



World Geospatial Industry Council

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

www.wgicouncil.org



ABOUT WGIC

The World Geospatial Industry Council is a registered not-for-profit trade association of companies representing the entire global ecosystem of the geospatial industry. WGIC endeavors to:

- 1 Enhance the role of the geospatial industry and strengthen its contribution to the global economy and society.**
- 2 Facilitate the exchange of knowledge within the geospatial industry and the co-creation of larger business opportunities for the geospatial industry.**
- 3 Represent business interests, share perspectives of the geospatial industry, and undertake policy advocacy and dialogue with public authorities, multilateral agencies, and other relevant bodies.**

VISION & MISSION

VISION

To be a collaborative platform to advance the role of the geospatial industry and strengthen its contribution to the world economy and society.

MISSION

To be a catalyst for intra and inter-industry knowledge exchange and the co-creation of larger business opportunities for the geospatial industry, enhancing its value and impact through policy advocacy, business development, and collaborative programs.

VALUES and GUIDING PRINCIPLES

RESPONSIBILITY

Clearly communicate the industry's perspectives to internal and external stakeholders.

EXCELLENCE

Commit to helping Member organizations excel and become recognized world leaders and innovators in offering geospatial technologies and services.

INTEGRITY

Commit to delivering services reliably and ethically.

TRANSPARENCY

Be a transparent organization that works with industry, government, and multilaterals - to build partnerships based on trust and mutual benefit.

EQUALITY

Commit to providing an unbiased platform and an enabling environment that offers equal access to Members regardless of the size of the organization or country of origin.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Always stand for non-discriminatory practices in its operations.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Be a self-sufficient industry Council efficiently working on revenue from membership dues.

MEMBERSHIP

Strive to increase the number of Members, as well as innovate continuously in order to create the most value for existing Members.

COLLABORATION

Ensure that WGIC functions as the voice of the geospatial industry and excels as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among all stakeholders.

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Jack Dangermond
Chair, WGIC Patron Board

A reason for hope, though much remains to be done

In November 2020, I had the good fortune to speak with Simone Ross from TED¹. In that conversation, I talked about some key issues that I would like to re-iterate here.

It is clear to me that we have successfully demonstrated the value of geospatial technologies in responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and in that regard, I have much optimism. We must, however, note that COVID is just one wave in a never-ending sea of challenges. What continues to face us head-on, is the issue of a changing climate, and much like a global pandemic, the longer one waits to address the issue, a small wave can soon become a tsunami. Rising temperatures, melting ice, rising sea-levels, deforestation, the loss of biodiversity – processes that have taken centuries to undergo, can be undone in decades. We simply must be more attentive to the issue of the Earth's changing climate.

It will come as no surprise to you, that I genuinely believe the relevance of geospatial technologies is paramount to addressing this and all its related

challenges. We need a fully integrated geospatial understanding of our planet that will guide society in making better choices for current and future generations. The World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC) and its Members are helping achieve that vision. While only three years in existence, WGIC has brought companies (partners and even competitors) together to frame policy positions, advocate, and help ensure better decisions are made at local, regional, national and international levels by using geospatial data, tools and services.

While much has been done, more remains to be done. We all need to come together to build this interconnected network of sharing and using our collective knowledge to not only address future global pandemics, but the Earth's changing climate. We have a big task ahead of us, and time is most critical. I invite each of you to redouble your efforts in WGIC, come together on this issue of Climate Change, and once again bring real value and impact to our society through geospatial information and knowledge.

¹ https://www.ted.com/talks/jack_dangermond_how_a_geospatial_nervous_system_could_help_us_design_a_better_future



Ronald Bisio
President, WGIC

Sustainability and Diversity are at the core of what we do

As the World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC) completes its third year and enters its fourth, I want to thank all our Members for your continued support and engagement in our common cause. I also want to express my sincere condolences to those of you who have lost family, friends, and colleagues because of the global Covid pandemic. We have most certainly seen a tragic year, and unfortunately, parts of the world are still struggling. My thoughts go out to those of you who have lost family, friends, and colleagues.

