



PBL Netherlands Environmental
Assessment Agency

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Subject Support to MAPS4SCIENCE

Dear professor van Oosterom,

With great interest we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility Maps4Science. From our role as a large user and creator of geographical information, a facility like this is important to us, because research into the role of geographical information and the way it is shared between parties, helps us to perform policy analyses on a national, European and global scale, in which geographical information plays an increasingly important role.

The Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) is the national institute for strategic policy analysis in the field of environment, nature and spatial planning. We contribute to improving the quality of political and administrative decision-making by conducting outlook studies, analyses and evaluations in which an integrated approach is considered paramount. Policy relevance is the prime concern in all our studies. We conduct solicited and unsolicited research that is always independent and scientifically sound.

We support your consortium and your application because we see great benefits for our work of research on how to best lift barriers for the exchange of geographical information and of research on how the role of geographical information is changing.

We hereby declare that our organisation is open to discuss opportunities of this facility for further using and exploring our datasets, in particular the results of the outlook studies, analyses and evaluations that we carry out.

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.

PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency,


Ir. R. van den Berg
Managing Director