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Onderwerp 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 coordinator and innovator of the national e-Infrastructure for research, a facility like this is important to us, because we believe that geo-information is an important base element of the data deluge from existing and new research initiatives.

Developing a 'horizontal' set of services around geo-information will enable research projects to provide 'open' data, based on common formats and ontologies, and allow these projects to focus their attention on their specific fields rather than on implementing common functionality. This approach fits well with the concept of a common 'e-Infrastructure' which is currently being implemented by SURF and NWO.

We support your consortium and your application because we see significant benefits:

- For SURF, the opportunity to provide value to the Dutch Research and Education community by complementing our e-Infrastructure services;
- For the Netherlands science community, better possibilities for research groups to share geo-based data with each other and with international partners through common formats, ontologies and mechanisms;
- For the Netherlands, better use of the geo-based data both in research and in applications such as water management, spatial planning and epidemiology.

We hereby declare that our organization is open to discuss opportunities to collaborate with Maps4Science, both by providing the basic e-Infrastructure services required by the initiative (including processing, storage, networking, and identity) and by integrating geo-information based services into the set of e-Infrastructure services already coordinated by SURF and NWO.

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.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W.B.G. Liebrand".

Prof. dr. W.B.G. Liebrand
General Director