In addition to building our personal resilience, we must also continue to build resilience into our businesses. Business policies and practices for managing the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects of our businesses are gaining more traction, and I am happy to see action in this direction from leading WGIC Member companies. Yes, our solutions and offerings are indirectly helping the environment through actions of our customers and partners. There is also, however, a greater responsibility on us as an industry, to minimize our impact on the environment. In this regard, at the end of 2020, we engaged with the 'Race to Zero' Campaign in an event we co-sponsored with the U.K. High Level Climate Champion, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's Climate Trace Initiative, and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). This event laid the groundwork for a WGIC presence at the upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP-26) in Glasgow, Scotland. I welcome all our Members to consider actions

that will help us engage with the 'Race to Zero'.

Another critical aspect that requires our immediate attention is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The WGIC Executive Board recently asked a small group of our Members to help develop a policy position for the way forward. While there are many elements of DEI including geographic diversity, diversity of thought, diversity in the size and type of our Member companies, we must do better increasing the racial and gender diversity of our senior leaders and Board rooms. Again, many leading companies are working in this direction, which is most welcoming. I would also like to see WGIC lead by example with a strong policy and recommended actions.

Lastly, I want to thank Sanjay Kumar for his extraordinary leadership over the past three years in framing, helping establish and running WGIC. As we have often said, while there are regional and national associations for our industry, WGIC is the first of its kind globally. I would also like to thank Barbara Ryan for stepping up to lead WGIC into 2021. As we experience the increasing relevance of geospatial technologies in addressing global challenges, having Barbara lead WGIC is both apt and timely. I welcome her on behalf of the WGIC Executive Board and look forward to her leadership. Again, thank you WGIC Members for your many, many contributions to WGIC, our industry, and society at large. Stay safe.



Barbara Ryan
Executive Director, WGIC

Strategic Membership Engagement is the Key to WGIC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank WGIC for entrusting me with responsibility to lead this fine organization into 2021. I have seen firsthand, primarily in my most recent position as Executive Director of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), located in Geneva, Switzerland, strategic member engagement is key to both organizational sustainability, and most importantly, progress. The more engaged members are, the more vibrant and thriving the organization is.

In order to better understand your needs and expectations, I reached out to Executive Board Members, in advance of the January Executive Board Meeting (EBM). These dedicated conversations proved enormously productive as each of you with whom I spoke not only gave your time, but also your candid feedback on what's working and what could be done differently. We, in the Secretariat, have characterized this feedback under two broad topics – Value Proposition for our Members and Diversity of Thought. While I have yet to speak to all Members, I trust the feedback to date from Executive Board Members is quite representative of the entire body.

In addition to developing targeted Value-Proposition proposals for new and prospective Members, the second topic of 'Diversity' is being strengthened by an ad hoc working group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The issue of diversity is being framed as racial, gender, geographic, size of company, and type of company in order to ensure the greatest Diversity of Thought in WGIC. With support

from the Membership Committee, we are taking deliberate actions to seek new Members representing the diversity spectrum described above. We welcome additional Members to join in this venture.

Through the Partnerships & Industry Engagement Committee, Executive Members have also identified Climate as a core topic of focus, with three sub-themes - disaster resilience, energy transition, and sustainable infrastructure. The Executive Board further suggested that other Committees, Working Groups, and the Secretariat work more closely together to ensure the whole organization is aligned with these priorities. We, in the Secretariat, are doing everything we can to ensure this alignment.

In summary, I want you to know that I am committed to ensuring that WGIC remain an organization that is run for, and by, its Members. In order to do so, we must be responsive to your needs and relevant to your programs. In this regard, we will continue to seek your feedback in determining the right set of thematic, engagement, and outreach programs. I have also learned that Members benefit more from active engagement in these efforts. Please feel free to suggest others from your organizations to join Committees, Working Groups and targeted WGIC engagements and events. By redoubling your efforts, WGIC can become a global voice for companies in the geospatial ecosystem.

