers and users. The I-Team initially will use the RMS to develop the I-Plan. It will be available thereafter for use by jurisdictions and organizations statewide to register new and evolving needs and requirements. Virginia, Maine and Indiana are among other I-Team states that have engaged in extensive surveys and needs analyses.

It will be interesting to follow the progress of and participate in the initiatives mentioned above during the next few months, particularly as they coordinate efforts to leverage government resources. The initiatives represent unprecedented opportunities for collaboration. To the extent that the initiatives will have to focus on intergovernmental requirements and processes, the needs analyses and other components of the I-process will be a considerable resource for them to use as they begin their work.

FROM ACORNS TO OAK TREES

I-Team Experience Leads to PAMAGIC/ PAGIC Rapprochement

Long time rival organizations PAMAGIC and PAGIC met jointly for the first time on September 19. Participants explored whether they could put aside their differences and work together to produce a joint policy paper on recommendations for administering GIS activities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Jay Parrish, Pennsylvania's I-Team Coordinator and State Geologist, scheduled the historic meeting immediately following the monthly meeting of the Pennsylvania I-Team. Jay already had some success recruiting some of the PAMAGIC and PAGIC members for the I-Team, having drawn heavily from both groups to build the team. Noting the ability of members of the two groups to work cooperatively within the context of the I-Team, he believed it was in the interest of PAMAGIC and PAGIC to publicly come together and present a strong and united voice as GIS

PAGIC/ PAMAGIC members at first joint meeting

Reserve Alaska (NPRA) at the present time.

Remoteness and sheer size, along with the high costs of data acquisition and a sparse population base are major obstacles. The AGDC is committed to work together as an integrated team to produce this critical data through partnerships that will serve as a statewide foundation for *The National Map*, homeland security efforts, and the National Data Spatial Infrastructure.

For additional information, please visit the AGDC Clearinghouse at http://agdc.usgs.gov and the Alaska State Geographic Data Committee (ASGDC) Clearinghouse at http://www.asgdc.state.ak.us.

ACTION AROUND THE

Arkansas

The Arkansas Centerline File (ACF) I-Team initiated the development of a Statewide Centerline File Standard (http://www.gis.state.ar.us/AGIO/ACF_program.asp). The Arkansas State Land Board adopted the ACF standard on June 18, 2002. The standard was promulgated as an official state regulation on September 15, 2002. The Arkansas Health Department has sent a detailee to the Arkansas Geographic Information Office (AGIO) to support the ACF efforts. (See story on page 8.)

Excellence IN GOVERNMENT

By Katherine Hansen, Associate Director, Council for Excellence in Government

Recently, a colleague in the geospatial community relayed an anecdote to me that illustrates some truth about the perception of geospatial technologies in government. He said that every time he visits a government building and goes to the office of the geospatial information coordinator, he gets in the elevator and goes *down*. This is symbolic of the lack of emphasis and visibility given to this important, cross-cutting technology in government.

It is time to bring geospatial technologies and information out of the basement. As readers of this newsletter know, effective use of geospatial information by decision makers in government saves money, time and most importantly, lives. This seems to be the best kept secret in government. As few as 7% of elected officials have knowledge of IT issues; and even fewer have knowledge of geospatial technologies.

Recent events are making these technologies more visible to government and the public. We can point to the lessons learned from New York's response to 9-11. The data they had before the attack saved lives, what they didn't have, cost them. As law enforcement in Montgomery County, Maryland works with all levels of government to stop the area sniper attacks, geographic information is helping to catch the killer. Although not news to veterans in the geospatial community, to many, this is a revelation.

This new visibility demonstrates to leaders in government and the public the key role of geospatial information. As a part of our ongoing mission to help foster excellence in government, the Council plans to leverage this visibility to communicate the resource, time and life saving benefits of these technologies to top leaders in government. This message, however simple, is essential if we hope to bring geospatial technologies out of basement and into the limelight.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles A. Moose displaying a geospatial investigative aid.

ACORNS TO OAK TREES (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3.)

PA MAGIC/ PAGIC Working Together

advocates for the citizens of Pennsylvania.

