



LETTER OF SUPPORT – MAPS4SCIENCE

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY DATA LIBRARY

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date: 6 September 2011

subject: Support to MAPS4SCIENCE

Dear Professor van Oosterom,

I was very interested to learn of this proposal to develop a large-scale facility for research using digital mapping (Maps4Science) As you know we have a comparable facility in the UK in the Digimap services – see <http://edina.ac.uk/digimap/description/>

We provide this as EDINA, the JISC-designated national data centre based at the University of Edinburgh. A key outcome of our success, apart from the widespread uptake by universities and colleges, is that 80% of our users are not 'geographers'. Provision of online mapping from within the academic and scientific sector has completely transformed the concept of a map library for researchers and students across nearly all disciplines, making possible what was only once dreamt. It is now embedded as part of the academic infrastructure within institutions, with an ever-growing user base: research and teaching staff (29% of users), postgraduate students (24%) and undergraduate students (47%).

I wish every success for your consortium and your application. A facility such as Maps4Science will be important in providing the basis for collaboration for researchers in Europe. It is vitally important that researchers, students and their teachers have access to high quality and authentic geospatial data. I hope Maps4Science will feature on the agenda of Knowledge Exchange, the multi-national group that includes JISC and SURF.

On behalf of EDINA, I hereby confirm that our organisation is open to discuss cooperative action for further opportunity for this facility. It would be interesting to see whether our respective national mapping agencies could be prompted to establish bi-lateral arrangement.

Maps4Science should assist the academic and science community in the Netherlands achieve and maintain a leading position across the spectrum, enabling it to have a lead role in research and innovative application of open, shared, and linked location data.

Yours sincerely, 



Peter Burnhill
Director