With sincere appreciation for your support – past, present, and future.



KEY OUTCOMES 2020



Committee on Partnerships and Industry Engagement (P.I.E)

In 2020, the Partnerships and Industry Engagement (P.I.E.) Committee decided to foster and strengthen existing partnerships. Below are the Committee’s activities that were aimed at raising awareness on the value and benefits of geospatial technologies globally, noting that these technologies are a key pillar of the digital geospatial ecosystem.

Strengthening Existing Partnerships



BuildingSMART International

WGIC and BuildingSMART collaborated in exchanging knowledge and driving awareness about important issues in each of our communities. Panel discussions and workshops were organized by each organization. WGIC participated in the BuildingSMART International Virtual Summit, and BuildingSMART participated in the WGIC GeoAI Event.



European GNSS Agency (GSA)

WGIC and GSA are currently collaborating by exchanging information on work from each organization in preparation for a collaborative project. This will likely be targeted on the “Galileo Green Lane” App. This is a mobile solution (using geo-fencing a.o. technologies) to facilitate the free movement of freight, meant to reduce waiting times at EU borders and prioritize essential goods during the current COVID-19 pandemic response. WGIC can help to raise awareness about the new app among geospatial companies across Europe, to ensure the app becomes a resource for all end users.



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

During 2020, WGIC continued with the project with the ITU on the use of geospatial information in radio propagation studies. WGIC member, Maxar, agreed to provide the required data for the two study areas identified by ITU.



ISO/TC 211

WGIC is continuing to engage as a liaison in ISO/TC 211, where we participated in the Plenary events of ISO/TC 211. We have similarly invited Committee representatives to WGIC Events, to ensure full and complementary understanding about the pivotal work being done by each organization.



Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

WGIC renewed the partnership with OGC by jointly promoting geospatial technology in standards across the current and prospective WGIC Partner network. There were also several events, including WGIC GeoAI event, OGC Annual Meeting among others where each of the organizations extended invitations.

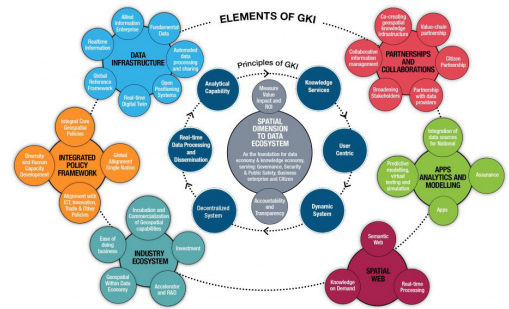


United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

WGIC as part of the partnership with UNSD continued the active contribution to The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). AS part of this, WGIC with inputs from the Members and the Secretariat provided inputs to the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) Implementation Plan, the Future Trends document, and in the 10th Session of UN-GGIM.

Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure

WGIC joined in Geospatial World/ UN Statistics Division's initiative on Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) as a partner for Phase 1 (2020/21). Contributions were made to help define and describe the Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI.) These thoughts were then drafted into a discussion document, and tested through several country-level roundtables around the globe. WGIC assisted in setting up two of the roundtables held in Africa. From these roundtables, the first draft of the White paper on GKI was prepared.



World Federation Engineering Organizations (WFEO)

WGIC and WFEO undertook several key actions in 2020. First, by jointly published a white paper on resilient infrastructure, followed by several collaborative events to socialize the document in the engineering and geospatial communities respectively. We also agreed to expand this cooperation into one of the selected thematic areas under resilient Cities and their needs related to water and transportation.

Research Study and White Paper on Resilient Infrastructure and value of GEOBIM

WGIC in collaboration with the World Federation Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) undertook a research study and released, 'The value of Integrated Geospatial and Building Information Modelling (BIM) solutions to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) with a specific focus on resilient infrastructure'. This work featured numerous case studies demonstrating the value of geospatial and BIM offerings from WGIC Member Companies, including AAM Group, Autodesk, Bentley, Esri, Leica Geosystems, RIEGL International, -Topcon Positioning, Trimble and Woolpert.



