

Date

Monday 16 July 2007

Title of session

Workshop 1 - Land Administration for the 21st Century

Name of presenter/chair

CHAIR: Andrew Trigg -Chief Geographic Information Officer, Land Registry of England and Wales

Presenter: Dr David Cowen, Co-Director, Centre for GIS and Remote Sensing, University of South Carolina, USA

Rapporteurs

Yvette Ragozins, Land Registry (GB) and John Pepper, UK Hydrographic Office

Presentation Title - A Vision for a National Approach to Land Parcels in the United States

In 1980 the National Research Council report "Need for a Multipurpose Cadastre" found that obstacles to change were mainly institutional and organisational.

What has happened in the last 27 years?

1980 – Analogue Registered Overlays

1990 – Multipurpose Land Information System

2007 – Rigorous data model in place

Dept of Homeland Security has stated that parcel level data is very desirable to mitigate against disasters for example hurricanes and forest fires and even fraud.

In USA there are 3219 counties. Each has parcel level data. The issue is how you get local authorities to share this data when each has very different rules, regulations and pricing concerning dissemination of data. Lack of interoperability is widespread but North/South Carolina have

managed to achieve joined up parcel data across their state line. There is a need for financial support from Federal level funds to join up all these initiatives. It was suggested a cost of approximately \$300m might achieve this.

Several private companies are now collecting parcel data in the USA. Whilst Google and Microsoft have access to parcel level data in Australia, this has not yet happened in the USA. The presenter suggested that the Federal Government in USA should keep an inventory of its property, which at present it does not do.

Options discussed included the use of bar coding property in USA, after all the citizen can book a flight on an aeroplane or order a book on-line; why not be able to do the same to gain access to property title details.

Useful reference: www.zillow.com

Questions	Answers
<p>Congratulations for progress in USA but there are other players in the field. What about the lawyers and insurers (who are very strong in this area of expertise) could they be barriers to progress?</p>	<p>If the parcel is identified by its co-ords then it rests in perpetuity. It is costly to transact property in USA so by collecting data once with the ability to use many times, you are able to satisfy the needs of other interested parties such as insurers and the legal profession.</p>
<p>Working through FIG, over 300 countries are looking at cadastre. You are best not developing a system that does not work! How do you maintain an effective cadastral system?</p>	<p>Parcels versus geographic reference is key. Unique Identifiers are necessary to support the inventory and authenticate ownership rights. This is supported by additional attributes.</p>