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→ Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information

Newsletter

TO WEBSITE>

This electronic newsletter covers events in the prior quarter and key issues before the CRC. To subscribe go to the website database **www.crcsi.com.au** and click on MEMBERS. Activities are also reported through project internal and public pages within the web site.

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2007 CRCSI DATES

14 Dec Board Strategic Planning Day

13 Dec Board meeting [GB20]

Short Courses Calendar
www.crcsi.ecampus.com.au

Dear Spatial Colleague

AUSTRALIAN SPATIAL CONSORTIUM

On 14 August 2007, the Special Minister of State, The Hon. Gary Nairn MP announced in Canberra the formation of the Australian Spatial Consortium (ASC). The ASC is initially comprised of the Australian & New Zealand Spatial Information Council, The Australian Spatial Information Business Association, the CRCSI, 43 Pty Ltd and PSMA Ltd. The idea for the consortium originated from the CRCSI's strategic planning session in March 2007. This group felt that the collaborative model of the CRCSI had been so successful that it should be extended to cover a broad spectrum of SI activities across Australia.

The primary objective of the ASC will be to tackle issues in the national interest that can only be tackled by large public/private partnerships.

The ASC is currently being guided by a Steering Committee, chaired by Warwick Watkins (Chair, ANZLIC), that comprises Mary O'Kane (Chair, CRCSI); Michael Easton (Chair, ASIBA); Ollie Hedberg (Chair, PSMA); Mark Judd (Chair, 43 Pty Ltd); and Peter Woodgate (CEO, CRCSI). An invitation to join will soon be published.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

We have engaged ACIL Tasman to determine the overall impact of spatial information on the Australian economy. A draft of their report is now with us for comment .

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A record turnout of 167 attended our fourth Annual Conference in Sydney . For those who couldn't make it there are some screencasts on the portal and powerpoints in the MyCRC part of the corporate web site - see below. We focused on the rebid and new directions for the CRCSI, and introduced the new major projects that will just be getting underway, and had some thought provoking sessions that included presentations from Google Earth and Microsoft Virtual Earth.

SCANALYSE

Scanalyse Pty Ltd, commercialisers of the MillMapper product, have just won the WA Inventor of the Year Award - congratulations to all the team.

Peter Woodgate, Chief Executive Officer

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Key statements from the Board

REBID FOR CRCSI

As you know, the Board will pursue a rebid in 2008. This time we will seek some $30 million of CRC grant funds compared with the initial CRCSI sum of $13.3 million. To succeed the rebid requires a credible consortium that addresses major industry issues. New activities and partners will be included. In addition, of course, we will take forward our strengths and successes.

We are exploring new areas of work within several "themes" and will develop business and science cases within each. The Board at its December meeting will determine the scope of work to be refined during 2008, culminating in a rebid submission (the initial case for which is due in March 2008, with final documents to be lodged August 2008). If successful at the end 2008 interviews, we will commence the new CRC on 1 July 2009.

BOARD MEETING #19

[1] With the rotation from the Board of Grahame Searle and Warwick Watkins a vote of thanks was passed for their contributions to the Board. Steve Jacoby was elected Deputy Chair

[2] The Board discussed a briefing from Alan Smart of ACIL Tasman on progress with the Economic Impact Study.

[3] The Board discussed a briefing from Gary Richards of AGO on potential interactions in the future.

[4] It was agreed that expressions of interest in participating in the rebid should be sought direct from existing and prospective participants. The following working principles were agreed:

- Cash contributions of some $300,000 for core participants; with inkind and or cash for support participants
- Legal structure of CRCSI2 is likely to be a company limited by guarantee, taxable subject to wishes of CRCSI-2 core participants.

[5] The Board approved execution of the Management Representation Letter to complete the unqualified audit opinion.

Mary O'Kane, Chair of the CRCSI Board

[6] The Board approved the Annual Report to DEST, noting that a tailored version will be produced in due course.

[7] SPATIAL INFORMATION OPERATIONS PTY LTD The Board approved the appointment of Mary O'Kane, Bill Charters and Peter Woodgate as Directors of SIO Pty Ltd, an administration vehicle to take over from Uni Melbourne the duties of the "Centre Agent" of the CRCSI, as required by our founding Commonwealth CRC Agreement.

[8] The Board noted the positive evaluation form feedback from the 2007 Annual Conference and the high numbers of 43pl company staff attending.

[9] The Board approved the follow-on proposal for Project 5.2.