Building New Partnerships

WGIC is working on building new partnerships and in some cases, has already started to engage through thematic programs and activities.



European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC)

The respective Secretariats of EARSC and WGIC have had several interactions to better understand and assess mutual member interests. It is agreed that a higher-level meeting will be scheduled in 2021.



Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

WGIC and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Initiated a dialogue around the needs of the organization, and how WGIC and its Members can add value to their programs and member needs for cities and climate action. This dialogue emerged from the December Climate Dialogue organized by the U.K. High-Level Climate Champions (see below).



Group on Earth Observation (GEO)

WGIC has started to engage with GEO on the Climate Change agenda. We jointly organized a workshop on the value of remote sensing and Earth observation for climate action (see below). We are also looking to undertake a mapping exercise with GEO where Greenhouse Gas (GHG) capabilities from space will be compiled – GEO for the public sector, and WGIC for the private sector.



UK High Level Champion for Climate Action

WGIC has established a working relationship with the U.K. High-Level Climate Champion's team, Climate Trace (former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's organization), and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), where in December we co-sponsored a 100+ member climate change event. In addition to the GHG Mapping Exercise described above, we also agreed to promote the Race to Zero Campaign within the geospatial industry, and particularly among WGIC Member companies.



United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

There was an assessment of UCLG's Global Agenda and work started on a better alignment to UCLG's Manifesto for the Implementation Decade.



World Energy Council (WEC)

In a joint Working Group Session, the WGIC Working Group on Energy and the World Energy Council (WEC) have been looking into two WEC initiatives. The Trilemma Index and the annual World Energy Issues Monitor. This live encounter with WEC was set up to help WGIC and its Working Group Members better understand the deployment of geospatial information within the WEC.

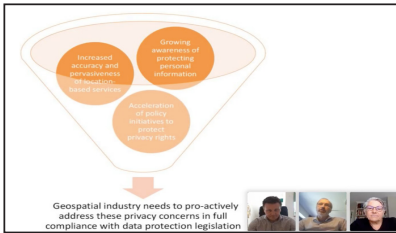
Way Forward

At the end of 2020, the Committee arrived at a consensus that going forward, working collaboratively towards valuable outcomes that are critical to each partner is more important than establishing partnerships on paper only.

Policy Development & Advocacy

In 2020, WGIC continued its focus on policy research and advocacy.

Socializing the Protection of Personal Privacy Information Report.



WGIC released the report **‘Geospatial Information and Privacy: Policy Perspectives and Imperatives for**

the Geospatial Industry’. Following the launch of this report, the Policy Committee, in collaboration with the Marketing Team, then initiated several activities and events to socialize the report.

May 5 – Organized, an exclusive Member-only WGICafé. This event provided our Members with a deep dive into the report.

May 14 – Organized a public Webinar attended by 150+ people that provided the audience with key findings of the report, as well as a preview of the policy advocacy work of WGIC. The event was led by Arnout Desmet, TomTom and Chair of the WGIC Policy Development and Advocacy Committee; Barbara Ryan, Policy Advisor at WGIC, and Bart Schermer, Chief Knowledge Officer, Considerati and Research Lead on the report

WGIC extends appreciation to U.S. Department of Commerce

In June 2020, WGIC reached out to the United States Government, with a letter sent to the United States Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Wilbur Ross, extending WGIC’s appreciation for the U.S. Commerce Department’s Streamlined Rules on Commercial Remote Sensing Satellites. The letter noted WGIC’s views that the new rules by the United States Department of Commerce will benefit the global geospatial ecosystem that relies heavily on U.S. private remote sensing space systems. Given recent deliberations in India, we expect to similarly comment, early in 2021, on India’s progress developing a national geospatial policy.

