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Subject: NCG and the MAPS4SCIENCE consortium

Dear Professor Van Oosterom,

With this letter the Netherlands Geodetic Commission expresses her support to your initiative for a large scale research facility Maps4Science. This facility will provide a new impulse for those sectors of the Netherlands scientific community in which geographical location and space play an important role. Maps4Science will enable the Netherlands science community to maintain a top level position in a broad range of science domains.

Maps4Science will also serve as an important vehicle for the disciplines that concentrate on the further development of Geo-information Sciences as such. This latter includes disciplines such as Geodesy, Surveying and Earth Observation and Remote Sensing. It will allow us to play a leading role in research and innovation in open, shared, and linked location data and how it can be used in many fields of science.

The Netherlands Geodetic Commission (NCG) is part of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). It is the platform for representatives of academic disciplines such as Geodesy, Geo-information Sciences, Mapping and Remote Sensing and representatives of important public organizations and industry. The Commission co-ordinates and initiates fundamental and strategic research in geodesy and geo-information in the Netherlands and it advises on related policy issues; it stimulates the spread of knowledge in these fields and co-ordinates the geodetic infrastructure of the Netherlands.

The Commission gave material support to the preparation of this proposal and several members of the Commission have been involved in this initiative because we consider Maps4Science as very important for the scientific disciplines represented in the NCG. We therefore foresee that the activities of the NCG will be extended to also contain the role and developments of the Maps4Science facilities and its impact on these disciplines and their research programs.

The NCG is prepared to act as a scientific advisory body of the Maps4Science consortium and it is therefore with great pleasure that we support this application at NWO.

With best regards,

Prof. Dr. Ir. M. Molenaar  
Chairman of the Netherlands Geodetic Commission