

LETTER OF SUPPORT – MAPS4SCIENCE

**To:**

Professor dr ir P.J.M. van Oosterom  
OTB Research Institute for the Built  
Environment  
TU DELFT  
Postbus 5030  
2600 GA DELFT



**date:** August 31, 2011

**subject:** Support to MAPS4SCIENCE

Dear professor van Oosterom,

It is with great interest that we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility Maps4Science. From our role as an association promoting the academic teaching and research on GI & GIS in Europe, a facility like this is important to us, because a large-scale spatial cyberinfrastructure provides a good environment for supporting this type of activities. It also fits well with similar initiatives that have been or are currently developed by some of our members in several universities in Europe.

AGILE, the Association for Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe, seeks – in addition to this promotion of academic teaching and research - to ensure that the views of the geographic information teaching and research community are fully represented in the discussions that take place on future European research agendas. AGILE also provides a permanent scientific forum where geographic information researchers can meet and exchange ideas and experiences at the European level. With this aim in mind we organize an annual GIScience conference which took this year place in Utrecht in April 2011. We also want to stimulate and promote the interesting initiatives from our membership.


We support your consortium and your application because we see several benefits for our organization, our members, and the scientific community in the Netherlands. These are, among others:

- Improved access to data and information necessary for conducting high quality research;
- Facilitating cross-border and multi-disciplinary research projects;
- Support to educational activities in advanced technological settings.

We hereby declare that our organization is open to discuss opportunities of this facility for further using and exploring datasets. AGILE does not own any data, but we could stimulate and promote this initiative, and inform our membership, in particular those that work along the same lines in other countries in Europe.

Maps4Science is an important initiative that will be a crucial enabler for many scientists to improve and extend their research. Maps4Science will enable the Netherlands science community to reach and keep a top level position in a broad range of science domains. It will allow us to play a leading role in the research and innovation into open, shared, and linked location data and how it can be used in many fields of science.

Sincerely yours,



AGILE  
Danny Vandenbroucke  
Secretary General