Policy Watch Newsletter gets a facelift



Under the guidance of Barbra Ryan, as the *Policy Watch* Editor, WGIC continued to release *Policy Watch*, a monthly magazine of policies, plans and programs related to the geospatial ecosystem around the world. Topics appear in several thematic areas,

including Artificial Intelligence, Data, Space, Special Initiatives, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). In 2020, numerous articles and a special edition were prepared on the geospatial industry’s contributions to helping address the global pandemic of Covid-19. In 2021, we will welcome a new Editor for *Policy Watch*, Mr. Prashant Shukle, former Director General of the Canadian Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation.

New Research kicked off focusing on GeoAI



At the end of 2020, the WGIC Policy Committee announced the start of the next policy research

project for WGIC. The effort is being designed to assess the relevance and popularity of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) applications in the geospatial industry (GeoAI), and its implications on data privacy, personal information, intellectual property control and protection, socio-economic bias, and ethics. The project and resultant report are scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021.

Public-Private Partnerships Committee

The pandemic year has brought back the key question to the Executive table – funding and business models. With the increasing pressure on economies, can federal and regional governments continue to fund large, complex technology projects? Can we meet the growing demands and expectations of users of critical geospatial infrastructure as the need for qualitative and precise geospatial information infrastructure and services are increasing day by day? How should the commercial players evolve their business models, keep pace with the changing scenario, and meet users’ needs?

At this juncture, WGIC identified the topic of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), and came across similar work in progress within the United States National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and the World Bank.

Formation of the Committee on PPPs

As the topic was most relevant and held significance to the industry at large, and WGIC Members specifically, a Committee on PPPs was formed. The Committee, comprised of Willy Govender (Terra Analytics) as the Chair of the Committee, supported by Brian Nicholls (AAM), Albert Momo (Trimble), Robert Hoyler (TomTom), and Nadine Alameh (OGC) as the Committee Members. The PPP Committee aims to engage the commercial geospatial industry and relevant public agencies through Public-Private Partnership models.

The Challenge

As part of the initial deliberations, the Committee identified that low and middle-income countries are potential targets for high-quality PPPs. The enabling environments, however, are often weak in these countries, and in order to address this challenge, and decipher successful pathways for PPPs, the Committee started looking for answers to critical questions, including – scope, benefits and challenges of implementing PPPs, emerging business models for PPPs, and legislative issues and policy implications.

Finding answers to the PPP Challenge

The WGIC PPP Committee set out to understand the contextual relevance of Public-Private Partnerships for the geospatial sector. The objective was to highlight benefits, successful pathways for parties to enter in PPPs, and identify the next level of engagement necessary to advance this effort. To illuminate and explain these factors and assist stakeholders in decision making, the Committee researched the market, engaged with stakeholders and developed a white paper illuminating the aspects described above.



A consulting team lead by Prashant Shukle, President Global Geospatial Group and former Director-General, Canada Centre for Mapping and Earth Observation, and Kuhelee Chandel, a Researcher from Sweden, was formed. The consulting team set on an extensive literature review, regional engagement sessions with WGIC Members from around the world, and outreach with NGAC and the World Bank, to develop an assessment of the extent of geospatial PPP arrangements.

Consultative Workshops with national and regional stakeholders

During August and September, the WGIC PPPs committee has started its active engagement with industry and governments worldwide. The WGIC Secretariat, represented by Sanjay Kumar and the Chair of the Committee - Willy Govender, and Project lead – Prashant Shukle led these consultative workshops.



Aug 19 – The first in a series of virtual workshops on PPPs was held for Africa. WGIC members and member representatives joined this event: Esri – Matthew Pennells and Woolpert – Norman Banks, joined with National Mapping Organizations from the region.

Aug 20 – The second in a series of virtual workshops on PPPs was held for the Asia Pacific. WGIC members and member representatives: AAM – Brian Nichols, Maxar – Madhav Ragam,

NeoGeoInfo – Sreeramam, and Spatial Vision – Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, joined with National Mapping Organizations from Australia, India, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Aug 28 – The third in a series of virtual workshops on Public-Private Partnerships was held for North America. WGIC Members present in this event – Bentley Systems – Robert Mankowski, GeoTechVision – Valrie Grant, RIEGL International – Jim Van

Rens, Rolta – Preetha Pulusani, and Trimble – Albert Momo.

