



Professor dr. ir P.J.M. van Oosterom
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Subject: LETTER OF SUPPORT 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 manager of an innovative business and science park for companies and knowledge institutions producing geo-information for our living environment, a facility like this is important to us and our partners.

On a global level the need for environmental information is increasing rapidly. In seeking solutions for global issues, such as global warming, food security, safety against floods, sustainable land use etc., access to actual data and information in a rapid and secure way is indispensable. Geomatics (techniques, methods and tools to collect and edit spatial and geo-information (from e.g. topographic and cadastral surveys, satellite imagery and aerial photographs) and make it suitable for specific applications in the right context) answers the growing need for information at both a governmental, public and corporate level.

So the facility Maps4Science is important to us not only because the need for developing new science methods and advanced tools for practical applications in this field, but also to provoke international cooperation, attracting international scientists, education of new professionals and also to interest launching customers.

Our organization, Geomatics Business Park Foundation, initiates shared innovation projects and programmes for established science organizations companies and offers in this way a great springboard to an international market. In the running GeoValley Programme leading geomatics companies and knowledge institutes are working together to develop new technical possibilities and innovative applicability in the realm of geomatics. GeoValley provides numerous product and service innovations in the field of water management, land use, air quality etc. and aims to improve the availability and accessibility of geo-information by developing internet based facilities.

We support your consortium and your application because we see - among others - the following benefits for our organization and the Netherlands science community like strengthening the geo-information sector through collaboration and coordination of various (national) activities, sharing data and forming an infrastructure that facilitates both research activities and end users by enabling access, retrieval and dissemination of geospatial data and information in a rapid and secure way.



We hereby declare that our organization is open to discuss opportunities of this facility for further using and exploring our datasets, in particular data from earth observation.

Furthermore we would like to bring forward a recent development that may be important for the facility Maps4Science: the (Dutch) Water and Climate Information Services Declaration, of which the Geomatics Business Park Foundation is one of the prime initiators.

This declaration aims to contribute to the Global Climate Services Programme of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) by closing the gap between information chains on integrated Water and Climate Information Services using geo-information. Already more than 30 organizations specialized in earth observation, hydrology, climate, food security and geomatics signed the Declaration.

The ambition of the partners of the Declaration fits very well into the ambition of the Dutch government concerning her policy to invest in 9 top sectors, under which the sector Water. Therefore we suggest that the facility Maps4Science will develop a good cooperation with the partners of the Water and Climate Information Services Declaration and the Top sector Water.

We also suggest to develop a good link with the initiatives of the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) as an important initiative for a comprehensive, decentralized geospatial information framework.

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 and can provide a useful source for end-users.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Stuip", written over a horizontal line.

Prof.ir. J. Stuip

Chairman Geomatics Business Park Foundation



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