



Royal Netherlands Navy

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Date 30 August 2011
Subject Support to MAPS4SCIENCE

Netherlands Ministry of Defence

The Netherlands
Hydrographic Office

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Our reference
K6501/14676/DT

*Please quote date, our reference and
subject when replying.*

Dear professor van Oosterom,

It is with great interest that we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility Maps4Science. Following from our role as data provider, a facility like this is important to us, because smart distribution methods of our data to our very diverse users are of paramount importance to the Netherlands Hydrographic Office. In times of increasing pressure on our budgets, automation of data exchange processes is more necessary than ever.

The Netherlands Hydrographic Service is responsible for the collection and distribution of geographic data for the tidal waters surrounding the Kingdom of the Netherlands, through advanced products and increasingly through the exchange of digital source data. As a part of that responsibility, the Service is the source of a variety of data sets concerning the sea areas around the Netherlands and the overseas territories.

We support your consortium and your application because we see the following benefits for our organization and the Netherlands science community like: efficient data exchange, close cooperation between all the projects that address innovations for geographic data exchange, and improved awareness of the role geographic data at sea can play in supporting studies related to coastal zone research, logistics, energy supply and the environment.



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We hereby declare that our organization is open to discuss opportunities of this facility for further re-use of our datasets, in particular depth data at sea, which has been surveyed against very high cost. Also, data concerning objects at sea, water levels, reference surfaces, maritime boundaries and limits, and marine geographic names are potentially relevant. Finally, software for coordinate transformations may solve technical difficulties that the MAPS4SCIENCE project might encounter. These datasets and software application are also identified as relevant for the national implementation of INSPIRE.

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 for a leading role in the field of open, shared, and linked location data at the levels of research, innovation, and application to scientific projects.

Your sincerely,

Chief Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy

N.P. Kortenoeven
Kapitein ter Zee