Sep 9 – The final destination for the PPPs workshops was Europe. WGIC is pleased with the valuable discussions from our speakers and participants from the region. Patron Board Co-chair Alain De Taeye led the event, participated by other WGIC Members and representatives Cyient – John Renard, Fugro – Robert Hoddenbach, TomTom – Robert Hoyler, and Spatial Vision – Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse.

Key outcomes

At the end of 2020, the Committee concluded the study, and now aims to release the report at the WGIC Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021.

The study found that while the fiscal climate and policy environment are favorable for PPPs, their uptake in the geospatial business and public sectors has been relatively limited to date. Throughout the process, a variety of keen observations and insights were provided by WGIC Members. Examples of these include:

- **New business models** – such as formal **public-private partnerships** – are within reach due to the proliferation of cloud computing, the broad availability of geospatial data, global bandwidth expansion, and the phenomenal growth in the value and use of geospatial data.
- The **current economic crisis** provided an **opportunity for the geospatial sector** to bring initial financing, technology, data, and know-how by working with the public sector.
- **PPP is specific and well defined.** PPPs are not just defined by a singular definitional phrase – they are also defined by specific **business models**, choice of **contractual relationships** with governments, **procurement arrangements**, and the way they earn **revenue**.
- Within a geospatial context, the ability to develop **long-term contracts for delivery**, and a clear and **transparent business model** to develop national mapping (geospatial data) as a service, is far **preferable** than the short-term fluctuations in funding that often change with political priorities.
- The **infrastructure sector's** long experience with **PPP** implementation provides an historic **opportunity for partnerships** among WGIC Members around the world.

Industry/Academia Committee

Engaging with Academia

The Committee on Industry-Academia Collaboration was launched in 2020 with the vision “*to foster true collaboration between Industry and Academia by delivering outcomes to be utilized by the geospatial sector.*” Emphasis was placed on the true collaborative spirit between industry and academia.

There is growing concern in the diminishing numbers of universities, around the world, with academic departments in the geospatial field, which in turn, affects the number of geospatial graduates annually. Furthermore, there are concerns from industry that there is a widening skill-gap between what graduates can do, and what industry expects from them. This gap is primarily due to the rapid changes occurring in both technologies and methodologies in the geospatial sector.

Greater collaboration between industry and academia would go a long way to helping address these challenges. Industry can contribute more to help close these gaps, including more clearly articulating geospatial knowledge and skill requirements for successful employment. Academia would then be better positioned to develop and adapt curricula designed to meet these sector needs. It was also suggested that the commercial sector could be more directly involved in students’ professional development, including, but not limited to, offering internships, sharing resources (in kind or other) with academic institutions, guest lectures, etc.

To define specific outcomes, a brief questionnaire was developed as follows:

- The need for a comprehensive education white paper for the geospatial field has been identified as a high priority, addressing the following needs:
 - How to attract students into the geospatial field?
 - How can academic institutions be well-equipped to produce graduates that meet the needs of industry and society?
 - How to address the needs of the ongoing renewal of the knowledge of professionals?
- What are university-recognized micro-credential courses that cater to the skills development needs of the Industry Professionals at various career levels?
- What are various frameworks for Industry-led research collaboration and investment?

It is identified that the whitepaper must include the formal academic sector and also the learning facilities at premises of industry and research facilities.

Further, it has been agreed that the compilation of this whitepaper must be a collaborative effort between industry and academia.

Way Forward

Industry-Academia Collaboration

In 2021 the Committee on Industry-Academia Collaboration will build on the work started in 2020, and extend its reach to include academic institutions in regions not covered by the current composition of the Committee. The Committee will also consider segmenting its meetings and events considering the difficulties of working globally across different time zones. The Committee also notes the need for WGIC to, from time to time, undertake research work in a specialized area where expert assistance is required, noting that such research usually needs to be launched in a short timeframe.

