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Welcome to

The Harlow Report - GIS

Welcome to the ninth issue of 2002! This issue jumps around the world a bit, but that is the nature of GIS, isn't it?

- **Korea Expands GIS** Korea's Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) is in the process of selecting a service provider to help establish a national Geographic Information Data Circulation System (NGIDCS).
- » **Intergraph Acquires Z/I Imaging.** Intergraph now owns Z/I Imaging from A to Z. You may recall that Z/I Imaging was a jointly held company by Intergraph and Carl Zeiss Group.
- **HP Aims at Mobile GIS Market** Now that the dust is beginning to settle down on the HP/Compaq merger, we just heard some good news for the GIS market. Branded as an HPQ, the company is targeting its newest laptop and the high-end GIS mobile market. Part of the EVO series, the new N800W shows an impressive set of specs that will fly past your two year old Win/Tel desktop.
- **10 Tips for Better Business Writing** In the interests of making us all better writers, here is Tim North's "10 Tips for Better Business Writing."

As always, we provide you with the latest links to new topics, products, services and oddball ideas that either pertain to GIS, or seem like fun. You know that is located in **GIS Net Surfing**. If you just want the latest in GIS news, then click on over to **News to Use**.

Chris Harlow



Korea Expands GIS

Korea's Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) http://www.moct.go.kr/MoctEnglish/moct_english.html is in the process of selecting a service provider to help establish a national Geographic Information Data Circulation System (NGIDCS). Our information tells us that MOCT placed an order for NGIDCS on Sep. 11, 2002 and held a meeting for bidders' presentation of Request for Proposals (RFP) on Sep. 26.

The establishment of NGIDCS is the ministry's 2nd-year project of expanding a GIS circulation system, which was set up last year, across the country.

Background

The Ministry of Construction and Transportation (MOCT) was established when the former Ministry of Construction and the former Ministry of Transportation were, as a part of the Government restructuring in December 1994.

MOCT is primarily responsible for National Development Planning Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Affairs, Construction Affairs, Water Resource Management, Land Policy, Surface Transport, Transport Safety, Civil Aviation Affairs, and just about anything else that could use a good GIS system. Geographic Information Data Circulation System was transferred from Ministry of Information and Communication to MOCT at the end of last year.

The circulation center

MOCT established Circulation Center, which will coordinate the circulation system, National Geography Institute (NGI), and integrated control offices in three regional bases including Incheon and Daegu last year and plans to set up such offices in three provincial areas this year.

Free enterprise aside, MOCT wants to make it possible for people to search geographic information through the Internet and buy the information by collecting and managing geographic information data held by public and private institutions. The idea is to build a nation-wide circulation network linking those offices with Circulation Center.

According to Korea's English language edition of e-Times, "This year alone, the ministry is going to invest 2.6 billion won in the project that will last until 2005. The GIS industry forecasts that if additional projects are taken into account, the total size would reach

about 10 billion won. Accordingly, GIS companies are to do their best to win this bidding so as to take the initiative.” Although not stated, one must conclude that the figures are in Korean yen.

Conclusion

The ministry plans to start price negotiations with the best applicant after selecting three companies as negotiating partners through technical evaluations, based on proposals. If you want a piece of the next growth area for GIS, break out your winter clothes, load up a supply of M*A*S*H videos, and partner with one of the Korean front runners. They include: Samsung SDS-KSIC, SICC-KT Information Technology - GEOMania, LGCNS-GeoNSpace - Korea Telecom Data, and POINTI-WOODAI CALS. Good luck!



Intergraph Acquires Z/I Imaging

Intergraph (<http://www.ingr.com>) now owns Z/I Imaging (www.ziimaging.com) from A to Z. You may recall that Z/I Imaging was a jointly held company by Intergraph and Carl Zeiss Group. The two signed an agreement to allow Intergraph to acquire its Zeiss' interest in Z/I Imaging, making the earth imaging company a wholly owned subsidiary of Intergraph.