A small joint working group already has produced the white paper. The two organizations held a second meeting on October 24 to ratify the paper. They expect to distribute the policy paper to Pennsylvania's candidates for office prior to the November election.

Both organizations hope this joint effort will lead to continued cooperation. "There is no official authorized GIS coordinating body in the state," Mr. Parrish explained. "Hopefully, working together, through the I-Team and otherwise, we can provide the cohesion that will cause those in authority to pay more attention to the issues."

Colorado

The Metadata Clearinghouse is being placed in the Colorado Library.

Delaware

The Delaware Spatial Data I-Team continues to meet and discuss improvements to the state's existing Spatial Data Framework.

Delaware has a new Department of Technology and Infrastructure (DTI). DTI has responsibility for promulgating standards related to e-government and the use of IT in general. The I-Team is exploring the idea of using DTI to promulgate data content standards for the Delaware Framework. The State's Mapping Advisory Committee and the Delaware Geographic Data Committee would adapt FGDC and other

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

national standards to suit the needs of Delaware's GIS community. They would then submit the standards to DTI through the I-Team. Delaware's CIO, Tom Jarrett, is a member of the I-Team.

Delaware's I-Team has endorsed the "Saving Lives and Saving Money - An Urgent Call to Build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Support of Public Safety" white paper. (See article on page 7.) It has sparked discussion among I-Team members about how to handle data security within the state.

TECHNOLOGY *ADVANCES*

This space will inform the community about current projects and initiatives of interest led by the OpenGIS Consortium and others.

By Adena Schutzberg

OGC Specifications Approved

The Open GIS Consortium held its most recent meeting in the Netherlands the week of September 9th. The Web Feature Service Interface Specification (WFS), the Filter Encoding Implementation Specification and the Style Layer Descriptor (SLD) Implementation Specification were all approved and made public. Software that implements WFS can access, query, create, update or delete data from servers that adhere to the specification, no matter the vendor, data storage format or location.

The Filter Encoding Implementation Specification provides the capability to constrain feature requests to a WFS enabled server by using a filter expression. The Style Layer Descriptor Implementation Specification defines the encoding for symbology, styling and rules for map display. A new version of Geography Markup Language, Version 2.1.2, was also approved for public release. All of these specifications are available at www.opengis.org/techno/implementation.htm.

The OGC Technical Committee and Planning Committee also passed eleven other recommendations. A few other papers have become available to the public and can be found at http://www.opengis.org/info/discussion.htm and http://www.opengis.org/techno/recommendations.htm

Geospatial One Stop Transportation Pilot

The Geospatial One Stop Transportation Pilot Initiative Request for Quotations (RFQ) was released on September 27th. OGC is supporting the Office of Management and Budget/FGDC sponsored Modeling Advisory Teams (MAT) for Transportation to generate a capability to build application schemas. There are four transportation MATs (roads, air, transit, and rail). Each MAT will develop data content standards and an associated Abstract Feature Model in Unified Modelling Language (UML) that will help deal with the differences between community data models, making data sharing easier. Details are available at http://ip.opengis.org/gos-tp/.

TECHNOLOGY is accelerating at a pace that is almost too rapid for most to absorb. It presents great opportunities and great challenges. The Technology Advisory Group (TAG) exists to help I-Teams and the geospatial community identify and address technology opportunities and challenges through open dialogue with members of the OpenGIS Consortium (OGC).

Local and State needs and perceptions (opportunity or challenge?) are often quite different from those of vendors or the Federal government. The TAG gives I-Teams direct access at no cost to OGC members working at the cutting edge of technology to advance interoperability and location based services. In return, s OGC and its members understand the needs and challenges of local and State I-Team members.

Technology Advisory Group

MORE TECHNOLOGY *ADVANCES*

Census Sponsors CIPI-2

The U.S. Census Bureau will sponsor the second phase of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Initiative (CIPI-2). The goals are to develop an on-line system to update governmental unit boundary information , and to develop an OGC conformant server solution, WebTIGER, for Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER®) data.