Aims for 2021:

- Prepare a comprehensive education and training white paper for the geospatial field;
- Create a panel of researchers from academic and research institutions, so that WGIC can more easily select researcher(s) for a specific research project.
- Prepare a comprehensive education and training whitepaper for the geospatial field;
- Create a panel of researchers from academic and research institutions, from which WGIC can rapidly select and appoint a researcher(s) for a specific research project. (This panel will need to be maintained over time).

Events & Outreach

COVID-19 presented a unique challenge to WGIC. Roundtables, Panels, and Networking Events that are organized by the Council physically did not happen. So, the Marketing & Communications Committee, in close coordination with other WGIC Committees, took upon it the responsibility to organize digital events and webinars. We have also undertaken outreach within and outside the industry by participating in virtual events from partner organizations.

Context

Socializing Data Privacy Report
May 5 & May 14 - WGIC organized members-only and Public webinars, respectively, that provided a deep dive into the WGIC Policy Report 'Geospatial Information and Policy: Policy Perspectives and Imperatives for the Geospatial Industry. On behalf of WGIC, Arnout Desmet, Policy Development & Advocacy Committee, and Barbara Ryan – Policy Advisor, joined Bart Schermer, Chief Knowledge Officer, Considerati.

HOW DID WGIC MEMBERS RESPOND?

Collaborating with UNESCAP & UN-GGIM APAC
May 15 - WGIC partnered with UNESCAP and UN-GGIM Asia Pacific secretariat in a webinar to discuss strengthening regional cooperation in geospatial data sharing to mitigate the COVID19 pandemic. Sanjay Kumar presented about WGIC and the work of its members.

WGIC Participates in the UN-GGIM Virtual Forum
May 26 - WGIC participated in the partner event UN-GGIM Virtual High-Level Forum organized by UNSD/ UN-GGIM. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary-General of WGIC, spoke at the event and said that "Geospatial agencies worldwide should break their legacies and move forward to make an impact on the economy and society through geospatial knowledge."

Announcement of the Industry/ Academia Committee
May 31 - Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed-Ghouse, the Chair of the Committee, welcomed new Members into the restructured Industry/ Academia Committee. This virtual meeting saw the participation of Academic institutions - University of Salzburg, Austria, Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, India, University of Tennessee, USA, University of Melbourne, Australia, RMIT University, Australia. The event also had the participation of WGIC Member Companies - Hexagon, and Spatial Vision.



WGIC & Geospatial Media organize Virtual Summit in India

Jun 18 - The Government of India was considering structural reforms in space tech and the liberalization of geospatial data policy. The Virtual Summit on Geospatial and Earth Observation Industrial Development Strategy for India, presented by Geospatial Media & Communications and WGIC, was a perfect venue for discussions. WGIC Patron Board Members Dr. Mohan Reddy, Cyient, and K.K.Singh, Rolta spoke at the event. Also at this event was the leadership from WGIC Member companies. - Esri India - Agendra Kumar, Maxar - Madhav Ragam, and Hexagon AB - Ola Rollen.



Two Years of WGIC

Jul 4 - WGIC for celebration 'Two Years of WGIC' of the formation. The Secretariat thanked everyone who has been part of the WGIC journey, looking back at important developments during the last two years.

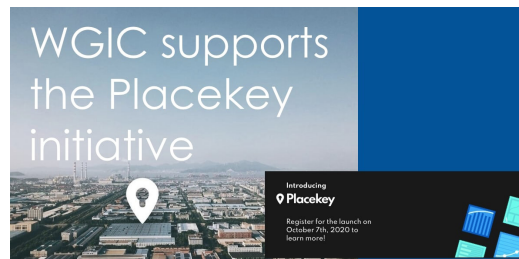




Joint White Paper launch by UN-GGIM, WFE0, and WGIC

Jul 9 - Released white paper titled "The value of Integrated Geospatial and Building Information Modelling (BIM) solutions to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) with a specific focus on resilient infrastructure" jointly done by UN-GGIM, WFE0, and WGIC. The event took place as a side event at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

WGIC supported the launch of the Placekey initiative



Oct 7 - WGIC endorsed the launch of the Placekey initiative under the banner 'Unlock Location Data for All'. In his introduction, WGIC CEO Sanjay Kumar explained how standards are driving progress on multiple levels.