The company was formed to combine the expertise of Carl Zeiss in the areas of optics and precision mechanics with Intergraph's considerable experience in workstation and software development to create a new generation of technology. Z/I Imaging provides a open Windows NT-based imaging solutions, including aerial cameras, workstations, analytic stereo plotters, photogrammetric scanners, and image management, processing, and distribution software.

So why the buy-out?

If you are a follower of GIS news, you know that Intergraph has been going through some rather turbulent times. Recently, however, they received a \$300 million settlement from Intel for a patent infringement (see A New Intergraph in Volume 25 Issue 7 of The Harlow Report- Geographic Information Systems. This puts Intergraph's president Jim Taylor in a good position to rebuild the company and position them for growth.

Intergraph will slide Z/I Imaging into their Mapping and GIS Solutions division. The idea is to provide a total geospatial toolset to national, state, and local governments, photogrammetric mapping firms and commercial customers in industries such as transportation, engineering, utilities, defense and intelligence. To help ensure the success of this merger, Intergraph is bringing back Terry Keating as an executive vice president reporting to Preetha Pulusani, president of Intergraph Mapping and GIS Solutions. According to Intergraph, "Dr. Keating will be responsible for Z/I Imaging and complementary service units. Dr. Keating received his Ph.D. in photogrammetry and remote sensing from the University of Wisconsin in 1975 and is a Certified Photogrammetrist, Registered Land Surveyor and a Professional Engineer. He is the president of Lucerne International, a company that provides a wide range of services related to surveying, photogrammetry, image-based mapping and spatial information management. Dr. Keating is also president of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS). Lewis Graham, current CEO of Z/I Imaging, is leaving to pursue other interests but will remain a consultant to Intergraph and Z/I Imaging to ensure a smooth transition."

What does Z/I Imaging have to offer, you say?

A quick look at our on-line resources (OK, so I went to their web site) tells us this is the place to go for your photogrammetric and imaging products

- » Aerial Camera Systems and Flight Management
- » Digital Photogrammetric Scanners
- » Digital Photogrammetric Workstations
- » Digital Photogrammetric Software
- » GIS Imaging Software
- » Image Management and Distribution
- » Orthophoto Management and Distribution Module

Conclusion

It is encouraging to see Jim Taylor investing in the GIS industry. Intergraph has a lot to offer, and with the leadership of Preetha, Jim and now Terry, they should continue to succeed in this market. As Taylor put it "Intergraph was a pioneer in computer-aided mapping and photogrammetry, and for 30 years has been a market leader in mapping and GIS. Owning all of Z/I Imaging will make it easier for us to consolidate our leadership position as a premier supplier of end-to-end geospatial solutions."



HP Aims at Mobile GIS Market

Now that the dust is beginning to settle down on the HP/Compaq merger, we just heard some good news for the GIS market. Branded as an HPQ, the company is targeting its newest laptop and the high-end GIS mobile market. Part of the EVO series, the new **N800W** (www.compaq.com/products/notebooks/n800w/) shows an impressive set of specs that will fly past your two year old Win/Tel desktop. I spoke with Jim Skog, HP's business developer for GIS. He told me that while they primarily focus on the government GIS market, this new HPQ laptop is ideal for any organization looking for a GIS laptop.

The Specs

Look at what you get inside this laptop, and you may want to trade in your desktop.

- » Processor: Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor - M - up to 2.2 GHz
 - » Graphics Card: High performance ATI Mobility FireGL 9000 Graphics with 64MB dedicated DDR video memory
 - » Display: 15-inch SXGA+ or UXGA display
 - » Memory: 256-MB DDR SDRAM (266 MHz), upgradeable to 2 GB! (when available)
- » Hard Drive: Up to 60-GB/5400 rpm primary SMART hard drives; 120GB with second MultiBay drive
- » Footprint: Durable magnesium enclosure, configurations as light as 6.0 lb/2.72 kg weight 1.4 in/3.6 cm thin
- » Comm: built in 56K Mini PCI modem and integrated 10/100 NIC, Wireless features through Award-Winning MultiPort



Wow! That is quite a package for a laptop. Better still, the list price is \$3,300, so at your street price it can be a relative bargain.