The online editing system, to be called WebBAS, will be a first step toward moving the current manual system onto the Web. State, county, municipal and tribal governments will be able to update geospatial features on-line instead of using the current Boundary and Annexation Survey consisting of paper map sheets, forms, letters, postcards and inserts.

WebTIGER would develop a standards based web server to serve TIGER data and map images over the web, allowing Census data to be used in conjunction with other local, state, and federal data and mapping services, including those of I-Teams. Census is exploring replacing TIGER/ Line files with a non-proprietary, standards-based, extensible and flexible encoding format, GML.

The requests for quotations (RFQ) for this initiative was available at the end of September. OGC expects to select participants shortly, with the project to begin in mid-November. OGC and Census hope to have public demonstrations by the end of March 2003.

Communities are needed to test these new systems to advance this and other OGC initiatives. OGC invites I-Team members to respond to the ongoing Call for Communities, and register their interest at http://ip.opengis.org/cfc/respond.html. Details of the RFQ for CIPI-2 are available at http://ip.opengis.org/cipi2/.

The I-Team is in the preliminary stages of assessing a possible statewide LIDAR project to create an elevation database for Delaware at a smaller contour interval than is now available. As a relatively flat state, Delaware needs elevation data suitable to create at most 2-foot contours. The I-Team has put together a working group involving state flood plain managers, coastal zone experts, the USGS, and the USDA's National Resources Conservation Service.

Hawaii

The Hawaii Geographic Information Coordinating Council (HIGICC) has designated itself an I-Team. It has invited the entire GIS user community in Hawaii to a forum on November 7th to consider the existing status of requirements for

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

resources, and barriers to the development of framework, critical infrastructure and other data themes in Hawaii. Nearly sixty themes and products are on the preliminary agenda.

Following the November meeting, the HIGICC plans to prepare a summary report of the status with regard to each theme, including roadblocks and resources.

The HIGICC expects the November meeting to be the springboard for a host of specific initiatives in the first half of 2003. This will be a major focus of HIGICC activities this year.

GEOSPATIAL ONE STOP SCHEDULES ESTABLISHED

Geospatial One Stop is a Presidential initiative to accelerate completion of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. It is one of 24 e-government initiatives and part of President Bush's Management Agenda. See http://www.geo-one-stop.gov for more information.

The Geospatial One Stop Board of Directors approved the work plan and schedules for standards development and portal design at its most recent meeting on October 9 in Washington, D.C. Ten of the 11 Board members were present in person or by telephone.

Standards. Earlier in the day at the Steering Committee meeting of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, Steve Cooper, Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for Information Integration and CIO, White House Office of Homeland Security, challenged Geospatial One Stop to expedite the standards development schedule so that approved ANSI standards would be in place by September 30, 2003. The Board responded to Mr. Cooper's challenge, passing a resolution directing staff to proceed on a schedule to target completion by that date.

There are ten modeling advisory teams (MAT) for the seven framework themes. Transportation has four. (See separate article about transportation MATs on page 12 of this issue.) In order to have ANSI approval by September 30, 2003, each MAT is working to produce a draft standard in the last quarter of this calendar year. The drafts will be reviewed by a broader audience in January and February before going into the official, 90-day ANSI public comment period. It is estimated that ANSI approval for each theme will occur between July 28 and September 30, 2003. The schedule for each standard soon will be available on-line at http://www.geo-one-stop.gov.

Portal Design. The Board also approved the portal design schedule and passed a resolution targeting installation and operation of the Geospatial One Stop portal by May 23, 2003. Portal design will be part of the OpenGIS Consortium interoperability initiative. According to the schedule presented to the Board, the Portal Management Team will develop and release an RFQ by mid-November. Participants will begin design work in mid-winter.

Indiana

In October, the Indiana Geographic Information Council presented its I-Team Initiative at the Governor's Homeland Security Summit and the Local Emergency Planners Conference. Working closely with the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council, IGIC is also participating in a state terrorism response exercise. That effort will help integrate the Indiana I-Team and GIS into the state's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. IGIC is now circulating a prospectus for the IndianaMAP that will support implementation of its I-Plan.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

Iowa

The Iowa Association of Counties is establishing an IT committee in partnership with Iowa State University. Eric Anderson has notified the FGDC that Des Moines and the surrounding counties and communities have established an I-Team.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
STILL OPEN

GEOSPATIAL ONE STOP

FRAMEWORK DATA CONTENT MODELS AND STANDARDS

REPRESENT YOUR I-TEAM OR COUNCIL

CADASTRAL   ELEVATION   GEODETIC CONTROL   GOVERNMENT UNITS   HYDROGRAPHY

ORTHOIMAGERY   register now at: http:/www.fgdc.gov/geo-one-stop/participate/participate.html   TRANSPORTATION

GEOSPATIAL ONE STOP (CONT'D. FROM PAGE 7.)

Executive Director. Managing Partner Scott Cameron announced that a decision has been made on an Executive Director. It is expected that an Executive Review Board within the Department of the Interior will have met to approve the candidate by the time this newsletter is published. Myra Bambacus will continue as Acting Executive Director of Geospatial One Stop until then.

Charter. The Board also approved the Geospatial One Stop charter. It can be seen on the Geospatial One Stop web site at http://www.geo-one-stop.gov.

I-PLAN PAYS A SMALL DIVIDEND

The Arkansas Geographic Information Office has one more staff member, detailed from the Arkansas Department of Health. Arkansas GIS Coordinator Shelby Johnson attributes it to Arkansas's recently published I-Plan.

The I-Plan identifies street centerlines as a high priority. The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) maintains digital maps, but few, if any, attributes. The I-Plan centerline project will merge the best available local data, such as 9-1-1 data, and GPS-collected data, with the AHTD digital maps.

The State Department of Health received funding from the Center for Disease Control to combat bio-terrorism. "We used the centerline project in the I-Plan to convince the Department of Health that the best way to control the disease outbreaks and combat bio-terrorism is to geo-code," said Johnson. "You need to know quickly where people live, and you cannot do that without accurate street centerlines."

The staff member is on detail for one year and will concentrate on implementing the centerline portion of the I-Plan.

Massachusetts

Christian Jacquz, Director, MassGIS Program, reports that "the I-Team concept is alive and well in Massachusetts, despite severe budget cuts and layoffs in state government!"

"We are making progress with the design and construction of an emergency response GIS schema and constituent layers working with USGS, NOAA, Massachusetts Emergency

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

Management Agency, many other state agencies, local governments and first responders in the 133 Cities Boston pilot. We read with interest the USGS/NIMA "Tiger Team" document on the Homeland Security Infrastucture program (HSIP). We will be commenting on that document to HSIP." The state also has been working to

Support GIS Coordination

Help Build a National Coalition

Present

NSDI, I-Team, Geospatial One Stop message at

Regional and National Conferences

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Volunteers needed for events in your area.

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OMB SEEKS ALIGNMENT OF INVESTMENTS

At the recent Steering Committee meeting of the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), interagency and intergovernmental alignment of geospatial investments was clearly on the minds of OMB and Administration officials. Three senior officials linked such shared investments to OMB efforts to make government more efficient, effective and responsive.

Component Enterprise Architecture. Mark Forman, Associate Director for IT and E-Government, Office of Management and Budget, and Vice Chair, FGDC, discussed the role of geospatial information in the Administration's modernization blueprint. OMB is developing a component-based enterprise architecture based on business lines and missions, and the data and technology necessary to fulfill them.

OMB is working with the Federal CIO Council and the National Association of State CIOs (NASCIO) to identify interrelationships and interdependencies across agencies and layers of government to eliminate redundancy, share investments and leverage common components. Each Federal agency's enterprise architecture modernization blueprint must show how GIS and IT are being applied to share investments and eliminate redundancy. It must be based on business cases and the business lines of the agency.

According to Mr. Forman, "GIS activities enable e-government. GIS is fundamental to the business of government and essential for managing across levels of government."

