



August 31, 2011

Professor dr ir P.J.M. van Oosterom  
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment  
TU DELFT  
Postbus 5030  
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**Subject:** Support to MAPS4SCIENCE initiative

Dear Professor van Oosterom,

It has been with great interest that we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility Maps4Science. From our role as the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association GSDI, a facility like the one you propose is of high importance to us. Maps4Science appears to aim at an all-inclusive facility for the most demanding type of end-user: scientists, both those with a deep knowledge of geo-information and those who are somewhat less informed about our field.

GSDI is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world. We aim to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure. Maps4Science promises to become a national facility of the highest standards, built by and for a nationwide conglomerate of teams, with no players of importance at the national level having been left out.

We support your consortium and your application because we see the following benefits for GSDI and for the Netherlands' science community:

The facility will in all likelihood set another global standard of quality in national SDIs; the amount of high-quality spatial data sources in The Netherlands is impressive, allowing such resources to be combined in new ways will be both exciting and innovative at the same time. It may be setting a standard for many other nations to follow.

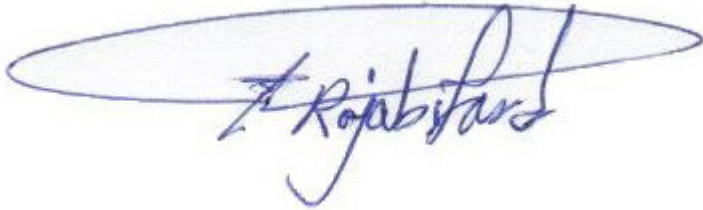
Maps4Science is an important initiative that will be a crucial enabler for many scientists in The Netherlands, and likely soon elsewhere, to improve and extend their research. In bringing geo-information to the fore so explicitly, Maps4Science will enable the Dutch science community to compete for a top level position in a broad range of science domains. This may result in a leading

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role in the research and innovation of open, shared, and linked location data and how such resources can be used in many fields of science.

Sincerely,



Dr. Abbas Rajabifard, President  
GSDI Association

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