The face of mobile GIS

As many of you know I recently conducted an industry survey on GIS and Mobile Computing (GMC) for the electric utility industry for InfoNetrix (www.infonetrix.com). If you haven't already purchased the strategic study, or subscribe to their tactical studies you are missing out on some excellent information that you must have to formulate your marketing

strategies. I cannot tell you the details of our findings here, but I will tell you a few things that are relevant to the new HP offering.

There is a potentially huge market for mobile computing in GIS. After all, GIS is the study of the stuff that goes on outside the office. The user community is well aware of the potential, but a few things still have to be worked out, especially in the wireless area. More interestingly is the fact that the definition of mobile computing is hard to grasp. For some it means wireless, others it means handheld devices, others just want mobile laptops, and some want a combination of all. As you would expect the applications they end users want are still in the infancy stage, not unlike GIS 15 years ago. The good news is that this time, the decision makers have all heard of and used some sort of mobile/wireless device, even if its just their calendar on a PDA.

Form is a big issue. As a rule, handheld devices are small, and your average field crewman is equipped with large fingers. So for many, the laptop is still the way to go. In particular, a large format screen is ideal for inspectors and foreman who work from a vehicle.

How does the Evo fit in?

I would suggest that the key words for the HP/Compaq Evo mobile workstation N800w are speed, storage, and lightweight. By adding the wireless options, the system provides the best of all worlds in the field. With as much as 120GB of storage, you can load as much software and data as any end-user could want. With the wireless function, you can get the very latest data. When the coverage or bandwidth is inadequate, the data on the hard drive will do just fine in most cases. Let us not forget that most GIS data does not materially change overnight. By combining the power of mass storage and wireless you can overcome the field's objections to lack of coverage and low bandwidth.

Conclusion

Just as GIS is becoming an accepted, if not must have technology, new devices and concepts keep pushing the envelope. Everyone wants data in the field, the only question has been how much, and how do we deliver it. HP/Compaq is leading the way on the delivery side for those who need a full size keyboard and display, with lots of speed and storage.



10 Tips for Better Business Writing

by Tim North

Editor's Note: We can all use a little help when it comes to writing for business. If you have trouble reading this newsletter, you ought to see some of the stuff that gets sent to me! In the interests of making us all better writers, here is Tim North's "10 Tips for Better Business Writing." To learn more about Tim North, go to his web site at <http://www.BetterWritingSkills.com>. Just for the fun of it, see if you can find where North violates his own tip.

As a proofreader of business writing, I see many of the same errors made again and again. Errors in your writing (be they in advertising copy, correspondence, or a web site) are more serious, I believe, than most people realize.

Why? Well, the standard of your writing has always been important. Today, though, more than ever before, **FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT**. We are bombarded by the written word in its many forms -- books, pamphlets, magazines, signs, e-mail, web sites and many other media.

We are all suffering from information overload and are forced to find ways of screening out as much as we can. We thus tend to make quick decisions on what to read and what not to. First impressions increasingly determine what we read and what we don't, and poor writing leads to a poor first impression.

The following list of tips should help you to avoid some of the most common slip-ups.

1. Capitals: Avoid the temptation to capitalize words in the middle of a sentence Just To Provide Emphasis Like This. If you want to be more emphatic, consider using bold face, italics, color or larger text.

2. Commas: The most common use of the comma is to join together short sentences to make a single longer sentence. We do this with one of the following small joining words: and, or, but, yet, for, nor, or so. For example:

We have finished the work, and we are looking forward to the weekend.

Notice that the two halves of this sentence could each be sentences in their own right. They thus need to be separated with a comma and joining word. In the next example, though, we don't need a comma:

We have finished the work and are looking forward to the weekend.

The halves of that sentence could not stand alone, so no comma was used.

3. Ellipsis: The ellipsis is a series of three -- and ONLY THREE -- full stops used to mark missing words, an uncertain pause, or an abrupt interruption. Avoid the temptation to use six or seven dots -- it looks amateurish. For example, we write:

Niles: But Miss Fine's age is only ...

