

Return address: P.O. Box 80015, 3508 TA Utrecht, The Netherlands;

TU Delft
OTB Research Institute for the Built Environment
Prof. dr. ir. P.J.M. van Oosterom
Postbus 5030
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Subject
Support to Maps4Science

Dear professor van Oosterom,

TNO | Geological Survey of the Netherlands hosts the national repository of subsurface data and information. We gather, store and deliver borehole data, geophysical data, sample analyses, etc., and we interpret these into subsurface models. These are 3D predictions of the architecture and properties of the subsurface, freely available, along with the data on which they are based.

It is with great interest that we learned about your initiative to develop Maps4Science as a large-scale research facility. Not only do we feel that such facility could be helpful to us in disseminating data and information, we also expect that Maps4Science will help users to work with our data, especially where 3D analyses and combinations with other data types are concerned. At present, the 3D-data sets we provide are not used to their fullest potential, which is partly due to the lack of an appropriate facility, infrastructure and standards. We hope that Maps4Science will be able to fill this gap.

Maps4Science will be tailored to scientific use. We appreciate the fact that your definition of this is broader than academic use, as our user community is largely non-academic. In fact, we feel that this broad definition strengthens your proposal, as its impact should be proportionally larger.

We hereby endorse the Maps4Science proposal, please feel free to pass this letter on to anyone whom it may concern. Should the proposal be successful, then we would be happy to discuss delivering our data through Maps4Science. Beyond being a data provider, we could discuss participation and collaboration, which was not possible in the relatively short time period in which the proposal was drafted.

Geological Survey of the Netherlands

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Date
9 September 2011

Our reference
Dir Energie 11-031

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In the years to come, however, our R&D efforts will primarily be directed to establish the BRO (key register for the subsurface), and our participation in Maps4Science would have to fit this agenda.

I wish you all the best in getting the Maps4Science funded and look forward to future collaboration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.J. van der Meulen', written over a light blue dotted line.

dr. M.J. van der Meulen
Chief geologist
Research manager Geomodelling