Review Board and Strategic Plan. Janet Irwin, Chief of the Interior Branch, Natural Resources Division, OMB, called for the establishment of a board of experts to review federal investments in geospatial data and applications. Ms. Irwin asked the FGDC to provide a recommendation to OMB and the Steering Committee within 30 days so that the Steering Committee, if desired, could discuss and act upon it at its next meeting.

According to Ms. Irwin, "OMB is looking to integrate proposals for Federal geospatial data activities with performance goals and overall NSDI goals." She indicated that OMB expects the FGDC to prepare a strategic plan for implementation of the NSDI that includes the status of each data theme, integration of budget and performance information toward achievement of NSDI goals, and a reporting mechanism for agency compliance with A-16 requirements.

> "GIS activities enable e-government. GIS is fundamental to the business of government and essential for managing across levels of government."
>
> - Mark Forman, Associate Director for IT and E-Government, OMB

> "OMB is looking to integrate proposals for Federal geospatial data activities with performance goals and overall NSDI goals."
>
> -Janet Irwin, Chief, Interior Branch, Natural Resources Division, OMB

implement web-based GIS data input in support of emergency response, using the XML standard API published by the Open GIS Consortium. This will help gather data on facility locations and attributes from local officials. Another interesting component of this project, in partnership with the USGS, is a contract for LiDAR over the extended Boston Metro area which will provide building footprints and 3D wireframe models (the latter over a smaller, more highly urbanized area). This will support detailed facility identification and mapping, and R3 tools such as DTRA's biological/chemical agent dispersion models.

The work with OGC's published standards has resulted in a series of prototype web mapping "viewers" which are being inte-

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

grated into the state's overall e-government initiative. Early examples, which were quick variants on a Web Map Service code base, include build-out / zoning analyses, legislative district maps and coastal change transect map browsers. Other services include geocoding and geolocation.

Massachusetts is signing the first 30 contracts for development of digital parcels based on local tax mapping (in Mass. this is at the town level) following a statewide standard that uses 1:5000 scale orthophoto product. By the end of this fiscal year, the geospatial community hopes to have 20% of the state underway for this framework data layer.

OMB SEEKS (CONT'D. FROM PAGE 9.)

Posting Planned Data Activities. Because of its application to nearly every agency and program, Geospatial One Stop is one of two Quicksilver e-government initiatives in which Mr. Forman is asking every Federal agency to participate. As part of Geospatial One Stop, Federal agencies will be required to document and post existing and planned data activities

OMB Circular A-11 requires agencies to post FY '04 data acquisition plans on the FGDC website, using the FGDC metadata standard, in February, 2003 after the President presents the FY '04 budget. In his presentation to the Steering Committee, Scott Cameron, Managing Partner of Geospatial One Stop, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Performance and Management, US Department of the Interior, emphasized that this is only a first step. "The next step is to involve state and local government. The eventual goal is to create a single marketplace so all interested parties can learn who is planning to acquire what types of data." This would encourage partnerships, align investments, and create a more efficient market.

I-Plans and Coordinators. In anticipation of the Federal postings beginning in February and to further the marketplace exchange envisioned by Mr. Cameron, the Council for Excellence in Government (the Council) is beginning to contact I-Team coordinators to obtain information that would help align state and local data plans and investments with Federal activities. It will also support OMB's efforts to unify, simplify and identify common business functions, and anticipates the need to know the existing status of data themes for strategic planning purposes.

> "The next step is to involve State and local government. The eventual goal is to create a single marketplace so all interested parties can learn who is planning to acquire what types of data."
>
> — Scott Cameron,
>
> Managing Partner GOS and Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Dept. of Interior

I-Plans contain some, but not all of the information. The Council is seeking the existing status of-framework data themes, planned state and local theme activities, gaps between what exists and what is needed at state and local levels, investment cost, existing and potential partners, and recommended maintenance cycle. The Council is extracting whatever information it can from the I-Plans already submitted to the FGDC.

