

Maps4Science takes another leap!

News flash nr. 2 – December 2011



At the end of August 2011, we submitted the Maps4Science proposal to NWO's call for the Roadmap for Large-scale Research Facilities.

Invitation to interview

Having received the positive reviews earlier, the Maps4Science consortium has now been invited by NWO to present its proposal in an interview. This is another procedural milestone reached (but no guarantee for eventual success, obviously!). The interview will be conducted by an academic review committee of 11 senior researchers on January 10th, 2012. NWO has asked to address the reviewer comments on:

- Business case,
- Governance & management structure, and
- Sketch of the project's future.

Having heard the review committee's findings and advice, by the end of January, the NWO Board will make a final decision and forward it to the Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science (OCW). We expect to hear about the outcome by the tail end of spring 2012.

Preparatory peak period

In preparation for the interview, the team is making overtime. In early December, we conducted two test interviews against two 'heavyweight' test panels, composed from highly experienced professionals from the wider research domain. This was a great and clarifying learning experience, telling us what still needs to be addressed for an optimal 'for real' discussion with the NWO team in January.

These professional preparations bring about costs, and these are currently carried by the team of proposers at own risk. Third parties with a willingness to contribute, by whatever means, are wholeheartedly invited to contact Camille van der Harten van IIP-Geo/GBN (c.vanderharten@geobusiness.nl).

Valuable support & recognition

In recent weeks, Maps4Science presented itself at various events, amongst which the thematic meeting of GeoBusiness Nederland, OGT meeting at CBS, Netherlands Geodetic Commission (KNAW-NCG) and ICT Delta 2011. The support base continues to spread, amongst others from the National Models & Data Centre (NMDC), as well as Oracle. Oracle emphasizes the high-tech position of TU Delft: *"We hold in high esteem the work you have done in numerous areas including the development of advanced algorithms for geospatial topology modeling and the representation, modeling and management of 3D and LiDAR data. Oracle recognized your organization's contributions to the geospatial community by awarding you the 2007 Oracle Spatial Excellence Award for Research and Development."* The TU Delft team had won both Innovation awards in the Science category of the Bsik innovation program Space for Geo-Information (RGI).

The Dutch GI research community holds a global top 5 position. WUR citation analyses in 2009 showed a strong increase in publications by that Dutch community over the course of the national RGI program. The Dutch GI community holds position 5 globally in publication numbers, and position 3 (after Germany and the USA) in citation impact (see www.rgi.nl).

Maps4Science specifics

The Maps4Science consortium currently consists of 10 partners: TU Delft (main), UvA, WUR, UU, UT/ITC, VU/ EduGIS, DANS, Alterra, NLR and Geonovum. Other parties are interested to join. Proposed project duration is 2012-2019 with a budget of 22,8 M Euro (of which at least 25% are partner contributions).

Main objective is the realization of a national research infrastructure for geo-information with potential for roll-out to European levels, and unlocking the full potential of use of GI in other domains of science. Support is provided by the ICT Innovation Platform Geo-informatie (IIP-Geo), AeroVision and Jacqueline Meerkerk Management.

The full proposal and statements of support are found at: www.maps4science.nl.

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