

Update on Continuation of Maps4Science

Newsflash nr. 6 – June/July 2012



As announced earlier, the consortium is exploring different possibilities for an M4S continuation.

In this newsletter, we provide an update.

Workshop to align national interests

To explore the various stakeholder interests in extending the M4S facility into an “innovation engine” for PDOK (Public Services on the Map) and NMDC (National Models and Data Centre), a workshop will be organized on September 17th. The focus will be on specific user groups. A joint effort is crucial because our national GI is institutionally distributed over many stakeholders, such as Kadaster, the National Department of Public Works and the Provinces. Collaboration and a shared and agreed-upon prioritization are key to a sustained and efficient innovation of the GI infrastructure.

The result will be shaped as a partnership and will subsequently be submitted to STW (Foundation for the Technical Sciences) to obtain support in their Partnership program. The workshop is organized by the M4S nucleus, in collaboration with IIPGeo and NCG.

M4S components submitted to national & international calls

Two pre-proposals, related to components of M4S, have been submitted to NWO / Netherlands e-Science Centre (NLeSC), eScience Open Call for Converging Sciences:

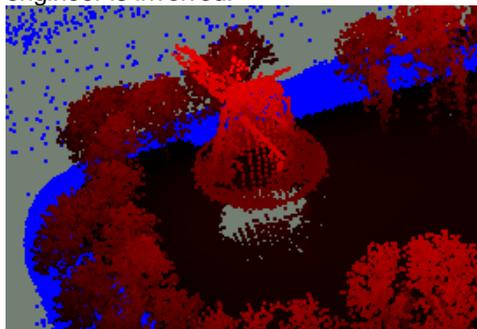
- **Massive point clouds for eSciences**

By: TUD, 3TU.Datacentre with partners RWS+Oracle+Fugro;

Total volume: 0.5 Meuro

This proposal addresses the problem of the huge amounts of point data that new technologies like laser-scanning are producing.

These data are extremely valuable for applications like flood modelling, dike monitoring, and generation of 3D city models. These massive point clouds, however, are simply too big to process efficiently in generic ICT infrastructure. The expectation is that the problem will only deteriorate due to larger areas being more frequently measured. Different eScience methods and tools must be developed to improve access and data processing. To ensure knowledge exchange, an eScience engineer is involved.



- **PHENIX: an interactive explorer for phenological data**

By: ITC, University of Twente

Total volume: 0.4 Meuro

This proposed project addresses the development of computational tools to better understand and predict natural phenological phenomena.

Phenology is the study about the timing of recurring phases in nature. For example, in plants or animals, the influences caused by environmental factors like temperature, precipitation and amount of daylight. This means there is a search for dependencies and causality, in problems that are strongly location- and time-dependent.

The PHENIX tools aim to ease the data fusion of earth observation data with other explicitly spatial data, including those generated by volunteers, to improve also on computational models and result visualization. Special attention will be paid to the parameters of scale, both in space and in time, required by the models used.

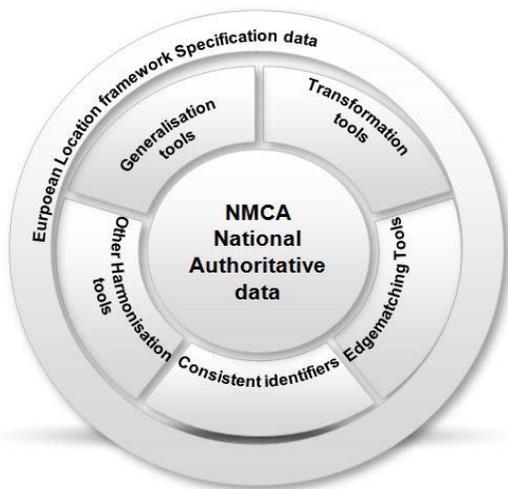
Both these pre-proposals have made it to a second review round, and have been asked to prepare a complete proposal by September 19th, 2012. Judgement day is in December 2012.

M4S input in international project call

Although M4S is a Dutch project by design, we knew from the start that achieving an international embedding is crucial. The many international support letters that we received are a witness to this. A first step has now been made through the participation of some M4S partners in the EU KP7 CIP-ICT PSP Call 6 (Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme - ICT Policy Support Programme).

- **European Location Framework (ELFI) - Information on the Service**
- By: consortium of 30 partners (incl. 15 NMAs), with EuroGeoGraphics as lead partner and participation from NL by Kadaster, Geonovum and TUD.
Total volume: 13.5 Meuro (of which 50% own contribution).
ELFI facilitates the creation of value-added services through access to INSPIRE-compliant, pan-European geoinformation. The offered services provide a Data-as-a-Service model for foundational geoinformation. In this way, Software-as-a-Service cloud platforms can be supported to allow creation of services by innovative SMEs. The ELFI platform will remain available for application development beyond the project duration.

The proposal has been evaluated by the EC with an encouraging score of 14 (out of 15). We received 5 pts for relevance, 4.5 pts for impact and 4.5 pts for implementation. Later in the year, it should become clear whether this score suffices for a positive funding decision.



Call ICT Roadmap open until September 4th

In collaboration with the Dutch Science Foundation NWO, the Fundamental Materials Research Foundation FOM and the Health Research Foundation ZonMw, STW opened a call on June 1st for proposals fitting with the roadmaps defined by the Hightech Systems and Materials TopTeam, including the ICT-roadmap. There are possible connections with proposed parts of the M4S project.

The call is a consequence of the Dutch government's policy on top sectors, and challenges research communities and entrepreneurs to develop fundamental knowledge, technological breakthroughs, and innovative applications. The call invites proposals (max 0.5 Meuro of subsidy, with at least 35% additional partner contributions) that tackle scientific and technological challenges, and that fit with the mentioned roadmaps.

In principle, the call is opened only once, for an overall budget of 11.9 Meuro, exclusive of own contributions by project partners. Submission deadline is September 4th.

The M4S website

On our website, you will find the complete text of the submitted M4S proposal (in English) and various associated information sources (links, documents). The site also holds the archive of M4S newsletters, both in Dutch and English.

URL: www.maps4science.nl

About Maps4Science

At this moment, the M4S consortium has 10 partners: TU Delft (commissioner), UvA, WUR, UU, UT/ITC, VU/EduGIS, DANS, Alterra, NLR en Geonovum. (There are more parties interested to join.)

The envisaged project duration is from 2012 until 2019 and the budget is 22,8 M Euro (of which at least 25% is partner contribution.)

The main goal is to up-scale the national geo information research infrastructure with European potential and to improve spatial breakthroughs in other sciences.

Support is being given by the *ICT Innovatieplatform Geo-informatie (IIPGEO)*, *AeroVision* and *Jacqueline Meerkerk Management*.

The complete proposal and all support letters can be found at www.maps4science.nl

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