Fran: Young! Miss Fine's age is only young!

4. Excessive punctuation: Only one exclamation mark or question mark should be used at a time. Consider the following over-punctuated examples:

Buy now!!!

Great bargains!!!!!!!!!!!!

Excessive punctuation looks too much like hysteria and detracts from your credibility. Avoid it.

5. Headings: For long works, establish a clear hierarchy of headings. Microsoft Word's heading styles are great for this. (They also allow you to automatically create a table of contents.)

6. Hyphenating prefixes: Most prefixes don't need a hyphen; i.e. we write "coexist", not "co-exist". There are exceptions, though. The prefixes "self-" and "ex-" are almost always hyphenated.

7. Numbers: Numbers of ten or less are normally written as words.

8. Quotation marks: Users of American English should use double quotes (" "). Users of British English should choose either single quotes (' ') or double quotes and stick with them for the whole document. Incidentally, British English usage is increasingly moving towards single quotes.

9. Spaces: Modern style is to use a single space at the end of a sentence, not two. Also, most punctuation marks (e.g. commas, full stops, question marks) are not preceded by a space.

10. Tables: Set table text one or two points smaller than the main body text and in a sans-serif font such as Arial or Verdana. Avoid vertical lines as they tend to add unnecessary clutter.

Armed with these simple guidelines, your business writing should be well received every time. Good luck.

10 Tips for Better Business Writing
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GIS Net Surfing

Hubble Space Station

<http://hubblesite.org/>

Space. The final frontier for GIS? Check out these unbelievable photos taken by the Hubble Space Station. Friends, we are not alone!

Map Projections

http://www3.ftss.ilstu.edu/microcam/map_projections/

Have you ever had to explain the meaning of, or the difference between map projections? go to this site, and you will have access to a PDF drawing of just about any projection you would want. This is a great site for teachers, and GIS educators

Statistics Canada

<http://www.statcan.ca/>

Everything you have ever wanted to know about Canada, and more. Statistics Canada produces statistics about Canada - its population, resources, economy, society and culture. Providing statistics in Canada is a federal responsibility. As Canada's central statistical agency, Statistics Canada is legislated to serve this function for the whole of Canada and each of the provinces.

Martin County GIS Website

<http://www.martin.fl.us/GOVT/depts/isd/gis/>

Terrific site put up by the Martin County, Florida GIS team. Brief intro about GIS for the GIS-challenged, links to maps, other Florida GIS sites, and more.

FAOSTAT

<http://apps.fao.org/cgi-bin/nph-db.pl>

FAOSTAT: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN Statistics site. Great site to find out who is keeping these kind of world wide agricultural statistics.



News to Use

GITA

<http://www.gita.org>

The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) announced that it has formed an Educational Outreach Committee to promote GIS, GPS (global positioning satellites), and remote sensing technology in schools, colleges, and universities across North America. Specifically, the committee will encourage educational institutions to offer GIS as standalone programs. Ashok Wadwani, president of Applied Field Data Systems, Inc., in Houston, Texas, was named chair of the committee. Wadwani is president of the GITA's Gulf Coast Chapter, one of 19 regional GITA chapters in North America.

Intergraph

<http://www.intergraph.com>

Intergraph China, a business unit of US-based Intergraph Corporation announced that AnShun Electric Bureau purchased G/Electric, Intergraph's next-generation geospatial information management system for electric utilities. AnShun Electric, located about 970 miles southwest of Beijing, serves 50,000 customers in the city of AnShun in GuiZhou province of mainland China. This initial implementation by AnShun is the pilot system for an integrated Geospatial Resource Management system that will eventually be deployed by AnShun City Electric Company of GuiZhou Province. Intergraph China will provide software technology and implementation services. The project is on a fast-track schedule, with completion anticipated in approximately four months. For Further Information: Raine Lee • Intergraph China Ph (86-21) 6283-4365 • rlee@ingr.com