Geospatial One Stop Portal Design Team Meetings

Friday Mornings

9:30 a. m. to 12:30 p.m. ET

To attend by telephone or in person contact:

Jeff de La Beaujardiere at 301.286.1569 or jeff2002@sunrise.gsfc.nasa.gov

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Massachusetts continues to work with Federal and state partners on the development of key 1:25000 and 1:5000 scale data layers such as hydrography centerline (looking forward to NHD integration at some point), surficial geology (with USGS/WRD), soils (NRCS and Mass. DFA), wetlands (Mass. DEP), biodiversity (Mass. DFW) and many others.

North Dakota

The North Dakota GIS data reposiitory, or "Hub" went live on October 4. The Hub is funded by the legislature with additional funding from FEMA through the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management. The agencies serving on the North Dakota GIS Technical Committee designed the HUB. The Information Technology Department hosts it.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES The main purposes of the Hub are cost reduction and efficiency within state government. Costs will be reduced because individual agencies will no longer need to develop their own GIS infrastructure to provide services to the public. The Hub hosts agency data and applications in a "one-stop-shopping" environment. Using free tools provided by the web data delivery system of the Hub, access to state GIS data is now widely available to people within agencies which do not otherwise have GIS software. Organizations outside of state government

STIA DEFENSE AND GEOSPATIAL SECURITY INITIATIVE

By Greg Karmizan, Vice President of Policy and Partnerships, STIA

The Spatial Technologies Industry Association (STIA) established the Defense and Geospatial Security Initiative (DSGI) early in 2002. DSGI's mission is to increase significantly the ability of all levels of government and the private sector to utilize geospatial technologies and spatial data to enhance homeland security, strengthen national defense, and increase geospatial readiness at all levels of government and the private sector.

DSGI has four main goals:

- *Inform Congress and the White House about geospatial capabilities.*

- *Develop strong consensus among industry and the user community.*

- *Enhance national geospatial readiness.*

- *Build broad public awareness.*

Throughout 2001, STIA held a series of policy forums at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, IBM Institute for Electronic Government, and on Capitol Hill. The main conclusion of these forums was that the industry needed to develop a clear and compelling consensus in conjunction with the public sector about how to advance a market-driven and sustainable NSDI. In particular, there was recognition that the federal government's existing funding programs for the NSDI needed to be better focused, coordinated, and leveraged. The events of September 11th increased the urgency of pursuing this concept to meet new homeland security requirements.

STIA members have formed a DSGI committee. Autodesk, BAE Systems, ESRI, Geospatial Concepts, Intergraph, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Oracle, Raytheon, SAIC, and Space Imaging have participated in formation of the committee. BAE Systems, ESRI, Intergraph, and Lockheed Martin comprise the current executive committee of the DSGI.

In its first phase, STIA is working with member companies to craft federal government budget and appropriations requests, legislation, and public policy concepts that will accomplish its mission and goals.

STIA is collaborating with many organizations to establish a broad coalition of public and private interests to engage in a consensus building process to identify new ways to advance the NSDI. This coalition is essential for demonstrating to the White House and Congress that new Federal funding for developing and maintaining geospatial information would in fact strengthen homeland security and achieve other high priority public policy goals. STIA is in close communications with organizations representing government and the public interest such as the National States Geographic Information Council, National Association of Counties, Council for Excellence in Government, ITS America, and ComCARE Alliance.

STIA welcomes all organizations interested in advancing the NSDI to participate in this coalition. For more information, visit the STIA web site at http://www.spatialtech.org.

will also benefit from having access to the Hub. The Hub now gives North Dakota an infrastructure to better support disaster planning and risk management.

State agency GIS professionals have been connecting directly to the Hub database since July, bringing Hub data onto their computer screen. Now, state users who cannot directly access the database because they are not behind the State security firewall can access the web part of the Hub to "stream" data to their desktop PC. Although geared towards state agencies, other organizations and the general public also have access to another web part of the Hub, called the "Hub Ex-

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

plorer." More information can be found at www.discovernd.com/gis. To view the interactive maps in the Hub Explorer, please click on the Maps and Data in the upper left corner of the web site, then, click on the ND Hub Explorer link.

Pennsylvania
(See article on page one.)

South Dakota

A state-wide one day meeting was held on October 22 to recap the ESRI User Conference and introduce the I-Team concept to a statewide audience.

DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE GARNERS SUPPORT

At its recent annual conference, the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) endorsed a "Declaration of Interdependence: Saving Lives and Saving Money – An Urgent Call to Build the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in Support of Public Safety." Drafted by Al Leidner, Deputy Commissioner of Information Technology, New York City, with input from NSGIC leadership, the Declaration presents the business case for national investment in a public safety oriented and spatially enabled data network.

"The Declaration of Interdependence is a call on Congress to fund a bottom-up approach for production and management of geospatial information in support of homeland security," said Gene Trobia, NSGIC president. NSGIC is inviting local and state government associations, professional trade associations, and state geographic information councils to endorse and execute the Declaration. It has already garnered considerable support around the states. It has been endorsed by the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program, Arkansas Land Information Board, Maine GIS Executive Council, Missouri GIS Advisory Committee, Oregon Information Council, Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information, and the Delaware I-Team. By the time this newsletter is published, several other states are expected to have signed the document.

> "The Declaration of Interdependence is a call on Congress to fund a bottom-up approach for production and management of geospatial information in support of homeland security"
>
> - Gene Trobia, President, NSGIC

NSGIC leadership with Al Leidner, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, New York City, after signing Declaration of Interdependence.

Initial response to the Declaration has been favorable from those who have had the opportunity to consider it at national organizations such as the National Association of Counties (NACo), International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) and National League of Cities (NLC). At least one organization is considering making the Declaration one of its primary outreach objectives in the coming year.

The Declaration eloquently makes the case that the data needed for public safety, emergency response and homeland security is the same data used in daily business operations by local and state governments. Investments in spatial data that may be used for public safety will be used for non-emergency applications, and will pay for themselves many times over. After its endorsement by as many targeted organizations as possible, NSGIC intends to present it to elected representatives in Washington, D.C.

For more information and to view the Declaration, visit the NSGIC web site at www.nsgic.org.

ACTION AROUND THE STATES

Wyoming

Wyoming's I-Team, a subcommittee of the Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council, is currently establishing groups to address the seven framework layers. These groups will be responsible for finalizing Wyoming's first I-Plan version by Winter 2003. These groups will continue to be the driving forces behind statewide data planning and development. In the meantime, additional layers and sponsoring groups will be identified for inclusion in the process. A "summit" meeting is being planned for the end of October to review the current state of I-Team development and focus future direction.

GEOSPATIAL ONE STOP: TRANSPORTATION LAYERS

There are four Geospatial One Stop transportation Model Advisory Teams (MAT) – roads, air, transit, and rail. Roads and air have already met. Transit and rail are scheduled to meet in early December. Each team will produce a draft standard for comment by the larger Geospatial community over the next two to three months. The MATs will then attempt some testing of the standard before submitting them to ANSI for its 90-day public comment period. The schedule for each standard soon will be available on-line at http://www.geo-one-stop.gov

The roads MAT met in July. An initial draft standard has been circulating. The MAT has received comments, and there continues to be much e-mail traffic among members. The team is meeting again October 28-29 to review the comments and achieve consensus on any outstanding issues. It will then issue a modified working draft that OGC will use to build the prototype. OGC will test and demonstrate use of the data content standard using open specifications such as Web Feature Service and Geography Markup Language (GML). The prototype will have four active server nodes (State of California, State of Oregon, Jackson County in Oregon and adjoining Siskiyou County in California) and an FGDC portal gateway.

The air MAT met in September. The team divided into 4 working groups, each evaluating one or more existing standards. The MAT will meet again in early December to consider the evaluations and develop an initial draft.

To meet the more aggressive schedule approved by the Board of Directors (see above), OGC may need to start implementing prototypes of the transit and rail standards with initial drafts, instead of waiting for working drafts.

There are still openings for regional and local representatives on the transit and rail MATs. To participate, contact mark.bradford@bts.gov.

2003 NSDI CAP FUNDING

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ABOUT THE 2003 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS PROGRAM (CAP) OR CONTACT DAVID PAINTER

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