The Hon Gary Nairn opening CRCSI'07 conference

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A new stream within the federal government Commercial Ready granting scheme has been announced, aimed at "micro businesses and commercial spin-offs from public research." Commercial Ready is a competitive merit-based grant program supporting innovation and its commercialisation. It aims to stimulate greater innovation and productivity growth in the private sector by providing grants to small and medium-sized businesses. A wide range of project activities can be supported, extending from initial research and development (R&D), through proof of concept, to early-stage commercialisation activities.

Commercial Ready (large) grants: offers $250k to $5,000k for innovation projects of up to 3 years duration ... Commercial Ready Plus (small) grants: offers $50k to $250k for innovation projects of up to 18 months duration to SMEs and to companies controlled by Australian universities and public sector research organisations.

43pl

FINANCIAL BENCHMARKING SURVEY is due again - KPMG will soon be in touch with all members individually and confidentially to collate the information required. With more companies in 43pl there is the opportunity to get even better information on our sub-sectors of the industry. Responders to the survey will receive copies of the collated report. Enquiries to Mike Ridout on 0417 908 180.

43pl member Scanalyse Pty Ltd, commercialisers of the MillMapper product, has just won the WA Inventor of the Year Award .

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Our CRCSI is in its fourth year. It has another three years of funding to go in its current form. The CRCSI core participants and the Board strongly support a rebid for another term of funding in 2008 that will build on the strengths of our first CRC.

We will concentrate our efforts into four or five main market sectors. The areas that we are currently investigating include energy/utilities infrastructure; defence; agriculture; mining; natural resources management; health and welfare; insurance/banking and finance, and transport.

We will be developing science/technology cases and business cases for investments in each of these areas. Multi-disciplinary solutions involving a range of technologies (spatial data management, positioning, remote sensing, image analysis, visualisation, modeling, and so on) will be brought to bear in each case as needed. A full draft of the rebid proposal will be reviewed by the CRCSI Board at its December 2007 meeting.

The input of our existing partners will be actively sought over the coming months in order to prepare these cases. The following people have been appointed to lead the development of the business cases in some areas:

Mark Watt ... Energy/Utilities ... mark.watt@ctg.com.au
Rob Coorey ... Defence ... rcoorey@geoint.com.au
Richard Price ... Agriculture ... richard.price@kiri-ganai.com.au
Kim Lowell ... Natural Resources ... klowell@crcsi.com.au
Rob Lorimer ...
Positioning ... robert_lorimer@positiononeconsulting.com

The Australian Government require an expression of interest for CRC proposals in March 2008 with final submissions due in August 2008. We will therefore use 2008 to fine-tune our plans.

Anyone with an interest in the rebid should contact Mike Ridout mridout@crcsi.com.au or any one of the people above.

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PROJECT EXTENSION ... The Governing Board on REAC-IACC recommendation approved extension to project 5.2 Visualisation [Contact Project Leader Ian Bishop]

COMMERCIALISATION ... Scanalyse has won the WA Inventor of the Year Award for 2007

PROJECT PROGRESS ... Project progress is reported on the web site **www.crcsi.com.au** Project Management Group meetings are scheduled each quarter - CRCSI and 43pl Participants should contact the respective Project Leader if you would like to attend. A complete list of projects and leaders is at the website.

ISO STANDARDS ... the new comprehensive International Standard ISO spatial data standards are available from http://standards.sedris.org/18026/index.htm. It defines the conceptual model and the methodologies that allow the description, and transformation or conversion, of geometric properties within or among spatial reference frames. The Spatial Reference Model supports unambiguous specification of the positions, directions, distances, and times associated with spatial information. It also defines algorithms for precise transformation of positions, directions and distances among different spatial reference frames.

ION-GNSS CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AND AWARDS ... Chris Rizos, Andrew Dempster, Samsung Lim, Nonie Politi, and graduate students Weidong Ding, Faisal Khan, Eamonn Glennon, attended the 20th Int. Tech. Meeting of the Satellite Division of the U.S. Institute of Navigation, Fort Worth, Texas, 25-28 September, the world's biggest conference devoted to navigation and positioning. This is the best ever representation at ION-GNSS by researchers from the SNAP Lab - authoring, or co-authoring, 16 papers (including 3 student prize winners)!

AUSTRALIAN PATENTS NOW FULLY SEARCHABLE ... For the first time, the full text of Australian patents can be searched, viewed and printed at no cost, by anyone, thanks to a non-profit international organisation based in Canberra. CAMBIA (www.cambia.org <http://www.cambia.org/>) has extended its worldwide patent resource the Patent Lens (www.patentlens.net <http://www.patentlens.net/>) to include Australian patents. The full text of over 115,000 Australian granted patents and over 580,000 patent applications have been added to the Patent Lens collection of almost seven million worldwide patent documents.

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Education

EDUCATION PORTAL ... The Spatial Education Advisory Committee has released a report on the spatial industry skills in Australia - download the SEAC Progress Report from the CRCSI Education Portal here.

Masters on line program ... has five on-line Masters units developed, including at Curtin (Applications of GPS; Introduction to Databases; Geocomputation), at UNSW (Remote Sensing) and at University of Melbourne (Spatial Visualisation). Queries to Bert Veenendaal 08 9266 7676. A full brochure can be downloaded from the **Portal**.

SPATIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ... has released a report... and a promotional brochure along with recent report documentation. All are available for review and download at the CRCSI Education Portal page for the SEAC at www.crcsi.ecampus.com.au

CRCSI ANNUAL CONFERENCE ... Screencasts of selected presentations are at the CRCSI Education Portal page in "CRCSI Updates" within the "Information" main menu item. Powerpoint presentations and posters are in the MyCRC part of the corporate website (click here then choose "CRC Administration")

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Other Matters

PEOPLE ... Welcome to George Curran who will be joining the Executive as Business Development Manager on 3 December, based in Brisbane. More on him later. ... There is now a "where are they now?" site in the Education Portal CRCSI Members Area.

ARC LINKAGES GRANTS ... UNSW has won two ARC-Linkage projects: Andrew Dempster and Doug Gray (Uni of Adelaide), an with Air Services Australia: *Locating Interference to GPS: Protecting the World's Aircraft landing Systems* & Linlin Ge, Andrea Mitchell, et al, with WA Dept of Agriculture & Food, CSIRO Livestock Industries: *Measurement of Paddock Scale Pasture Biomass Using Synthetic Aperture Radar Remote Sensing.* "Both of these grants build on projects/capability developed under CRCSI projects.... so we can claim some credit!" said Head of School and CRCSI Science Program Manager Chis Rizos.

GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES ... **New CRCSI project proposals** are welcome at any time. Discuss your ideas with any of the executive – Peter, Clive, Graeme or Mike – and the Science Program Managers. This includes expansion and merging of current projects. Initiatives that are based on an expressed user need, and that propose strong user involvement, are sought ... **Request For Tender 0701601** NSW Government - Provision of Remote Sensing and Other Imagery Products - (closing 13 Nov 07) is advertised on the eTenders website https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/commerce ... **iVEC**, 'The hub of advanced computing in Western Australia', has announced that it is offering $200 000 in grants for industry and government organisations to apply high performance computing, visualisation and large scale data store technology. See more at www.ivec.org/igup/grants

CONFERENCES ... IGNSS 2007 4-6 Dec at UNSW **...** details on the corporate web site NEWS section

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Projects

1.1 Chris Rizos
>Enhancing Australia's Core Geodetic Infrastructure

1.2 Phil Collier
>Quality Control Issues for Real-Time Positioning

1.3 Jinling Wang
>Integrated Positioning & Geo-referencing Platform

1.4 Matt Higgins & Yanming Feng
>Precise positioning in remote areas

2.1 Franz Rottensteiner
>Automated Mapping & Feature Extraction from ... Imagery

2.2 Derek Lichti
>Modelling, Analysis and Systems Development for Integrated Imaging and Positioning Sensors

3.2 Bert Veenendaal
>Intelligent Geocoding

3.5 Tim Barker & Brian Fitzgerald
>Digital rights management

4.1 Craig Smith
>Automatic near real-time thematic mapping based on MODIS

4.2 Linlin Ge
>Digital elevation model generation and differential InSAR

4.3 Tom Schut
>Integrated remote sensing for improved farm management

4.4 Geoff Taylor
>Imaging spectrometry (hyperspectral imagery) products for characterising, mapping, monitoring and managing environmental stress

5.1 David Tien
>Tools for Spatial Data Mining and Agent-Based Modelling

5.2 Ian Bishop
>Visualisation

5.3 Gary Hunter
>Communicating Spatial Data Quality

6.4 Mark Judd
>LPOD Business Plan

6.7 James Bangay
> Spatial information energy utility business improvement

6.7 David Lamb
> Clever cattle and cropping systems

7.1 Bert Veenendaal
>Masters Online education

7.4 Mike Ridout
>Education Portal, Scholarships and student support

8.1 Mark Carniello
>HazWatch commercialisation

8.2 Derek Lichti
>Scanalyse - MILLmapper commercialisation