

Date

Tuesday 14th July 2009

Title of session

Workshop: Maximum mapping minimum investment
Ordnance Survey Ireland: Spatially Enabling the Irish Economy

Name of presenter/chair

Greg Scott, Geoscience Australia – Chair
Geraldine Ruane, Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey Ireland - Presenter

Name of rapporteurs

Martin Lea & Carolina Sanchez Hernandez

Geraldine clarified from the start that OSi is a mapping agency, not cadastral. It has a national interest and a community interest. Geraldine described the scope of the Agency with the range of scales and types of data covered such as imagery, 3D and boundary data. She is particularly keen on developing the commercial aspect of the business and for that they work with a wide array of stakeholders.

The challenges that the organisation has to face are common to many other mapping agencies: economy, competitors, the strategic role of OSi and the implementation of the European Directive INSPIRE.

The new OSi strategy is to be a GI solution provider not just data provider. There is a pilot scheme at the moment with the Department of Revenue looking at fraud, to assist this pilot there is also an interest in developing knowledge and collaboration with universities. The need for flexibility in the current market is obvious and in order to be flexible OSi are undertaking data re-engineering that will be able to provide new products and new services. The important message is that OSi is able to provide strategic solutions and new ways of supplying data to customers. Even in times of crisis there are opportunities to be found.

Questions/Comments	Answers
What is your policy for updating maps?	Geraldine Ruane: We have 2 different scales, urban mapping is updated annually and rural mapping is every 3-5 years.
If you go into the GI solutions business does that not put you in conflict with the private sector?	Geraldine Ruane: We cannot stand still and just be data providers. We have skills in the business and it's all about providing greater value to the customers. This work will also be with partners, we won't be able to do it all ourselves.