GE Network Solutions

http://www.gepower.com/dhtml/network_solutions/en_us/index.jsp

GE Network Solutions, announced that Country Energy, Australia's largest regional energy business, selected the ENMAC™ distribution management system and the Smallworld Core Spatial Technology™ software from GE Network Solutions to manage the operations of its extensive electrical network. Ken Stonestreet, group general manager of Service Delivery at Country Energy, said, "We selected the ENMAC software via a rigorous benchmarking exercise which showed it to be the clear leader. Our aim is to establish a virtual control room to manage Country Energy's electrical network which covers an area of 573,000 square km. A key benefit for us is the ability to take advantage of economies of scale, without centralizing System Operations into one site. The ENMAC software supports that requirement and also provides close integration with Smallworld Core Spatial Technology."

ArcGIS Pipeline

<http://www.esri.com/industries/pipeline/>

ESRI announced the availability of the ArcGIS Pipeline Data Model, jointly developed by M.J. Harden Associates, Inc., and ESRI. The model is a first step toward broad industry consensus on a common conceptual data model for the pipeline industry. "ESRI is providing this data model that represents common, fundamental aspects of most pipeline data models," says Steve Gris , ArcGIS data models product manager, ESRI. "We're providing what we believe will be an invaluable tool to help pipeline companies realize the many benefits of GIS throughout the enterprise."

Avenza

<http://www.avenza.com>

Avenza Systems Inc. announced that Fleming College equipped their Geomatics Institute in Lindsay (Canada) with 60 licenses of MAPublisher software. This implementation extends the existing usage of MAPublisher in Fleming's Geomatics program. Future plans call for additional MAPublisher seats to be installed in the college's new Institute of Geomatics at Fleming in Fall 2003. "Having MAPublisher in our labs meets our objective of ensuring that our students have access to the best software tools available for cartographers and GIS professionals," said Hardy Kraft, Project Manager, Geomatics Institute at Fleming, Sir Sandford Fleming College.

SchlumbergerSema

<http://www.slb.com/>

SchlumbergerSema, a business unit of Schlumberger Limited, was chosen by Electrabel to integrate a work force management system developed by Cognicase-M3i, which will provide the company with greater control over its networks. Brussels-based Electrabel S.A., within the Suez Group, is the leading energy producer, distributor and supplier in Belgium, with power plants in eight European countries serving about 4.5 million customers daily. The contract was awarded as part of Small Works, a strategic work force management implementation initiative of Electrabel's Netmanagement division. "The SchlumbergerSema solution has proven scheduling and dispatching features targeting multi-utility operations," explained Remy Hatert, program manager, Electrabel Netmanagement. "It is part of our overall strategy to harmonize the network operation systems and field work across our business units. This solution means we can offer enhanced customer service, while reducing operational costs and improving efficiency."

Jackson County, Illinois

<http://www.co.jackson.il.us/>

GIS keeps moving into the mainstream as evidenced by Jackson County Illinois. The Count's board just approved an expenditure of \$57,000 out of its contingency fund to finish the second phase by creating an integrated seamless map for the entire county. There was a lone dissenter, according to The Southern Illinoisian, a local newspaper. In their September 30, 2002 issue, they said that “ Mark Holt was the only board member who dissented. He said he knows that the county is not ready financially to commit to the final third phase, which could cost as much as \$375,000.

"I know of no (GIS) system in the state that's actually up and functioning," he said. "I'm not sure the system is ready right now to support what we really need. I think we'd be much better off to wait.” The paper reported that board member Gerald Compton said the third phase actually costs \$76,000. Does this sound familiar?

NADRA

<http://www.nadra.gov.pk/>

Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) will soon start work on Geographic Information System (GIS) and Land Information System (LIS) projects, according to Paknews.com. The web site reported “The work on these projects is likely to start by next year. The projects are aimed at providing information about geography and land to the people”, a NADRA source said.



***If you change your
Email address,
tell us!***

[Mailto:Charlow@charter.net](mailto:Charlow@charter.net)

