

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OGC Celebrates Decade of Cooperation in the Geospatial Industry

June 28, 2004, Wayland, Massachusetts. Earlier this month, the Open GIS Consortium (OGC) held its 50th Technical Committee Meeting, hosted by the Ordnance Survey (OS) in Southampton, UK. This milestone event marks a decade of cooperation among industry, universities and the public and private sector organizations that use geospatial technology. These organizations have collaborated to develop and deploy open, publicly available standards for use by the geospatial and IT communities.

In addition to the regularly scheduled OGC meetings, a number of special meetings were held during the week. The OpenGIS UK Industry Day, an all-day event on Monday 14 June, sponsored by the OGC, the OS and the Association for Geographic Information (AGI), was attended by 120 invited members of the UK government and business executive community. UK Industry Day presentations and dialog focused on how open geoprocessing environments enable agencies to foster better inter-departmental use of geographic information and mapping, and how such interoperability is important for delivering citizen-based services and meeting the UK's 2005 "Modernising Government" targets.

Also during the week, an executive briefing was provided for OS Senior Managers. Training sessions were provided for new OGC members and OS Staff to learn about OpenGIS technologies. An "Enterprise Architects' Whiteboard Showdown" provided a practicum in creating open geospatial architectures based on OpenGIS Specifications. And an "OS in a Nutshell" session provided an historic and informative tour of the OS. All meetings took place at the Ordnance Survey Business Centre, Southampton, United Kingdom.

On Wednesday, an "Interoperability Plugfest" gave software developers a chance to test their products' interoperability with other products. Plugfest Participants were Cadcorp, ESRI, Galdos Systems, Intergraph, Ionic Software, lat/lon, Ordnance Survey and the University of Delft. By ensuring interoperation between specific product pairs available from different vendors, OGC "plugfests" like this one help technology developers deliver more robust and interoperable products to the market.

The OGC is an international voluntary consensus standards organization of more than 250 companies, government agencies and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available geoprocessing interface specifications. OGC's OpenGIS Specifications support interoperable solutions that "geo-enable" the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT.