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SUPPORT TO MAPS4SCIENCE

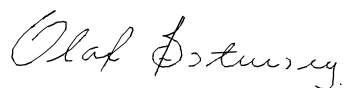
Dear professor van Oosterom,

With great interest that we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility Maps4Science. From our role as global standardization body, a facility like this is important to us, because standards more and more rely upon state-of-the-art development and competence. The standards development already profit from contributions from academia and the scientific environment. We therefore welcome this initiative very much.

ISO/TC 211 is the global committee for standardization in the field of geographic information and geomatics. We have 63 member nations from all over the world and 31 international organizations serve as category A liaisons, meaning they have full rights to participate and contribute to the standards. ISO/TC 211 has published more than 50 international standards and other deliverables covering a broad field of geomatics. The work of ISO/TC 211 continues with both new work and revision of already published standards. We aim at being in the forefront of the development in our area, and to achieve that, we rely upon the work and contributions of the best people in science and private and public sector. We see your proposed consortium as an important factor in this respect.

We hope to collaborate with your consortium and that it will contribute to international standards development in benefit of all communities that use and rely upon our standards today. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the European legislation based upon the INSPIRE directive is highly based upon the standards developed by ISO/TC .

Yours sincerely,



Olaf Østensen
Chairman of ISO/TC 211