

Date

Tuesday 14th July 2009

Title of session

Workshop: Integrating spatial data infrastructures
Implementing the UK Location Strategy

Name of presenter/chair

Bas Kok, President, Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) - Chair
Neil Ackroyd, Director of Data Collection and Management, Ordnance Survey -
Presenter

Name of rapporteurs

Danny Hyam & Jenny Green

The UK Location Programme started about four years ago. Its aim is to deliver the UK Location Strategy and took three years to put the programme of work together. The main driver for the programme is the INSPIRE directive and how this can be used as a vehicle for improving data integration.

The programme is a work in progress and is continually evolving and reinventing itself, reevaluating its deliverables.

In the presentation there are a number of maps showing spatial information that is being used in business processes. It shows data being created but there is currently no infrastructure in place to define how it should be created. It is not just spatial data that is created there is also textual data that has a spatial aspect to it, but there is still no common methodology for its representation.

The Findings of the GI Panel

There were found to be over 40 different GI strategies across the government and its departments. Each was created in isolation of the others and there was no consolidation of each.

Public sector re-use is important but there are many barriers to this reuse such as IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) and knowledge. There are often many very different views of geography across organisations.

The Five Strategic Actions

INSPIRE is a methodology rather than an outcome.

Translate INSPIRE obligations into benefits rather than just ticking a box.

Business relationships - what are the legal, emotional and technical barriers to working together?

Example: Proposed Directive on the Assessment and Management of Floods

Through a real world use case, that is already high on the Government’s agenda, it can be shown how the location programme can make a positive difference.

Decision Making and Engagement

Making decisions is more difficult due to the devolved administrations that exist in the UK.

It is hoped that a technical infrastructure will be delivered through the programme.

Data Scope

The data has been mapped to the INSPIRE themes, with some areas of importance, such as transport, being amplified.

The Design Choices we need to make

Lock down the variables as soon as possible

Initially the focus is on business to business and government to government interaction. However the business to customer side will still need to be addressed.

Information Scope for the UK

The key focus from day one is on areas that will give the best benefit for current UK issues.

The difficulty will be connecting surface and sub-surface assets.

UK Location Programme Rights Management Convergence Over Time

There are many different models for licensing that are adopted by government agencies, private companies etc.

The aim is to provide an environment for data reuse and deriving new data, but pricing and licensing can become a barrier.

The UK Location programme is a way for INSPIRE rules to provide real business benefit to the UK, rather than just ensuring compliance.

Questions/Comments	Answers
<p>Professor Bas Kok – GSDI President: What is the relationship between the legal process and the Geographic Information Institute, how was it developed?</p>	<p>Neil Ackroyd: The legislation is currently being translated into UK law but this proved more challenging than it was first thought. At a late stage it was sent out to consultation.</p> <p>The impact of legislation on other government departments, particularly local government, has had to be analysed. This has meant that the timescales have slipped.</p> <p>Trevor Steenson – Land & Property Services – Northern Ireland: There were issues around whether to transpose to the devolved government jointly. It was decided that this was the best way but it also caused an impact on</p>

	timescales.
Professor Bas Kok – GSDI President: What is the difference between the main report and the UK Location Programme report?	Neil Ackroyd: Not sure that reports are any more than a means to focus attention. The difference with this report is the timing, in terms of relevance to the current conditions.
Magnús Guðmundsson – National Land Survey – Iceland: What has been the cost benefit analysis?	Neil Ackroyd: What we learnt was that the story we were telling had far more impact than the business case. The stories were relevant and painted a picture to people of what could be achieved.