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29 August 2011

Professor dr ir P.J.M. van Oosterom
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment
TUDELFT
Postbus 5030
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Dear professor van Oosterom,

Recently, we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility via a project entitled Maps4Science. The goal of this effort is significant -- to provide scientists with the required geo-information and associated tools and services for discovery and analysis, with an emphasis on unrestricted experimentation, discovery and access to information from across the science community. This goal is consistent with the Open Geospatial Consortium's mission to advance open standards that geo-enable and improve decision making for government, industry, academia, research and citizens worldwide.

As you know, the OGC is a not-for-profit international industry consortium of more than 425 companies, government agencies, research organizations and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available interface standards. OGC standards support interoperable solutions that "geo-enable" the Web, wireless and location-based services and mainstream IT. OGC standards empower technology developers and users to make complex spatial information and services accessible and useful for all kinds of applications.

Increasingly, OGC programs are addressing the standards needs of the research and science communities as they work to discover, access, process, and analyze a massively diverse collection of information – much of it geospatial – for improved decision making. OGC is advancing geospatial, sensor, processing and other open standards and associated best practices to support research / science issues in areas such as climate, meteorology, ocean monitoring, hydrology, and geology. A key goal for OGC is to improve “cross boundary” sharing and application through open standards. I envision several key areas of synergy between OGC and the Maps4Science program:

- Leveraging location enabled information as a catalyst for broader scientific collaboration and exploration
- Use of open standards, including those of the OGC, in scientific research to enable improved access, fusion and application of scientific information across disciplines.
- Maintaining an operational linkage between OGC programs and the Maps4Science facility as part of a persistent testbed environment to understand and address the interoperability needs of the scientific community in the OGC process

I am delighted that several of the Maps4Science consortium members are also active OGC member organizations. TU DELFT as well as Geonovum, ITC / University of Twente, and the Centre for Geo-Information / Wageningen University have been OGC members for a number of years, and I invite the opportunity to help create and sustain an open line of communication and collaboration between the Map4Science project consortium and the OGC international standards process. The incorporation of OGC standards in the work of this

project will help improve interoperability necessary to enable fluid information sharing and application for a range of scientific research topics.

I support the goals of this proposal, and look forward to working with the Consortium team in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Reichardt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "R".

Mark E. Reichardt
President & CEO