Participation and support to Member Events



Sep 23 - WGIC Secretary-General Sanjay Kumar joined in conversation with e-geos CEO Paolo Minciaccchi at the launch of the e-geos CLEOS Cloud A.I. Platform.



Oct 20 to 21 - WGIC joined the Bentley Year In Infrastructure 2020 Virtual Conference as Supporting Partner.



WGIC participates in the Construction Industry Panel

Oct 26 – WGIC joined along with ISO, OGC, UIC, and Digital Twins Consortium at the Partnerships Panel held as part of buildingSMART Virtual Summit 2020. Sanjay Kumar represented WGIC at the Panel and presented the value and relevance of FAIR standards for GeoBIM.



WGIC Participates in GeoBIM 2020 Event

Dec 4 – WGIC sponsored the GeoBIM Workshop highlighting the joint work on GeoBIM and Resilient Infrastructure by UN-GGIM, WFEO, and WGIC. In a Panel discussion, WGIC Members Bentley Systems - Benoit Fredericque and Oracle Construction and Engineering - Frank Weiss joined a Panel discussion with WGIC colleague Remco Takken.



Collaborative Event with Policy Committee on GeoAI

Dec 7 to 9 – Virtual event on GeoAI participated by 770+ participants.

The event featured Member representatives from Bentley Systems, Cyient, e-geos, Esri, Hexagon Geospatial, SI Analytics, Terra Analytics, TomTom, and Trimble. Partner organizations that participated in this event were – GSA, UN-GGIM, WFEO, buildingSMART, ITU, and NDS Association.



Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore Chairs the Climate Forum co-hosted by WGIC

Dec 14 – Along with Climate Trace, Group on Earth Observations (GEO), and Race to Zero, WGIC co-hosted the Forum on “Innovation in Remote Sensing Technologies for Accelerated Climate Action.” The Forum was established as an independent mechanism for public-private collaboration to advance the

achievement of climate action through the application of remote sensing technologies.

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore Chaired the event attended by select 100+ climate champions worldwide. WGIC Secretariat extended sent invitations to climate experts from Bentley Systems, e-geos, Esri, Fugro, Maxar Technologies, and SkyMap Global.

Patron Board / Executive Board / Working Groups

The WGIC Secretariat extends its sincere gratitude to the outgoing Patron Board and Executive Board. We also thank each of the Chairs and Members of the Committees and Working groups for their contributions to the various programs and activities of WGIC.

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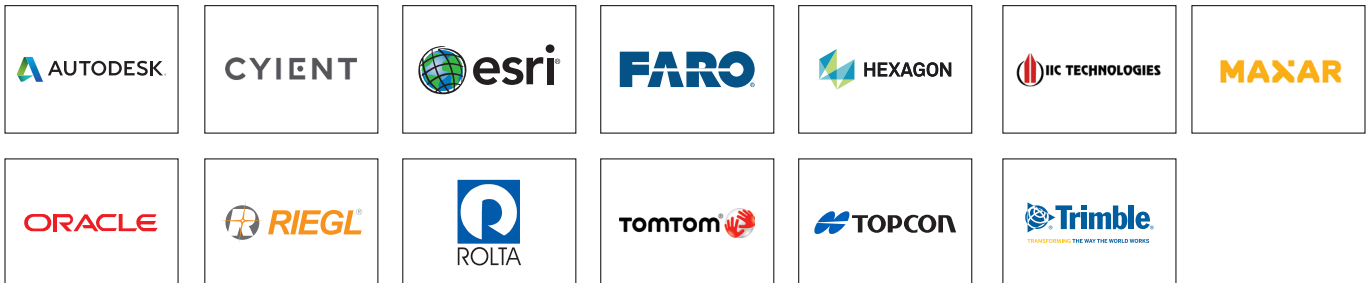
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